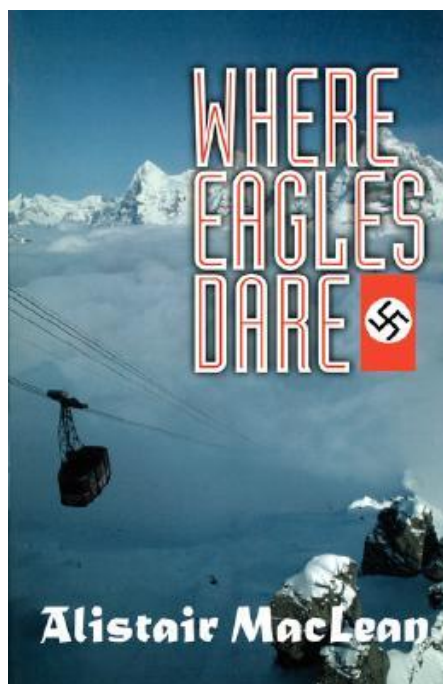




Where Eagles Dare

Alistair MacLean , Clint Willis (Introduction)

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Forbidding peaks, resourceful commandos, beautiful spies, nonstop action, and neck-snapping plot twists make this the classic adventure thriller—the kind of page-turner that readers actually will find impossible to put down. A team of British Special Forces commandos parachutes into the high peaks of the Austrian Alps with the mission of stealing into an invulnerable alpine castle—accessible only by aerial gondola—the headquarters of Nazi intelligence. Supposedly sent in to rescue one of their own, their real mission turns out to be a lot more complicated—and the tension climbs as team members start to die off, one by one. Written by Alistair Maclean, author of the *Guns of Navarone*, this is the novel that set the pace for the modern action thriller (the film version, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood, also helped), and it still packs twice the punch of most contemporary best-selling thrillers. What's more, the cast of spooks, turncoats, and commandos who drive this story are more relevant than ever in our new era of special forces, black ops, and unpredictable alliances.

Where Eagles Dare Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2002 by Thunder's Mouth Press (first published June 1st 1967)

ISBN : 9781560254553

Author : Alistair MacLean , Clint Willis (Introduction)

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From Reader Review Where Eagles Dare for online ebook

Andrei Tama? says

Aveam în jur de 14 ani când am citit cartea aceasta. Este una dintre primele cărți citite și parcă am și-acum în fața ochilor colecția bibliotecii Adevărul, romanul acesta fiind eterogen orânduirii celorlaltor cărți. L-am luat și am început, calm, să citesc. Eram în perioada în care mai toți adolescenții de gen masculin sunt pasionați de Al Doilea Război Mondial. M-a ținut în suspans o noapte întreagă. Cartea această are 5 stele din două motive: 1. pentru că la vremea respectivă mi-a plăcut enorm; și 2. (10/5 stele) pentru că mi-a deschis pofta de literatură.

E ciudat cum am trecut, apoi, brusc, de la MacLean la literatură de expresie.

Andrei Tama?,
18 ianuarie 2016

Rich says

This is based on MacLean's own script for the movie, which he wrote for his friend, Richard Burton. It is full-throated, roaring adventure, complete with a parachute drop behind enemy lines to attack a Nazi stronghold in the mountains of Germany, twists and turns double-crosses and triple-crosses, everything that made MacLean's novels so much fun. Guns, planes, explosions, what more can you ask for?

Scribble Orca says

I'm about to review a modern techno-thriller and while researching the author something jogged my 14 year old self's memory of Alistair McLean.

I gobbled his books in high school - I remember when The Eagle Has Landed was all the rage and I read it, sure, like everyone else, but Alistair had me hooked and I ploughed through his entire oeuvre (or at least as much as our high school library budget allowed) during one year.

Then I forgot all about him until two days ago. I suppose that will be another author that my adult self will have to ignore if I want to keep my five star memories intact.

Rob Twinem says

It was always going to be difficult to enjoy this book having just read and been astounded by the brilliant Submerged by Thomas F Monteleone. As a youth I have fond memories of the boys own type thrillers by Scottish born Alistair McLean, and on initial reading I recall that Where Eagles Dare was a first class page-turner. Unfortunately revisiting this 2ndWW thriller after many years has not proved so enjoyable.

The story starts off with a great flourish when Major Smith and Lt Shaffer together with their motley crew

are sent on a perilous mission to the Schloss Adler, a fortress high in the alps of Southern Bavaria. There is initial intrigue when having parachuted into enemy territory one of the saboteurs is found murdered, there is an enemy agent within the ranks! We then proceed in a set formulaic manner as Smith and Shaffer proceed to infiltrate the fortress stronghold by means of a perilous journey on the roof of a cable car. Their task it would appear is to rescue Col Carnaby before the Germans can interrogate him and discover the plans for the second front ie the expected imminent Normandy Landings. There is lots of shooting, and a final confrontation within the castle when the true nature of Smith's mission is disclosed. This is followed by more shooting as our brave heroes depart the bloody scene amidst chaos and a smouldering fortress that is fast being destroyed by fire and turning into dust and decay.

