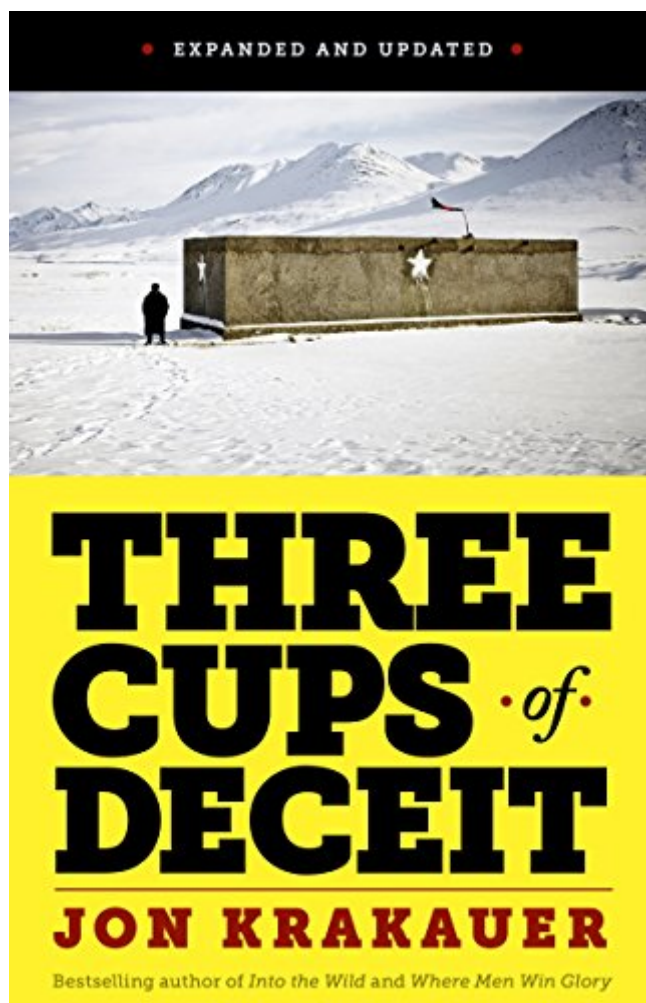


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# Three Cups Of Deceit: How Greg Mortenson, Humanitarian Hero, Lost His Way (Kindle Single)



## Synopsis

This vastly expanded edition, as of October 2014, includes an afterword, a detailed look at further financial improprieties committed by Mortenson, an analysis of his recent claims of innocence, and fresh evidence from new sources from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the US. Greg Mortenson has built a global reputation as a selfless humanitarian and children's crusader, and he's been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is also not what he appears to be. As acclaimed author Jon Krakauer discovered, Mortenson has not only fabricated substantial parts of his bestselling books *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*, but has also misused millions of dollars donated by unsuspecting admirers like Krakauer himself. This is the tragic tale of good intentions gone very wrong. One hundred percent of Jon Krakauer's proceeds from the sale of *Three Cups of Deceit* will be donated to the "Stop Girl Trafficking" project at the American Himalayan Foundation ([www.himalayanfoundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking](http://www.himalayanfoundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking)).

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Jon Krakauer is the author of *Eiger Dreams*, *Into the Wild*, *Into Thin Air*, *Under the Banner of Heaven*, and *Where Men Win Glory* and is the editor of the Modern Library Exploration series.

**PRAISE FOR "THREE CUPS OF DECEIT"** "The truth matters. Jon Krakauer's takedown of Greg Mortenson's book *Three Cups of Tea* and the charitable foundation he built from it is devastating. It is not just the fascinating story of a huckster who took publishers, philanthropists, journalists, academics, and a gullible public for a ride, but a detailed trip into the slippery netherworld where what matters most is what sells, not what really happened." — Mark Bowden, author of *Black Hawk Down* "Packed with interviews and anecdotes that undercut Mortenson's image as a cheerful do-gooder, Krakauer's account of good intentions gone horribly wrong is a stunning example of investigative journalism." — Publishers Weekly — Krakauer forcefully claims that Mortenson improperly used his charity's funds and failed to build all the schools he says he did. — Elizabeth Taylor, Literary Editor, Chicago Tribune

