



Abominable

Lawrence Linick

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A thriller / scifi adventure tale. Colonel Bury's 1930 expedition to Mt. Everest meets with disasterous failure. Was it the weather, avalanche, or something else?

The story begins: Prologue:

This transcript was found in the library desk of Henry Lyman, longtime foreign press correspondent for the London Times, and a member of the notorious Everest Reconnaissance Expedition of 1930. The document was found in 1972, eight years after Mr. Lyman's death. It was found by a moving crew in preparation for sale of the family's home by Henry's descendants. His daughter, Helen was shown the document and offered it to us for public release. "My father," she added, "had obviously wished to cleanse his soul of this terrible experience... now, may he finally rest in peace forever..." and with that, she broke down sobbing inconsolably. Below is the transcript of Henry's original news brief, published September 3, 1930 in the Times of Calcutta, and later on September 30 in the London Times under his usual penname of "Kim Newman". Following the news brief is the un-edited transcript of his later recounting of the experience in detail.

Kim Newman

Field Correspondent – Times of Calcutta

September 3, 1930

As I sit here in my comfortable study, facing my typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, the streets of Calcutta bustle with a warmth and energy that is all but devoid some five-hundred miles to the north. There, deep in the Himalayas, lies a place as cold and forbidding as Dante's vision of Hell itself. We call it Everest, but in reality it has no name. I have just returned, a member of Colonel Charles Bury's expedition to survey and reconnoiter the slopes of Mt. Everest in preparation for another attempt on her summit. There are those who will say that we failed – that we achieved none of the stated goals of our expedition; for which the Royal Geological Society had paid us so dearly. But in failure aren't there always lessons to be learned? And if not to learn, then what was our mission's goal? To begin with, we learned that Sir Thomas Mallory's death was not the result of poor preparation, or bad decisions. His was a cursed mission, doomed as was ours. My great friend and Sherpa guide, Goba Hariti, advised me against treading on what he called the "unnamed mountain" and the "cloud realm". The Sherpas are well aware of Everest. They have lived there for thousands of years. Did we not find it strange that of all the mountain peaks in the Himalayas this one, only this one had no name? It is not coincidence that we civilized Europeans who tread so heavily into areas we know little about find very few artifacts with no name. Everest is unique – a cursed word in my mind; cursed from the day we set foot there, and set out to conquer it. It conquered us instead.

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William Carroll:

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Carmen Pinto:

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