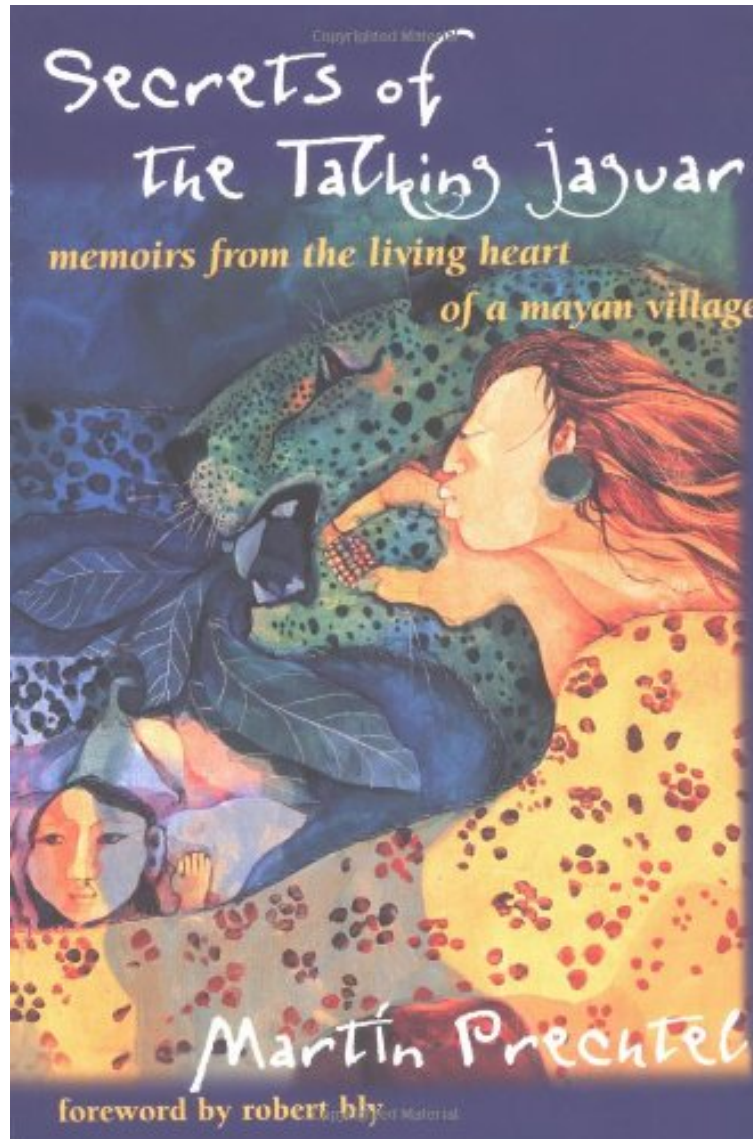


(Ebook pdf) Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: Memoirs from the Living Heart of a Mayan Village

Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: Memoirs from the Living Heart of a Mayan Village

Martin Prechtel

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Martin Prechtel : Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: Memoirs from the Living Heart of a Mayan Village before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: Memoirs from the Living Heart of a Mayan Village:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Deeply Alluring By Will Szal Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: A Mayan Shamans Journey to the Heart of the Indigenous Soul, is Martin Prechtel's first book, released in 1998. It's a book

