

## Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps

*Fergus Fleming*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

2016-05-31 2016-05-31 Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1  
6.75 x .50 x 5.251, Running time: 15 Hours Binding: MP3 CD | File size: 79.Mb

**Fergus Fleming : Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exploring the Alps By Frank J. Konopka The author of "Barrow's Boys" has once again written an extremely interesting work that deals, mainly, with British eccentrics doing unusual

things: this time they are exploring, and climbing, the Alps. I found the subject very compelling, because I have always had a desire to see the Matterhorn, a desire that began when I saw, as a young boy, Walt Disney's "Third Man On The Mountain". Having lived one winter in Denver, I loved going into the Rockies and just looking around, and observing the majesty of creation. This work is a very good introduction to the beginning of mountaineering in Europe, and is suitable for the general reader. Anyone who considers themselves learned in the field will probably not like this work, but I enjoy learning something new in everything I read, and this book certainly gave me that type of information. There were a few typos scattered here and there, but they didn't detract from my pleasure in reading this work. The writing style is casual, and it's something worth reading if you love mountains, and like hearing about the odd and determined people who climb them. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but it was recommended before a trip to Switzerland By Susan H. Rogers A very interesting history of climbing the Alps. This was a subject I ordinarily wouldn't read, but it was recommended before a trip to Switzerland. Well written and entertaining as well as informative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Michael LaNier Excellent historical treatment of mountaineering in the Alps. Very well written.

In a riveting narrative of daredevils and eccentrics, Fergus Fleming gives us the breathtaking story of some of history's greatest explorers as they conquer the soaring peaks of the Alps. Fleming recounts the incredible exploits of the men whose centuries-old fear of the mountain range turned quickly to curiosity, then to obsession, as they explored Europe's frozen wilderness. In the late 18th century, French and Swiss scientists became interested in the Alps as a research destination, but in the 1850s the focus changed: The icy mountains now offered an all-out competition for British climbers who wanted to conquer ever higher and more impossible heights, and explorers fought each other on the peaks and in the press, entertaining a vast public smitten with their bravery, delighted by their personal animosities, and horrified by the disasters that befell them.

.com In antiquity, travelers did not enter the Alps gladly. One Roman noted that "everything in the mountains is frozen solid," while St. Ambrose, after seeing his first glacier, feared that the world would end by being suffocated in ice; heeding them, voyagers took the long way around whenever they could. All that changed in the 1800s, writes Fergus Fleming in this highly entertaining chronicle, when travelers under the spell of Enlightenment philosophers and Romantic poets came to the Alps looking for a hint of heaven on earth. Those who, for many reasons, wanted to get a little closer to the deity attempted the first recreational climbs of the mountains. They were an odd lot, indeed. One was Albert Smith, who burdened his porters with wheels of cheese and casks of wine, made his way up Mont Blanc, had a feast, and turned his adventures into a stage play that wowed London audiences throughout the 1850s. Another was the natural scientist John Tyndall, who regarded the Alps as the devil's work but nonetheless raced against his compatriot Edward Whymper to climb the Matterhorn. Still another was William Coolidge, an American-born Oxford don who made Whymper's already unhappy life just a little less pleasant. Fleming writes winningly of their "conquest" of the mountains--which, of course, has not kept succeeding generations from attempting new routes up the Alps with every climbing season. Mountaineering buffs and armchair travelers alike will enjoy his account. --Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly Showing a remarkable ability to mix well-researched history with engaging depictions of the people who made it, Fleming (Barrow's Boys) chronicles the many frigid explorations that brought much of the world its first scientific knowledge of Europe's highest peaks. Fleming remains true to the qualities that made his first book, a study of England's frenzied 19th-century global exploration, so enjoyable. He not only supplies an abundance of information but also punctuates his facts with wit and illustrative stories. Beginning with the first Alpine forays in the early 1700s and continuing through later explorations up until World War II, Fleming outlines the prominent figures who braved the mountains' austere climate in the name of science and, more often, the spirit of vanity. The title refers to the entrenched belief that the Alps' upper reaches were inhabited by a dangerous menagerie of fairy-tale brutes. It was a sentiment that died hard. With characteristic wit, he describes a German physics professor who reconnoitered in the mountains in the 18th century and "set at rest a question that had haunted people for a long time. Yes, the Alps did contain dragons." The landscape's ethereal nature surely inspired the imagination, but eventually explorers became more concerned with bettering their knowledge and, among later English climbing rivals, besting each other. The characters Fleming discusses range from Rousseau to the Romantic poets, from genuine innovators to the "Indefatigable Bourrit," who was defeated by the elements on nearly every climb he attempted. Agent, Clarie Alexander at Gillon Aitken Associates. (Jan.) Forecast: Fleming's second book should get same enthusiastic critical reception as his first. Though the mountaineering history niche is increasingly crowded, Fleming's work stands out for its deft combination of humor, fact and Technicolor description, so strong reviews and good word of mouth should propel sales. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In the gold rush of mountaineering books, Fleming found an unclaimed topic hiding in plain sight: the Alps. When he started digging in the accounts of conquests past, a slew of madcap eccentrics came to light, whose obsessions Fleming stylishly fillips in a lively narrative. Curiosity in the Alps awakened in the 1780s, fanned by an "endearing coward" named Marc-Theodore Bourrit, an incompetent climber but nonstop raconteur and middling landscape artist who became a one-man

publicist for Mont Blanc, first summited in 1786. By the 1850s, bumptious extrovert Albert Smith, who concocted a stage show about the Alps' allure, had touched off a race for first ascents of notable alpine peaks. Englishmen swarmed over Switzerland, fixating especially on the Matterhorn, where a frantic competition culminated in victory in 1865 by Edward Whymper, whose triumph was tarnished by a disastrous descent. With an astute eye on the characters and motivations involved in this and other episodes, capping off with the Alps' final "first" of the Eiger wall in the 1930s, Fleming produces an enthralling tale bound to captivate the adventure aficionado. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved