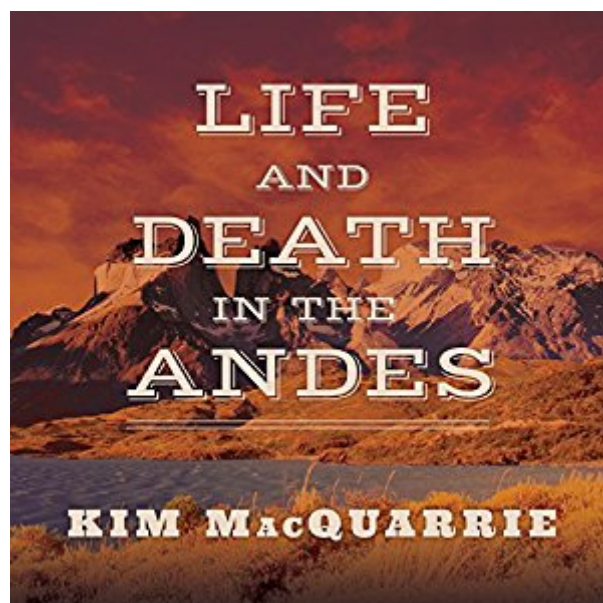


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# Life And Death In The Andes: On The Trail Of Bandits, Heroes, And Revolutionaries



## Synopsis

The Andes Mountains are the world's longest mountain chain, linking most of the countries in South America. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and author Kim MacQuarrie takes us on a historical journey through this unique region, bringing fresh insight and contemporary connections to such fabled characters as Charles Darwin, Pablo Escobar, Che Guevara, and many others. He introduces us to a Patagonian woman who is the last living speaker of her language as he explores the disappearance and sometimes surprising resiliency of indigenous cultures throughout the Andes. He meets a man whose grandfather witnessed Butch Cassidy's last days in Bolivia and tracks down the ballet dancer who once hid the leader of the brutal Shining Path in her home. Through the stories he shares, MacQuarrie raises such questions as: Where did the people of South America come from? Did they create or import their cultures? What makes South America different from other continents - and what makes the cultures of the Andes different from other cultures in South America? Deeply observed and beautifully written, *Life and Death in the Andes* shows us this land as no one has before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eight years ago I read Kim MacQuarrie's *Last Days of the Incas* which continues to stand out in my memory for excellence in prose. I saw this new book on the library shelf and despite its appearance as a book of essays (my least favorite genre) I went for it. While each chapter (to me) is worth a book, this is still (to me) worthy of 5 stars. While reading, I was cognitively considering why I

like MacQuarrie's writing. I decided it is the clarity of prose, his choice of content and the way he helps the reader envision past events. Regarding the prose, like the earlier book, it is easy to read aloud. I didn't read it aloud, but most books that are easy to read aloud repeat the predictable noun-verb-object sentence format. While MacQuarrie varies sentence structure, you know where each sentence is going. I'm not a writer, nor a teacher of writing, but this seems to be an important element for the eye and the brain. MacQuarrie seems to know what will interest an already informed reader. For instance, he enhances the story of Che Guevara's capture through his trip to the schoolhouse. He describes his driver, another "œtourist" (is this the proper word?), the hike to get there, and his meeting with the school's teacher at the time (whom Guevara had asked to meet). While devotees of Guevara probably know what happened to his captors/executioners (and the teacher), general readers, like me don't and MacQuarrie fills in this intriguing gap. Similarly, MacQuarrie has new and interesting things to say captures of Pablo Escoba, Abimeal Guzman and Butch Cassidy. His interview with the builder of the Kon-Tiki and the description of the reed house culture shed new light on Heyerdahl's voyage.

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