about his journey from childhood in New Mexico as an outcast part-Native American to his true life and home in the then-Mayan city of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala. A shaman named Chiv summoned him there, and became his teacher. It's a book about the contrast between the culture of the alien US and the indigenous culture of the Maya. That's a good starting point - the question of what it means not to be indigenous. To be indigenous means to truly have a home, to belong. But so then what are we in the US? What is most of the modern world? Were aliens. Were homeless, lost, and unstable. Martin paints a beautiful picture of a culture that no longer exists. Military started coming in and breaking up the community in the 80s. Although a high percentage of the individuals survived, their village was a culture dependent on many roles. Even with less than half being killed, running a way, or converting, the culture wasn't able to survive. NOTABLE FRAGMENT: Political leaders had to be married. This gave leadership a 50:50 male:female split. This wasn't done in the interest of these individuals, but for the sake of the community. When leaders move up a rank, they throw a giant party and give away all of their wealth. Don't trust a skinny shaman. Shamans are partially paid in food, and in a culture where food is scarce, fat is idolized. All Mayan houses are only one room. Their entrance is their mouth. The concept of a door is outside of their paradigm. We are each the House of the World, just as the outside is also the House of the World. Together these two form a mirror, for everything that can be found in the exterior can also be found in the interior. The concept of existence isn't a part of Mayan culture. Everything is only in its relationship to everything else. The names for relatives in Tzutujil are subjective. There is no word for aunt - you describe the relationship to the person we call aunt, depending on the specifics of where you are. You can't ask the question, who am I? There is no being, or doing - only relationship. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's really that good. After reading it I shipped a copy of ... By Richard Wagner I give this book ten out of five stars. It's really that good. After reading it I shipped a copy of it to a friend. Excited to share the magic within and also to have someone with which to talk about it with. Prechtel draws you in with the magic of his words and somehow manages to let it sink into your heart. I had some many moments of just pure wonder and my mind blown throughout reading this book. He somehow manages to explain the elegance of the Mayan way of life. How the sacred is merged into every aspect of their life but in a way a western reader can understand. His words are like seeds that he waters throughout the book till they are blooming inside you at the end. Magical and powerful book. You won't regret buying this one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An absolutely fascinating portrayal of the Mayans around Lake Atitlan... By Steven M. Vancel I can't say for certain whether everything presented in this book is completely factual. However, I can say that he presents an absolutely fascinating portrayal of the Mayans around Lake Atitlan - we have a friend who has spent time there, among them - and their traditional lifestyle.

Twenty-five years ago, a young musician and painter named Martin Prechtel wandered through the brilliant landscapes of Mexico and Guatemala. Arriving at Santiago Atitlan, a Tzutujil Mayan village on the breathtaking shores of Lake Atitlan, Prechtel met Nicolas Chiviliu Tacaxoy--perhaps the most famous shaman in Tzutujil history--who believed Prechtel was the new student he had asked the gods to provide. For the next thirteen years, Prechtel studied the ancient Tzutujil culture and became a village chief and a famous shaman in his own right. In *Secrets of the Talking Jaguar*, Prechtel brings to vivid life the sights, sounds, scents, and colors of Santiago Atitlan: its magical personalities, its beauty, its material poverty and spiritual richness, its eight-hundred-year-old rituals juxtaposed with quintessential small-town gossip. The story of his education is a tale filled with enchantment, danger, passion, and hope.

From Publishers Weekly As late as the 1970s, among the Tzutujil Indians of Santiago Atitlan, in Guatemala, there was no word for "time," and the concept closest to the verb "to be" was the state of "belonging to"; in this case, to their village, which these descendants of ancient Mayans believed was the center of the universe. At the core of their philosophy was a rejection of progress; everything of importance had happened in the past. Their religion, which relied on communion with animal and plant spirits to understand daily existence, appealed deeply to Prechtel, a half Native American who grew up on a Pueblo reservation near Santa Fe: "The new aromas, the new sounds, things that I'd never seen before, spun me into a trance, amplifying my already well-established erotic relationship with the landscape, my verdant quest to find a way to merge and mate with the spirit of the world." In his engaging first book, Prechtel describes his apprenticeship to Nicolas Chiviliu Tacaxoy, a shaman who taught him healing and divination skills, and his 13 years living as a Tzutujil. While his view seems at times romanticized, the picture he creates of idyllic Indian life?of the Indians' well-being, colorful rituals and rapport with nature?is so beautifully drawn that his delight in their culture becomes contagious, as does his grief when civil war creates havoc in their village. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Martin Prechtel is a spiritual activist and the author of *The Smell of Rain on Dust: Grief and Praise* and *The Unlikely Peace at Cuchumaquic*. Prechtel is a prominent thinker, writer and educator of Indigenous history, language and soulfulness. He teaches at his international school, Bolads Kitchen in his native New Mexico.