This is a clean easily assimilated adventure story suited to the minds and attitude of teenage boys emerging from a youth spent reading the adventures of comic heroes Batman and Superman. It is not really a book to satisfy the intellect or demands of an adult reader due to its simplicity and soulless empty characters. It is probably best remembered for the 1968 movie starring Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood with the immortal words "Broadsword calling Danny Boy, he said Broadsword calling Danny Boy. Can you hear me? Can you hear me? It is also equally absurd as representing the German high command as bumbling fools who somehow allowed a small trained group of saboteurs to destroy a seemingly well protected impregnable fortress and as they escape are heard to say.." Gott in Himmel!" They've got away."

Perhaps I criticize and reprimand a story that is simply there to entertain, and not to be viewed as a well researched and informative thriller. That may be so but in the final analysis I demand more from my reading than a routine adventure with a much frequented theme and a predictable conclusion.

Fred Shaw says

Excellent story and movie.

Gumble's Yard says

A momentous read for me in many respects.

The most famous book of my favorite author as a young teenager; I was given a signed first edition (signed not just by the author but by two of the actors in the film whose screenplay the author wrote before the novel) by my closest friends as a 50th birthday present; it's also the 1000th book I have added to Goodreads since I started loading my new and old reviews here just under 18 months ago (on 1.1.17).

A classic MacLean in every respect.

Dee Arr says

It's been a long time since I read an Alistair MacLean novel so I grabbed one that was a favorite, and it didn't disappoint. Even though it's been years, MacLean is still a sure bet if you are looking for an entertaining story.

Admittedly, this book is not like some of the other suspense thrillers MacLean has written, where readers are

kept guessing who the killer/spy is until the very end. What this tale lacks in suspense more than makes up for it with the adrenalin factor. This book is a page-turner. Four stars.

Gary Sundell says

MacLean wrote the book on WWII suspense thrillers. A team of allied specialists parachute into Germany to rescue a captured American general. He team is led by a Brit, Smith, played in the movie by Richard Burton, aided by an American, Schaefer, played in the movie by Clint Eastwood. Worth reading. The movie is worth watching, as is the inspired Pinky and The Brain cartoon which pokes fun at the movie.

Ritwik says

A 2.5 really.

The book 'Where Eagles DARE' starts with a trifling irony. Before a sky-drop scene into the German lands to pursue a high class search and rescue mission of an eminent person, the characters(soldiers specially chosen and obviously quite able) visibly seem to lose their calm and start contemplating death in a nervous set of dialogues and the confusing character introduction.

A plot with the premise of an ever-interesting World War II scenario where the author chooses to aim and enlarge upon the cloak-and-dagger activities rather than the blood-shed and the extensive violence. The characters are susceptible to any circumstances that might drastically change the following course of events or the character's fate which generally can be attributed to a very well-written espionage thriller. It has double agents as well as speculated treble agents.(Kudos to Alistair Maclean!)

The snappy exchanges between the main protagonist and his side-kick are amazing and so are the sky-drop scene and breaching the formidable and the inaccessible Schloss Adler, a castle where all the eminent German officials and the hostage to be rescued are located.

Why would I give it a '2.5 really' rating is because the transpiring of events, the build-up of the plot seems stiff and reeks with the scenic technical details which makes the book read-out like a movie script rather than a thriller book. From what I understand, thanks to the group-read discussions, Alistair Maclean was simultaneously writing the screenplay of the movie. The same is conspicuous in his writing style of the book. The only thing that came out good from this is the fact that the book was short and not time consuming. The author fails to develop interest in the protagonist and makes the reader anticipate more appearances from the other characters in the book which the author inadvertently gives a lovable characteristic traits at the start of the book.

The book also pays homage to ancient clichés. For instance, the protagonists are hiding in a room in one of the buildings in a chase sequence and a German soldier seems to miss checking on the same room. The protagonist then explains this incident to his side-kick with the help of a bleak psychological reasoning that the individual who missed this room did so deliberately because he too wanted to avoid the remote possibility of encountering them. The other German soldiers also seemed to look for the suspects in the wrong way and at crucial times looking away to the luck of the protagonists.

Last thought, maybe I should have just watched the movie than read the book.

Randy says

Take a WWII spy plot. Add some action sequences and some plot twists. Then add some more plot twists.

