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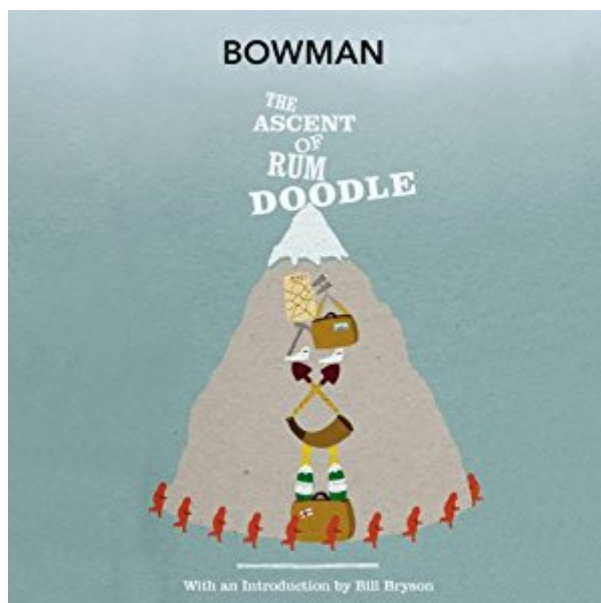
The Ascent Of Rum Doodle

Synopsis

First published in 1956, The Ascent of Rum Doodle quickly became established as mountaineering classic. As an outrageously funny spoof about the ascent of a 40,000-and-a-half-foot peak, many thought it inspired by the 1953 conquest of Everest. But Bowman had drawn on the flavour and tone of earlier adventures, of Bill Tilman and his 1937 account of the Nandi Devi expedition. The book's central and unforgettable character, Binder, is one of the finest creations in comic literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"For most people, it appears, RUM DOODLE is the funniest book they have never heard of." - Bill Bryson, in the Introduction to THE ASCENT OF RUM DOODLEEven if you've never climbed, or thought in your life to climb, an Asian massif, THE ASCENT OF RUM DOODLE is worth a couple of hours of your time. The book's author, W.E. Bowman, an English civil engineer, himself never ascended anything more challenging than the gentle slopes of England's Lake District. RUM DOODLE is, according to Bryson, a parody based on theÃ Â Ascent of Nanda DeviÃ Â by H.W. Tilman (1937).Rum Doodle is a forty-thousand foot peak in the fictional country of Yogistan. The narrative of the assault on its summit is told in the first person by the British expedition's leader, who's known to the reader only by his walkie-talkie pseudonym, Binder. (The time is presumably the mid-1950's when the volume was first published - no sat phones here.) The six others on the ascent team are: Burley, the commissaryman, Wish, the scientist, Jungle, the route-finder, Shute, the photographer, Constant, the translator, and Prone, the physician. It should come as no surprise that

each is either incompetent or otherwise unsuitable for the mission. Binder himself is as about an unheroic and ineffectual as can be imagined; he has no concept of the leadership qualities required for an expedition on which the greatest dangers not posed by the mountain itself are the horrific, panic-inciting concoctions served up by the chief cook, Pong. Indeed, it's Binder's utter cluelessness that is the lynchpin of the story's humor.I would politely disagree with Bryson that THE ASCENT OF RUM DOODLE "is the funniest book (most people) have never heard of." In my opinion, that honor goes toÃ Â The Complete McAuslanÃ Â by George MacDonald Fraser, which is, most assuredly, the most laugh-inspiring book I've ever read. But, THE ASCENT OF RUM DOODLE, at 171 pages, is a quick read in a small package amenable to inclusion in a backpack for the hike down into the Grand Canyon last week. During a longer than expected stop at Indian Gardens on the Bright Angel Trail, it, between the arrival of the mule trains, proved a most amusing, four-star diversion while I awaited someone ascending on foot from Phantom Ranch.

Such a great book if you have already read the "serious" accounts of 20th century mountaineering that Bowman does such a great job parodying. If you haven't read all those books with all their "we conquered the summit!" bravado, you might not get the jokes in this hilarious book. If you have read them, well you'll see right away that Bowman was spot on.

It is a hilarious (English-style humor) account of a climb of a fictional mountain in the Himalayas. You will enjoy it even more if you are into mountaineering. There is a restaurant named after Rum Doodle in Kathmandu.

