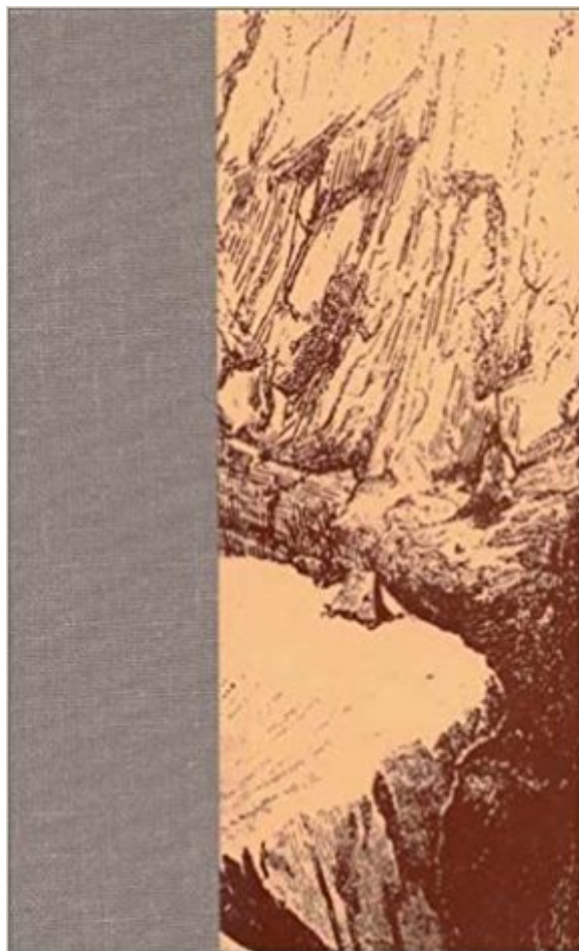


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## K2: The Savage Mountain (The Adventure Library)



## Synopsis

The dramatic story of the 1953 American expedition to K2, the second-highest but generally considered the most difficult and dangerous mountain in the world. The Houston-led team failed in their attempt and tragedy struck them, but their courage and concern for each other has made their story one of the pinnacles of American Himalayan mountaineering. First published in 1954  
Introduction by James Wickwire New afterword by the authors New maps, color and b&w photos

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This radio transmission sums up the indomitable spirit of the Third American Karakoram Expedition, the story of which is told in K2 The Savage Mountain. The entire team had been stormbound for almost a week at 25,500 feet. Unable to move, without supplementary oxygen, they clung to their tiny outcropping while the wind and snow raged around their tents. It was only a matter of time before disaster struck, and it did in the form of Art Gilkey's pulmonary embolism. It was clear that he would have to be carried down the face of the world's second largest and most dangerous mountain in a raging storm. And the others themselves were fighting to survive. And so the message was sent - "All of us are weaker, but morale is very high". This is a classic story of great adventure, survival, heroism and honor. Told with humility and vintage understatement, it grips the reader, imparting a hopeful message of human possibilities. You'll be hard pressed to put it down.

I enjoyed this book. It seems to give a realistic view of what it is like to climb one of the world's

toughest mountains. I understand that a book cannot give one the complete experience of trying to climb K2, but this book goes into detail and gives some good insight into the process of climbing in high altitude. I admire the mountaineers that attempt these dangerous mountains.

It is a great story about friendship and life. I was amazed about the skills and the logistics available in that time (1953). The story is great, and it's going both through spiritual part and technical part of the climb. It is an inspiring book for those who like adventure. My personal favourite quote from the book: "When men climb on a great mountain together, the rope between them is more than a mere physical aid to the ascent; it is a symbol of the spirit of the enterprise. It is a symbol of men banded together in a common effort of will and strength - not against this or that imagined foe of the instant, but against their only true enemies: inertia, cowardice, greed, ignorance, and all weaknesses of the spirit"

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I am an arm chair mountaineer who has read a lot of books about mountain climbing. I always wanted to know more about the famous American attempt of K2 that tried to bring Art Gilkey down the mountain. Great book. Really enjoyed it.

Loved this inspirational book. I haven't shut up about it since I finished the book. So they didn't get to the summit, but what a wonderful team. Very refreshing to read how they did things back in 1953. Brilliant! A good, common sense approach to health, friendship, loyalty and decency.

A 1953 climb still translates in 2002. This is a detailed account cowritten by two of the climbers and is very detailed including the long walk in. I was surprised how little mountain climbing had changed although it did appear distances traveled daily were less as they required 8 campsites to get to the peak. I find books on mountaineering expeditions very interesting although the climbs themselves contain long periods of boredom. This expedition is no different as a brutal storm stops the climbers just short of the summit. The book does a great job detailing how high altitude can effect a climber's body. One of the writers was a doctor. Needless to say, the long, unforgiving storm takes it's toll on the men placing them in ultimate peril. Getting down from the high altitude, steep face carrying a wounded member led to the most incredible living disaster I have ever read. Well, living for most of the climbers. Read this book for adventure and historical climbing perspective.

Great book!

This is a story of travel, human endeavor and adventure from a bygone era. The optimism and attitude of these post WW2 climbers and their Pakistani colleagues and assistants brings a much needed perspective to mountaineering today. The style may be unfamiliar to some readers, but the story is definitely worth it.

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