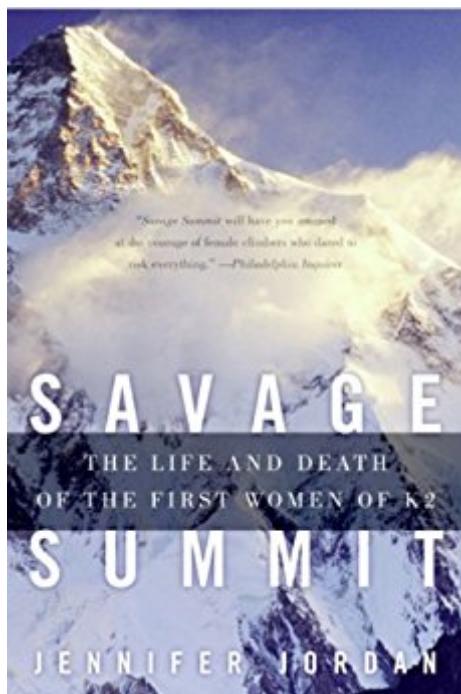


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# Savage Summit: The Life And Death Of The First Women Of K2



## **Synopsis**

Though not as tall as Everest, the "Savage Mountain" is far more dangerous. Located on the border of China and Pakistan, K2 has some of the harshest climbing conditions in the world. Ninety women have scaled Everest but of the six women who reached the summit of K2, three lost their lives on the way back down the mountain and two have since died on other climbs. In *Savage Summit*, Jennifer Jordan shares the tragic, compelling, inspiring, and extraordinary true stories of a handful of courageous women -- mothers and daughters, wives and lovers, poets and engineers -- who defeated this formidable mountain yet ultimately perished in pursuit of their dreams.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*Savage Summit* by Jennifer Jordan is a must read for those who appreciate true-life adventure stories. As a non-climber who lives vicariously through the adventures of others as told in their books, I can't attest to what really goes on during an expedition or the ins and outs of the social-politics of the climbing community, especially high altitude climbers. I can say that Jordan's book seems to be well researched and recounts the adventures of the five subjects in the manner that made me feel a part of their lives and their climbs. As a collection of adventure stories the book did not disappoint me in the least. I will admit that I was expecting a book about the first five women

who climbed K2 that was written by a woman would be heavily slanted with a sexiest bias against the mostly male community of mountain climbers. Instead I found the book to be about 5 people who have that special inner drive to climb who also happened to be women. In telling the stories of these special people, Jordan also describes the bias and prejudice that some were faced with as they joined expeditions led by experienced men. This is especially true in the telling of Polish climber Wanda Rutkiewicz's adventures when women were a rare sight in climbing and as Jordan tells Wanda's stories and the stories of the other women she acknowledges that each was a person in her own right with their own strengths and weaknesses. Putting gender aside, Wanda Rutkiewicz had a personality that alienated many outside of a handful of people who understood her and even those closest to Wanda admit she could be difficult on an inter-personal level.

I really liked this book--a great amount of background on the female "Himalayan greats" (though I admit, I had not heard much of Alison Hargreaves before this book). Jennifer Jordan did a great amount of background work on her subjects, and provides insights about them that I had never heard of in other books. One thing that has been bothering me, however, is her conclusion regarding Chantal Maduit's death. Some spoiler space:\*\*\*\*\* Jennifer Jordan concludes that Chantal's years of mountaineering experience would make it highly unlikely that she would "allow" herself to be smothered in her tent in a snowstorm--that it would be a horrible "rookie mistake" for her not to know to shovel out periodically during the storm. However, Jennifer Jordan spends the bulk of the chapters about Chantal detailing how she was very good at manipulating her male teammates to do mountain work, relating stories from multiple partners (albeit male) indicating that Chantal never hesitated to sleep in and let the guy do the hard work (whether laying ropes, pitching tents, or going to a lower camp to pick up a sleeping bag). Chantal is a fantastic climber, but from the snapshot we obtain from the stories in the book, I can see it being highly probable that she and her friend Pemba Sherpa reached a camp spot, he no doubt did all of the work prepping it, and then she went in, let him make water, food, etc, and she promptly went to sleep secure in the belief that he would get up the multiple times necessary to clear the tent in the storm. Ms Jordan even notes how quickly one can suffocate in a closed tent.

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