

While realistic and detailed, his description of the retreat below the South Col was obtained only after painstaking reconstruction after interviewing each of the climbers. Severe amnesia affected them all. Their ragged and broken states of mind raise some troubling questions. If one climbs to experience the pleasure of it, it is done to please oneself. If one cannot remember a sensational climb because it was oxygenless, does it become only a remarkable feat done to please others? In this vein the question "Why do you climb?" would be better asked "For whom do you climb?" Or is the residual sense of enormous achievement reward enough?

Stephen Venables has a wonderful knack for explaining how he surmounts a climbing problem without seeming to be writing a textbook. Serious climbers will find a trove of techniques to study which are described clearly enough for non-climbers to understand. Climbers or not, all will be interested in this mountaineering thriller of a tiny band pulling off an incredible victory, an account so stirring it will be put down only to obtain a moment's breather. It is a story that will take its place along with other outstanding sagas of Everest—Norton's *The Fight for Everest, 1924*, Lord Hunt's *The Ascent of Everest*, Hornbein's *Everest, The West Ridge* and Bonington's *Everest the Hard Way*.

The book is elegantly designed by long-time Everest publishers, Hodder & Stoughton, with 48 pages of breath-taking color photographs, all beautifully printed. Detail photos lead the reader carefully along the route. The quality of the photography is outstanding and does much to prove what an extraordinary accomplishment these four climbers achieved.

THOMAS HOLZEL

The Art of Adventure. Galen Rowell. Collins Publishers, San Francisco, 1989. 166 pages, 127 color photographs. \$45.00.

There is no doubt that Galen Rowell is one of the great photographers of the world. This is clearly apparent in this new and gorgeous coffee-table book. The superb composition of each photograph, the clarity of detail, the excellent quality of the reproductions all contribute to making this an exceptionally beautiful volume. The 10 by 14-inch format makes it possible to show many of the pictures double-paged, increasing their effectiveness.

Galen Rowell combines his skills of photography with being one of the outstanding American mountaineers. For that reason, climbers will find this album of particular interest, for it is primarily in the mountains or in mountainous areas that most of the photographs were taken. The mountain scenery and the climbing shots are outstanding. Many are what might be called "mood shots" taken at sunrise, sundown or in threatening and inclement weather. However, some of the ones which are most striking are incredibly natural shots of animals in the wild. His pictures of mountain peoples show a great feeling of sympathy with them. In his many years of photography, Rowell has been in many unusual and out-of-the-way places. Represented are photographs taken in his native

California and other parts of the "Lower 48," Alaska, Canada, China, Tibet, Pakistan, Nepal, Africa, Patagonia. This is indeed an anthology of the "best of Galen Rowell."

K2—Traum und Schicksal. Kurt Diemberger. Bruckmann Verlag, Munich, 1989. 336 pages, 46 color photographs, 60 black-and-white photographs, 4 drawings, 5 maps, 4 mountain profiles, Tibetan symbols. DM 48 (about \$29).

K2—Traum und Schicksal ("K2—Dreams and Fate") takes us back to 1957, when Kurt Diemberger, as a companion of Hermann Buhl, first saw the mountain from the foot of Broad Peak. His dream of actually climbing it took shape only after reading a passage in Eric Shipton's *Blank on the Map*, describing the view of the north side of K2. He did not see that view until 1982 during a small scouting expedition approved by special permit by the Chinese government. It was an inspiration and Kurt left with the firm desire of one day setting foot on the top. Visits to England followed where on the cliffs of Wales he met Julie Tullis, who later became his partner in high-altitude filming.

In 1983, Kurt returned to K2 with Julie Tullis via Sinkiang and in 1984 via Pakistan. Climbing attempts were made. The first part of the book is written in narrative style, always interesting, and one gets involved with the author's doings. The pictures are of superb quality, a joy to look at.

The second part of the book takes us to the fateful year of 1986 when nine expeditions from many lands were heading for the top of K2. That year saw the final attempt of Kurt Diemberger and Julie Tullis. It is a gripping story, full of drama, a continuous crescendo until they reach their goal. Then, on the descent, fate strikes. Kurt and Julie suffer a fall on the steep slope not far below the summit. It ends miraculously with a soft landing that leaves them without any apparent serious injuries but forces them to bivouac in the open. They manage to get back to the tents in a blinding snowstorm, where they and other climbers are trapped. The description of how death takes its toll as all the climbers lie confined to their tents in the death zone strikes with emotional and frightening force. Julie Tullis dies first, just falling asleep in the tent forever. Fate had struck again.

The reader becomes a captive in the twilight zone of life and death at 8000 meters where the altitude causes carelessness, hallucinations, and warped or totally missing memory. When, after days, the fury of the storm abates somewhat, the remaining climbers can finally dare to tackle the descent to safety, but only two of them succeed, Kurt Diemberger and Willi Bauer. All the others perish. Kurt is badly frostbitten and spends weeks recuperating in the hospital in Innsbruck.

The appendix contains a history of all K2 expeditions, a list of all climbers who attempted K2 and of those who died on the mountain. There is also a list of the main peaks in the Karakoram. There is an extensive bibliography. All this