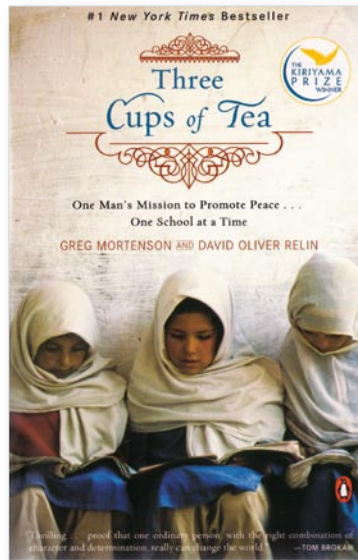


IF there is one book that could change the way you see yourself – and your enemy – *Three Cups of Tea* is it. Skillfully weaving data gleaned over two years of extensive interviews into an engaging tale, award-winning journalist David Oliver Relin helps unravel the inspiring story of a man with a mission to promote peace, one school at a time, in this enthralling narrative.

In 1993, mountaineer Greg Mortenson attempted K2's treacherous "Savage Peak" in the Karakoram Mountains but failed. The experience left him seriously ill, and Mortenson found himself being sheltered for seven weeks and nursed back to health by villagers in Korphe, Pakistan. Moved by their kindness, Mortenson decided to return the favour – by investing in their futures, and promising to build them a school.

Instead of wallowing in self-pity or lamenting his disappointment, Mortenson turned his failed adventure into a fascinating tale of goodwill and generosity, while fighting for the rights of the forgotten poor.

In an extraordinary progression of events over the course of a decade, Mortenson's project started with one school which

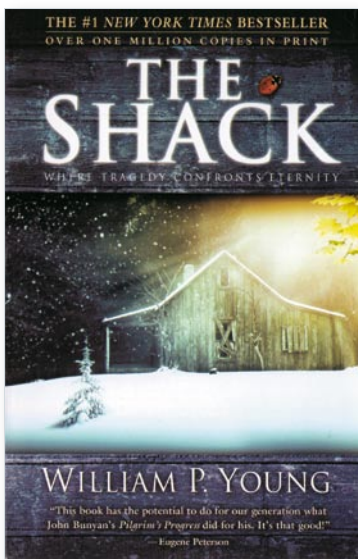


**Three Cups of Tea
– One Man's Mission to Promote
Peace... One School at a Time**
by Greg Mortenson
and David Oliver Relin

became the Central Asia Institute – the base for Mortenson's 55 schools today. This new quest proved just as, if not more difficult and dangerous than K2 – Mortenson was creating schools for girls in a country where women and education are forbidden to go hand in hand.

This riveting tale depicts Mortenson's dedication to countering extremism and changing the world. He may not have scaled K2, but he shows us what great heights can be accomplished with strength of character, dogged determination and unwavering persistence.

This inspiring biography – winner of a multitude of awards, including Time magazine's Asia Book of the Year 2007 and a New York Times #1 bestseller – chronicles not just the magnificent humanitarian efforts of one man, but also paints a portrait of a world which we know so little about. Mortenson's insights into the Pakistani people will make you realise how much human beings really have in common. That knowledge can transform the unknown from foe to friend – one schoolgirl at a time. ■



**The Shack – Where Tragedy
Confronts Eternity**
by William P. Young

IN *The Shack*, author William P. Young successfully marries two great faith-based literary works – Frank Peretti's thriller *This Present Darkness* and Rick Joyner's richly prophetic *The Final Call* – in his gripping tale of one man's honest battle with grief and God.

The theology of spiritual belief and the psychology of grief are intricately woven throughout the story of Mack, who comes to terms with personal tragedy – The Great Sadness – that consumes not only him, but his whole family, when his youngest daughter is brutally murdered in an abandoned shack after being abducted from a family camping trip.

What ensues is a strange turn of events when, four years later, Mack receives a note in the mail, apparently from God, inviting him to return to the shack. Beckoned by an inner persuasion against his better judgment, Mack makes the journey back to the wilderness, where his least expected encounters with God will forever change his life.

Whether the reader is a Christian or not, *The Shack* is an invitation to embark on a spiritual journey and rediscover God in the

midst of great pain. Young boldly delves into the issue of sorrow and suffering, tackling the mystery of God's will and the universal question: "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

In a gripping, beautifully-crafted narrative replete with allegorical imagery, Young not only unravels the plot of Mack's story, but subtly presents the idea of who God is, while challenging commonly held views of institutionalised religion. This book offers deep concepts of theology in a simple manner that is easily understood.

The Shack's ever-developing plot will keep you at the edge of your seat, while constantly prodding beneath your own belief systems to explore what a relationship with God entails – beyond the present realities of pain and suffering.

For those who have experienced great loss or are going through a season of grief, this book is a sunbeam of hope and a promise of a glimpse of eternity. Released last December, it topped the New York Times bestseller list and remains on Amazon's top 100. It has been hailed as *The Pilgrim's Progress* for today's generation. ■