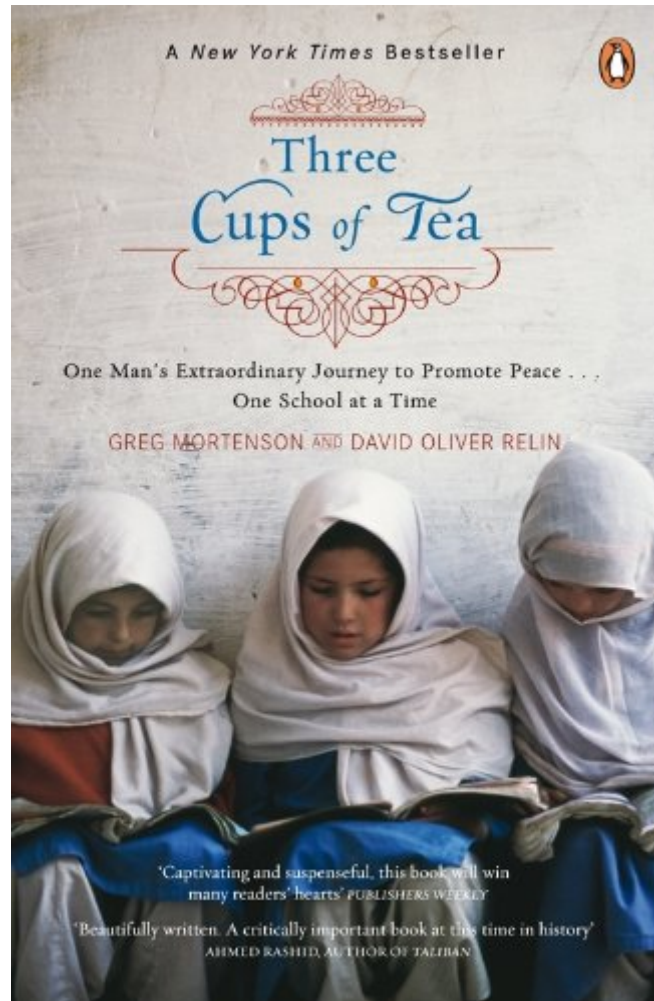




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Three Cups Of Tea



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Synopsis

'Here we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family we are prepared to do anything even die. Haji Ali, Korphe Village Chief, Karakoram mountains, Pakistan

In 1993, after a terrifying and disastrous attempt to climb K2, a mountaineer called Greg Mortenson drifted, cold and dehydrated, into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram Mountains. Moved by the inhabitants' kindness, he promised to return and build a school. Three Cups of Tea is the story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome. Over the next decade Mortenson built not just one but fifty-five schools especially for girls in remote villages across the forbidding and breathtaking landscape of Pakistan and Afghanistan, just as the Taliban rose to power. His story is at once a riveting adventure and a testament to the power of the humanitarian spirit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an incredibly important, uplifting story of an "average" American who made great sacrifices and risked his life to help others in a land far, far away. Greg Mortensen is a true hero and has done more to help eradicate the root causes of terrorism (the lack of education and/or the brainwashing of

impressionable children in the guise of education) than just about everyone else. He is a great example of how much difference one person can make in the lives of thousands of others. This should be required reading for students, politicians, and others around the world. Having said all of that, I did not like the way that Greg's story was told. The author, David Oliver Relin, is a journalist and I expected him to be more objective. It is clear that Greg Mortensen is a hero, but the author feels the need to bludgeon the reader over the head with that statement when it is not at all necessary. Anyone reading the facts will come to that conclusion. I appreciated the photos which were provided. They put a face to several of the key Pakistani and American people portrayed in the book, so they were more real. The map was also helpful except that several of the towns which were discussed in the last quarter of the book weren't pictured (so it was harder to place them in geographical context). I recommend this book to everyone, and I plan to donate to the charity which Greg established.

I loved this story and am very impressed with Greg Mortenson as a human being. He's pretty much everything I admire in a person. I loved his own personal story as well as the story of his career, and reading this book has given me the desire to do something altruistic myself (don't know what yet, but something). I would like to say, however, that in places this book did become quite slow, and I picked it up and put it down many times. Although I do not agree with some of the vitriolic comments other reviewers have made about David O. Relin's writing, I think the story could've been more "lively". I struggled over whether to give this book 3 or 4 stars, and only gave it 4 due to its message. Oh, yeah... I've heard some negative things regarding Mortenson's atheism and the fact that he (unlike his missionary parents) is not striving to "save" non-Christian souls. I think this is very wrong. His intention is to bring "basic education" to children, not to convert them to another (America's) faith! I think it is sad that this story - and this man's work - is not being appreciated by many who consider themselves to be spiritually enlightened.

Three Cups of Tea : One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations ... One School at a Time I noticed this book because of its title: How to Fight Terrorism. I was intrigued, so I ordered a sample downloaded to my Kindle. It was a real page turner. Couldn't put it down. So, I ordered the book and read it. Every now and then, politics made a brief appearance, but it was no big deal. Everybody is entitled to their own opinion. This is America, right? But the book isn't about politics. Mortenson's story begins before 9/11 and continues after it. There's a before and after comparison that gets made. A vaguely political story gets to be a little bit about war also. But not

how to fight it. Essentially, the book is about a humanitarian mission that Mortenson makes as his life's work. How one interprets the significance of his work may be influenced by one's own political point of view. The political point of view is what is being used to sell this book. For this reason, I'll deduct a star. Mortenson gets nowhere in his mission over there if he was deemed to be on a political mission. He would have been rejected or even killed. So the story is being used for political consumption over here. Too bad. It's a great story in its own right. Let's not spoil it by politicizing it.

The story itself? You could have sold it to me handwritten. It's fantastic. Relin's writing, however, is a mouthful--long, convoluted sentences and long sentence fragments are the worst offenders for me, and I have to reread some paragraphs to try and figure out what exactly they say. But the sequence of "scenes" is good, the dialogue acceptable, and the descriptions of mountain landscapes, if you take the time to digest it and imagine it, quite good as well. I bought the book intending to read it over an entire semester in my free time, but ended up reading the first third in a couple of days, willing myself to put it down in the wee hours of the morning. Will definitely read "Stones Into Schools" next.

Book is actually a bit difficult to read, in terms of flowing easy and keeping a good pace. Read Krakauer's book that systematically shows that many parts of this book are fabricated, and that his main story is completely inaccurate. The book is inspiring at times, but Greg's actions have been poor, in terms of having an institution that is managed well, and funds go to help the kids he claims he helps.

Mesmerizing tale about a region inhospitable on so many levels. Inspired by the passion and commitment of Gregg and the tribal leaders.

Tedious and boring.

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