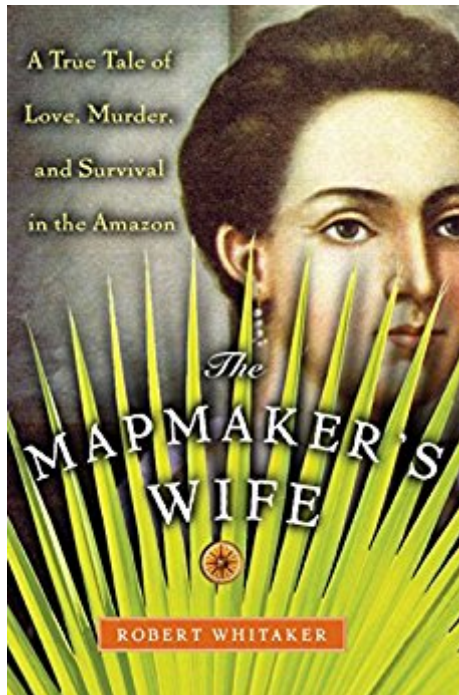


The book was found

The Mapmaker's Wife: A True Tale Of Love, Murder, And Survival In The



Synopsis

In the early years of the 18th century, a band of French scientists set off on a daring, decade-long expedition to South America in a race to measure the precise shape of the earth. Like Lewis and Clark's exploration of the American West, their incredible mission revealed the mysteries of a little-known continent to a world hungry for discovery. Scaling 16,000-foot mountains in the Peruvian Andes, and braving jaguars, pumas, insects, and vampire bats in the jungle, the scientists barely completed their mission. One was murdered, another perished from fever, and a third—Jean Godin—nearly died of heartbreak. At the expedition's end, Jean and his Peruvian wife, Isabel Grames, became stranded at opposite ends of the continent, victims of a tangled web of international politics. Isabel's solo journey to reunite with Jean after their calamitous twenty-year separation was so dramatic that it left all of 18th-century Europe spellbound. Her survival—unprecedented in the annals of exploration—was a testament to human endurance, female resourcefulness, and the power of devotion. Drawing on the original writings of the French mapmakers, as well as his own experience retracing Isabel's journey, acclaimed writer Robert Whitaker weaves a riveting tale rich in adventure, intrigue, and scientific achievement. Never before told, *The Mapmaker's Wife* is an epic love story that unfolds against the backdrop of "the greatest expedition the world has ever known."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A book well worth reading, but it may not be what you expect. The title is a bit misleading as Jean Godin is not truly a mapmaker nor is the book mostly about his wife. The first half of this book is almost entirely about the French expedition to colonial Peru in the early 1700's, the politics and science behind it, and the different personalities which comprise it. I did find this reading enjoyable, but I became a little frustrated when each time the plot seemed to get rolling again, Whitaker would take 10 pages to explain the geography of Peru or the history of Spain. If you're science minded, like me, you'll get a good dose of history that you would not have otherwise chosen to read or learn. The story, what there is of it, is adventurous and entertaining, especially for the outdoor enthusiast. The history, politics, geography, and bugs he talks about do truly add to the understanding of the fate of the characters. He has brought to life a story that has been handed down only as legend. Whitaker does his best to compile all the facts, but there are still some things about this tale that we will never know. I also felt misled by the subtitle, "A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the ." Though it was all of these, it was written more like a history book than a novel. So if you're looking for romance, you won't find it here. The facts are laid out one by one leaving you to make your own pictures as to what the people looked like or the dialogue they had. One ironic note: for a book titled "The Mapmaker's Wife", the maps are rather simplistic. No scales, keys, north arrows, or even a list of maps in the contents. There is a list of maps in the index, however, along with other helpful information.

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