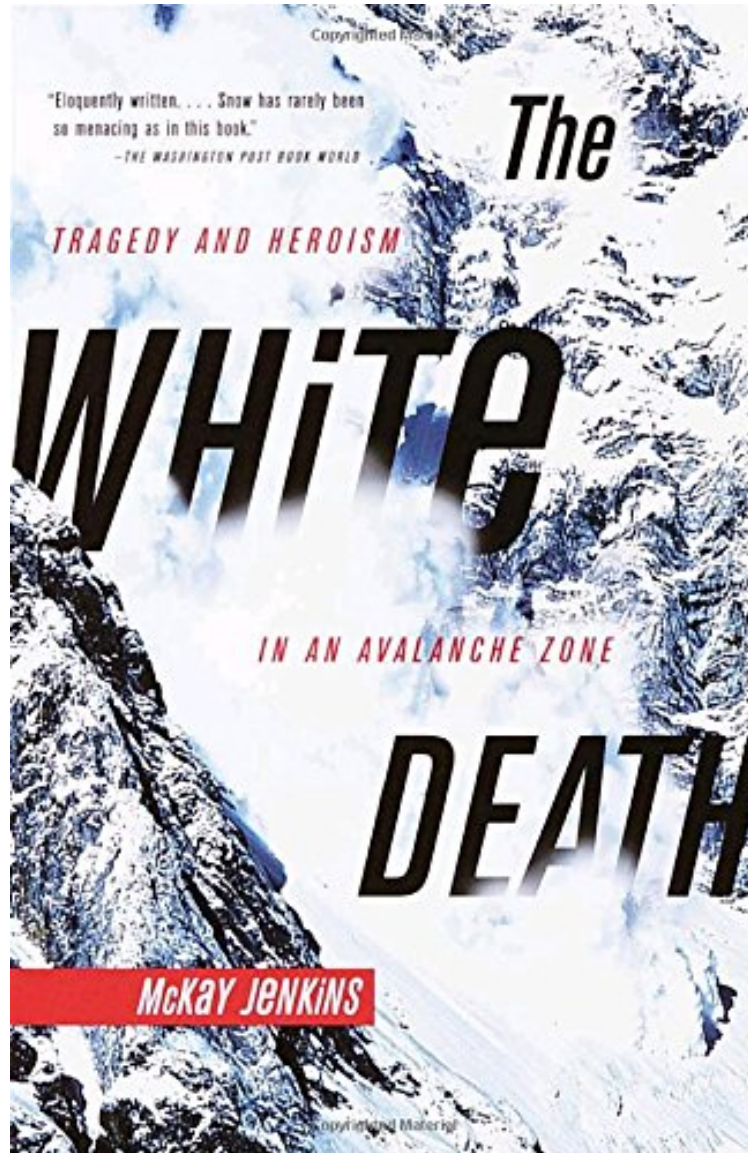


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## The White Death: Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone

*Mckay Jenkins*

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#544131 in Books Random House 2001-02-13 2001-02-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.96 x .61 x 5.16l, .56 #File Name: 0385720777256 pages THE WHITE DEATH | File size: 78.Mb

**Mckay Jenkins : The White Death: Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The White Death: Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great review of infamous incident, too many errors By Raisin Mountaineer As a lover of Glacier who's enjoyed wandering among its peaks for two decades, I have heard the story of the five boys on Cleveland told over and over, as a tale of caution and heroism. This book aligns well with the lore I've

heard, and I enjoyed seeing Bob Frauson receive some of the credit he's due for his long service to mountain rescue. I also appreciate the attention given to the hardships of search and rescue/recovery. This search deeply affected its participants, and they still speak of it with great sadness. However, the book could have benefitted from a careful edit by a person more familiar with Glacier, climbing and avalanches. References to "Lake Babb" and the "Billy River" (probably "Belly") as well as the solemn pronouncement that a cubic foot of "Sierra Cement" can weigh 200 pounds (when a gallon of water weighs but 8)-- not to mention the confusion of piton vs. carabiner-- leave me wondering how much of the technical info might be flawed and/or misleading. So, my mixed assessment is: this is a powerful story, engagingly written, that reminds the reader yet again that it is we who care for the mountains, not they who care for us-- but there are many better resources for avalanche awareness and winter mountaineering. END1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A valuable read for skiers and climbers By Jeff Russell This book does a great job of blending snow science and the history of human avalanche experience with a compelling personal story of five unfortunate young climbers. If the scientific and historical perspectives in this book had been available to these climbers, their story would likely be a different one. Anyone interested in skiing or climbing in mountainous backcountry should find this book to be informative, intriguing, and, if not for the tragedy, enjoyable. This book presents the dry text of snow science in a package that will hold your interest. Though flawed in its accuracy regarding personal history, details of mountaineering and local geography, it provides knowledge about the nature of snow and its metamorphosis that any mountain adventurer should be aware of. I am sending a copy to a friend who teaches avalanche awareness classes, as I know he'll thoroughly enjoy it...in spite of the tragedy. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than just White Death! By Rheta M. Wow! This was more than I expected from the title. Lots of info that I really didn't know was going to be in it, and I found it all very interesting. I have another book of McKay Jenkins that I can't wait to open.