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

.....as meticulous as Jon Krakauer is in detailing where Greg Mortenson's account of his work in Afghanistan and Pakistan is shot full of holes, it's still best to read THREE CUPS OF DECEIT in tandem with Mortenson's own response to Krakauer's charges (which is in an interview with OUTSIDE magazine) and the response to Krakauer by Scott Darnsey, Mortenson's climbing partner back in the '90s when this all began (also in an interview with OUTSIDE). I suggest reading those as well NOT because they counteract the charge that Mortenson's story has problems---they don't really---but to have their perspective in addition to Krakauer's to then decide for yourself whether this was indeed a hustle by a shrewd con-man or a series of blunders made by a well-intentioned and dedicated man that ultimately undercut his achievements. I tend to be more convinced by Krakauer's reporting precisely because he does what Mortenson does not, namely SPECIFICALLY citing his sources. But even with the bloom off Mortenson's rose, I am not totally convinced that this was intended to be a hustle. Or, more accurately I suppose, I'd hate to have to come to that conclusion, though ultimately I may. There is a cautionary moral to be drawn from all this, though: If you're going to go high-profile in promoting an agenda, you'd BETTER be prepared to be scrutinized and accountable for all that you do---especially when using other people's money.

My mother passed three years ago. Why is this important to my review? Because my mother died suddenly of a brain tumor, after a life as a children's educator and advocate for abused children. She was so taken by Mortenson's tales in "Three Cups of Tea," that she left her life savings to his organization, CAI. She also set up a trust before she passed where friends and family could donate in her memory to Mortenson's cause. Upon hearing of Krakauer's essay, and the "60 Minutes" story, I began to research all I could. I've read Mortenson's response in "Outside" as well as that of his

climbing partner, which do little to call into question Krakauer's expose. To me, this is an important story that rings very true. As someone who has met Mortenson, heard him speak and considered both sides, I'd give much more weight to Krakauer's essay than seems to be given by most of his die hard fans. I know if my mother were alive, she would be ashamed of Mortenson. She also wouldn't hold on vociferously to his story and would take being bilked standing up and ready to make it right. I intend to do so for her, and would urge those fans of Mortenson's to truly examine their motivations to defend him. This is a must read- not only for the sake of those who have been had, but for all who want a look at what happens when ego takes the lead on a nonprofit, and when someone is more comfortable with the person they wish to portray than the one they are. Mortenson should be ashamed.

In February, I embedded with the 101st Airborne division in Kandahar province to research a novel. I wound up writing my own Kindle Single, "Lost in Kandahar," about the obstacles our soldiers faced in fighting the Taliban. One reviewer wrote that that the piece offered a very different perspective on Afghanistan than "Three Cups of Tea." Now, unfortunately, I understand why. In this thoroughly researched piece, Jon Krakauer exposes Greg Mortenson as a terrible charlatan. According to dozens of people who spoke to Krakauer, most of whom are quoted by name, Mortenson lied about the origins of his school-building project, lied about the number of schools he's built, lied about how much time he spends in Afghanistan, lied about his financial relationship with his charity, lied about how much he pays himself, lied about his "kidnapping" in 1996, and even lied about the fact that schools are mainly in relatively peaceful parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. There are probably a few other lies I've forgotten. For his own ego and financial gain, Mortenson took advantage of the goodwill of donors in America and all over the world. As Krakauer points out, we are so desperate for good news out of Afghanistan that we latched onto Mortenson's story despite some of its obvious flaws (the Taliban didn't really exist in Pakistan in 1996, for example). Mortenson's efforts to defend himself at this point are pathetic, and if he is smart - and wants to avoid a criminal indictment - he will come clean and then slink away, never to be seen or heard again. And hopefully, the rest of us will be a little wiser the next time a Pied Piper comes along promising to solve the world's ills -- for just a few bucks down! Lost in Kandahar (Kindle Single)

The quote in the title comes from a journalist writing in the Seattle Times. It's important to note that Krakauer was a supporter of Mortenson's, and this report only came to be after numerous other private communication (all documented here) was ignored. Krakauer builds a damaging, fact-based

case while still acknowledging the good work that Mortenson has done. I wish it weren't so, but wishing something doesn't make it true. This report is well-documented, well-written, and sadly accurate.

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