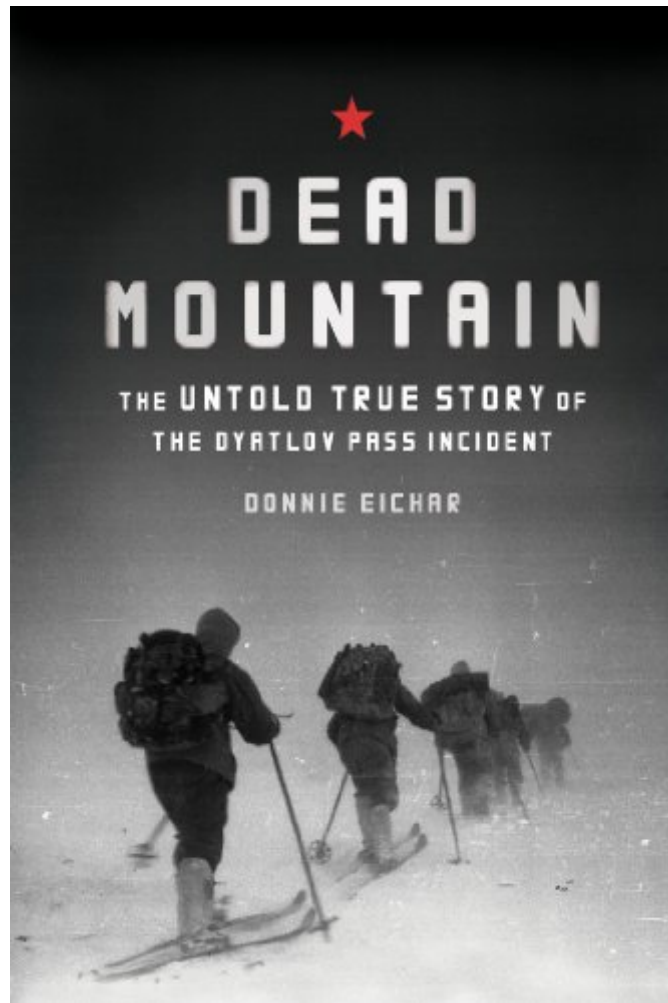




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# Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story Of The Dyatlov Pass Incident



## Synopsis

In February 1959, a group of nine experienced hikers in the Russian Ural Mountains died mysteriously on an elevation known as Dead Mountain. Eerie aspects of the incident—unexplained violent injuries, signs that they cut open and fled the tent without proper clothing or shoes, a strange final photograph taken by one of the hikers, and elevated levels of radiation found on some of their clothes—have led to decades of speculation over what really happened. This New York Times bestseller is a gripping work of literary nonfiction delves into the mystery through unprecedented access to the hikers' own journals and photographs, rarely seen government records, dozens of interviews, and the author's retracing of the hikers' fateful journey in the Russian winter. A fascinating portrait of the young hikers in the Soviet era, and a skillful interweaving of the hikers narrative, the investigators' efforts, and the author's investigations, here for the first time is the real story of what happened that night on Dead Mountain.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Dyatlov Pass incident is always cited as one of the great unsolved mysteries, and so I was excited when my wife gave me "Dead Mountain: The untold Story of the Dyatlov Pass Incident" as a

gift. However, I have to admit I was a little skeptical that the author would be able to "solve" the case or uncover any new details, since so many have tried over the last ~50 years. But once I started reading, I was immediately hooked. Mr. Eichar does an amazing job of transporting the reader back to a time and place shrouded with secrecy: Soviet Russia. As an American, it was fascinating learning about the life of these students and the people and places they encountered in their last days. The writing flows nicely and is kept interesting by the weaving in of the stories of the search party and families, as well as Mr. Eichar's journeys to Russia and encounters with survivors. Ultimately, it's Mr. Eichar's conclusion on the fate of these young people that is most important, and the author delivers here too. His thesis is new, fascinating, proven plausible, and about as terrifying as it gets. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mysteries and/or outdoor adventure or is simply looking for an engaging true story...just don't try and read it before your next ski trip!

This was a story (audio book) that I wanted to really get into as I enjoy history and especially mysteries. This is both and there is quite a bit of intrigue surrounding everything. It has all the components of a complex story with many theories presented; from the mundane to the supernatural. That being said, I found the narrator to be good but just not the best fit. The writing was very good and the narrator wasn't bad, he just did not do as much to keep me engaged as I had hoped/read from other reviews. The flow of things and lack of emotion (at all) is what killed it for me. Granted, being a historical tragedy one would not expect there to be a ton of emotional response from the narrator but it was almost too cold. The story was really good and it is absolutely evident that the author researched this incident (and emptied all his savings in the process without even being sure he would write a book). He was so infatuated/held by the story that he would go to any length to find out the answers for himself and humanity. No matter the danger nor awkward questions/treatment he received. That, to me, is impressive and lends itself to an attention to detail that only obsession can provide. If you love historical mysteries, you will probably like or even love this book. I just did not get as much out of it as other people but I am still happy to have read and listened to it.

According to the author, the Dyatlov Pass Incident is a well-known real-life mystery in Russia. Nine highly skilled, collegiate hikers set out to earn their level III certification while on winter break. They never came home, all nine dying under mysterious circumstances on 'Dead Mountain'; their bodies found scattered and in some cases with signs of a brutal ending, but with no external evidence of

foul play. This is not an incident I'd ever heard of, but one day, while perusing the \$1.99 books on , it caught my interest, so I bought it. There are two storylines here: the author's search for answers to this 50-year old mystery; and the students' own storyline. Anybody with a passion for the outdoors or perhaps a fondness of a good mystery can appreciate the basic bones of the story and its mystique. There are plenty of pictures included, which help fill in the sketches of what these students were like when they were still alive; and the author gives a good feel for the frozen bleakness of the Urals in winter. Eichar says more than once in the books: why did he think he was so special that he could manage to solve this mystery that the finest of Russian minds had been unable to account for over the years? But by the end of the book, he has done just that - unexpectedly, to be sure; but his methodology and the availability of modern science aids him on his quest. Although it felt like the book wrapped up rather suddenly, overall, I enjoyed this read, and it drew me into a quest for answers I'd never heard of before. It is also amazing that somebody could solve a case decades later based on little more than a handful of elusive clues and a few dozen photographs left behind.

Above all an enjoyable read. Eichar does his best to tell the story of the hikers as real people, and makes the effort to know them beyond the story we already know. Travelling to Russia twice to gather information and meet actual people involved as well as travelling to the pass shows his dedication to experiencing and presenting facts. For a tragedy that is full of speculation, misinterpretation, misunderstanding and translation errors, this book is by far the best. I tend to agree with Eichars theory, although to me, still all the pieces do not fit, some of the physical evidence was left out of the final theory presentation. But that is why the story continues to inspire, intrigue and haunt so many. Kudos Mr. Eichar.

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