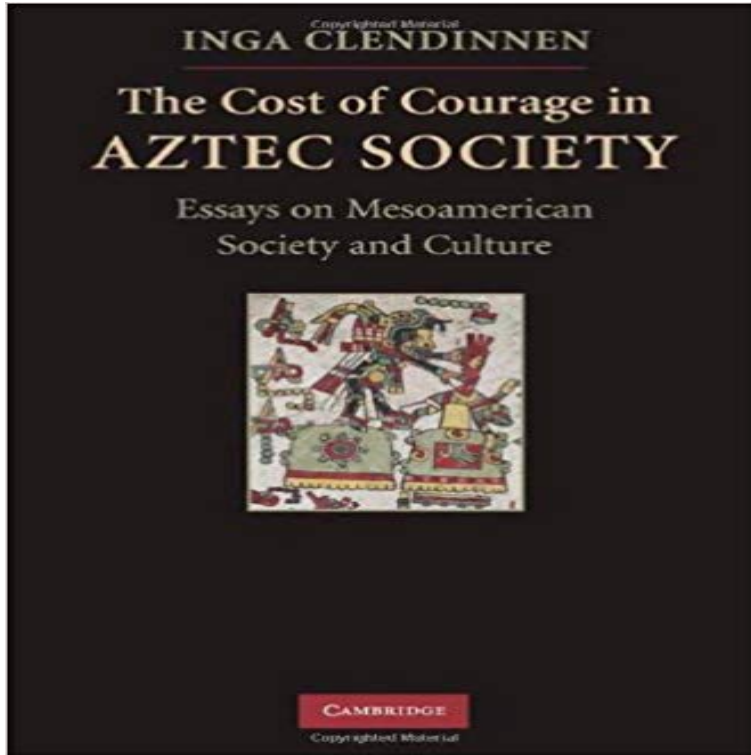


# The Cost of Courage in Aztec Society: Essays on Mesoamerican Society and Culture



How can men be brought to look steadily on the face of battle? Tenochtitlan, the great city of the Aztecs, was the creation of war, and war was its dynamic. In the title work of this compelling collection of essays, Inga Clendinnen reconstructs the sequence of experiences through which young Aztec warriors were brought to embrace their duty to their people, to their city, and to the forces that moved the world and the heavens. Subsequent essays explore the survival of Yucatec Maya culture in the face of Spanish conquest and colonisation, the insidious corruption of an austere ideology translated into dangerously novel circumstances, and the multiple paths to the sacred constructed by defeated populations in sixteenth-century Mexico. The collection ends with Clendinnens transition to the colonial history of her own country: a close and loving reading of the 1841 expedition journal of George Augustus Robinson, appointed Protector of Aborigines in the Port Philip District of Australia. Inga Clendinnen is Emeritus Scholar in History at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her publications include *Aztecs* (Cambridge, 1991), *Reading the Holocaust* (Cambridge, 1999), and *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1579* (second edition, Cambridge, 2003). Her memoir, *Tigers Eye*, was published in 2001; her Boyer Lectures, *True Stories*, in 1999; and a collection of her literary essays, *Agamemnon's Kiss*, in 2006. Her book on the meeting between the First Fleet and Aboriginal Australians, *Dancing with Strangers* (Cambridge, 2003), won several awards, including the Pacific Rim Kiriya Prize.

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