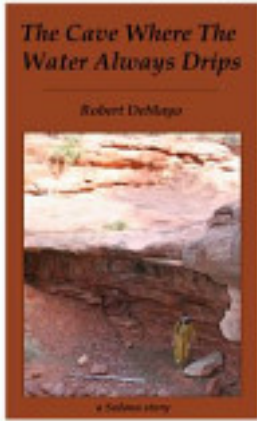


In 1705 a Spaniard went looking for a lost treasure, but only found an Apache with it. Now in modern Sedona, two of their descendants try to figure out what happened.



The Cave Where the Water Always Drips, , Wayward Publishing, 2011, 0983345333, 9780983345336, 138 pages. In 1705, Fernando DeNiza and his brother Antonio searched the canyons of Arizona looking for treasure. They discovered something deep in West Fork, but their descendants were never certain what. In modern Sedona, Marcos DeNiza arrives with a map leading to his ancestor's lost treasure, but he has no idea that the forces that stopped his ancestor might still be at work..

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The Cave Where the Water Always Drips, combines legends of treasures and forgotten gold mines with local creation myths. The inspiration for the book stemmed from the folklore surrounding Montezuma's Well, a flooded sink hole located in Rimrock. "When we first moved to Arizona from Alaska we lived next to the site," said DeMayo. "I often went there during the full moon and sat on the Well's rim, listening to the night."

"There was something very spiritual about that place, and maybe a little dark," said DeMayo. "Looking down at the moon reflecting in the still water, one naturally asks; what could someone have done that would make their god angry enough to kill all but one? Or what could have been so special about Kamala that they all worked together to save her life while everyone around them drowned? This story offers a suggestion as to what might have happened to the young girl who had to live alone after everyone died." "I believe in every story there is a kernel of truth, and I wanted to explore it."

DeMayo's book is based on fictional characters, including the heroine, Jules Collins. Jules lives near modern day Sedona, and has her own reasons for finding "truth" in the creation legend. So does Marcos DeNiza, a manic, Hispanic archaeologist with an interesting map. "I've always been obsessed with stories of lost cities and forgotten treasure. While I guided in Sedona I learned most of the local tales and decided to use what I could to help visitors image what might have been here before there was even a town."

The book contains legends of Spaniards, a lost treasure, and a local gold mine that no one has found in modern times, "A pioneer from Tucson supposedly rediscovered it, but then got shot. And then in 1910 one of Sedona's first pioneers, Bear Howard, came across it, but couldn't find it again. The reason it was so illusive was it was in a box canyon with a hidden entrance" a theme which is a common with a lot of the local legends."

DeMayo added, "The Spanish were in the area long before the pioneers, and people still come across Spanish suits of armor, helmets and other treasures. In nearby Sycamore Canyon, a man found a large bell made of solid silver which was mysteriously gone when he returned. And there are plenty of stories of old time residents who paid for everything with gold, but never talked. If you look closely, those connections are everywhere. I work with a man named Richard Perez, who is co-owner of Trailhorse Adventures. His ancestor came into this area as the cartographer of the

Espejo Expedition in 1582.

Essentially, DeMayo has been researching this book, one way or another, throughout his adult life. "We are all searching for something. For answers that are clear and easy to read. I left home at twenty and for a year and a half traveled through Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Far East. I crawled through any ruin I could find, and made my way to wilderness areas and National Parks everywhere like a magnet. The entire time my head was filled with questions."

"Does the cave really exist?" said DeMayo. "I don't know. I also don't know if someone could get pregnant from a drop of water hitting their forehead. For that matter, could someone turn water into wine, or raise people from the dead? You've got to decide for yourself, and latch onto whatever plausible explanation works for you. But as far as Kamala is concerned, I believe something happened or they wouldn't be still retelling the legend."

From the very first scene right through the very last page, *The Light Behind Blue Circles* takes the reader on an incredible journey through a mysterious land. DeMayo's eloquent writing and detailed descriptions made me feel like I was right there on the African continent experiencing this adventure first hand. The story is intriguing and the characters are likable and fascinating - both the main ones and the array of secondary characters that are met along the way.

A quiet path, Just off the street, A snake darts out, Its fangs sink deep. I fall to Earth, My spirit cries, I saw the hood, I saw the eyes. The Cobra whispers, "Shiva's near." And I gasp for air, Overcome with fear. The poisons rush, My senses reel, My body's numb, I cannot feel. "I will not quit!" "I will not die!" I tell myself, "I will survive." Then all grows dim, I'm far away, But I won't let go, I fight to stay. I hear soft whispers, A serpentine hiss, But I'm too confused To make meaning of this. And then I'm back, Though weak and sore, I thank the Earth For one day more.

