



News from Simon & Schuster

1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

Publicity Contact: Clarissa Marzán

212-698-1239; clarissa.marzan@simonandschuster.com

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE ANDES: On the Trail of Bandits, Heroes, and Revolutionaries by Kim MacQuarrie

Praise for *Life and Death in the Andes*

"MacQuarrie's book is as richly detailed as it is deeply felt. . . . A thoughtfully observed travel memoir and history."— *Kirkus Reviews*

"MacQuarrie engages as well as educates as he travels throughout the mountain range, intertwining past and present and incorporating political and cultural conflict while taking the reader on a journey that goes beyond geography or geology...MacQuarrie spectacularly describes the Andes...This is a well-written, immersive work that history aficionados, particularly those with an affinity for Latin America, will relish." — *Library Journal*

"In this vivid, engaging hybrid of travel and history, Kim MacQuarrie proves to be the ideal companion on a trip the length of South America—a land where past and present are inseparable."
—Mark Adams, author of *Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time*

"Few writers know the mountainous spine of South America better than Kim MacQuarrie, and fewer still can match the richness, verve, and competence he brings to his work. Whether focused on Darwin's extraordinary journey through icy Patagonia or the demise of Che Guevara in Bolivia, MacQuarrie displays an unfailing talent for great storytelling and an exceptional depth of knowledge. *Life and Death in the Andes* is a beautifully crafted book that brings to vivid life one of the most spectacular and mysterious landscapes on the planet."

— Scott Wallace, author of *The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes*

"It was an inspired idea to weave a journey through the Andes with tales of some of its most flamboyant characters -- gangsters like the drug baron Pablo Escobar and the bank robber Butch Cassidy, murderous idealists like Che Guevara and the founder of the Shining Path insurgency, or Charles Darwin and the Patagonian indigenous peoples. Kim MacQuarrie tracks down their descendants or acolytes, and enthralls the reader with their stories and his own travels."

— John Hemming, author of *The Conquest of the Incas*

"In *Life and Death in the Andes*, Kim MacQuarrie combines his extraordinary skills as a writer and researcher to create what is destined to become a modern day classic. A real page-turner and essential reading for anyone who hopes to better understand that increasingly important part of the world."

— Major Gen. John C. Thompson (USA-Ret.), former Director of the Inter-American Defense College and Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board

In **LIFE AND DEATH IN THE ANDES: On the Trail of Bandits, Heroes, and Revolutionaries** (Simon & Schuster; December 1, 2015) four-time Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, and anthropologist **Kim MacQuarrie** guides readers on a unique journey through the Andes Mountains in South America, where past and present take on a new meaning. *Life and Death in the Andes* sheds new light on familiar stories—such as Charles Darwin's discovery of

Kim MacQuarrie

evolution in the Galapagos and Colombia's war on drugs against cocaine baron Pablo Escobar—and introduces readers to hidden stories that convey the rich heritage of the Andes. This book is also a chronicle of MacQuarrie's remarkable 4,500 mile trip across the entirety of the Andes, the longest continental mountain range in the world. His riveting travel and ethnographic writing blend with his research in a way that makes history feel vital and necessary to understanding the region today. It's a great introduction to South America for the over 20 million visitors to the continent each year.

The opening story takes place in Colombia, the northernmost section of the Andean spine and the subsequent stories are organized by geographical location, gradually transporting the reader down the mountain range from north to south, from Colombia and Ecuador to Peru and Bolivia before ending at the southernmost point of the Andes in Patagonia on the border of Chile and Argentina. Within the narratives, MacQuarrie includes interviews and interactions he experienced on his travels with living individuals who share a link to the histories he describes. By doing so, MacQuarrie brings to life some of the most pivotal characters and dramatic moments in South America's turbulent and colorful history.

Geographic and cultural highlights of the book include:

Colombia: The fall of Pablo Escobar

In Bogotá, Colombia, MacQuarrie meets Hugo Martínez, the police colonel ordered to hunt down the ruthless cocaine king, Pablo Escobar. Escobar's wide-reaching power and ruthless tactics of blackmail, bombs, and murder paralyzed Colombia's government and its people for many years. His hometown Medellín was considered the most dangerous city in the world while he exported millions of dollars' worth of cocaine to the U.S. every day. In 1989, the drug lord made Colonel Martínez a simple offer: accept a six million dollar bribe and look the other way—or else be killed. The colonel turned down the offer and, against the odds, tracked down Escobar. What kind of person, offered the choice between almost certain death or becoming a multimillionaire would choose the former? MacQuarrie travels to Bogotá, Lake Guatavita and Medellín to find answers from both the Colonel and from Pablo Escobar's brother who at one point played a key role in the cocaine cartel.

