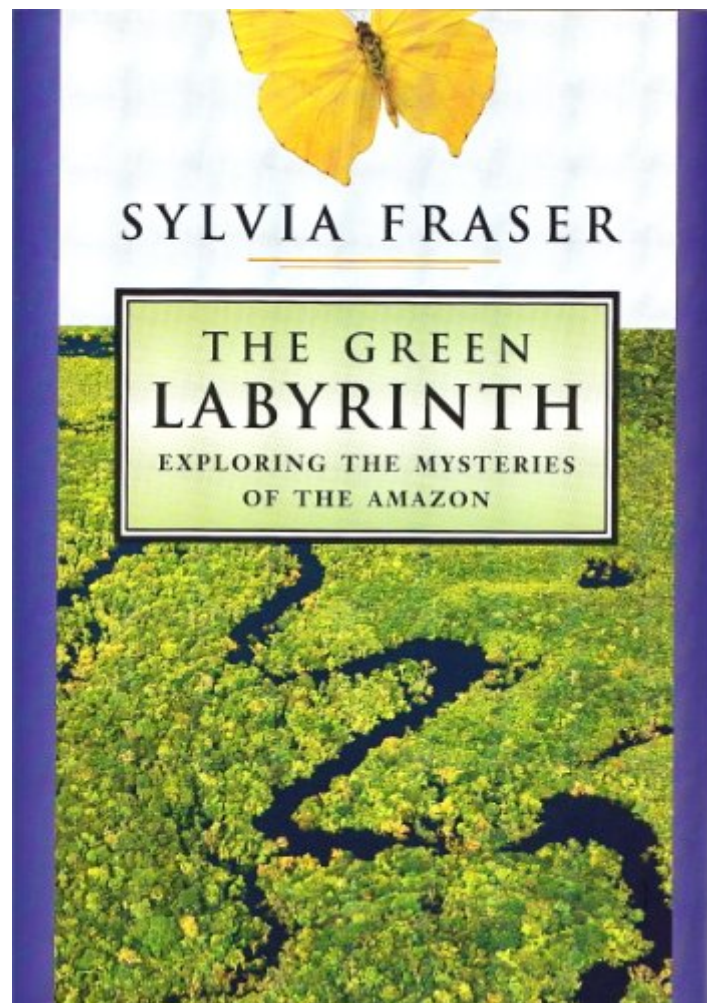




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The Green Labyrinth: Exploring The Mysteries Of The



Synopsis

What risks would you take if they allowed you to enjoy superpowers, or to gain insights that would transform your life? That was the question Sylvia Fraser asked herself after reading reports of pioneering scientists who testified that drinking the psychoactive plant medicine ayahuasca, found in the Amazon jungles, allowed them to "run like pumas and fly like eagles." They were not merely hallucinating, they claimed, but undergoing mind-expanding, life-changing journeys into other dimensions of reality where the usual laws of physics did not rule. Evidence for the power of ayahuasca also lay in the fact that Amazon shamans, whose ancestors had been drinking ayahuasca for generations, had discovered many of the most potent pharmaceuticals in use today by Western doctors. When shamans were asked how they came up with these sophisticated medicines, they replied, "Ayahuasca told us." Though Fraser had never experimented with psychedelics, she decided to travel to the Amazon to experience ayahuasca for herself and to learn the healing wisdom of the shamans. With Fraser as our guide, we visit tribal sanctuaries that hover at the edge of our modern world, where she ingests ayahuasca in eight ceremonies, propelling her on sometimes terrifying but always illuminating journeys into the unknown that force her to reassess Western concepts of what is "real." We also climb Machu Picchu, legendary mountain fortress of the Incas to visit the Sky Gods, then travel through Peru's coastal desert to see the ancient Nazca line drawings so impressive in scale and artistry that they have been popularly attributed to aliens. En route, we meet various Peruvian teachers, happy to share the mysteries of their ancient cultures, along with a diverse group of fellow questers. Accessible and rich in humor and insights, *The Green Labyrinth* engages the reader in a series of thrilling physical adventures while probing the higher mysteries, accompanied by a keen-eyed, well-grounded journalist noted for her exploration of human consciousness. This is no-holds-barred travel writing at its best. "The word that best describes Sylvia Fraser is 'intrepid.' . . . She took off for Iquitos in the Peruvian jungle with an open mind and an eager heart. The resulting book. . . is a vibrant skin-prickling read, her writing so saturated with richness and color that it seems to vibrate to a higher frequency." - January Magazine "Fraser strikes the perfect balance between eager spiritual adventurer and keen-minded journalist. With skills like hers, she can just let go and write." - Calgary Herald "The Green Labyrinth is by turns funny, courageous and thought provoking." - Hamilton Spectator "One can relax and enjoy Ms. Fraser's writing, which is rich yet superbly honed." - New York Times "Fraser's book woos us with an altogether enticing dance that persuades even a good old atheist like myself that alternative realities remain a tantalizing possibility." -

Toronto Star "One of the most courageous, skilled, and unconventional writers working in Canada."
 - Winnipeg Free Press "It's full of aural and visual detail: wet earth smells, the scent and look of tropical vegetation. . . . You can almost hear the eerie squawking of strange and colorful birds."
 - Vancouver Sun "Ultimately there's plenty to marvel at and argue with. . . and if I could remain engaged throughout, there are certainly many other more open-minded readers who will be enthralled to the point of booking a flight to Iquitos."
 - Books in Canada "The energies of Peru's jungle, sky and river gods are brilliantly presented . . . [Yet] Fraser exhibits a remarkable ability to draw back from the processes and comment upon them in an impartial and grounded way. This gives the reader a balanced unfolding. . . . Ultimately, the ayahuasca experiences make connection and expand horizons for author and reader alike. . . . A thoroughly engaging and stimulating read."
 - Vitality

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