

# Perishing in the Wild: A Study of George Mallory and Christopher Mccandless

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## *Abstract*

*In this paper the lives and deaths of George Mallory and Christopher McCandless shall be studied from the perspective of their involvement with the wild landscape. What drove them to surrender the comfort of their settled lives to engage with the wilderness and why they left behind their families and friends shall be studied. Why both the personalities also became the figures of fascination and mystery in the popular imagination shall also be looked upon. By bringing the two figures, one that died in 1924 and the other in 1992, a comparative study of their lives and deaths is aimed at in this paper.*

**Keywords:** *Biography, Memoir, Adventure, Non-fiction, First Everest Expedition, George Mallory, Christopher McCandless*

The year 2024 marks as the centenary of the 1924 Everest expedition. The charm and fascination around the figure of George Mallory seems to have only increased. There have been quite a few biographies written around him and the Everest expedition of 1924 and yet there seems to be all the more interest in it. The tragic deaths of Mallory and Irvine and their ascent to the summit of the Everest is forever shrouded in mystery, as everyone speculates whether they actually summited the Everest and were on their way back when they died or whether they died before summiting the peak. Another figure around whom a lot of intrigue has built up is Christopher McCandless, who again died in mysterious circumstances in the wilderness of Alaska as he went there exploring and living in utter isolation.

The fascination associated with the mountains for people can at times result in a mania. Mountains, one of the most extraordinary aspects of the terrestrial landscape have been a subject of fascination for the masses. At the basic level it is travelling to the mountainous landscape for recuperation or for leisure that the majority of the population

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