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Did Mallory and Irvine reach Everest's summit 30 years before Hillary and Tenzing? Until now, clues about what happened to these two Everest pioneers had been scant and misleading. Until now, no one has known whether they reached the summit. Until now, no one has known where or how they perished.

This is a detective story of the first order. It is the story not just of Mallory and Irvine's last climb, but of the team of climbers and researchers who, together, found the body of perhaps Britain's greatest mountaineer and uncovered the startling story he had waited so long to reveal. Written by the three key members of the team, and incorporating extensive interviews with other team members, GHOSTS OF EVEREST is the dramatic unfolding of both the 1999 and 1924 expeditions, woven together into a compelling narrative.

This book is the definitive account and has become an instant classic.

## Ghosts of Everest: The Search for Mallory & Irvine Details

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# From Reader Review Ghosts of Everest: The Search for Mallory & Irvine for online ebook

## Duane says

The story of the 1999 expedition to Mt. Everest, not to reach the summit, but to search for evidence of what happened to George Mallory and Andrew Irvine on that fateful day in 1924. Did they reach the summit before they perished? That's one of the great mysteries of the 20th century. What happened on this new expedition is legend of it's own, making a remarkable discovery some 75 years after the tragedy. It didn't solve the mystery, but it did bring closure for thousands of people whose imagination has lingered on the mountain and the mystery.

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## Aldi says

Oh, this book was amazing. AMAZING. Brilliant in its structure paralleling the stages of progress of the 1924 expedition and the 1999 research expedition; dispassionate and fascinating in laying out the evidence and eliminating impossibilities; heartbreaking in actually delving into the characters of Mallory & Irvine and producing several convincing and well-researched reconstructive accounts of what most likely happened. It was the perfect blend of objectivity in research and emotional involvement in the men behind the mystery.

It's funny, I've been obsessed with the Mallory & Irvine mystery for a while but until I read this book, I never really formed a belief as to whether or not they made it to the summit - if anything, I guess I tended to side with the modern opinion of "unlikely" and contented myself with knowing it doesn't really matter if they did, because what they achieved was incredible either way.

But after reading this book - bloody hell yeah, I believe it. This wasn't research done by a bunch of excited fans who just \*wanted\* them to have successfully summited, nor a bunch of professional naysayers who just wanted them not to; these were geologists, historians and climbers who knew what they were doing and had no stake in pinning post-mortem medals on Mallory or what-have-you. And the process of finding and sorting the clues, especially the notes in Mallory's pocket regarding how much oxygen they probably had with them (definitely enough, in short, to get them to the summit), and the theories evolving from there are so sound and evidence-based that the picture they painted made me gnaw my nails with excitement all over again.

(I actually gasped when Anker rated the free-climb of the Second Step, the one Mallory would have had to master if they were going to succeed. It may be silly but I'd never heard the Second Step put in such simple terms as the Yosemite Decimal System - people always talk about it as this incredibly hard thing that only the most experienced climbers can master, until it grows in your mind to the dimensions of a completely smooth 3-mile-high glass wall or something. To hear that an experienced climber rated it a 5.8 at sea level, probably a 5.10 at altitude, made everything click in my mind and solidified my perspective so much. A 5.8 is easy, relatively, if you've done even a bit of regular climbing. I've done loads of them. I've done 5.10s, many of them without difficulty. I've done 5.11s and clawed my way up the occasional 5.12. If someone like ME could have climbed the Second Step - leaving aside the it'sy-bitsy tiiny little insignificant complication of it being, y'know, on Mount Everest! - then fuck yeah, someone like George Mallory would have made that wall his bitch in about two seconds flat *and* hauled Irvine up it by his little finger.)

What an account, and what incredible finds. I'm totally on board now with the successful summit bid, a descent in the dark, and a fatal fall guttingly close to the relative safety of camp (SO CLOSE, DAMMIT) seeming the most probable story, considering where Mallory's body was found, how much oxygen they likely carried, the fact that Mallory no longer had Ruth's picture that he was going to put on the summit (IT'S ON THE SUMMIT!), and most of all, what sort of men these two were - determined, beautiful, passionate explorers, who walked the edge of madness you have to take if you're going to walk the edge of mountains.

Hell yes, they made it. I believe that now.

THIS BOOK. MY FEELS.

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### **Sally Edsall says**

I have read lots of books about Everest and I am reluctant to say it is the "best" book on the subject because I think there are many good books.

But this one is special. The quality of production is excellent - beautifully illustrated with photos integrated throughout the text. And a simply fascinating story, well told.

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### **Dagny says**

The subtitle of *Ghosts of Everest, The Search for Mallory & Irvine*, tells the subject of the book. It is the story of the 1999 expedition that discovered Mallory's body and began to unravel a mystery that has been plaguing mountaineers since the disappearance of Mallory and Irvine in 1924. Mallory and Irvine were last seen "going strong for the summit" on June 6, 1924. Mallory's body was discovered in a remarkably well-preserved condition by the 1999 expedition on May 1, 1999. The book was written by the expedition historian with the aid of other expedition members. It is rich with photographs. I found the last half, once the search was well underway, to be absolutely riveting; more exciting than a suspense thriller because this was real life. Read this book and decide for yourself if Mallory and Irvine were the first to reach to top of Mount Everest, almost three decades before Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

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### **Susan says**

Amazing story and the photos are unbelievable.

