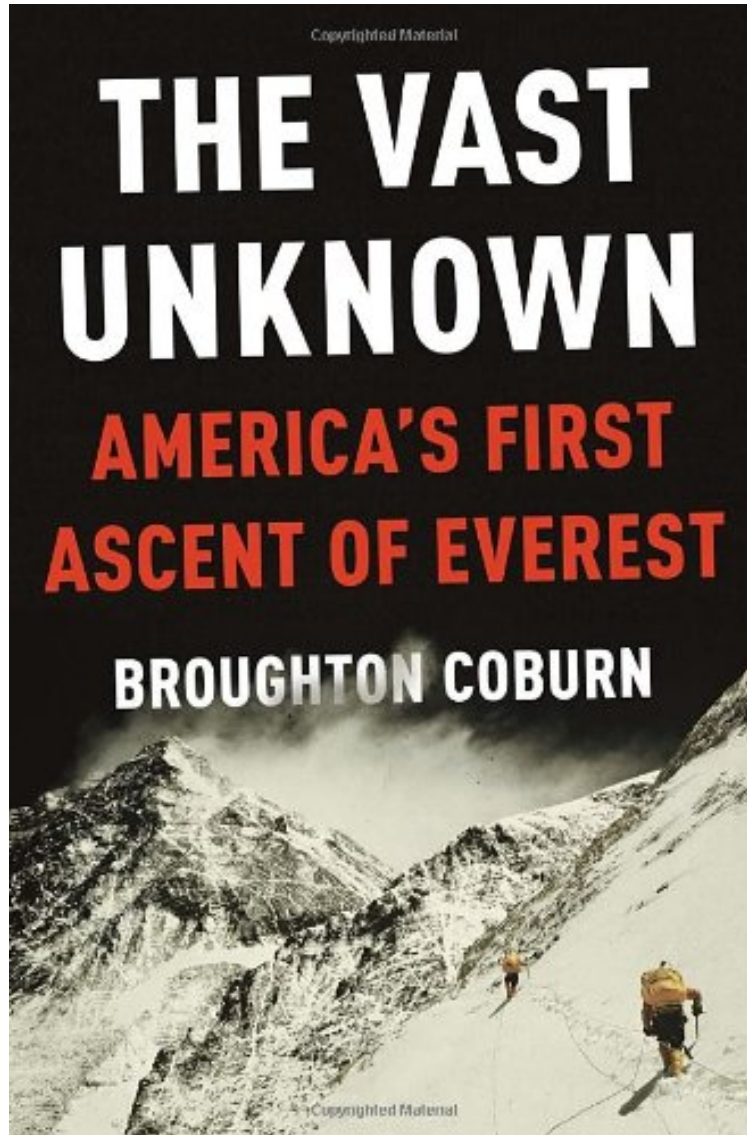


[Mobile book] The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest

## The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest

*Broughton Coburn*

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**Broughton Coburn : The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Educational and a quick read By Tina L. Moore After viewing the movie, Everest, my interest in why people risk their lives to climb the tallest mountain in the world was peaked. (Who doesn't love a good pun?)...Anyway, this book was a Bookbub special and I downloaded it onto my Kindle. I learned about teamwork, what technical skills are needed to climb this beast of a mountain, and, most importantly, the passion

that is necessary to fuel this sort of expedition. At times, I felt like I was on the mountain with them. I found the government involvement after their expedition very interesting as well. If you are looking for a solid read and have an interest in Everest- BEFORE its commercialization, you will like this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Vast Unknown By Irene Rodgers The man sitting next to me on the airplane was reading this book. I'd never heard of the 1963 US Mount Everest expedition, but last year sometime I'd read a 'biography' of George Mallory. So wanting to know more about Everest, I bought this book. It was well written with a great cast of characters. The author did a great job of creating a time and place with the addition of what was going on in the world during the expedition. I guess the real reason people climb mountains is just 'because it's there.' A good read, only complaint the maps were too small to really read in the Kindle edition. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entirely satisfying to me! By Anita Hill I grew up in Jackson, Wyoming and was familiar with the names of the "Tetons" climbers involved here. A "Wyoming Chronicle" episode on Wyoming PBS intrigued me to check further into the book by Broughton Coburn. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, and highly recommend it to anyone, especially those who grew up with the names of Jake Breitenbach, Barry Corbet, Lou Breitenbach, and Muffy Corbet Moore floating around the valley, as well as the highly esteemed and personal friend Rod Newcomb, an Exum guide and owner mentioned in the acknowledgements.

By the author of the New York Times bestselling *Everest: Mountain Without Mercy*, this chronicle of the iconic first American expedition to Mt. Everest in May 1963 published to coincide with the climb's 50th anniversary combines riveting adventure, a perceptive analysis of its dark and terrifying historical context, and revelations about a secret mission that followed. In the midst of the Cold War, against the backdrop of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the space race with the Soviet Union, and the quagmire of the Vietnam War, a band of iconoclastic, independent-minded American mountaineers set off for Mt. Everest, aiming to restore America's confidence and optimism. Their objective is to reach the summit while conducting scientific research, but which route will they take? Might the Chinese, in a public relations coup, have reached the top ahead of them? And what about another American team, led by the grandson of a President, that nearly bagged the peak in a bootleg attempt a year earlier? *The Vast Unknown* is, on one level, a harrowing, character-driven account of the climb itself and its legendary team of alternately inspiring, troubled, and tragic climbers who suffered injuries, a near mutiny, and death on the mountain. It is also an examination of the profound sway the expedition had over the American consciousness and sense of identity during a time when the country was floundering. And it is an investigation of the expedition's little-known outcome: the selection of a team to plant a CIA surveillance device on the Himalayan peak of Nanda Devi, to spy into China where Defense Intelligence learned that nuclear missile testing was underway.

.com Sample Photos from *The Vast Unknown* President John F. Kennedy awarded the team members and five Sherpas the National Geographic Hubbard Medal. [Credit: Abby Rowe/National Park Service] [Click here for a larger image](#)