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Annapurna; First Conquest of an 8000-meter Peak (26,493 feet)

MAURICE HERZOG

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Annapurna; First Conquest of an 8000-meter Peak (26,493 feet) MAURICE HERZOG ILLUSTRATED INCLUDES TABLE OF CONTENTS AND GLOSSARY FROM THE DUST JACKET: "JAMES RAMSEY ULLMAN WRITING IN LIFE MAGAZINE SAID: 'TWO ALMOST EXHAUSTED MEND CREPT UP A STEEP, WIND-SCOURED SLOPE OF SNOW REACHED A SMALL LEVEL SPACE. THERE THEY SAW THAT THERE WAS NOWHERE HIGHER TO GO. THEY WERE STANDING ON THE SUMMIT OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN YET CLIMBED BY MAN.' MAURICE HERZOG, THE AUTHOR OF ANNAPURNA, WAS ONE OF THE TWO. HE WAS THE LEADER OF THE FRENCH EXPEDITION TO THE HIMALAYAS WHICH WAS THE FIRST IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND TO CLIMB AN 8,000 METER PEAK--THE MAGIC GOAL OF EVERY MOUNTAINEER,--BY CONQUERING ANNAPURNA'S 26,493 FEET. EVERY STEP TAKEN BY HERZOG AND HIS COMPANIONS WAS CHARGED WITH ADVENTURE. THE DAYS OF TRAVEL THROUGH NEPALESE JUNGLE, ZIGZAGGING THROUGH A WILDERNESS OF GORGES AND TORRENT STREAMS. THE PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS OF THE APPROACHES TO 'THE GODDESS OF THE HARVESTS' AS THE NEPALESE CALL ANNAPURNA. THE BACK-BREAKING TASK OF ESTABLISHING A CHAIN OF CAMPS: BASE CAMP AT 14,750 FEET, CAMP 1 ABOUT 2,000 FEET ABOVE, CAMP 2, ANOTHER 2,500 FEET UP AND ON TO CAMP 5 AT A HEIGHT OF 24,300 FEET. SNOW WHIPPING INTO THEIR FACES, COLD STIFFENING THEIR CLOTHES, THE GLAZE OF THE TROPICAL SUN BLIDNING THEM, THEIR BODIES AND BRAINS SLUGGISH FROM FATIGUE AND LACK OF OXYGEN. FINALLY A JUBILANT SENSE OF VICTORY AND THEN THE DISCOVERY THAT THE WORST WAS STILL AHEAD. A LONG SERIES MISHAPS DURING THE DESCENT WHICH PLUNGED THE EXPEDITION ALMOST INTO TOTAL DISASTER. ANNAPURNA BY MAURICE HERZOG IS ONE OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE CLASSICS OF ALL TIME. IT IS ALSO AN ENDURING TRIBUTE AN ENDURING TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF MAN WHICH IS INDESTRUCTIBLE AND AGAINST WHICH NOTHING CAN PREVAIL."

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Keith Lugo:

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