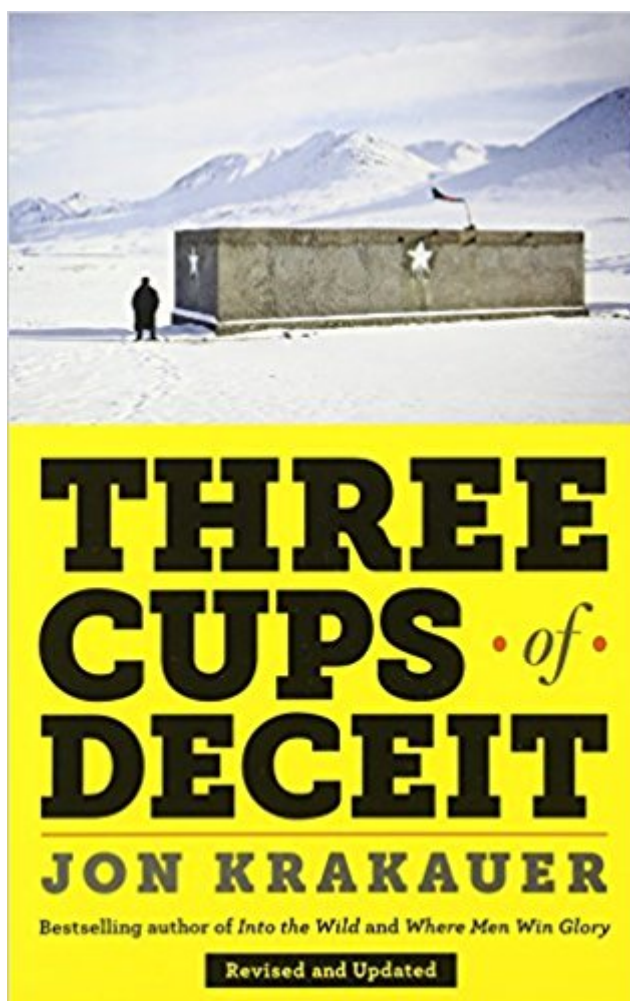


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# Three Cups Of Deceit: How Greg Mortenson, Humanitarian Hero, Lost His Way



## Synopsis

Greg Mortenson, the bestselling author of *Three Cups of Tea*, is a man who has built a global reputation as a selfless humanitarian and children's crusader, and he's been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. But, as Jon Krakauer demonstrates in this extensively researched and penetrating book, he is not all that he appears to be. Based on wide-ranging interviews with former employees, board members, and others who have intimate knowledge of Mortenson and his charity, the Central Asia Institute, *Three Cups of Deceit* uncovers multiple layers of deception behind Mortenson's public image. Was his crusade really inspired by a desire to repay the kindness of villagers who nursed him back to health when he became lost on his descent down K2? Was he abducted and held for eight days by the Taliban? Has his charity built all of the schools that he has claimed? This book is a passionately argued plea for the truth, and a tragic tale of good intentions gone very wrong. 100% 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.himalayan-foundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking](http://www.himalayan-foundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking)).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Greg Mortenson is the bestselling author of *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*, a tireless advocate for improved education in impoverished areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the founder of the Central Asia Institute (CAI), a non-profit that builds schools in these areas. He's also,

according to Jon Krakauer, not all that he appears to be. Krakauer is himself a bestselling author (Into the Wild, Into Thin Air), with a well-deserved reputation for penetrating nonfiction. Motivated by his own humanitarian concerns, and having donated considerable sums to CAI, Krakauer now applies his investigative skills to the unmasking of what he calls the "image of Mortenson that has been created for public consumption" | an artifact born of fantasy, audacity, and an apparently insatiable hunger for esteem." Did Mortenson discover the village that inspired his crusade while wandering lost down K2? Was he abducted and held for eight days by the Taliban? Has he built all the schools that he has claimed? Tempered by Krakauer's fairly giving CAI credit where it's due, Three Cups of Deceit mounts an extensive, passionate exploration into these questions. --Jason Kirk

"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 (starred review) • Krakauer forcefully claims that Mortenson improperly used his charity's funds and failed to build all the schools he says he did. • "Chicago Tribune

In typical Krakauer style, it is well researched and well written. I heard about the feud between Mortenson and Krakauer a few years ago. Then someone told me they refused to watch the movie Everest, based on Krakauer's book, Into Thin Air, because of his anti-Mortenson stance. So I decided to read this book to see the other side of the argument. I personally never gave money to Mortenson's charity, and after reading this, I'm very glad I didn't.

The story of a man going off the rails. Greg Mortenson founded the Central Asia Institute to build schools in impoverished areas of Asia but somehow either lost focus or willingly deceived donors. The book carefully illustrated where things went wrong but there was little about Mortenson's motivation. Reading Mortenson's book, Three Cups of Tea, fills you with admiration and a desire to help. Krakauer's book documents the deception behind the scenes.

Exhaustively researched, enlightening, sobering. I love Krakauer's writing - it's no hyperbole to say his books have changed the course of my life, so it was hard to bear his heartbroken, vitriolic jeremiad, justifiable though it is. And probably just as hard to bear is the downfall of an admired character like Mortenson, who, like so many, start down that road paved with good intentions but

lack the inner fortitude to withstand "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune". If you've read "Three Cups of Tea" you owe it to humanity to read Krakauer's follow-up. Then go out and do small acts of local kindness that you can see through to the end and won't bring you fortune and fame.

I've had this book, Three Cups of Deceit, on my Kindle for a long time and couldn't bring myself to read it. Greg Mortenson was a hero in my eyes. The book is excellent, and Krakauer himself was a supporter of Mortenson. Then the lies started to pile up...He paints Mortenson as a human who lost his way, having to move to the next lie to justify the previous. Multiple Ghost writers made this easier. And the rules that govern most of us didn't apply in Greg Mortenson's eyes, financial accountability especially. It is very sad that such a good intent went astray, some of the schools he built have been abandoned, or were never used. Their location was good on paper but not what the local people needed. If you read Three Cups of Tea and Stones for Schools, I urge you to read Three Cups of Deceit. No money from his two books in anyway reached the projects! It lined Mr. Mortenson's pockets. For Shame!

After reading an article in Parade magazine I couldn't wait to read Greg Mortenson's book, Three Cups of Tea, and his attempts to set up schools in remote areas. However, later news articles started to paint a different picture of what his foundation was actually accomplishing and at what cost. I kept hoping it was all a simple problem that could be easily fixed. However, Jon Krakauer, an early supporter, does a thorough job of researching and backing up a history of fictionalized exploits and financial mismanagement by Mortenson that convinced me that Mortenson is in a world of his own making, spinning tales and spending foundation money with no concern for accountability. A wake-up call for anyone wanting to donate to a charity. Most disappointingly, Mortenson gives no indication that he believes he has done anything wrong. A good read.

Krakauer is an amazing writer, and brought all of his skills as a writer and researcher to this volume. I was devastated when I first heard that Mortenson was no more than a con. Krakauer gave me facts to fill in the gossip, but not to ease my mind. I also wonder if the exposure of Mortenson's misuse of funds and trust did not bring about his suicide. We can only wonder how he might have redeemed himself had he lived.

Reading Three Cups of Tea is a must before reading this book. I understand why Krakauer felt the need to write this book, the evidence against Mortenson is glaring and Krakauer does an excellent

job of researching his facts. But, I found myself skipping over some of the details, too much information I guess for my liking. But overall, an interesting read.

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