Ecuador: Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution that almost did not emerge

In Ecuador, MacQuarrie recounts how Charles Darwin made the biggest error of his career while he was in the Galapagos Islands, botching evidence that nearly unhinged his theory of evolution. He also investigates what so astounded Darwin in South America that led him to conceive the theory of evolution in the first place.

Peru: The elusive quest to capture Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán

In Peru, MacQuarrie learned that the leader of the Shining Path guerilla movement had eventually been captured not by the army, but by a certain police colonel whose identity and methodology had remained a state secret for more than a decade. But was that story true? And who was the upper-class ballerina who had reportedly hidden the Shining Path leader—protecting a revolutionary dedicated to overturning the very class system from which she benefited?

Bolivia: The final days of Che Guevara, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

MacQuarrie travels to Bolivia in search of the place where Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara had been captured—and explores how Che's dream of founding a communist utopia in an isolated area of the Andes had foundered. In the town of Vallegrande, he meets Julia Cortez, who as a 19-year-old schoolteacher once took care of the wounded and imprisoned Che, feeding him a last meal before his execution. Julia's encounter with the charismatic revolutionary leader ended up changing her life forever.

Bolivia was also where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid met their ends. Did the duo really die from a hail of bullets as portrayed in the Hollywood film, or were the rumors of a murder-suicide pact actually closer to the truth? In San Vicente, a dusty Bolivian town 9,000 feet high in the Andes, MacQuarrie tracks down an old miner who recalls how his father once witnessed one of the most famous shoot-outs in history: the last moments of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. The miner then tells the shocking end of that story—an ending quite different from what was later immortalized in the Hollywood version.

Chile and Argentina: The last living Yámana Indian

In his final story, MacQuarrie travels to the southernmost tip of South America and meets the world's last remaining Yámana Indian, Cristina Calderón, who now lives on a Navarino Island, a remote island off the coast of Chile. Calderón is the descendant of three Yámana Indians who once traveled with Charles Darwin, toured London, and even met the king and queen of England. They were then transported back to Patagonia as part of a grand social experiment that had unintended results. But what had become of them? And what had become of this experiment? Their little known story presents a rare look at a human community facing extinction.

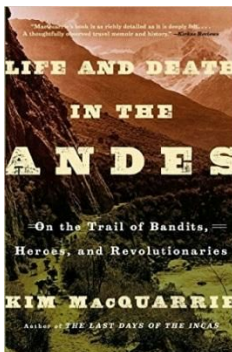
In an interview, MacQuarrie is available to discuss

- Advice for travelers wanting to go to South America and travel in the Andes.
- His experience of reporting from Peru at the height of guerilla warfare in the 1980s and what has changed since then.
- How remote indigenous communities in South America that remain isolated from the global community continue to survive.
- Additional stories from the book include:
 - The recent discovery of a perfectly preserved ice mummy—a 14-year old Inca girl—at the top of a 20,000 foot volcano in Peru.
 - The controversial connection championed by the explorer Thor Heyerdahl (of Kon Tiki fame), Aymara Indians living on the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, and the ancient Egyptian pyramids of Giza.
 - How Hiram Bingham, the man credited with discovering Machu Picchu, essentially ended his archaeological, then U.S. Senate career due to a character flaw.

About the Author:

Kim MacQuarrie is a writer, a four-time Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker, and an anthropologist. Educated in France, the U.S. and Peru, MacQuarrie is the author of four books on Peru and lived in that country for five years. During that time, MacQuarrie lived with a recently contacted tribe of indigenous Amazonians called the Yora. It was MacQuarrie's experience filming a nearby group of indigenous people whose ancestors still remembered their contacts with the Inca Empire that led him to write his previous book, *The Last Days of the Incas*, the story of how 168 Spanish soldiers conquered an empire of ten million people, which is the basis of *Conquistadors*, a forthcoming, 13-part dramatic series on FX. Visit the author at KimMacQuarrie.com.

About the Book:



LIFE AND DEATH IN THE ANDES: On the Trail of Bandits, Heroes, and Revolutionaries

by **Kim MacQuarrie**

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Format: Hardcover

Hardcover ISBN: 9781439168899

Price: \$32.50

448 pages

eBook ISBN: 9781439168929

eBook Price: \$14.99