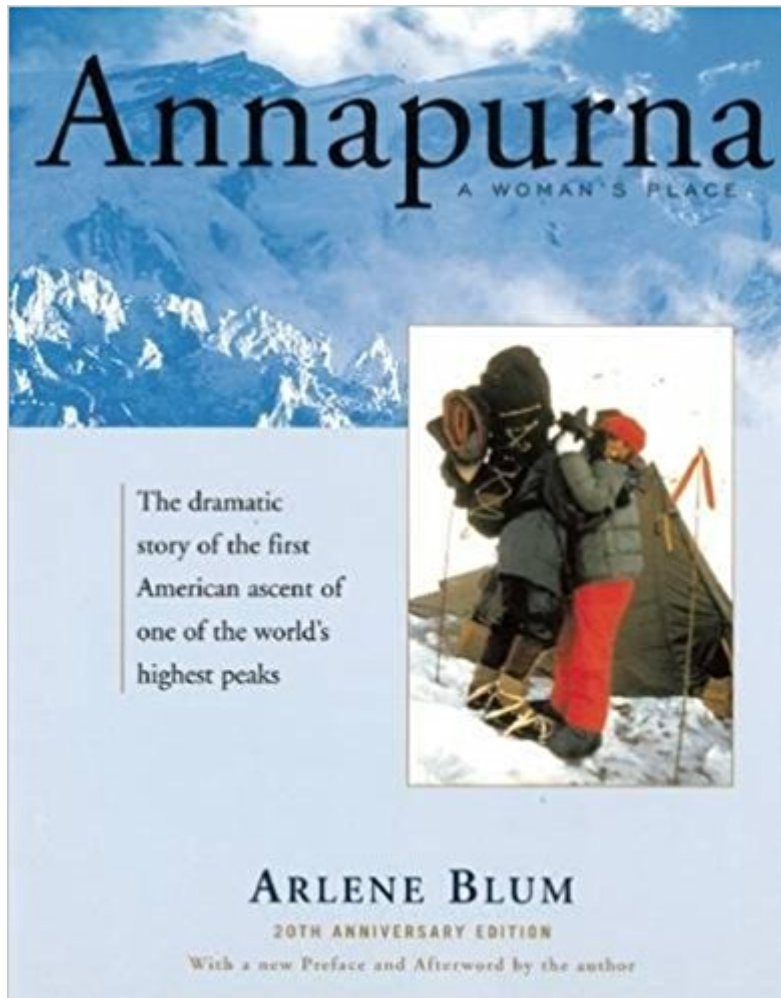




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Annapurna: A Woman's Place



Synopsis

In August 1978, thirteen women left San Francisco for the Nepal Himalaya to make history as the first Americans and the first women to scale the treacherous slopes of Annapurna I, the world's tenth highest peak. Expedition leader Arlene Blum here tells their dramatic story: the logistical problems, storms, and hazardous ice climbing; the conflicts and reconciliations within the team; the terror of avalanches that threatened to sweep away camps and climbers. On October 15, two women and two Sherpas at last stood on the summit; but the celebration was cut short, for two days later, the two women of the second summit team fell to their deaths. Never before has such an account of mountaineering triumph and tragedy been told from a woman's point of view. By proving that women had the skill, strength, and courage necessary to make this difficult and dangerous climb, the 1978 Women's Himalayan Expedition's accomplishment had a positive impact around the world, changing perceptions about women's abilities in sports and other arenas. And *Annapurna: A Woman's Place* has become an acknowledged classic in the annals of women's achievements; a story of challenge and commitment told with passion, humor, and unflinching honesty.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1978, 13 women set out to climb Annapurna I in the Nepal Himalaya, achieving the first ascent of the world's 10th highest mountain by an American and by a woman. By proving that women had the skill, strength, and courage necessary to make this difficult and dangerous climb, the 1978 Women's Himalayan Expedition's accomplishment had a positive impact around the world, changing

