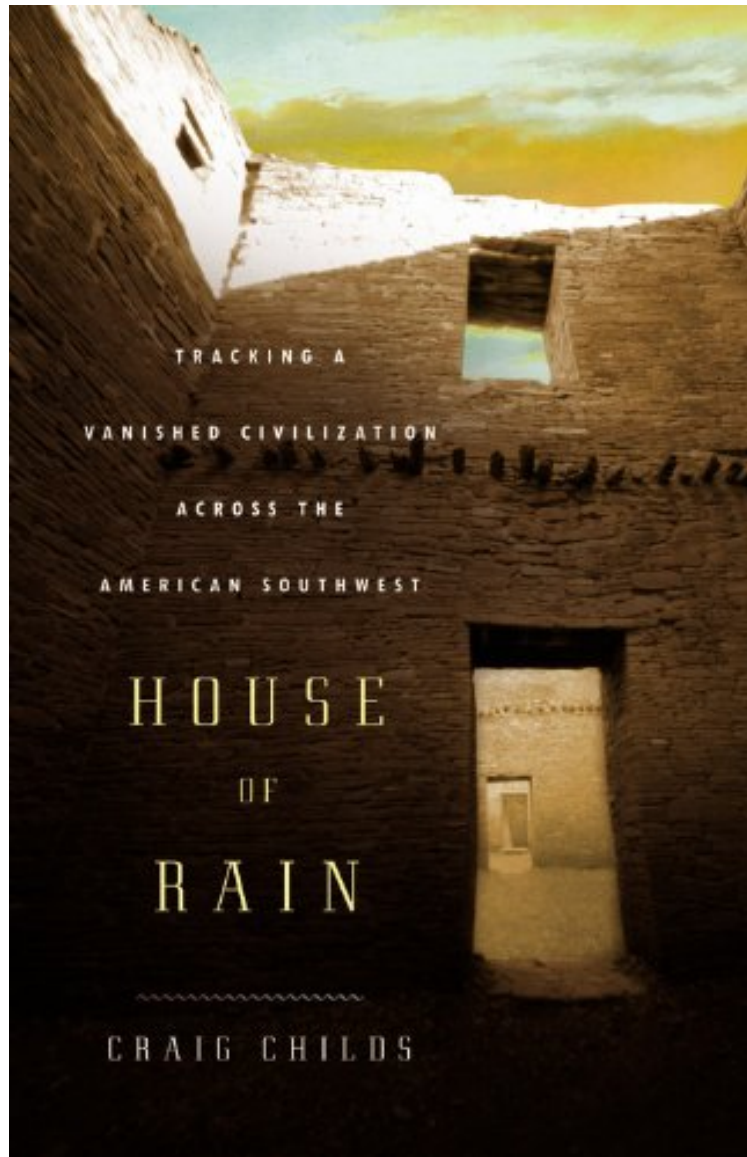


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## House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest

*Craig Childs*

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**Craig Childs : House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. House of Rain delighted this reader with its clash of theoriesBy Sue J. CauhapeCraig Childs walked the vast space that the ancient people of the American Southwest trekked as they migrated from Chaco to Colorado to as far south as Mexico. With various archeologists adding to his wealth of information and theories about these people, Childs takes us with him on a journey of hardships faced by these people. He explores the factors that compelled them to wander, leaving behind foodstuffs for their return. He compares the artifacts produced by several ethnic groups who merged in this churning of cultures, religions, and political views that often led to wars on a horrendous scale. House of Rain delighted this reader with its clash of theories, vivid descriptions of places and objects, and its story of how people lived and died in a landscape so huge and complex, it defies our need to put things in order.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow - this book made me think on many levels and also want to go see some Anasazi sitesBy CustomerExcellent book, not my normal genre, but I found it fascinating. On a whim I purchased this book as a deal of the day, because I had heard of the mysterious Anasazi but knew nothing about them, and had always been curious about the cliff dwellings.The book is written as a narrative about the authors journeys and discoveries chasing the roots and history of the Native American people who thrived and built a great civilization across the Midwest but seemed to disappear in the 13th century. I found the history of the people fascinating and was amazed at how far their empire stretched, was intrigued by the forensic methods archeologists were using to uncover their history, by how much was still hidden, and also by the telling signs of what happened in the end years as their civilization collapsed and fell to ruin.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent summation of the four corners area and told from ...By Sandra A. Nearyexcellent summation of the four corners area and told from a unique perspective. I warn you that it takes a couple chapters to really get into Child's story. Wonderful index and definition of terms in the end. If you plan to visit the area, this is a must read right along with all the dry and politically correct archaeological tomes.

The greatest "unsolved mystery" of the American Southwest is the fate of the Anasazi, the native peoples who in the eleventh century converged on Chaco Canyon (in today's southwestern New Mexico) and built what has been called the Las Vegas of its day, a flourishing cultural center that attracted pilgrims from far and wide, a vital crossroads of the prehistoric world. The Anasazis' accomplishments - in agriculture, in art, in commerce, in architecture, and in engineering - were astounding, rivaling those of the Mayans in distant Central America. By the thirteenth century, however, the Anasazi were gone from Chaco. Vanished. What was it that brought about the rapid collapse of their civilization? Was it drought? pestilence? war? forced migration? mass murder or suicide? For many years conflicting theories have abounded. Craig Childs draws on the latest scholarly research, as well as on a lifetime of adventure and exploration in the most forbidding landscapes of the American Southwest, to shed new light on this compelling mystery.

From BooklistAlthough less well known than the Mayans, the Anasazi, who flourished in the region now known as New Mexico, also vanished without a trace. Now, eight centuries after their thriving, 2,000-year-old civilization disappeared as though it had never existed, naturalist and adventurer Childs undertakes to find out where the Anasazi went and why. But discovering the fate of an entire race of people, 800 years after the fact, is not like tracking down a missing person. Childs' investigation relies heavily on scholarly literature, oral tradition, and lots of reading between the lines of history. There are no definitive answers here, but Childs ask plenty of tantalizing questions. The book is finally not so much about what happened to the Anasazi as it is about our own fascination with lost civilizations. David PittCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved 'And adventure story, a history, and a cultural analysis all wrapped in exceptional writing.' - Pete Warzel, Rocky Mountain News 'Craig Childs succeeds in translating a good hunk of Southwestern archaeology while providing us with the kind of inductive visceral experience he does better than any other naturalist.' - Katharine Niles, Denver Post 'Childs excites the imagination and creates a haunting portrait of a people and a way of life that will last long after the reading is finished.' - Clay Reynolds, Dallas Morning NewsAbout the AuthorCraig Childs is a naturalist, adventurer, desert ecologist, and frequent contributor to National Public Radio's Morning Edition