

OUT OF THE MAYA TOMBS

(formerly *Dance of the Maize God*)

SYNOPSIS

46 words:

Out of the Maya Tombs, formerly *Dance of the Maize God*, enters the world of exquisitely painted Maya vases to explore the royal life and rich mythology of the ancient Maya, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of looted art.

50 words:

Painted vases, looted from tombs, have opened an extraordinary window on the ancient Maya. But the race to unearth these treasures has resulted in vast destruction. *Out of the Maya Tombs* explores the royal life and rich mythology of the Maya, as well as the tangled issues surrounding looted art.

100 words:

Over the past 50 years, thousands of exquisitely painted Maya vases, most looted from tombs, have flooded into public and private collections. These works of art opened an extraordinary window on the Maya past, but the race to unearth these treasures has destroyed ancient cities.

Out of the Maya Tombs enters the world of vases to explore ancient Maya life and mythology, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of looted art. The story is told by villagers, looters, archaeologists, art historians, dealers and curators. For each, these vases hold a different value and meaning.

125 words:

Over the past 50 years, thousands of exquisitely painted Maya vases, almost all looted from tombs, have flooded into public and private collections. These amazing works of art, filled with humor and mystery, have opened an extraordinary window on the Maya past. But the race to unearth these treasures has destroyed temples, culminating in the takeover of ancient cities by looter armies.

The documentary *Out of the Maya Tombs* enters the world of the vases to explore the royal life and rich mythology of the Maya, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of looted art. The story is told by villagers, looters, archaeologists, art historians, dealers and curators. For each, these vases have a radically different value and meaning.