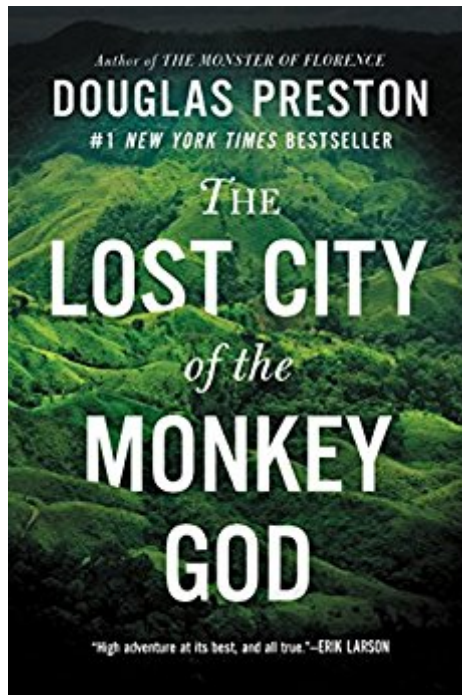




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# The Lost City Of The Monkey God: A True Story



## Synopsis

The #1 New York Times and #1 Wall Street Journal bestseller! A five-hundred-year-old legend. An ancient curse. A stunning medical mystery. And a pioneering journey into the unknown heart of the world's densest jungle. Since the days of conquistador Hern  n Cort  s, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden somewhere in the Honduran interior, called the White City or the Lost City of the Monkey God. Indigenous tribes speak of ancestors who fled there to escape the Spanish invaders, and they warn that anyone who enters this sacred city will fall ill and die. In 1940, swashbuckling journalist Theodore Morde returned from the rainforest with hundreds of artifacts and an electrifying story of having found the Lost City of the Monkey God-but then committed suicide without revealing its location. Three quarters of a century later, bestselling author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists on a groundbreaking new quest. In 2012 he climbed aboard a rickety, single-engine plane carrying the machine that would change everything: lidar, a highly advanced, classified technology that could map the terrain under the densest rainforest canopy. In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city but an enigmatic, lost civilization. Venturing into this raw, treacherous, but breathtakingly beautiful wilderness to confirm the discovery, Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quickmud, disease-carrying insects, jaguars, and deadly snakes. But it wasn't until they returned that tragedy struck: Preston and others found they had contracted in the ruins a horrifying, sometimes lethal-and incurable-disease. Suspenseful and shocking, filled with colorful history, hair-raising adventure, and dramatic twists of fortune, THE LOST CITY OF THE MONKEY GOD is the absolutely true, eyewitness account of one of the great discoveries of the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is NOT a book authored by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child that continues the adventures of Special Agent A. Pendergast and his unique circle of friends and assorted characters. However this is an intriguing and very interesting documentary written by Douglas Preston that takes you inside the planning and execution of a continual search for a mythical lost city (and/or civilization) that until 2015 remained nothing more than rumor and myth(s). It is NOT an "Indiana Jones" novel and is all the more compelling for avoiding that type of embellishment and drama. You won't find a photograph of Harrison Ford inside the dust jacket but you will see a grinning shot of Douglas Preston bearing an uncanny resemblance to the (deceased) actor Edward Herrmann. Don't underestimate what is encountered and accomplished in this journey, several real-life challenges arise and have to be effectively and efficiently dealt with. This undiscovered Honduran city/civilization has remained hidden for hundreds of years for several good reasons. A combination of legends and myths, some completely false and yet others bearing an element of truth, have circulated about this area, both intriguing and cautioning researchers and potential explorers. "Ground breaking" technology (pun intended) becomes available that can help pinpoint the potential discovery of this area, but nothing beats 'boots on the ground' to prove and establish its existence. If you order this book, don't expect a fast-moving adventure tale that uses various hooks and literary schemes to reel you in. Instead expect a logical and relatively full picture of how research is conducted, expeditions planned, and the real-life difficulties and dangers encountered. Douglas Preston presents a well-documented journey, including maps and photographs, of the main characters and the steps taken to both justify and undertake this complicated and difficult exploration. Mr. Preston's writing makes it easy to imagine yourself as part of this exploratory party -- and raises the question of "is it really worth it"? For as physics class taught us in high school "every action results in an opposite and equal reaction". Some of the reactions in this story are extremely fearful -- to say the least. This particular exploration gives new meaning to the phrase "the

gift that keeps on giving". Sometimes it might be better to let 'sleeping dogs lie'. Read it and enjoy it for what it is. The "Comments" sections are loaded with arguments and accusations concerning several aspects of the story, with occasional heated discussions breaking out. However, reading them and trying to interpret who is (at least) partially correct and/or accurate is sort of like watching confirmed liberals and conservatives hurling 'slings and arrows' at each other while failing to agree on anything. Great book though!

Very informative book about discoveries in Honduras. Of course they are just beginning research on these newfound sites, so not a lot of concrete info about these civilizations, more questions than answers, like "Who were these people, anyway?" The minor story is about Leishmaniasis, a new disease that may spread to the outside world and which many of the participants were infected with. Kind of discourages research. Still, the book was a very good read, almost all of it interesting and it held my attention from cover to cover.

This true story takes place in the central American country of Honduras. The book is very well written and fast paced. I really liked it! The author tells the story of the expedition in a very detailed and engaging way. He also gives you a look at the Honduran political situation and its military. As well as the much feared drug cartels and their power in the region. Also I almost forgot, SNAKES! Huge poisonous snakes! A lot of them! Not to mention biting insects carrying deadly pathogens! Yes, Honduras is very exciting.

Fantastic discovery: both the book and the expedition it describes. Very exciting, beautiful descriptions of the sites. Very revealing and quite overwhelming especially when shedding light on the mystery of what happened to a flourishing, vital civilization. The tie-in to other similar "mysterious disappearances" throughout time and different cultures makes me realize that what happened there can very easily and probably will happen again. An important book with many lessons to impart. Also a great read!

Douglas Preston is an explorer/ adventurer as well as a best selling author. This book covers a real scientific expedition into the rain forests of Costa Rica. The story of Preston's experiences is well worth the read. His discussion of the legends, the history of other explorations, and the conclusions drawn are thoroughly researched. The personalities revealed add to the sense of discovery evoked in the book. This is not a particularly academic book, though one learns a lot reading it.

Enjoyed it very much. Preston is an excellent author and I always enjoy his work. This was special because it was all factual and extremely interesting. My only complaint was that I would like to have more about the initial adventures in the jungle. I'm sure there were more "jungle events". (why it's four instead of five) All in all it is worth your time and money. If you have any interest in new discoveries in our over populated world this is definitely a book to read. Enjoy!

Interesting mix of adventuring, archeology, politics, and - toward the end - biology. The last part blends together the role of infectious disease in eliminating peoples and cultures (a la Jared Diamond in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*) and the reality of climate change and its implications for the spread of disease, which the author claims we have already begun to see.

The true life story of the discovery and first surveys of a city of legend in Honduras. This goes to prove, there's still much more to discover in the jungles of South America, this story only happened a couple of years ago. You will come out of this book almost wishing you had been there in the jungle...except for the deadly snakes which made a frequent appearance, the constant humidity, and all the biting insects. The author accurately describes the mixture of excitement, awe, fear and amazement that came on the expedition and makes me feel as if I was there. You will also come out of this book knowing way more about a tropical disease, leishmaniasis, than you ever thought you wanted to know. And since I live in one of the two areas where it has made an appearance in the US, is not a bad thing.

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