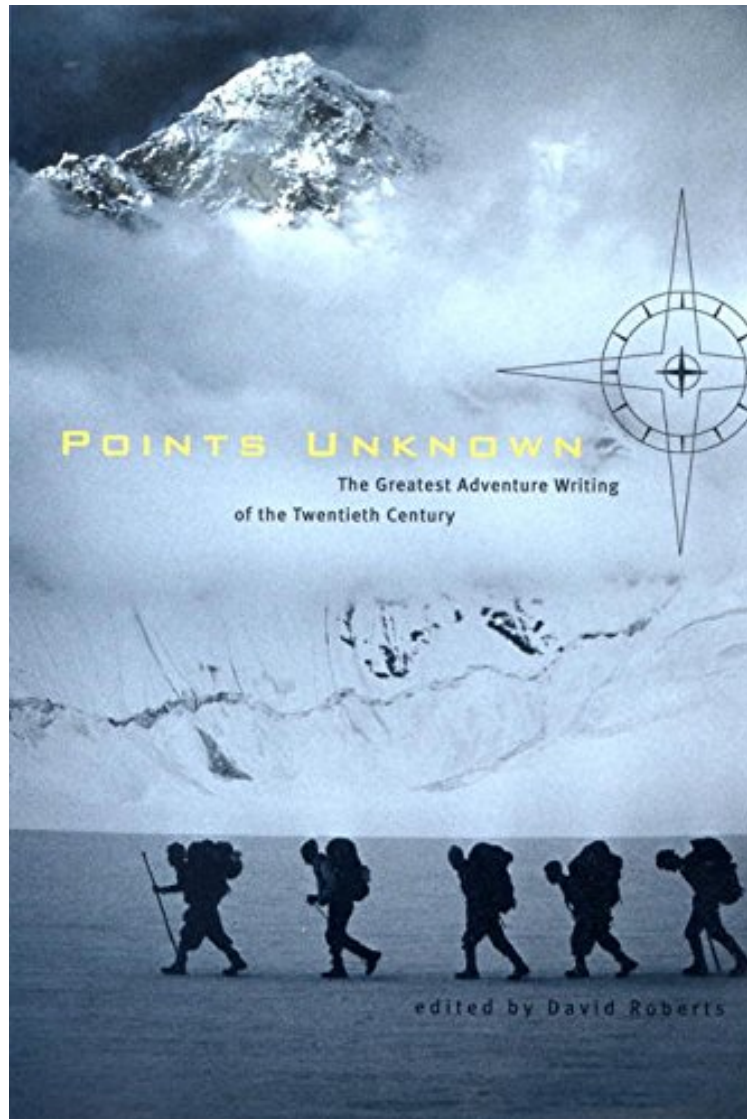


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Points Unknown: The Greatest Adventure Writing of the Twentieth Century (Outside Books)

From David Roberts

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From David Roberts : Points Unknown: The Greatest Adventure Writing of the Twentieth Century (Outside Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Points Unknown: The Greatest Adventure Writing of the Twentieth Century (Outside Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gift for hubbyBy Customeradventure book for my husband who is

thoroughly enjoying it 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Revealing the Unknown By Jena Ballif
adventurers, and what motivates them, fascinate you, then this book must be added to your reading list. In it, some of the 20th. century's finest explorers and wanderers take you with them on their journeys. As might be expected, there is drama. The opening piece is taken from the diary of Robert Falcon Scott, written as he literally froze to death on his final trek back from the South Pole. However, there is also tongue in cheek humor from the likes of Laurens Van Der Post and Eric Hansen, and superb, on-the-edge-of-your-chair excitement in pieces by Edward Abbey, Jon Krakauer and Joe Kane. Here too, tucked into the corners of the collection are pieces one might not expect to find in an anthology of adventure writing. There is Freya Stark's touching piece on Ishi, the last of a tribe of Northern California Indians, Clyde Kluckhohn's climb to Wild Horse Mesa, and Edward Hoagland's piece on a day spent tramping over the Alberta Rockies that ends with the sighting of a lion. Editor Dave Roberts and his team have done a marvelous job of pulling together some exceptionally fine writing that reveals the many sides of adventure. I had only three small complaints (not complaints really, just disgruntled comments). First, none of Roberts' writing was included, which was disappointing considering that he is one of our finest adventure writers working today. Second, there was an over emphasis on mountain pieces, which meant that some other equally fine writing had to be excluded. And third, there was a marked lack of works by women adventurers. Roberts claims that he and his team hunted for women authors who met their criteria, but they were not to be found in the 20th. century. Since I can think of 4 off the top of my head, I can only conclude that they didn't look very hard. As I say, small bones of contention in an otherwise outstanding book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Harrowing Adventure after Another By C.A. Lutes For those interested in true stories of man and his environment, this is one for you. The adventures in this book are true, and it is humbling to read how many adventurers risked their lives in order to prove a point, or just for the sheer joy of it. It's a great read for those reasons.

"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.

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. D Olga B. Wise, Compaq Computer Corp., Austin, TX Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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 extractions from difficult spots. A mesmerizing display of the pull adventure exerts, this initial edition successfully inaugurates this imprint. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved 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