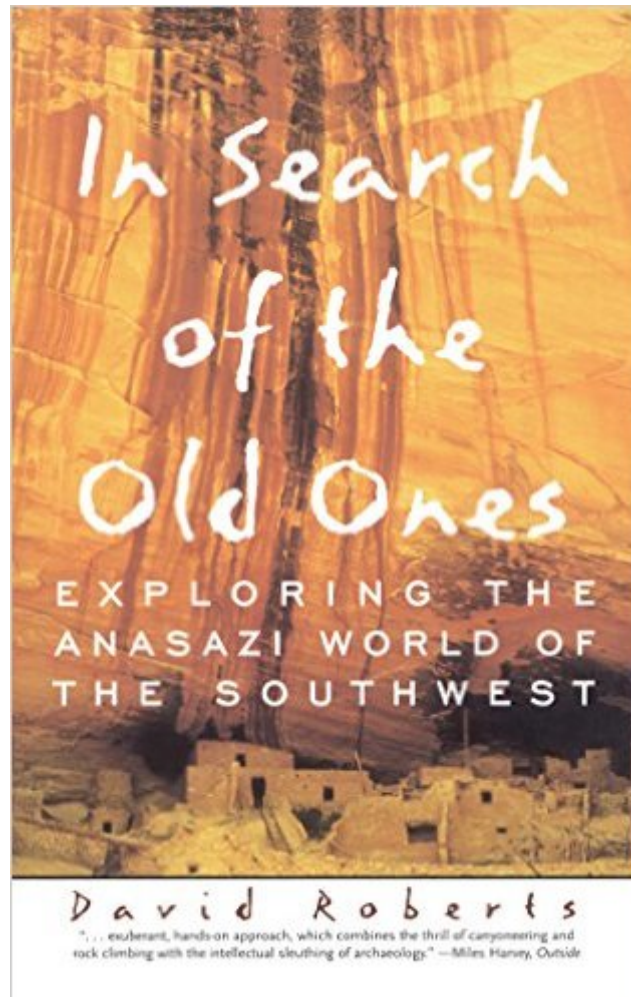


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In Search Of The Old Ones: Exploring The Anasazi World Of The Southwest



Synopsis

An exuberant, hands-on fly-on-the-wall account that combines the thrill of canyoneering and rock climbing with the intellectual sleuthing of archaeology to explore the Anasazi. David Roberts describes the culture of the Anasazi—the name means “enemy ancestors” in Navajo—who once inhabited the Colorado Plateau and whose modern descendants are the Hopi Indians of Arizona. Archaeologists, Roberts writes, have been puzzling over the Anasazi for more than a century, trying to determine the environmental and cultural stresses that caused their society to collapse 700 years ago. He guides us through controversies in the historical record, among them the haunting question of whether the Anasazi committed acts of cannibalism. Roberts’s book is full of up-to-date thinking on the culture of the ancient people who lived in the harsh desert country of the Southwest.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been looking for some time for an easy to read book that gave a nice overview of the Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloans) and David Roberts book is close, but not quite there. Roberts is an excellent writer whose style is engaging and easy to read. His second book on the area, *The Pueblo Revolt: The Secret Rebellion that Drove the Spaniards Out of the Southwest*, is exactly the overview and easy to read text on the second chapter in this ancient story but this first book is not quite that. "You cannot, of course, set out to find such a pot. It must burst upon you by accident, when you expect nothing but another corner in the sandstone. And yet you must prepare yourself to find it; you must

read the driest archaeological monographs and hike through the starkest badlands to reach the ledge where the pot awaits." This is a prime example of the tone Roberts' book takes. It is enjoyable and makes a good read while roaming around in the Four Corners area but it is not the first book overview of the Anasazi. This is a book for readers who already have some familiarity with the subject. Roberts' story line follows his quest to understand the mystery, oral history, and complications of this story. If you understand the basics, the stages of the Anasazi and the general geography of the region, this is a great book. Be prepared to journey with Roberts and experience some of the touchy not-so-PC sides of the story around Southwest History. I would highly recommend that you have a Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona atlas in front of you while reading this.

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