The Ascent of Rum Doodle is one of my all-time favorite books. I first became acquainted with it when my dad, himself a well-known member of several mountaineering expeditions in the mid-1900's, gave copies of *The Ascent of Rum Doodle* to his three offspring one Christmas. I don't know if W.E. Bowman was himself a climber, or was ever a part of any mountaineering expeditions, but he certainly seems to have a good sense of the type of personalities one might find on a mountain-climbing expedition, and his portrayal of the jockeying for position, and clashing egos on the "Rum Doodle" expedition absolutely cracks me up. His humor is dry and wry and full of irony - yet he manages to maintain an affection for his characters, even as he exposes their silliness. I love this book. Bowman had me, literally, laughing out loud.Karen Molenaar Terrell

Reminiscent of Jerome K Jerome "Three Men in a Boat" with a touch of Patrick McManus. Good fun

if you're in the mood, but don't expect deep insights into the human condition.

If you're a serious student of mountaineering history and/or literature this is a must read. Rum Doodle will help you to put your passion into proper perspective.If you don't give a damn about climbing but enjoy understated humor this is a fun read.However, if you don't "get" nice and dry British humor don't bother. It's just not the book for you.This is without a doubt the greatest spoof of the British mountaineering expedition accounts ever conceived. Every word of the book will ring true to readers that are familiar with the genre. I've read it three times and still find myself laughing out loud. But then again, I'm a climber so what do I know?

FUNNIEST BOOK EVER!!

This is one of those books in a sort of forgotten genre of humour. It's genuinely funny, and rewards repeat reading, as you spot all the little in jokes. The number 153 for example takes on a new meaning. That said it is very much of its time. If you aren't into gentle humour, or rather, the sort of humour where you need to visualise lot of the scene to 'see' the joke, this won't appeal to you. It's not that sort of edgy or scatological stuff that is currently in vogue. But as a book on a train or plane ride, or even just a rainy day this ticks all the boxes.

The Ascent of Denali: A Narrative of the First Complete Ascent of the Highest Peak in North America (Mount Mckinley : a Narrative of the First Complete Ascent of the Highest Peak in North America) The ascent of Rum Doodle and the cruise of the talking fish The Ascent of Rum Doodle Rum & Reggae's Grenadines: Including St. Vincent & Grenada (Rum & Reggae series) Rum & Reggae's Puerto Rico, Including Culebra & Vieques (Rum & Reggae series) Part 5 - Pour me another rum - IÃ¢ ¬â„¢m going to sail the South Pacific and visit New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. (Ã¢ ¬Å"Pour me another rum ... around the World!Ã¢ ¬Å• Ã¢ ¬Å"The 5 year VoyageÃ¢ ¬Å•) Anime Doodle Girls: Coloring Book (Doodle Coloring book by JennyLuanArt) (Volume 1) Drawing: Drawing and Sketching,Doodling,Shapes,Patterns,Pictures and Zen Doodle (drawing, zentangle, drawing patterns, drawing shapes, how to draw, doodle, creativity) Drawing: Drawing for Beginners:The Best Guide to Learn How to Draw, Sketch, and Doodle like a Pro in a Few Minutes (sketching, pencil drawing, how to draw, doodle, drawing, drawing techniques) Doodle Design & Draw FASHION (Dover Doodle Books) Kids Doodle Journal: Blank Journals To Write In, Doodle In, Draw In Or Sketch In, 8" x 10", 150 Unlined Blank Pages (Blank Notebook &

Diary) Travelers Doodle Notebook: Bullet Grid Journal, 8 x 10, 150 Dot Grid Pages (sketchbook, journal, doodle) Travelers Doodle Book: Bullet Grid Journal, 8 x 10, 150 Dot Grid Pages (sketchbook, journal, doodle) Women's Doodle Journal: Bullet Grid Journal, 8 x 10, 150 Dot Grid Pages (sketchbook, journal, doodle) Doodle Design & Draw ROCK STAR FASHIONS (Dover Doodle Books) Doodle Yourself Smart . . . Math (Doodle Books) Doodle Yourself Smart...Physics (Doodle Books) Doodle Yourself Smart . . . Geometry (Doodle Books) Emoji Denim Doodle Sketchbook: Blank 110 pages to doodle, draw, and use your imagination ZEN FLOWERS: Flower Doodle Designs (Zendoodle, Zentangle, Doodle)