Drawing on a wide range of sources, including the Aztecs' own writings, David Carrasco here sheds light on everything from the cosmic significance of their capital city to the contributions women made to daily life and the empire. Carrasco offers a compact history of the Aztecs, outlining the rise of the Aztec empire, the arrival of the Spaniards, and urban life in Mesoamerica. He also explores Aztec religion—which provided both justification for and alternatives to warfare, sacrifice, and imperialism—as well as Aztec poetry, philosophy, painting, and especially monumental sculpture and architecture. He concludes by looking at how the Aztecs have been portrayed in Western thought, art, film, and literature.

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David Carrasco is the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America at Harvard University. For his scholarship in Mesoamerican religions and his work on Mexican American culture he received the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle.
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