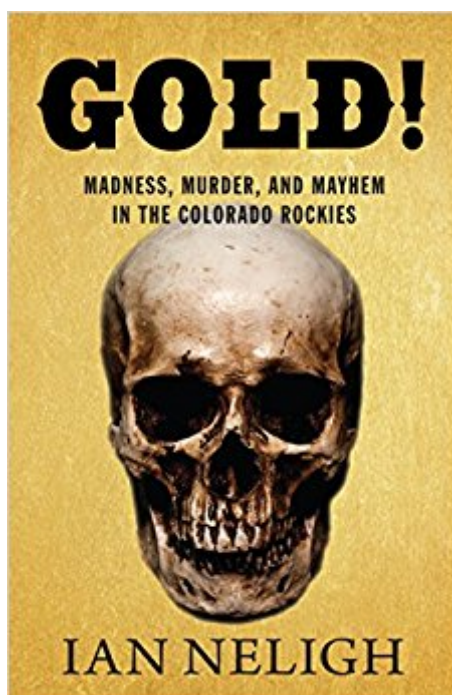


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Gold!: Madness, Murder, And Mayhem In The Colorado Rockies



Synopsis

Gold! brings together the story of this metal's glittering legacy in the Centennial State and the madness, murder, and mayhem that came along with it. The book examines the rich history of the miners and treasure hunters who came to face danger and hardships in the unforgiving Rocky Mountains. This story is unique in that it takes a look at the phenomenon of gold, the treasure hunters, both modern and historic, and brings them to life in a detailed and sharp narrative. Author Ian Neligh spent a year meeting with experts and enthusiasts, hearing their stories and trying to understand why it is they continue to do what they do often in the face of extreme hardship. Modern-day gold miners profiled include Al Mosch, Bill Chapman, Ken Reid, and Chad Watkins. Gold! is the story of an unusual subculture on the rise in the mountains of Colorado fueled by a delicate balance of hope, greed, and loss. It tells the story of men mostly forgotten by the world as they go in endless pursuit of an impossible fortune. It follows miners working their small, dangerous gold claims in mines over a hundred years old, to modern-day prospectors trying to strike it rich and counterbalance the weight of a struggling economy. The book also examines if those who spend their lives in search of riches ever actually strike it rich. This book will appeal to both history buffs as well as fans of modern-day reality shows like Gold Rush.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Ian Neligh recounts the story of the Colorado gold rush, bringing it forward to contemporary times, melding the old and the new. He tells about the men who still toil for gold in the Colorado Rockies."

-- Sandra Dallas, Denver Post

Fascinated with both the history of the Gold Rush and those who still toiled in its legacy, I spent a year meeting with experts and enthusiasts, hearing their stories and trying to understand why it is they continue to do what they do - often in the face of extreme hardship. Many times by word of mouth, I went and met with one after the other and discovered the dubious inheritance of the gold rush included far more than just miners and prospectors. Here are a dozen of the people I've profiled:

1. William Green Russell, a miner who in 1858 discovered the first significant deposit of gold in the Rockies that ultimately launched the Pike's Peak gold rush.
2. Alfred Packer, a prospector who confessed to an act of cannibalism committed during an arduous trip with five other miners through the mountains of Colorado in the winter of 1874.
3. Chad Watkins, a celebrity gold prospector featured on several seasons of Discovery Channel's "Ice Cold Gold".
4. Al Mosch, octogenarian owner of the Phoenix Gold Mine; appeared on Travel Channel's "Ghost Adventures: Colorado Gold Mine".
5. James Long, a miner and president of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies.
6. Brad Poulson, employee at the Newmont Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine.
7. Bill Chapman, founder of Gold-n-Detectors, a store that caters to modern-day prospectors.
8. Jesse Peterson, owner of a mine and company that outfits tourist prospectors.
9. Ed Lewandowski, retired engineer and gold miner.
10. Bob Bowland, one of the owners of the historic Argo Gold Mine and Mill.
11. Dr. Richard Goldfarb, a geologist and one of the world's foremost experts on gold; appeared on the History Channel's "How the Earth Was Made".
12. Deb Zack a project manager with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's inactive mine program, who works closely with Colorado's Parks and Wildlife to ensure that bats colonizing abandoned mines can freely enter and leave.

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