In 1969, five young men from Montana set out to accomplish what no one had before: to scale the sheer north face of Mt. Cleveland, Glacier National Park's tallest mountain, in winter. Two days later tragedy struck: they were buried in an avalanche so deep that their bodies would not be discovered until the following June. *The White Death* is the riveting account of that fated climb and of the breathtakingly heroic rescue attempt that ensued. In the spirit of Peter Matthiessen and John McPhee, McKay Jenkins interweaves a harrowing narrative with an astonishing expanse of relevant knowledge ranging from the history of mountain climbing to the science of snow. Evocative and moving, this fascinating book is a humbling account of man at his most intrepid and nature at its most indomitable.

.com By turns gripping, informative, and even frightening, *The White Death* probes the interplay of human endeavor in the mountains, the fragile beauty of snow, and nature's mysterious power. Jenkins succeeds admirably in melding human drama with the indifference of natural forces, allowing the "avalanche-beast" to build in character through survivors' reports, news clippings, and scientific findings. The book's emotional centerpiece is the tragic story of an avalanche that roared down Mount Cleveland in Glacier National Park, where five young climbers set out to scale the treacherous North Face. Just days into their climb, snow and strong winds set in. "What they saw could not have been inviting: snow clouds covered the mountain's summit...with loose powder avalanches regularly scrubbing it clean." Bud Anderson, older brother to one of the climbers, flew his single-engine plane over the mountain to observe the team's progress. "He hoped, perhaps, to rock his wings at them as a sign of encouragement, or congratulations." Instead, "his breath caught. The tracks ended at the unmistakable edge of a massive fresh avalanche..." Jenkins's stirring account pieces the clues and rescue efforts together to read like a true and terrible mystery being solved. The horror of being buried alive by snow is vivid and sober among these pages, and is sure to chill climbers as well as those reading from the comforts of central heating. The author's vision is acute and helps better assess the bounds of our human capacity and domain. --Byron Ricks From Publishers Weekly There's often a fine line between heroism and foolhardiness, as in the deaths in 1969 of five young Montana climbers (ages 18 to 22) who, against the advice of professional rangers, made a winter attempt on treacherous Mt. Cleveland in Montana's Glacier National Park and succumbed to an avalanche. In an engrossing tour de force, Jenkins, a former Atlanta Journal-Constitution staff writer, re-creates this tragedy and also seamlessly interweaves a wealth of avalanche lore, science and history. Jenkins, writing in crisp, clean prose, fashions a deeply personal tale out of their adventure. One of the five, Jerry Kanzler, an accomplished climber, was still recovering emotionally from his father's 1967 suicide; a certain bravado and desire to prove his manhood seems to have motivated him as well as his companions. Jerry's brother Jim, a ski instructor, risked his life trying to find and save the missing five, but it would take rescuers six months to locate the bodies. In 1976, to honor his brother, Jim Kanzler and two friends became the first climbers ever to scale Mt. Cleveland's steeply vertical north face. Jenkins, who teaches writing at the University of Delaware, probes the metaphysical roots of mountaineering, spins tales of avalanches from Peru to New Zealand and covers the latest advances in avalanche science. He also explores avalanches in history, from Hannibal's devastating loss of men and horses in the French Alps to the WWII heroism of U.S. Alpine ski troops, who helped Allied forces capture German strongholds in the Italian Apennines. Photos. Agent, Neil Olson, Donadio Olson. Author tour. (Feb.) FYI: Jenkins is editor of the forthcoming

The Peter Matthiessen Reader (Vintage). Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Jenkins, a former staff writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, writing teacher, and contributor to Outside and other magazines, does a wonderful job relating this disaster tale of five young mountaineers buried by an avalanche while attempting a dangerous winter ascent in Glacier National Park in 1969. Meticulously researched, his account is interspersed with facts and fables about mountains, snow, and the causes of avalanches; there is also a history of humanity's encounters with this natural force from Hannibal until today. Jenkins presents harrowing survivors' tales and a sobering appraisal of the current trend toward more avalanches. Using the story of five families who lost their sons at a time when mountaineering was more a way of life than sport, Jenkins provides a fascinating store of scientific information. Highly recommended for all outdoor adventure collections, this will appeal to readers who enjoyed Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* (LJ 4/1/97) and includes a good, basic bibliography that provides a starting point for academic snow and avalanche research. -Tim J. Markus, Evergreen State Coll Lib., Olympia, WA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.