

## Amazon Review – SEALED UP

*Gary Lawrence*

*SEALED UP* reads like a historical novel except the events haven't happened ... yet. The plot twists keep you riveted, and the great word pictures make you feel you are there.

How often are a UCLA anthropology professor and a televangelist two of the main characters in a story about a hidden treasure in the jungles of Guatemala? The professor by himself, obviously. But a televangelist?? The cast becomes even more intriguing when author Steve Hanson, keen observer of human behavior, tosses in a Maya shaman, a quadriplegic guru injured in a previous expedition, the minister's troubled ex-wife who knows too much, drug cartels, shadowy financiers, a beautiful woman undercover DEA agent (Okay, what else?), the agent's boss with his double identity, and even a Romanian "pilot." Bring in the real-life American mystic Edgar Cayce, known in the 1930's as the Sleeping Prophet, and the Chilam Balam (Google it) book of prophecies—which Hanson describes as an "unusual combination of Yucatec writing in Latin with Maya glyphs in codex format on bark paper"—and send the characters off on an expedition to find ancient documents rumored to be hidden in jungle cliffs that may possibly connect with Cayce's prophecies and who knows with what else? Oh, and top off the recipe with spices of Indiana Jones, human sacrifices, mystic powers, ground penetrating radar, and a few surprise ingredients.

WHOO-EE!

This page turner with its plots and subplots holds together because of Hanson's substantial research, his word-smithing facility, and his feel for just the right phrase and pacing. He is an accomplished story teller who gives us rich, but not burdensome, detail about the setting's geography, folklore, languages, religions and cultures.

You'll love the ending!

*FIVE STARS!*