



## The Villain: The Life of Don Whillans

By Jim Perrin

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Don Whillans has an iconic significance for generations of climbers. His epoch-making first ascent of Annapurna's South Face, achieved with Dougal Haston in 1970, remains one of the most impressive climbs ever made - but behind this and all his other formidable achievements lies a tough, recalcitrant reality: the character of the man himself.

Whillans carried within himself a sense of personal invincibility, forceful, direct and uncompromising. It gave him sporting superstar status - the flawed heroism of a Best, a McEnroe, an Ali. In his own circle, his image was the working-class hero on the rock-face, laconic and bellicose, ready to go to war with the elements or with any human who crossed his path on a bad day.

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## **The Villain: The Life of Don Whillans By Jim Perrin Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“Wonderfully crafted . . . One of the most gifted chroniclers of mountaineering. . . Perrin records it all with a subtle sympathy, laying bare British mountaineering’s most mythologized figure.”

—*Independent*

### From the Inside Flap

A fascinating, thought-provoking biography of a climbing legend.

Don Whillans has been an icon for generations of climbers. His first ascent of Annapurna’s South Face with Dougal Haston in 1970, remains one of the most impressive climbs ever made – a standard to which all contemporary Himalayan climbers aspire. But Perrin examines the tough reality behind Whillans’ formidable achievements – the character of the man himself. Despite his skill and daring, Whillans was a savage-tongued, hell-raising scrapper – turned down for a Queen’s Birthday honour, because of a violent fracas with the police. Coming out of a world miles away from the environment of the upper class climbers who dominated the sport, Whillans’ forceful, uncompromising personality gave him superstar status – the flawed heroism of a Best, a McEnroe, or an Ali.

### About the Author

Jim Perrin is a writer, broadcaster and photographer who has been described as “the most outstanding prose writer of present-day Wales”. His travels on a Harley, across the USA were recently published in the *Daily Telegraph* under the title *High on the Hog*.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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