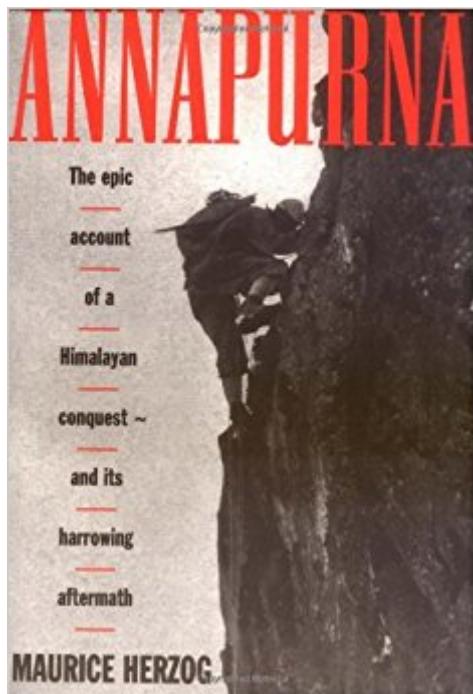


The book was found

Annapurna



Synopsis

Z99 grit and courage members of the French Alpine Club face frostbite snow blindness and near death to reach the summit of the uncharted 26493-foot Himalayan peak Annapurna

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Before Everest, there was Annapurna. Maurice Herzog led an expedition of French climbers to the summit of this 26,000-foot Himalayan peak in 1950. At the time of the assault, it was the highest mountain ever climbed, a remarkable feat in itself made all the more remarkable by the fact that it had never previously been charted. Herzog and his team not only had to climb the darn thing, they had to find the route. As riveting as the tale of the ascent remains nearly half a century later, the story of the descent through virtually unsurvivable--think avalanche and frostbite, for starters--conditions is unforgettable. Herzog's masterful account, finally back in print, is a monument of courage and spirit, an epic adventure excitingly told.

"Those who have never seen the Himalayas...will know that they have been a companion of greatness." --New York Times Book Review

While considered a mountaineering classic, "Annapurna", or Maurice Herzog's account of the first expedition to successfully climb a 8000 m mountain is more a story of the expedition as a whole rather than a detailed account of technical climbing - the reader expecting a few hundred pages of which pitons were used, etc, may be a bit disappointed. I enjoyed the wider account of the

expedition and the challenges associated with actually finding Annapurna (or the original objective, Dhaulagiri) and identifying a viable route up in poorly mapped country while racing the clock against the monsoon season - although Herzog's account has the relatively dry detachment I normally associate with the British upper-class explorer of the past and does not always succeed in conveying the immediacy or drama of the expedition. His account of the final stages of the climb and the near-disastrous aftermath is more compelling, although it is only through reading other works that I have been fully able to grasp the risks involved or the challenges imposed by the clothing and equipment of the day. The reader should be aware that there are other accounts of this expedition that dispute Herzog's version of events, and like the other reviewers of the Kindle edition I find the lack of maps a considerable weakness. Overall, an interesting account of an undoubtedly demanding and heroic expedition, although the reader who is looking for a more vivid picture of mountaineering of the era will almost certainly get more out of *The White Spider*. Probably a 3 1/2 star book, and an edition with the maps restored would almost nudge it up to 4 stars.

Good for the history and quite a bit of adventure. It's amazing that they set out to climb a different peak and when that fell through it took them a long while to find Annapurna. This is back before satellite imaging, GPS or even decent maps. Their gear was state of the art for 1950 but much of it would not be considered as gear today. Their treatments for frostbite were appalling. Their "attack and conquer" attitude was of the time but has always left me a little amazed. The book became long and wordy in places but these were no doubt hardy, tough and smart men, with courage to spare. It's not my favorite climbing book but it's worth reading.

This book was fascinating. Nepal is so remote. This book was published in 1950. One hopes the land is still as mysterious and beautiful. Maurice Herzog sacrificed a lot to realize his dream of climbing annapurna. He and his team were the first. Their equipment was in no way sufficient to protect them from the cold. They advanced on sheer willpower. And crazy.

This book is a classic, and while many climbers say it inspired them to take up the sport, it cemented my long-held view to never, ever, under any circumstances, engage in mountaineering. I'm fine running the occassional mountain marathon, mind you, but climbing peaks like these is no less dangerous than it was when Herzog's team did it. In fact, you might say it's more dangerous, because it's a heck of a lot easier to get to the locations to put your life at risk, and the extreme tourism business makes it appear to be safer than it is. This book is a good glimpse of all the stuff

that can go wrong, and how a self-reportedly conservative risk-taker nearly got his entire team killed, and lost major chunks of his body in the process. Well worth the read, even with the creepy voyeurism described in the villages.

This was a very interesting account of the 1950 French expedition to climb Annapurna. It was full of detail and adventure. Written by the leader of the expedition, Maurice Herzog, the account revealed that he was a topnotch leader and decision-maker and was innovative and bold. I thought it was a good read full of insights about the mentality of adventurers and mountaineers. They were brave and confident. This account was good at illustrating the mindset of people who will go on these adventures. It is everything the armchair adventurer wants in an account of adventure.

A very interesting account of climbing done over 65 years ago. The true size of the countryside and the mountains themselves come into focus with the length of time that the expedition was hiking. The same is true for the time spent climbing. Also, the extensive use of Sherpas and others natives hired to carry equipment make one realize what a monumental task this was in 1950. The dangers of climbing are also realized and this is therefore a good read.

In some sense, reviewing this book is a bit vain... Few stories can hold a candle to Herzog and the French Alpine Club's conquest of Annapurna. So this review is more to encourage those either unfamiliar with the story, or who have not yet read Herzog's "pseudo-diary" recount of the beginning of the end of the unclimbable 8000m peaks. Herzog is exceptionally well organized in his retelling of the tale. It is easy to follow and I felt like I was on the edge of my seat the entire book, even though I knew the ending before reading it. One sidenote: I am both an avid reader of the genre, but also an avid mountain climber myself, and without the experience of reading other books, as well as practical experience, some of the terminology, equipment, etc., maybe a bit difficult to follow at times, but I think overall this does not detract from the read, and I suspect that most people looking to read this will already be comfortable with most or all of the terminology, etc.

Read this as a high school student in the 60s. The fascinating thing was how much exploration had to happen before a decision could be made to climb Annapurna. The kindle version was disappointing because I recalled maps and photographs that helped the reader understand the difficulties and the adventure. The "after climb" struggles were as fascinating as the effort to make the climb.

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