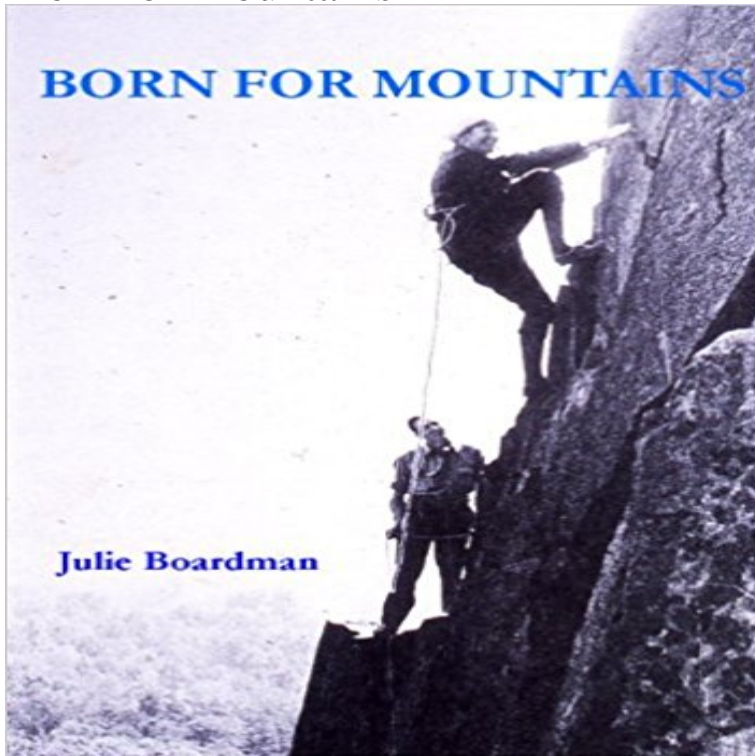


Born for Mountains



Born for Mountains tells the story of Elizabeth Knowlton, the first American woman to participate in a major Himalayan expedition. In 1932, she was the press correspondent for the German-American expedition to Nanga Parbat, one of the worlds most dangerous mountains. Knowlton was the lone woman with a large male party comprised of eight climbers (seven Germans and one American), a British transport officer, and hundreds of male porters. After returning home from Nanga Parbat, Knowlton wrote a book about the expedition. The Naked Mountain, published in 1933, is an excellent account of a Himalayan expedition, but it fails to give much personal information about Knowlton. How and why was she selected for the expedition? What drove her to go on a journey that most women would never dare to take? What was it like to be the only woman with nine men as teammates?

Born for Mountains answers these questions and more. Using newly available sources, the book traces the expedition from its initial planning to its tragic conclusion. Readers will learn about Knowltons problems with her male teammates, especially leader Willy Merkl, and her growing love for the American team member, the handsome and charismatic Rand Herron. Knowlton was a trailblazer among women mountaineers and an inspiration to all.

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