perceptions about women's abilities in sports and other arenas. Twenty years later, Arlene Blum has republished her account, offering her story to a new generation. Blum writes in the introduction, Annapurna has become for me a metaphor for difficult and important goals. Striving to achieve such objectives draws on all of our abilities and brings out the best in us. There are still many 'Annapurnas' to be climbed in the world--such as protecting our natural environment; decreasing the gap between rich and poor; providing basic necessities for everyone on this planet; and raising our children to live with love and good values. Impressive black-and-white photos record the women's journey from Katmandu to the summit and back again. This book documents the personal triumphs and tragedies of these women with insights that only a firsthand account can offer. --Kathryn True
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a book about working together under extraordinary conditions where the temperature in your tent can drop to ten degrees below zero and a tiny hole in a glove can mean the possible loss of a finger. It is about making decisions while an avalanche rushes by you with a wind that knocks you over. It is about risking death knowing that you have a daughter, a partner at home . . . the compelling story of thirteen very different women . . . each determined to get women to the top of a mountain. —Erica Bauermeister, reviewed in 500 Great Books by Women

Most of time I was awed by the courage and determination these women showed in their quest to be the first American women to climb to the summit of Annapurna, but sometimes I was annoyed that they were not well-versed in the culture of the people of Nepal and so were sometimes overwhelmed by the demands of the Sherpas. I appreciated getting to know the members of the team as well as the Sherpas and how they related to the author. I do believe the author assumed that only other mountain climbers would read this book, so she did not explain some of the terms she used, as well as what some of the equipment was used for. The map and pictures were really helpful in visualizing the climb and the extreme conditions they faced.

Outstanding. I am an avid reader and this story and writer's style is pure enjoyment. Arlene Blum has a gift for telling a story. The story itself is fascinating. I will keep this book to read again and will seek out other books by Ms. Blum.

I read the original story in 1989, one year after the actual trip. The book eventually wore out, and I later purchased this revised edition. I have never braved those heights. In fact, I have an extreme

fear of heights, and that has brought me to develop an interest in those who take up this challenge. Reading the experiences of the first women's climb of Annapurna has served to encourage me to push ahead and attempt things I otherwise would not have. That's how powerfully this book has affected me for all these years.

This is, without a doubt, one of the best books written about a specific mountain climbing expedition. This particular book is a lyrical and moving account of the the first women's expedition to climb Annapurna in the Himalayas. It provides great detail and insight into their two month odyssey in the mountain and chronicles the challenges that they faced in trying to reach the summit. The leader of the expedition authored the book and her characterizations of her fellow expeditioners are interesting and engaging. Her description of life on an expedition is filled with a myriad of detail that will enthrall all armchair climbers, as well as climbing enthusiasts. These details make for gripping reading, at times, and her descriptive narrative is always evocative of another time and place. In reading it, one realizes just how far women have come in terms of acceptance in the mountain climbing arena. Their time spent on the mountain is illustrated by photographs that beautifully resonate with the lyricism of the author's chronicle. The obstacles they overcame, their day to day travails, the bonding and alliances that formed amongst the different members of the expedition, all add to the beauty of the book. The photographs memorialize those moments in time that best evoke the nuances of what it was like on the expedition and, at the same time, give one a sense of the beauty and majesty of the mountain. The success of the expedition in terms of their having actually reached the summit, however, is clouded by the tragic loss of two of its members on a second, ill-advised attempt to reach the summit. Nonetheless, the quest of the American Women Himalayan Expedition to reach the summit of Annapurna is a testament to courage and commitment. It is also a great read.

Slightly dated it's true, but the story loses nothing of it's compelling quality. This story of the first American women's ascent of Annapurna I belongs next to the classic accounts of summit attempts on K2 and Everest. Very much worth the read, and the trade-paper format includes some amazing pictures as well.

One of my New Year's Resolutions was to start reading non-fiction books this year (I'm a sci-fi junkie!). As someone who loves the outdoors, I thought *_Annapurna: A Woman's Place_* would be a good place to start. I was not disappointed. Told in a straightforward, autobiographical manner

without a lot of embellishment, this book was none-the-less fascinating. I found it very difficult to put down, and I constantly wanted to know what happened next. I was surprised that Ms. Blum stressed the climbing aspect of her team's adventure and actually downplayed the fact that they were a FEMALE climbing team, but I found this added to the appeal of her story. This is one of the few books I will unhesitatingly recommend to family & friends.

As a woman carpenter of over 30 years, I am affirmed and inspired by reading biographies of other womens' adventures and accomplishments. This book did it for me - trials AND tribulations - a real account of a real adventure, that is not always happily ever after. Yes, a woman's place is on top !!

Very good book.

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