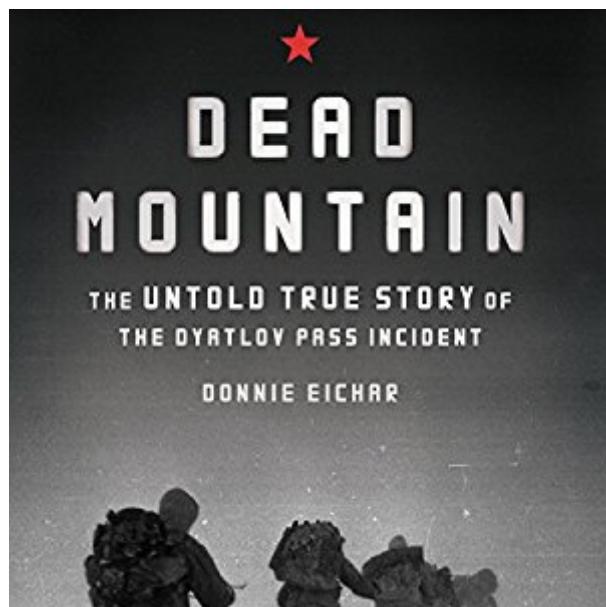


The book was found

Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story Of The Dyatlov Pass Incident



Synopsis

In February 1959, a group of nine experienced hikers in the Russian Ural Mountains died mysteriously on an elevation known as Dead Mountain. Eerie aspects of the incident-unexplained violent injuries, signs that they cut open and fled the tent without proper clothing or shoes, a strange final photograph taken by one of the hikers, and elevated levels of radiation found on some of their clothes-have led to decades of speculation over what really happened. This gripping work of literary nonfiction delves into the mystery through unprecedented access to the hikers' own journals and photographs, rarely seen government records, dozens of interviews, and the author's retracing of the hikers' fateful journey in the Russian winter. A fascinating portrait of the young hikers in the Soviet era, and a skillful interweaving of the hikers narrative, the investigators' efforts, and the author's investigations, here for the first time is the real story of what happened that night on Dead Mountain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While browsing the internet many years ago, I stumbled across the story of Dyatlov Pass and whatever the heck it was that happened there. It's the kind of mystery that endures, like who was Jack the Ripper, or what happened on the Mary Celeste. A group of experienced hikers make camp, then suddenly in the night, for no apparent reason, cut their way out of their tent, charge off into the frozen mountains half dressed and shoeless, run hundreds of meters from their tent, and die. How can you not be interested in the story. It's close to unheard of behavior. Toss in bits of

mystery such as a strange lights in the sky, Soviet era paranoia, radiation, missing tongues, and it all gets even more fascinating. Donny Eichar wrote the book as a combination travelogue and history. We get to see both his adventures in traveling to Russia to visit the people and locations and the history of what happened to the hikers. It's a unique resource in English because Mr. Eichar was able to talk to people who were there, either the lone Dyatlov group survivor, or many of the people who took part in the search and investigation. And if you read through much of the stuff on the internet about Dyatlov pass, this resource clears up tons of bad information. At first, I wasn't crazy about the travelogue nature of the book, but after a while, it does grow on you. It makes it more fun to both discover what happened, and to discover how we discover what happened (assuming that makes sense). The book is well written and the information is laid out in a logical fashion. All the photos from the original expedition are wonderful to see. Many of the myths around the mystery are absolutely explained away in clear and unequivocal fashion. But...Mr.

The author does an excellent job of humanizing this tragedy and make no mistake it WAS a tragedy; the death of 9 vibrant young people at the beginning of their lives. For this, the author is to be congratulated. What the author does NOT do is help in understanding what happened to them. The incident is considered a mystery, because experts of many stamps and varieties cannot figure out what happened. The author himself gives away his spectrum of considered possibilities by eliminating anything paranormal or "unscientific" in the sense of what we currently find acceptable in science. This is a sort of *prima facie* declaration of what bucket of possibilities he is willing to consider. In short the truth as he is willing to accept it or interpret it. Spoiler alert. The author concludes that what was responsible was subsonic sound created naturally by the site. However, the searchers/rescuers spent months at the site and experienced nothing similar. In addition, arctic recovery teams were horrified and mystified by the condition of the bodies. Several of the bodies appeared to have been burned or exposed to radiation. This the author attributes to a post death suntan. Again, if this is at all usual you would expect that VERY experienced search and rescue teams (frankly, primarily body recovery crews) would have seen this before. One thing that would have been extremely valuable was a topographic map of the site and the location of the bodies as found upon it. This was missing and I had to interpret from what I read and came up with entirely different conclusions as to who left the tent and when: (the team was in arctic conditions of sub 40 degree Fahrenheit with some wind) and leaving the tent for any distance improperly prepared meant certain death.

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