

Points Unknown: The Greatest Adventure Writing of the Twentieth Century (Outside Books)

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"A great treasure-trove of daunting human courage, frailty, and persistence in the face of the unknown."?*Library Journal*

From Robert Falcon Scott's final journal entry to Jon Krakauer's reckless solo climb of the Devil's Thumb, David Roberts and the editors of *Outside* have gathered the most enduring adventure literature of the century into one heart-stopping volume. A frigid winter ascent of Mount McKinley; the vastness of Arabia's Empty Quarter; the impossibly thin air at Everest's summit; the deadly black pressure of an underwater cave; a desperate escape through a Norwegian winter?these and thirty-six other stories recount the minutes, hours, and days of lives pushed to the brink. But there is more to adventure than hair's-breadth escapes. By turns charming and tragic, whimsical and nerve-racking, this extraordinary collection gets to the heart of why adventure stories enthrall us. Includes works by Sebastian Junger, Jon Krakauer, Edward Abbey, Tim Cahill, Edward Hoagland, Ernest Shackleton, Freya Stark, and Wilfred Thesiger.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
What a pleasure it is to read, in the middle of the Texas summer heat, an excerpt from Robert Falcon Scott's diary of his chilly expedition to the North Pole and then, for a change of climate and scene, an account of Eric Hansen's barefoot walk across the rain forests of Borneo. Roberts (True Summit) has assembled a wonderful collection of excerpts from mostly first-person narratives of adventure travel and exploration from the beginning of the century until today. Each selection is preceded by a short introductory passage written by well-known writers and adventurers (Jon Krakauer and Eric Newby) as well as the lesser known: Joshua Slocum (sailing around the world alone) or H.W. Tilman (descending Nanda Devi). At times the narratives focus on the challenge of the individual vs. nature, at others on the difficulty of teamwork when the struggle becomes overwhelming. All in all, this is a great treasure-trove of daunting human courage, frailty, and persistence in the face of the unknown. It is impressive that these skilled adventurers also happen to be excellent writers. Definitely recommended.DOlga B. Wise, Compaq Computer Corp., Austin, TX
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From Booklist
This anthology introduces a new imprint allying Norton with *Outside* magazine. Editor Roberts selects 41 pieces from mountaineering, trekking, navigating, spelunking, and assorted disaster-survival accounts of the twentieth century, writes an introductory critique, then sends the reader off to vertiginous peaks, heaving seas, baking sands, or steaming jungles. Other than Robert F. Scott's journal or Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff* , few of the sources will be familiar to most readers, which endows the text with a sense of novelty that meshes with many an excerpt's tones of humor, anxiety, and relief--or grief. A further attraction is the styles of writers who, though explorers first, are revealed to be stylists as well. Some write self-ironically in what Roberts calls the comic "Bunglers Abroad" motif; others compose self-critically, divining their attraction to remote and dangerous places; still others narrate straight their entrances and extrications from difficult spots. A mesmerizing display of the pull adventure exerts, this initial edition successfully inaugurates this imprint. *Gilbert Taylor*
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Review
A great treasure-trove of daunting human courage, frailty, and persistence in the face of the unknown. -- *Library Journal*

A mesmerizing display of the pull adventure exerts. -- *Booklist*

A splendid new anthology of exploration literature. -- *Newsweek*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Mitchell Smith:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Points Unknown: The Greatest Adventure Writing of the Twentieth Century (Outside Books), you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Kelsey Jimenez:

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Casey Russell:

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