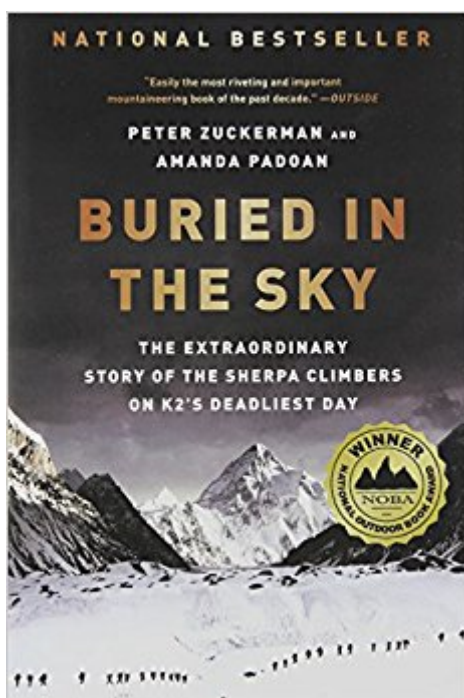


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# Buried In The Sky: The Extraordinary Story Of The Sherpa Climbers On K2's Deadliest Day



## Synopsis

Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award and the Banff Mountain Book Award: "Gripping, intense. Buried in the Sky will satisfy anyone who loved [Into Thin Air]." —Kate Tuttle, Boston Globe  
When eleven climbers died on K2 in 2008, two Sherpas survived. Their astonishing tale became the stuff of mountaineering legend. This white-knuckle adventure follows the Sherpas from their remote villages in Nepal to the peak of the world's most dangerous mountain, recounting one of the most dramatic disasters in alpine history from a fascinating new perspective.  
Winner of the NCTE George Orwell Award and an official selection of the American Alpine Club Book Club. 16 pages of illustrations; 8 maps

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Enthralling...phenomenal research and vivid writing create a memorable portrait not only of the events on the mountain but also of the people who make modern high-altitude climbing possible." —Michael J. Ybarra, Wall Street Journal  
"Easily the most riveting and important mountaineering book of the past decade." —Outside  
"An indispensable addition to the genre...a long-overdue historical correction to the familiar mountaineering story." —Matthew Power, Men's Journal  
"An absorbing book that goes beyond the typical mountaineering tale...This book is mesmerizing." —Sharon Haddock, Desert News  
"It's a testament to the thrills in this book that I scoured the notes, eager to learn how the authors wrote their account...The authors' commendable documentary about the people who carry the gear is overtaken by the chilling adventure story of

one terrible day on the mountain. — Smithsonian Magazine — “This compelling story brought back from K2’s slopes is a worthy tale about a little-known aspect of these high-stakes climbs. — Colleen Kelly, Minneapolis Star Tribune — “Through phenomenal research, Zuckerman and Padoan have dug deeper than anyone else into one of the most mysterious tragedies in mountaineering history. Thanks to their efforts, the heroism and humanity of the Sherpa climbers who saved lives shine through the chaos and grief of that awful day on K2. — David Roberts, co-author of *K2: Life and Death on the World’s Most Dangerous Mountain* and author of *On the Ridge Between Life and Death* — “An informative and inspirational book — I couldn’t put it down. — Jamling Tenzing Norgay, son of Tenzing Norgay, author of *Touching My Father’s Soul* — “Buried in the Sky reveals the heroic deeds of the Sherpa — [It] brings to light how immensely strong, loyal, and talented the Sherpa climbers are. Finally credit is given, where credit is due. — Ed Viesturs, bestselling author of *No Shortcuts to the Top* and *K2: Life and Death on the World’s Most Dangerous Mountain* — “I admired *Buried in the Sky* and enjoyed it, too. Because the authors did their homework and wrote their story well, and most of all, because credit is given at long last to those who deserve it most. — Peter Matthiessen, author of *The Snow Leopard* — “The Sherpas climb off the page and carry a narrative that is as fast and as gripping as their superhuman ascents. — Michael Kudas, author of *High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed* — “A judiciously crafted chronicle of the devastating series of incidents that left 11 dead, this narrative is well organized and chilling. — Ingrid Levin, *Library Journal* — “Zuckerman and Padoan offer glimpses into the climbing culture that are as rare as the thin air the climbers breathe — A provocative perspective on one of the world’s most expensive and deadly athletic adventures. — Kirkus Reviews — “A revelatory look at Sherpa history and culture — highly recommended. — David Pitt, *Booklist*

