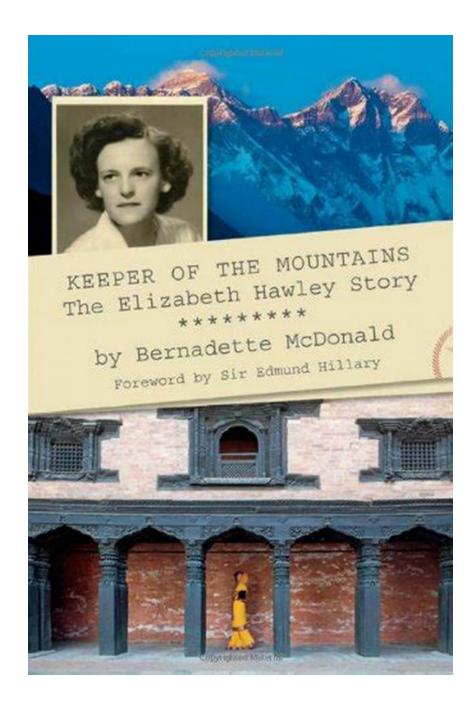
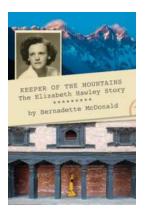
# The Untold Story of Elizabeth Hawley: A Legendary Keeper of the Mountains



Imagine a fearless woman, determined to chronicle and preserve the history of the mountains that have long captivated humanity's imagination. Elizabeth Hawley, also known as the "Keeper of the Mountains," was an extraordinary individual who dedicated her life to documenting the triumphs and tragedies of some of the world's highest peaks.

### **A Passion Ignited**

Born in Chicago in 1923, Elizabeth Hawley initially had no idea that she would become an integral part of mountaineering history. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she embarked on a journey that took her to Nepal, where her love affair with the Himalayas began.



#### Keeper of the Mountains: The Elizabeth Hawley

**Story** by Alexander Johnson (Kindle Edition)

🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 4.6 out of 5	
Language	: English
File size	: 5467 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled	
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 328 pages



Hawley worked as a journalist in Kathmandu, witnessing the early days of mountaineering in the region. As the Everest expeditions gained momentum, she recognized the need to curate the stories and achievements of these brave adventurers. Hawley's passion for the mountains, coupled with her astute nature, led her to become the unofficial chronicler of Himalayan mountaineering.

### The Creation of the Himalayan Database

Realizing that the significance of Himalayan mountaineering was not being documented adequately, Elizabeth Hawley founded the Himalayan Database in

1964. This groundbreaking venture aimed to collect and preserve information on all expeditions to peaks in Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, India, and Tibet. Over time, the database grew exponentially, becoming an indispensable resource for mountaineers worldwide.

Hawley's meticulous approach allowed her to capture even the tiniest details, recording the names of climbers, their nationalities, routes taken, successes, failures, and much more. Her attention to detail and the accuracy of information ensured the reliability of the Himalayan Database, even receiving validation from renowned climbers and organizations.

### A Life Devoted to the Mountains

Elizabeth Hawley's unwavering commitment to her work meant spending countless hours interviewing mountaineers and researching their expeditions. Her humble flat in Kathmandu became a sanctuary for climbers seeking to add their names to her extensive records. Despite her advancing years, Hawley remained determined, passionate, and sharp-witted, continuing her work well into her nineties.

Her incredible dedication to capturing the spirit of mountaineering earned her respect and admiration from the climbing community. Her interviews were invaluable, often revealing the stories behind the climbs, the personal challenges faced, and, sadly, the accounts of those who never returned. Hawley's quest for truth and accuracy made her an essential figure in the mountaineering world.

### A Living Legend

Elizabeth Hawley's achievements were recognized worldwide. In 2014, she was awarded the prestigious "The Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal," established by the Nepalese government and the Hillary family to honor those who make significant contributions to the conservation of the environment and culture of mountainous regions.

On January 26, 2018, the dedicated Keeper of the Mountains passed away at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy that would forever remain etched in the annals of mountaineering history.

### The Keeper's Legacy Lives On

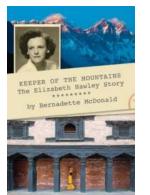
Today, Elizabeth Hawley's contributions continue to shape the mountaineering world. The Himalayan Database, maintained and updated regularly, stands as a testament to her remarkable work. It serves as an invaluable tool for both researchers and climbers, aiding their understanding of the peaks and inspiring future expeditions.

The impact of Hawley's determination reaches far beyond her records. She cultivated an appreciation for the mountains, encouraging climbers to respect and care for these magnificent natural wonders. Her tireless efforts to protect the environment and promote ethical climbing practices left an indelible mark on generations to come.

Elizabeth Hawley's story is one of courage, curiosity, and an absolute dedication to preserving the history of mountaineering. As the Keeper of the Mountains, her work has immortalized the triumphs and struggles of countless climbers and ensured that their stories live on.

The mountains continue to captivate our collective consciousness, and Elizabeth Hawley's legacy serves as a reminder of the unwavering human spirit in conquering challenges, both physical and emotional, in pursuit of the great unknown.

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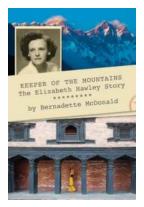
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Beginning in 1946, Elizabeth Hawley worked for Fortune magazine as a researcher. Shortly thereafter, she left both her job and the United States itself to travel the world, and thus began her lifelong attraction to the exotic and remote sovereign state of Nepal. In the years that followed, she began reporting on the political and cultural events taking place in her adopted homeland for the likes of Reuters and Time Inc., letting the world in on the strange community of mountaineers, pilgrims and politicians who were descending on Kathmandu, whether in search of adventure, enlightenment or prestige.

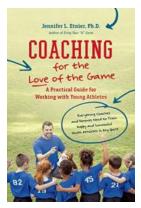
Despite the fact that Elizabeth Hawley has never climbed a mountain or visited the hallowed grounds of Everest base camp, she has become the most important record keeper and inspirational authority figure regarding the expeditions, stories, feats, scandals and disasters in the Nepal Himalaya. Now 90 years of age, she has commanded the respect of such legendary personalities as Edmund Hillary, Reinhold Messner, Chris Bonington, Tomaž Humar and Ed Viesturs.

With production under way on a film examining her life and legacy, it is likely that Hawley will continue to hold a special place in the hearts and minds of all visitors looking to experience the legend and grandeur of the world's most celebrated mountain landscape.



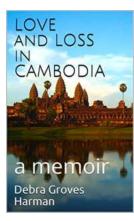
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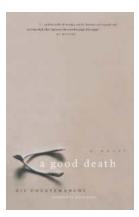
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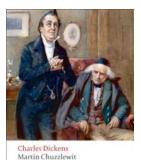
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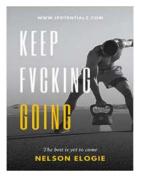


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