

In Search of the Old Ones

author: David Roberts

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Synopsis

author	David Roberts
readBy	Kaipo Schwab
inLanguage	english

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.

Reader's comments

comment 1: Emily Carter

In 'In Search of the Old Ones,' David Roberts takes readers on an enthralling journey into the ancient world of the Ancestral Puebloans. This book is a captivating blend of travelogue, historical exploration, and personal reflection, offering a window into the mysterious lives of these indigenous people. Roberts' narrative is both informative and engaging, as he weaves together his own adventures in the American Southwest with detailed historical research. His passion for the subject is palpable, making the book not just a recounting of facts, but a genuine quest for understanding. The author's vivid descriptions bring the landscapes and ruins to life, allowing readers to feel the awe and wonder that these ancient sites inspire. While the book delves deep into archaeological and anthropological insights, it remains accessible to lay readers, maintaining a perfect balance between scholarly detail and narrative drive. Roberts' respect for the culture and history of the Ancestral Puebloans is evident, and his reflections on the impact of modern society on these sacred sites add depth to his exploration. Overall, 'In Search of the Old Ones' is a must-read for anyone interested in history, archaeology, or the enduring mystery of ancient civilizations.

â€” Emily Carter (2026-05-30 18:23:58)