Many climbing accounts describe a death-defying struggle up fixedlines. But how did those ropes get there? Who performed the rescues? When your life hangs from a knot, it helps to know who tied it. But some stories get buried. Western journalists seldom speak Ajak Bhote, Balti, Burushaski, Shar-Khumbu tamgney, Rolwaling Sherpa tamgney, or Wakhi. Reporters can’t usually track down indigenous climbers by dialing telephone numbers or sending e-mails, and writers on a deadline rarely have time to trek to remote villages. As a result, testimony from high-altitude workers isn’t broadcast far. Survivors of the Death Zone have imperfect recall, and the media maelstrom makes recovery—and accuracy—elusive as families, fans, friends, and publicists all assert claims on a story.

Trauma and oxygen deprivation compound the confusion. As in war, eyewitnesses who were standing next to each other sometimes report different versions of the events. Nonetheless, Amanda and I have tried to get at the truth and to be straightforward about our reporting. We researched for two years. We took seven trips to Nepal, trekking to regions rarely visited by Westerners and off-limits to journalists. We took three trips to Pakistan and obtained unprecedented access to military and government officials, thanks largely to Nazir Sabir, president of the Alpine Club of Pakistan. In total, we interviewed more than two hundred people and spent countless hours at kitchen tables in France, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. We relied on more than a thousand photographs and videos. This book re-creates a true story. Please see the background notes for further information on methods and sources. The death of Amanda's friend Karim Meherban was a catalyst for this book. Nursing a newborn, Amanda couldn't do all the research herself, so I was brought in as coauthor. Amanda and I are cousins, and we've been writing together since I was twelve. Before *Buried in the Sky*, I had a comfortable job as a daily newspaper reporter. I had never strapped on crampons. But when I learned about this story, I had no choice but to quit my job, grab a notebook, and head to the Himalaya. The characters were too inspiring, the goal too important, and the journey too compelling to resist. Peter Zuckerman  
Portland, Oregon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm one of the few survivors of the K2 'triumph and tragedy' expedition in 2008! I wrote a book myself 'Surviving K2', I read a lot about this historical expedition. A lot of crap was written, mostly by people who have no idea or understanding what mountaineering is all about. But this book 'Buried in the Sky' surpasses my expectations. All the media attention was focused on the Western climbers. This book describes in detail the cultural difference and importance of the Eastern climbers. On one hand we think we are living in two separated worlds, and on the other hand (especially when climbing mountains together) we are one and the same human beings. We have to face the same problems in our families when disasters happen. But the brilliant thing of this book is the accuracy and precision of the almost 4 years of research after the whole tragedy happened. Even I was surprised in details reading the story of the lives of the Sherpa's but mostly the lives of the HAP's (Pakistani High Altitude climbers). A must to read!

Great story and very well researched! The author gives a lot of details about Nepali and Sherpa culture that are not seen in other books and clearly spent a lot of time talking to people of all backgrounds rather than just focusing on the Western climbers. Well written too, I didn't want to put

it down. Highly recommended for those interested in this subject matter or just want to read a good (if sad, given the outcome of this climb) nonfiction.

A very enjoyable book if you like to read about mountaineering. It is well written and well researched. I also enjoyed reading about the history and culture of the Sherpas and the HAPs.

Adventure, yes; gripping intensity, yes; a page-turner, by all means. But what I loved most about *Buried in the Sky* was: 1) the cultural backdrop and up close encounters with sherpas, their families and communities, including in-depth insights into competing economic and political forces, spiritual beliefs and rituals of a region that is under-reported and often misunderstood; 2) the authors' skillful reveal of the many-layered web of human error, often rooted in pride and emotion-based miscalculation, that led to disaster on that fateful day. There are profound lessons here: as in the larger world today, the climbers were thrown together from afar, and the mistakes of a few, magnified by tremendous risk, could cause the demise many.

Well written, especially the descriptions of the actual climb. I found it difficult to follow the genealogy of the Sherpas and porters. Perhaps a little too much detail leading up to the actual climb and the tragedy of that day. All in all, I really enjoyed the book. A fan of mountaineering, especially in the Himalayas, I read it cover to cover.

The mindset of thought and action and lifestyle is so alien to what other books of the backbone of these unrealistic ventures portray that it takes on a whole new meaning to slave labor

Amazing book about K2, Sherpas, and climbers. This book is very well written and makes you feel like a part of the expedition.

This is a tragedy. This I mean in the ancient sense not the "some sad things happened" sense. The innate characteristics of men and of mountains led to these deaths and grief.

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