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Into the Silence is a well-researched record of the experience of several of Britain's elite mountaineers and their supporters during the "Great War", and a compellingly-written account of their next challenge--the three attempts to climb Mount Everest during the early 1920's. Highly recommended!

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The terrible influence of the Great War still lingered then, and had entered the collective soul of the climbers, as of their nation. Many of the 28 Britons who took

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I was enthralled by Wade Davis's Into the Silence, an account of three failed Everest expeditions leading up to the death of Mallory in 1924, which brilliantly places those feats of endurance in the context of British imperialism and the psychological aftermath of the First World War. Ben Macintyre, The Times.

Into The Silence by Wade Davis - Penguin Books Australia

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**INTO SILENCE: GREAT WAR,
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The mismatch between their outdated mental models and the new reality led them to practically sleepwalk into the lethality of World War I, unheeding of the warnings of the Boer and Russo-Japanese ...

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The definitive story of the British
adventurers who survived the trenches of
World War I and went on to risk their
lives climbing Mount Everest. On June 6,
1924, two men set out from a camp
perched at 23,000 feet on an ice ledge just
below the lip of Everest's North Col.
George Mallory, thirty-seven, was
Britain's finest climber. Sandy Irvine was
a twenty-two-year-old Oxford scholar with
little previous mountaineering experience.
Neither of them returned. Drawing on
more than a decade of prodigious research,
bestselling author and explorer Wade
Davis vividly re-creates the heroic efforts
of Mallory and his fellow climbers, setting
their significant achievements in sweeping
historical context: from Britain's nineteen-
century imperial ambitions to the war that
shaped Mallory's generation. Theirs was a
country broken, and the Everest
expeditions emerged as a powerful symbol

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of national redemption and hope. In
Davis's rich exploration, he creates a
timeless portrait of these remarkable men
and their extraordinary times.

**WINNER OF THE 2012 SAMUEL
JOHNSON PRIZE** A monumental work of
history, biography and adventure - the
First World War, Mallory and Mount
Everest 'The price of life is death' For
Mallory, as for all of his generation, death
was but 'a frail barrier that men crossed,
smiling and gallant, every day'. As
climbers they accepted a degree of risk
unimaginable before the war. What
mattered now was how one lived, and the
moments of being alive. While the quest
for Mount Everest may have begun as a
grand imperial gesture, it ended as a
mission of revival for a country and a lost
generation bled white by war. In a
monumental work of history and

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adventure, Davis asks not whether George Mallory was the first to reach the summit of Everest, but rather why he kept climbing on that fateful day.

A magnificent work of history, biography and adventure. If the quest for Mount Everest began as a grand imperial gesture, as redemption for an empire of explorers that had lost the race to the Poles, it ended as a mission of regeneration for a country and a people bled white by war. Of the twenty-six British climbers who, on three expeditions (1921-24), walked 400 miles off the map to find and assault the highest mountain on Earth, twenty had seen the worst of the fighting. Six had been severely wounded, two others nearly died of disease at the Front, one was hospitalized twice with shell shock. Three as army surgeons dealt for the duration with the agonies of the dying. Two lost

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brothers, killed in action. All had endured the slaughter, the coughing of the guns, the bones and barbed wire, the white faces of the dead. In a monumental work of history and adventure, ten years in the writing, Wade Davis asks not whether George Mallory was the first to reach the summit of Everest, but rather why he kept on climbing on that fateful day. His answer lies in a single phrase uttered by one of the survivors as they retreated from the mountain: "The price of life is death." Mallory walked on because for him, as for all of his generation, death was but "a frail barrier that men crossed, smiling and gallant, every day." As climbers they accepted a degree of risk unimaginable before the war. They were not cavalier, but death was no stranger. They had seen so much of it that it had no hold on them. What mattered was how one lived, the moments of being alive. For all of them

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Everest had become an exalted radiance, a sentinel in the sky, a symbol of hope in a world gone mad.

This book examines how the British people came to terms with the massive trauma of the First World War. Although the literary memory of the war has often been discussed, little has been written on the public ceremonies on and around 11 November which dominated the public memory of the war in the inter-war years. This book aims to remedy the deficiency by showing the pre-eminence of Armistice Day, both in reflecting what people felt about the war and in shaping their memories of it. It shows that this memory was complex rather than simple and that it was continually contested. Finally it seeks to examine the impact of the Second World War on the memory of the First and to show how difficult it is to recapture the

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idealistic assumptions of a world that believed it had experienced 'the war to end all wars'.

About 25 years ago, Ted Barris began breaking through the silence. Because of his unique interviewing skills, he found that veterans would talk to him, set the record straight and put a face on the service and sacrifice of men and women in uniform.