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### **Joy D says**

Non-fiction account of the 1999 Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition to seek answers to the mystery of what happened to them during their 1924 ascent of Everest. Did they make it to the top? What is the evidence that says they did or did not? And what happened to them on that last day when they disappeared? This book attempts to answer these questions as much as is possible from the evidence in existence. Three of the 1999 participants told their story to William Nothdurft, who has done an excellent job of capturing the

dual journeys of both the 1924 and 1999 expeditions. The authors employed the approach favored by Sherlock Holmes to get to the crux of the mystery. The first half got a little bogged down in the logistics, but I found the last half of the book extremely engrossing. I found a hardcover edition of this book in the library, and the maps and photos add context to the narrative. Recommended to readers interested in mountain-climbing, its history, unsolved mysteries, or adventures in the extreme cold.

Memorable quote:

“If one should ask me what ‘use’ there was in climbing, or attempting to climb the world’s highest peak, I would be compelled to answer ‘none.’ There is no scientific end to be served; simply the gratification of the impulse of achievement, the indomitable desire to see what lies beyond that ever beats within the heart of man. With both poles conquered, the mighty peak of the Himalayas remains as the greatest conquest available to explore.”

--George Mallory

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### **Melissa Kiefer says**

This book sparked an utter fascination with Mt. Everest in me. It is written beautifully and makes quite a case for Mallory being the first to summit.

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### **Pancha says**

An account of the 1999 expedition to find Mallory and Irvine. Conrad Anker's account, *The Lost Explorer*, is a lot more personal, but this one has some good info and lots of color picture. Be warned, it contains pictures of Mallory's remains, which could be disturbing. I recommend not reading the last chapter before bed, as it also contains a very vivid description about how Mallory and Irvine likely died. *Dark Summit* by Nick Heil is another good book on Everest, about the disastrous 1996 season.

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### **Anna says**

What a completely wonderful book! The quote on the back of my copy says "brilliantly constructed" and that is certainly true, the seamless blending of the 1924 expedition and the 1999 one is outstanding. Both stories were utterly compelling and beautifully described. The detail was intense and the comparisons between the expeditions served to bring both vividly to life.

I was so moved at so many points but most particularly at the discovery of Mallory's body, I could barely take it in, even with the photo there in the book. And the description of Mallory and Irvine's fall was almost too much to read, although that was perhaps the one point where the writer(s) let the intensity of their feelings about what happened carry them away from a generally more circumspect style of telling. I didn't mind though, it was nice to be given that closure.

This was a really wonderful, illuminating book.

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## **Lukrezia Cosimo says**

Not a classic, but an interesting read. The experience was rather spoilt by me pouring most of a bottle of mineral water over the book.

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## **Kim says**

I've had this book on my shelf for a while and idly picked it up on New Year's Day--and finished reading it within 24 hours. It's a very brisk, engaging account of the 1999 Everest expedition that located the long-lost body of pioneering mountaineer George Mallory, who disappeared along with Sandy Irvine during a 1924 summit attempt. If they succeeded (and some say they very well may have, although no one knows for sure), they would have been the first men to top the world's highest mountain, three decades before Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay famously did the same.

In addition to chronicling the startling discovery of Mallory's frozen body, this book lays out some strong evidence regarding what probably happened to Mallory and his fellow climber Irvine, who is yet to be found. The attendant photos of the mountain, the 1924 and 1999 expedition crews, discovered artifacts, and of course Mallory's body are really fascinating. Rather than gruesome, the three photos showing Mallory's alabaster corpse are simply sad and affecting. He was found face-down, his hands gripping the rocks in a state of self-arrest, fighting for life until the end.

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## **Beth Skubis says**

This is a beautifully done, coffee-table-style account of the late '90s expedition to find the remains of George Mallory and his young climbing partner, Sandy Irvine, who disappeared during their Mount Everest summit attempt in 1924. This book is distinguishable not on the basis of its writing, which is fine but pedestrian, but on the content--in terms of written revelations and photographs. I would strongly recommend reading a book of the caliber of "Into the Silence", which gorgeously probes the various motivations and shared histories of Mallory and his Great War compatriots who first attempted to climb Everest, before reading this. "Ghosts of Everest", however, is an essential coda to the story, one you will find nowhere else and that will leave you satisfied.

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## **Lenny Husen says**

This was AWESOME. Written in 1999, it chronicles the Expedition to Climb Everest in search of evidence of George Mallory and Sandy Levine, the two British Mountaineers who attempted to Summit Everest in 1924 and vanished "into thin air" leaving only an ice ax behind.

In the same way that so much depended upon William Carlos Williams' wheelbarrow, the vitality and pathos of the artifacts and body they found is soul stirring. A watch with no hands, a fingerless glove, a book of matches, letters and to-do lists, a hob-nailed boot--these things are imbued with dignity and love.

This is a Mystery and a fascinating one--what exactly happened? Why has it captured the imagination of so

many and in this case, led a team to risk their lives in search of clues?

The book is incredibly well-written and chronicles the parallel Expeditions--1924 and 1999, going back and forth in time. The photos, both old and new, are excellent. The characters, both dead and alive, are super likeable and admirable.

If you are a fan of Mount Everest and mountain climbing or stories about either, you should read this book.

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### **Helen says**

The photos and the story is amazing, although I feel like much of the detail about putting the expedition together could have been left out, especially bits about how awful the BBC were to work with. Just jump right into the expedition itself please.

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### **Chet Herbert says**

I find it inexplicable that the 1999 Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition stopped searching for Andrew Irvine's body once they stumbled across George Mallory, a bit after half an hour on the first day of their investigation, and, instead, decided to summit Everest themselves a few days later. The reason for searching the area was because members of the 1975 Chinese expedition claimed they found a body of an Englishman. Why not continue to search for Irvine as well since they found a different body? since Irvine was closer to the Chinese camp anyway? After all, that was the stated purpose of the Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition!

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