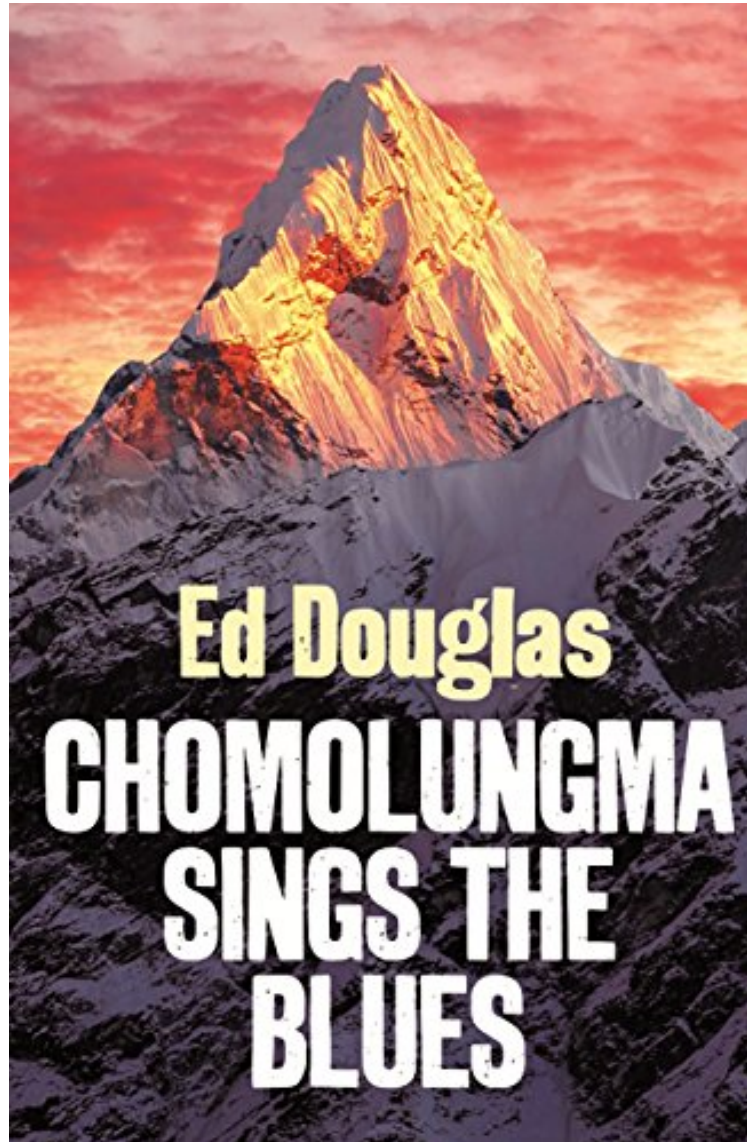


(Download) Chomolungma Sings the Blues: Travels Round Everest (English Edition)

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Von Ed Douglas

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Von Ed Douglas : Chomolungma Sings the Blues: Travels Round Everest (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chomolungma Sings the Blues: Travels Round Everest (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hits the