Then some more action and more plot twists. Then a few more plots twists and some spy stuff and action and more plot twists. Also, characters, add some of those if you have room, and some smart aleck-y dialogue (50 years ago we didn't call it "snarky"). A few more twists and you're ready to publish your Alistair MacLean novel.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

Alistair MacLean wrote the screen play for his close friend, Richard Burton. Burton's star power was sliding at the time of the film and he wanted an action film along the lines of Maclean's bestseller and hit movie, *The Guns of Navarone*. And he got it! The novel is in fact based upon the screenplay, rather than the other way around - slightly odd.

I watched the film last night and I had to read the novel. And it is the screenplay. The first 30 pages are a bit slow, since one really can't get the anxiousness of the team. *A team of British Special Forces commandos parachutes into the high peaks of the Austrian Alps with the mission of stealing into an invulnerable alpine castle—accessible only by aerial gondola—the headquarters of Nazi intelligence. Supposedly sent in to rescue one of their own, their real mission turns out to be a lot more complicated—and the tension climbs as team members start to die off, one by one.*

There are a few scenes that suspension of disbelief is necessary, but they don't violate the viability of the story negatively. MacLean understands how to write an action thriller and I would recommend Alistair MacLean to read any day of the week. To give more of the storyline besides the book blurb would reveal the delicious twists, turns, and events that would destroy a reader's pleasure.

Roopkumar Balachandran says

For me some of the books authored by Clive Cussler, Jack Higgins, Ken Follett and Dan Brown as and when the novel reaches the end I feel why not add another 50 or 100 pages to the story. This I felt when I finished reading *Where Eagles Dare*.

I came to know about this novel when joined good reads, then I got the DVD watched it before reading the book. This year in the book exhibition I bought Alistair MacLean's suspense thriller "*Where Eagles Dare*"

Mission:

A team of 6 British special forces headed by Major John Smith and one American Lieutenant Morris Schaffer were airdropped behind enemy lines to rescue an US Army General George Carnaby having secret with him about D-day plan, he who had crash landed and is in the custody of Germans in an impregnable fortress, an inaccessible eyrie set between mountain and sky, Schloss Adler.

Though the mission looks to be simple but the team also has double agents and on the way to Schloss Adler two members die mysteriously. There are many twists in the story, is Major Smith is really from British force or is he a German and double agent named Major Johann Schmidt? Is the crash landing of the American General is a drama? What so special about the General George Carnaby? and more questions arise when we dwell into the story.

The humorous exchange of Smith and Schaffer all along the adventure (it made me laugh most of the time), the breathtaking action over the cable car, the superb plan of Smith to enter Schloss Adler, his psychological

approach towards his adversaries are so beautiful to read. The book is below 300 pages and I feel one time reading is not enough. The only drawback is that the first 30 pages drags on and when the seven team members lands on Weisspitze the story picks up speed and it becomes a page turner.

More of this review with images click the link below.

<http://www.chromaring.com/2018/01/whe...>

James Phillips says

A masterful spy thriller set in WWII. A rag-tag group of MI-6 operatives along with one American OSS agent are sent to Bavaria, deep behind enemy lines to rescue a captured US Army general who has information on the Second Front (the invasion of Europe) before he spills all their secrets. This is not an action war book one would expect. Maclean's story is a page-turning thriller that includes misdirection, red herrings and double-crosses. The dialog is smart between characters and the Germans are more than mere cookie-cutter characters. The pace is fast and suspenseful, always a sense of urgency and the feeling that the heroes maybe be caught at any moment. Wonderful book.

John Rollo says

John Rollo

Period 3

Where Eagles Dare by: Alistair MacLean

The story Where Eagles Dare started off a bit slow for me, but as the story went on, the action really kicked in. The story begins with a problem, an important American general is being held hostage in a secret Gestapo facility by the SS. Britain is America's closest ally to the situation and is called in to help. They assemble a team of men to infiltrate the facility and the book is then filled with mysteries and unfortunate scenarios for these would be heroes. The story unfolds and asks the questions will they be able to save the American in time, and if so what other horrors might they uncover at this secret base and what lengths might they be forced to go to.

I would defiantly recommend this book to you Mrs. Abood, I'm sure you would enjoy it. I couldn't say too much in the summary without giving something away but it is an action packed book that I highly recommend you picking up. Make sure that you give it a chance because as I said it is slow to start up, which is the reason I only gave it 4 stars, but I guarantee it is worth your time.

Nandakishore Varma says

Had I reviewed this in my thriller-loving youth, I would have given it five stars. It is the adventure story par excellence: the secret mission behind enemy lines carried out by a group of intrepid adventurers: the snowbound castle up in the sky: fights on the top a moving cable car: and double-crosses, double-double-

crosses and (even) double-double-double-crosses.

However, nowadays I find all such stories shallow, the adventure rather juvenile and the Anglo-centric view a bit nauseating. Hence the three stars.

But if gung-ho adventure stories are your thing, you can't make a mistake with this.