This account of British life in the wake of World War I is “social history at its very best . . . insightful and utterly absorbing” (Minneapolis Star-Tribune). As the euphoria of Armistice Day in 1918 quickly subsided, there was no denying the carnage that the Great War had left in its wake. Grief and shock overwhelmed the psyche of the British people—but from their despair, new life would slowly

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Davis
emerge. For veterans with faces
demolished in the trenches, surgeon
Harold Gillies brings hope with his
miraculous skin-grafting procedure.

Women win the vote, skirt hems leap, and
Brits forget their troubles at packed dance
halls. And two years later, the remains of a
nameless combatant would be laid to rest
in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at
Westminster Abbey, as “The Great
Silence,” observed in memory of the
countless dead, halted citizens in silent
reverence. This history of two
transformative years in the life of a nation
features countless characters, from an
aging butler to a pair of newlyweds, from
the Prince of Wales to T.E. Lawrence, the
real-life Lawrence of Arabia. The Great
Silence depicts a nation fighting the forces
that threaten to tear it apart and
discovering the common bonds that hold it
together. “A pearl of anecdotal history,

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The Great Silence is a satisfying companion to major studies of World War I and its aftermath . . . as Nicolson proceeds through the familiar stages of grief—denial, anger and acceptance—she gives you a deeper understanding of not only this brief period, but also how war’s sacrifices don’t end after the fighting stops.” —The Seattle Times “It may make you cry.” —The Boston Globe

A sweeping and dramatic history of the last half century of conflict in the Middle East from an award-winning journalist who has covered the region for over forty years, *The Great War for Civilisation* unflinchingly chronicles the tragedy of the region from the Algerian Civil War to the Iranian Revolution; from the American hostage crisis in Beirut to the Iran-Iraq War; from the 1991 Gulf War to the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. A

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book of searing drama as well as lucid,
incisive analysis, The Great War for
Civilisation is a work of major importance
for today's world.

In a fascinating memoir by the first man to
mount the peak of Everest, Hillary
discusses the adventures that shaped his
life, from the South Pole to the Ganges
River. Reprint.

“An outstanding book.” —The Wall Street
Journal * “Gripping at every turn.”
—Outside * “A hell of a ride.” —The Times
(London) An extraordinary true story
about one man’s attempt to salve the
wounds of war and save his own soul
through an audacious adventure. In the
1930s, as official government expeditions
set their sights on conquering Mount
Everest, a little-known World War I
veteran named Maurice Wilson conceives

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his own crazy, beautiful plan: he will fly a plane from England to Everest, crash-land on its lower slopes, then become the first person to reach its summit—completely alone. Wilson doesn't know how to climb. He barely knows how to fly. But he has the right plane, the right equipment, and a deep yearning to achieve his goal. In 1933, he takes off from London in a Gipsy Moth biplane with his course set for the highest mountain on earth. Wilson's eleven-month journey to Everest is wild: full of twists, turns, and daring. Eventually, in disguise, he sneaks into Tibet. His icy ordeal is just beginning. Wilson is one of the Great War's heroes, but also one of its victims. His hometown of Bradford in northern England is ripped apart by the fighting. So is his family. He barely survives the war himself. Wilson returns from the conflict unable to cope with the sadness that engulfs him. He begins a

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years-long trek around the world, burning through marriages and relationships, leaving damaged lives in his wake. When he finally returns to England, nearly a decade after he first left, he finds himself falling in love once more—this time with his best friend’s wife—before depression overcomes him again. He emerges from his funk with a crystalline ambition. He wants to be the first man to stand on top of the world. Wilson believes that Everest can redeem him. This is the “rollicking” (The Economist) tale of an adventurer unlike any you have ever encountered: complex, driven, wry, haunted, and fully alive. He is a man written out of the history books—dismissed as an eccentric and gossiped about because of rumors of his transvestism. The Moth and the Mountain restores Maurice Wilson to his rightful place in the annals of Everest and tells an unforgettable story about the

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Jacob Horowitz, a worn and bitter business tycoon, has never spoken to anyone about his experience of Nazi persecution during World War II -- not even his recently deceased wife, Liza. Suddenly stricken with terminal cancer, the aging Jew receives an invitation from his old friend Pierre, a Gentile Christian and former Belgian underground operative, to pay him one last visit in Belgium. Jacob accepts, and determines to take along his estranged son Isaac. In this fast-paced, vivid historical account set alternately in war-torn Europe and today's United States, the consequences of war become clear. Momentous events push the hardened Horowitz toward reconciliation with his youngest son, with his past, with God, and with himself.

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