peakVon salieroHow can I give this book 10/15/20 stars?This is the most wonderful book I have read on Chomolungma (Everest). You will discover why he didn't call it by the other Nepalese name, Sagamartha. Douglas is a mountaineer, though he admits he does not really understand the compulsion to climb Everest, and he says towards the end of the book that he never could climb it because he does not want to enough. This book is sensitive, respectful and self-effacing. Its purpose is serious - to really discover something about the cultural impact of the trekking and mountaineering industries on the people and environment of the Everest area. Along the way, Douglas makes some insightful observations about the role of governments, the impact of non-government organisations and the activities of some of the successful business - people - Nepalese, sometimes Sherpa, all involved in the Everest industry. In all three instances he shows us the sometimes misguided, sometimes successful and sometimes outright fraudulent efforts. At all times Douglas remains thoroughly respectful of the Nepalese (and in the first chapter Tibetan) people, despite also being able to show us the cultural and political warts. Whilst having a few harsh judgements about some trekkers and some mountaineers, he also manages to treat them fairly and - no mean feat at times. Perhaps, however, he is hardest of all on climbers: "...there are so many other climbers whose photographs of locals punctuated their articles and lectures to break up all those shots showing what heroes they'd been with a little local culture. Anthropologists and environmentalists must have a strong suspicion that most climbers and trekkers see local people as a human backdrop to their adventures. I almost admired the climber who told me that if he could go to the mountain in a bubble to avoid disease and arguments with porters, he would. At least he was being honest." Douglas writes movingly of the unrecognised and mostly unheard about porters who have been the casualties of the industry - ill-clad and ill-equipped, some have been turned out by expeditions and left to fend for themselves when things have got sticky. There are generally no helicopter rescues for the porters. Douglas calls this "moral squalor". The myriad cut-price trekking companies pay cut-throat rates and fail to equip these workers well. On the other hand, Douglas shows how portering is integral to the local economy, and quotes statistics debunking the view that permanent physical damage is the result of portering. After you have read Krakauer's 'Into Thin Air', and Boukreev's 'The Climb' and the other expedition journals and diaries, and coffee table books about Everest, turn to this one to find out about the people and the impact on their lives. This book also reads as a travelogue, as it recounts, in the main, Douglas's own trekking experience in the spring of 1996. He encounters along the way many of the groups that became caught up in the storms and tragedies of May 10 1996, including Scott Fisher's group and David Breashear's IMAX film team. Some of the descriptive passages are wonderful word pictures. I had a real sense of what it is like at the top of Kala Patta and Gokyo Ri, for example. Some passages that particularly spoke to me (you will surely discover others): "Professional climbers earn their living describing their own achievements, while those with a more long-term or scientific purpose can claim some benefit to mankind other than the realisation of ambition. It was clear, however, that they were prone to the same jealousies and quarrels." "The truth has to be faced that guides have treated the mountain as a resource, just as the Nepalese authorities have. It's a way to cash in on the regular flow of books and films about Everest, a package deal to the roof of the world for anyone with enough money and an excess of self-confidence. As for the motivation of people who are prepared to spend a small fortune for a chance to be pulled up Everest, I can only guess. If it is to impress, then the huge resources and assistance required to get them to the top should temper their sense of achievement. If it is for a love of adventure, then they probably get more than they bargain for. But then why climb Everest at all? That's the hardest thing to explain. That's the sixty-four thousand dollar question." 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. freakishly good Von Ein Kunde Ed Douglas is superb. He really knows Everest, not just the mountain's climbing lore but the mountain's importance to the unique peoples who inhabit her flanks. A stunning literary achievement!

Kurzbeschreibung If there is one mountain that is known across the whole world, it must be the highest - Everest. To the people who live at its feet she is Chomolungma, Goddess Mother of the World. The disappearance of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine close to the summit in 1924 lent the mountain a tragic romanticism, of young men risking everything for a dream. When Norgay Tenzing and Ed Hillary became the first men to stand on the summit in 1953, it was the crowning glory for the coronation of Elizabeth II. But nearly fifty years on, there are scores of ascents nearly every season. There are stories of bodies and heaps of garbage abandoned on the slopes, of the loss of cultural identity among the Sherpas and Tibetans who live at the foot of Everest. Ed Douglas spent parts of 1995 and 1996 travelling in Nepal and Tibet, talking to politicians and environmentalists, to mountaineers and local people. He found a poor region struggling to develop, and encountering environmental problems far greater than rubbish left by climbers. Local people are resourceful and cultured, reliant on the work the mountaineers and the mountain provide, but striving to find a balance between the new and the old. Pressestimmen Ed Douglas has written a book, not so much about the mountain the Chomolungma of the title but about the whole area of the surrounding territory as it is nowadays: overrun, garbage-ridden, packaged, spoiled, but still dangerous, still throat-catchingly beautiful. Douglas is a sparkling writer, with a great turn of phrase. (Katherine Whitehorn, The Observer) I had no prior interest in Everest or mountaineering,

until I read Ed Douglas Chomonlungma Sings the Blues. Well written, it is particularly insightful on the damaging effects of adventure tourism. (Russell Celyn Jones, Summer Choice, The Times)A wise and useful book, which has been asking to be written ever since Hunt's successful expedition in 1953. Douglas is a first-class journalist, whose interest in the Himalaya and its people enables him to get in close. (David Craig, Literary)A very accomplished climber and noted commentator on climbing-related subjects, Douglas is here more interested in the resonance that Everest has both for the local peoples and the visitors to Nepal and Tibet. He writes elegantly and perceptively with a light and informed touch. (Jon Tinker, The Guardian)Instead of gazing up at the mountain, Douglas does something which hardly anyone else bothers to do: he looks down, at the people and the life around it. (Charles Arthur, The Independent)The authority and balanced judgements of this book will make it essential reading for those contemplating a trek to Tibet and Nepal. (Terry Gifford, Yorkshire Post)What makes this book most readable is its humorous eye for detail, whether it is the outrageous décor of the Chinese hotel or the bridge near Namche Bazar, which he describes as a slender suspension of wire, wood and disbelief. (Stephen Venables, The Daily Telegraph)Douglas' book is refreshing and honest. An excellent geo-political travelogue that takes the reader under the surface of the happy smiling trekking holiday image of the Himalayas. (Roger Payne, High Mountain Sports)One of the minor classics of modern mountain writing, telling you more about the truths and corruptions of our western approach to mountains and their indigenous peoples than any other title in this genre that I can bring to mind. (Jim Perrin, TGO magazine)WerbetextSheds a new and important light on the mountain and its people