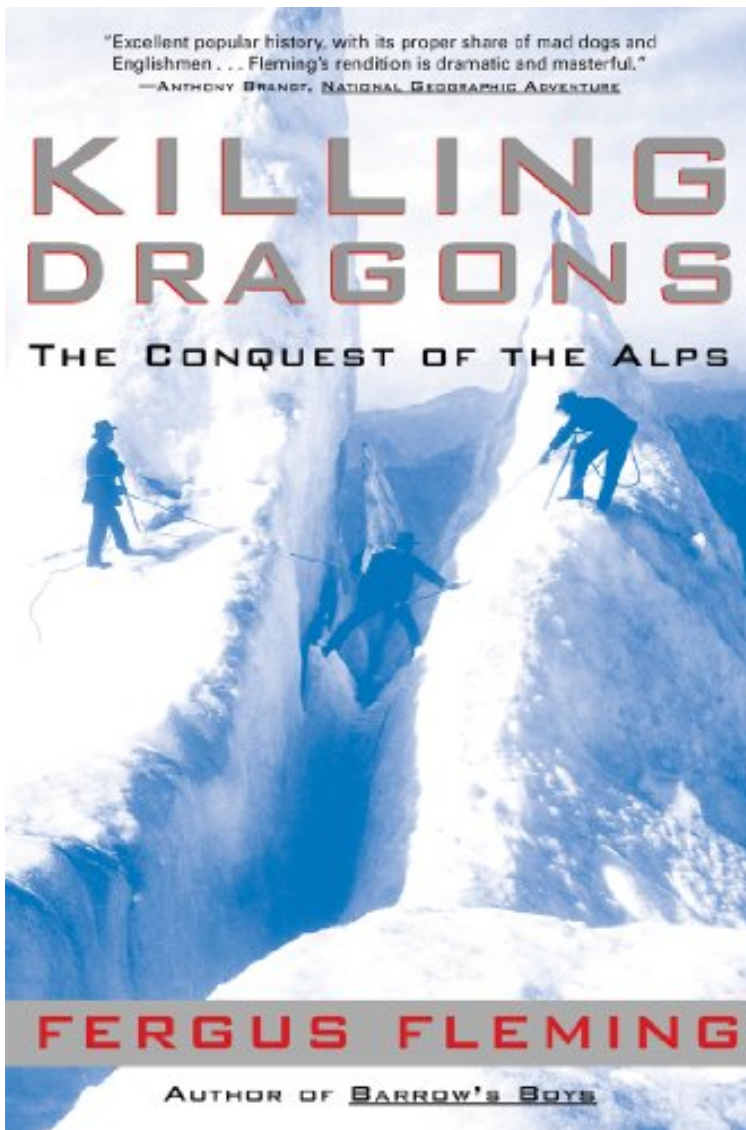


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Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps



Par Fergus Fleming
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[Free] Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps

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Description : Description du produitThe soaring mountains of the Alps have inspired and challenged some of the greatest explorers in history. For centuries, however, Europeans shunned the peaks, fearing them to be realms of icy terror, inhospitable regions that harbored dragons, demons, witches, and all sorts of alien beings. Yet their fear eventually turned to curiosity, and in Killing Dragons Fergus Fleming recounts the incredible exploits of the men who explored Europe's frozen wilderness. The adventures began in the late eighteenth century, when French and Swiss scientists tackled the peaks, seeking knowledge of the atmosphere, the earth's origins, and glaciers. In the 1850s, this scientific pursuit became an obsessive competition as British climbers vied with one another to conquer ever higher and more impossible mountains. They 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. The great mountains fell one by one to these climbers, while the glaciers accumulated a store of mangled bodies. The

conquest of the Alps, a central chapter in the history of mountaineering, is a hair-raising and thrillingly eccentric tale, captured here by a remarkable storyteller.

Prsentation de l'diteurIn 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 eighteenth 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. "...excellent popular history, with its proper share of mad dogs and Englishmen....Fleming's rendition is dramatic and masterful." -- Anthony Brandt, National Geographic Adventure