A life of carefree travel led to journalism, and for the next 12 years (from 1988 to 2000), DeMayo wrote extensively for *The Telegraph* out of Hudson, N.H. His first assignment was to drive from New Hampshire to Panama in 1988, reporting and corresponding while he explored each country along the way. The journey to Panama ended with him being hospitalized in Ecuador after being caught in riots in Panama City during Noriega's expulsion.

It did however fuel a lifelong obsession with overland journeys. To date he has traveled through over 100 countries, crossing most of them overland Africa three times. "I traveled for at least six months a year, for ten years," said DeMayo. "And then did another five years like that with my wife, Diana."

"In 1999 I became involved with the Explorers Club, whose members include all the astronauts, arctic and Antarctic voyagers, and other major explorers from the last 100 years. It was an incredible opportunity for me to be able to work with explorers like Neil Armstrong, Robert Ballard and the Leakey Family. I marketed deep sea dives to the Titanic and Bismark, African safaris, and archaeological tours throughout the world.

After 9-11, DeMayo and family hit the road again, "We had friends in Alaska so we loaded up our girls and drove across the northern states in early spring" they were 9 months and 3 years at the time. When we first moved into the wall-tent there was still snow on the ground. Once there I picked up work as a tour guide bringing cruise ship passengers into the Yukon for horseback rides and hikes."

Eventually he landed in Sedona where he worked for A Day in the West exploring the high desert as a jeep tour guide; a few years later he moved into management. He is currently one of vice-mayor, John Bradshaw's General Managers, helping to run A Day in the West and Sedona Photo Express. His wife, Diana, is a massage therapist, and owns Uptown Massage (located on Jordan Road). His two daughters are now enrolled in West Sedona: Tavish (10) and Saydrin Scout (8).

"The Cave Where The Water Always Drips" This is a great read for anyone who likes Native American myths, tales of hidden treasure and modern adventure. Visitors to the American southwest, especially northern Arizona, will enjoy the setting in Sedona, Arizona. Don't be surprised if you find yourself spending more than a little vacation time looking for caves and listening for dripping water. The author has a style that draws readers into the story and keeps them entertained from cover to cover.

In limestone caves, after the natural process of erosion and excavation, a simple but slow natural process is responsible for the decoration of the bare, dull walls. Falling rain picks up atmospheric carbon dioxide. On passing through the soil, more carbon dioxide, from plant roots and decaying vegetable matter, becomes dissolved in the water, along with complex organic acids called humic acids. This ground water easily dissolves limestone. The solution slowly descends into the cave and deposits the dissolved calcium carbonate, sometimes including impurities of iron and other minerals. On reaching the cave, the water droplets fall to the floor, leaving behind a tiny deposit of calcite crystal. This is known as precipitation.

Shawls - Water reaching the roof of a cave does not always form drops. Sometimes it trickles down a rockface, depositing a narrow strip of calcite, that eventually results in a thin sheet, growing at an angle from the wall. Shawls often contain interesting folds, which occur because the initial trickle turned from side to side in its downward path along the rockface. The rich coloured banding that is often seen, is caused by other minerals in the solution, such as iron oxide.

Helictites are formed by water slowly entering the caves through pores and cracks in the limestone. Helictites are named from the Greek word 'helix', meaning 'a twist'. They are small irregular growths which proceed in any direction contrary to gravity. The most accepted theory for their growth and development is a combination of capillary action and hydrostatic pressure. The saturated solution emanates from a pore so slowly that it doesn't form a drop. Evaporation occurs and a minute layer of crystal is deposited. A capillary tube slowly develops, through which the solution is drawn, extending the helictite. Because no drop forms, gravity has no effect and the helictite can develop in any direction, defying gravity.

Dogtooth Spar is a pool deposit that forms under extremely still conditions, where there is little or no water movement. This allows the the supersaturated solution to form large crystal faces and perfect form. Dogtooth Spar also forms in vugs (mineral lined rock cavities) which are later exposed as the cave develops.

Caverns, tunnels, or caves are commonly-found cavities in the stone layer of a map. Many caverns have tunnels branching off (called catacombs) and winding in other directions, some of which connect to the surface of the map creating natural entries to the cavern. Caverns can be quite deep, extending from the surface all the way to the bedrock layer. These caverns are randomly generated so two of them will almost never look exactly alike, making guides difficult to write. They can sometimes be attached to natural dungeons.

Caverns can be useful as a starting point for creating player-made dungeons and other underground structures. Since natural caverns have areas of exposed rock, they can save quite a bit of time while searching for ore. However, caverns can be quite deep, like pits, so accidentally breaking into one from above could inflict a lot of fall damage. Players should be aware of the potential presence of lava as it is one of the main risk factors of exploring caverns, even on peaceful.

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