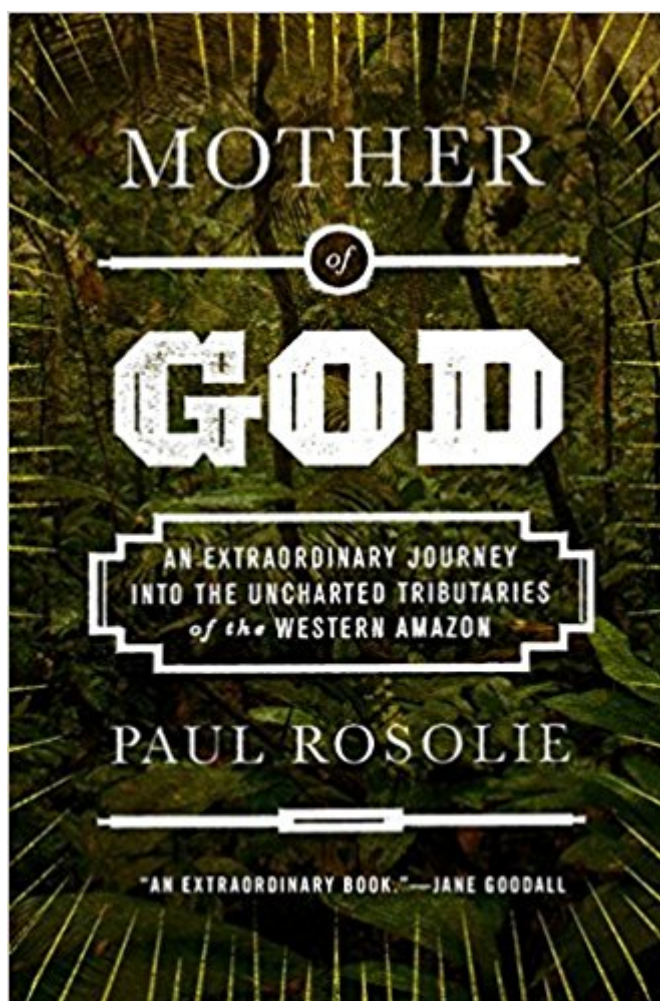


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# Mother Of God: An Extraordinary Journey Into The Uncharted Tributaries Of The Western



## Synopsis

For fans of *The Lost City of Z*, *Walking the*, and *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* comes naturalist and explorer Paul Rosolie's extraordinary adventure in the uncharted tributaries of the Western Amazon—a tale of discovery that vividly captures the awe, beauty, and isolation of this endangered land and presents an impassioned call to save it. In the Madre de Dios—Mother of God—region of Peru, where the Amazon River begins its massive flow, the Andean Mountain cloud forests fall into lowland Rainforest, creating the most biodiversity-rich place on the planet. In January 2006, when he was just a restless eighteen-year-old hungry for adventure, Paul Rosolie embarked on a journey to the west that would transform his life. Venturing alone into some of the most inaccessible reaches of the jungle, he encountered giant snakes, floating forests, isolated tribes untouched by outsiders, prowling jaguars, orphaned baby anteaters, poachers in the black market trade in endangered species, and much more. Yet today, the primordial forests of the Madre de Dios are in danger from developers, oil giants, and gold miners eager to exploit its natural resources. In *Mother of God*, this explorer and conservationist relives his amazing odyssey exploring the heart of this wildest place on earth. When he began delving deeper in his search for the secret Eden, spending extended periods in isolated solitude, he found things he never imagined could exist. “Alone and miniscule against a titanic landscape I have seen the depths of the jungle, the guts of the jungle where no men go,” Rosolie writes. “But as the legendary explorer Percy Fawcett warned, the few remaining unknown places of the world exact a price for their secrets.” Illustrated with 16 pages of color photos.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Harper; 1st edition (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062259512

ISBN-13: 978-0062259516

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 147 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #521,434 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Travel > South America > Bolivia #52 in Books > Travel > South America > Peru #123 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Forests & Rainforests

## Customer Reviews

Enthralled with animals and nature from childhood, Rosolie fixated on the forest and adventured there as a teenager in 2005. From that and subsequent sojourns, he has synthesized this account of experiencing the environment and wildlife of, specifically, the Madre de Dios region of Peru. Coursed by rivers, carpeted with trees, soaked by rain, it is the stage for Rosolie's quests to find large predators, such as jaguars, anacondas, and crocodiles. The peril in such searching tensely builds in Rosolie's accounts of his encounters, which relax as he returns safely to his base of civilization, a combination ecotourism-and-biology-research station. Its operation and orbiting personalities connect to Rosolie's critical observations about threats to the tropical habitat, such as poachers and loggers, with whom he has wary interactions in the course of his treks. They aren't the only human hazard. In Rosolie's culminating tale, he enters reputedly unexplored territory, is spotted by indigenous people, and flees for his life. Writing with intrepid curiosity and a passion for ecological preservation, Rosolie will rally readers of Ed Stafford's *Walking the* (2012). --Gilbert Taylor

"Rosolie is a gripping storyteller. . . . His enthusiasm for the wilderness and his ability to convey it poetically makes him an exceedingly persuasive advocate for conserving what's left of the natural world." (BookPage) "Rosolie's solo adventures in the heart of the jungle, up close and personal with giant anacondas and jaguars, are gripping. And his dedication to preserving one of the earth's last wildernesses is where he really sets himself apart. *Mother of God* is an awe-inspiring read." (Bear Grylls) "A great adventure with a great and enduring point: we simply must protect these last, vast slices of the planet that still work the way they're supposed to." (Bill McKibben) "Thanks to fastidious journal-keeping that preserved a wealth of detail and emotion, Rosolie delivers an old-fashioned jungle adventure, one with rare immediacy and depth of feeling for the people and creatures he encounters." (The Wall Street Journal) "Paul Rosolie's *Mother of God* is more than a thrilling adventure tale, it's an old-fashioned boy-meets-jungle love story. Be prepared to fall for it." (Mark Adams, author of *Turn Right at Machu Pichu*) "An extraordinary book|His vivid writing immerses you in his adventures as he explores an ancient pristine forest where no white man has been, where he encounters amazing creatures, and experiences the relentless power of untamed nature|There are parts that will haunt you, scenes you will never forget." (Jane Goodall) "A gripping adventure story filled with plenty of adrenaline-filled encounters with massive snakes, intimidating jaguars and other creatures.

. . . A vividly written narrative of an amazingly diverse world still to be explored, whose destruction, as Rosolie wisely notes, would be a devastating loss for humanity. (Kirkus) "A rousing eco-adventure. . . . This is old-school nature writing, unabashedly romantic and free of alienation. . . . Rosolie's powers of description are so vivid and engrossing that readers will be swept along in his passion. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) "Rosolie writes with intrepid curiosity and a passion for ecological preservation. (Booklist) "A sobering account of an ecosystem hanging in the balance. . . . An insightful history of the region. . . . Entertaining and revelatory. (The Wichita Eagle)

I was fascinated by this book, which I read on my Kindle. I was searching for books on Peru, principally those related to pre-Columbian cultures, and found and was hooked by the title, since my wife and I have traveled to Peru three times (and also Ecuador two times), including a couple times in the region. And the initial reviews enticed me to read this book. The author's descriptions of the rainforests were at once realistic and poetic, with a very real important emphasis on what this world is doing, and not doing, to destroy, or to allow by apathy the destruction of the essential wholeness of the rainforests, to the world's and not just Peru's great peril. There is no doubt of his devotion to the land and wish to preserve it, including what he is doing now, both by writing the book, and also continuing to help run, with others, including citizens of Peru, the Las Piedras Biodiversity Station, helping to lead its efforts to both study and preserve the region. I especially loved the descriptions of the animals, reptiles and birds of the still-for-now pristine regions of the Madre de Dios that most of us will never see, or unfortunately, ever see again. I also liked the fact that the author was self-deprecating about his adventures, including recognizing where he was perhaps brash and not paying attention to the possible dangers of the situations he was putting himself in. And then there is the interesting back-story of the author's personal and educational development from his days in New York, to his early attempts to establish himself in the region, but, with his parents help and encouragement, to go to college and complete his education to make himself more valuable in the responsibility he would then assume in Peru. This is absolutely a marvelous book. I would very much like to read whatever his next book might be. And I will no doubt re-read this one soon.

At first i thought he was making it up and adding lots of embellishment. But the more I read, the more I realized his story is true. Why? because myself as a world traveler and going off the beaten path was quite similar. in a sense, I ended up in some strange places because I trusted those that invited me. Nothing bad ever happen, In fact, I still can't beleive where I ended up sometimes and

all was fascinating and the only American probably ever. Been to the myself, Why I bought it. Never went nearly as far into it as Paul. And his passion and the sense it will all be OK is something I understand already. So, I really could relate. Plus, I am going to write my own book on travel adventures. But if your simply an armchair traveller at home sitting in front of the fireplace, you can enjoy this adventure too.

Very interesting picture of one of the most remote areas of the world and the plants, people and animals within. My criticism would be the repetitious preaching to the choir concerning loss of habitat, poaching and encroachment. I found myself fast forwarding multiple pages explaining the same thing over and over.

Wow, what an amazing adventure! I have done lots of hiking, camping, and enjoying the great outdoors, but this book took me on an incredible journey! I was fascinated right up to the end. I sure hope Paul writes a sequel to this amazing adventure!

My partner and I spent 4 days on a small tour down the Madre del Dios, so I was attracted by the title. Rosolie did deep and sometimes solo explorations, harkening to earlier times, yet I could recognize his descriptions for my experience. It was a good read.

I have read just about every book I can get my hands on about the in preparation for an upcoming journey of my own. This gem of a story reads like a novel. It captured my attention in the first pages and then gave me that feeling I love of wanting to return to it in each spare minute. There are many great non-fiction books that explain the history and ecology of the region. This brisk little volume does not attempt to duplicate those noble efforts. Instead in concisely conveys the feelings of awe the author experienced on his remarkable journeys. I felt like I was there with him as the pages raced by. I definitely recommend this book.

Paul Rosolie does a beautiful job using his words to pull you into his journey. It feels as if you are right there experiencing every sensory detail that he experienced. Paul not only captures the adventurous spirit of exploration in his writing, but also does an exceptional job passionately expressing the absolute requirement of conservation of the places he explores. If you've never traveled to the before you will finish this book wanting to visit as soon as possible.

Absolutely astonishing! Paul Rosolie's curiosity for the rainforest is brought to our lives through a thrilling and beautifully written text. His passion burns for a living thing that can't speak for itself. He not only brings awareness to the destruction humans have inflicted on nature, but brings hope to all of us who can be a part of the solution, not the problem. I can't say enough good things this man has done for this planet and hope others may take a chance to look into this.

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