THE YOUNG READER'S EDITION

Three Cups of Tea

One Man's Journey to Change the World...
One Child at a Time
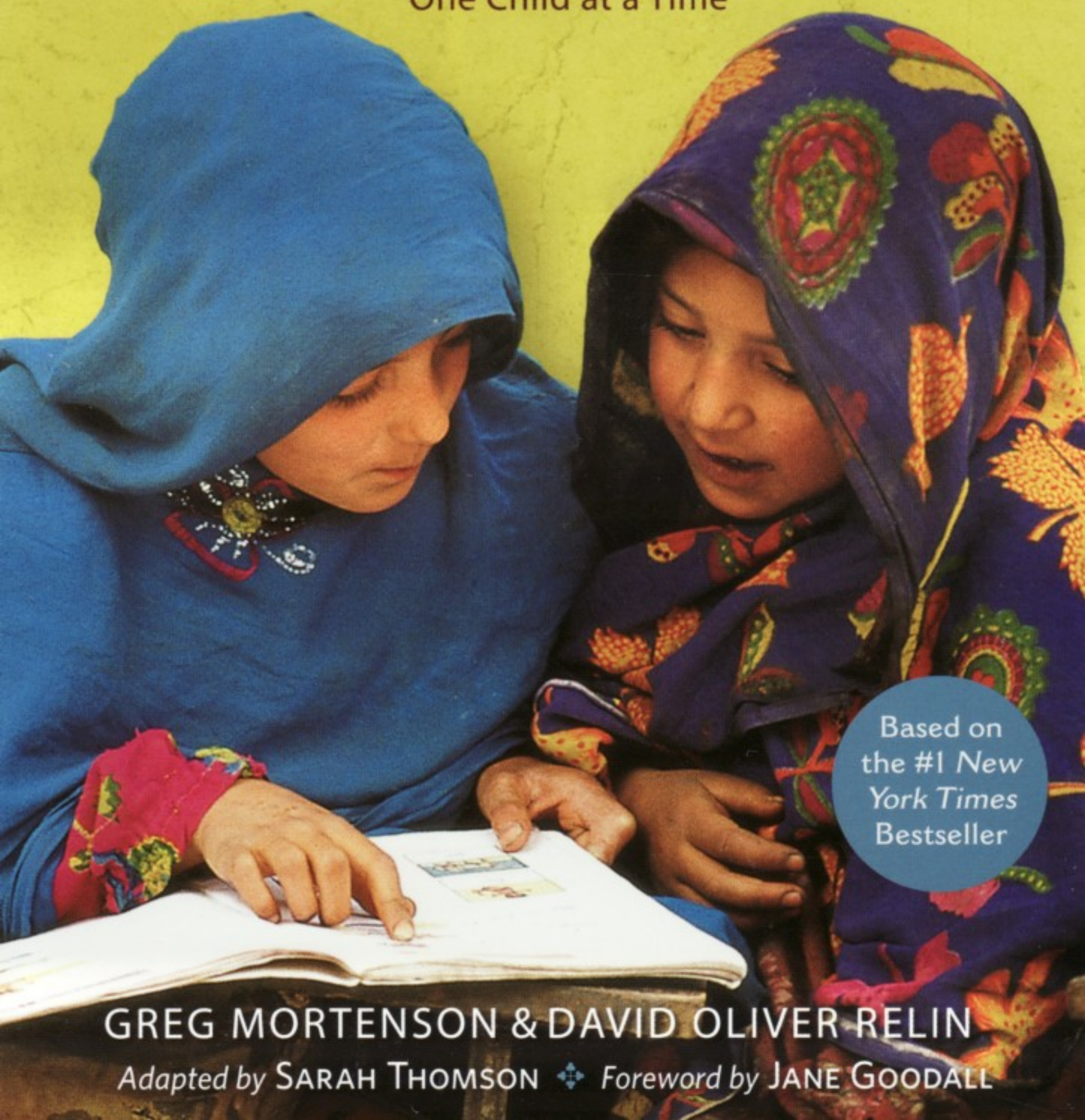
GREG MORTENSON & DAVID OLIVER RELIN

Adapted by SARAH THOMSON ✤ Foreword by JANE GOODALL

CHAPTER 1
Failure

Greg Mortenson was lost.

He didn't know it yet.

He was hiking down the Baltoro **Glacier,** a frozen river that flows along a mountain slope at a rate of four inches a day. His heavy black boots didn't seem to be moving any faster than the ice beneath them. At any moment, he thought, he'd look up and see Scott Darsney, a fellow mountain climber, sitting on a rock, waiting and laughing at him for being so slow. But he didn't realize that he had taken a wrong turn. He should have been walking west, toward a village where he hoped to hire a jeep driver to take him out of the mountains. In reality, he was now headed south, into a landscape that was a maze of shattered chunks of ice.

Greg and Darsney were part of an **expedition** that had set out three months before to reach the **summit** of a mountain called K2, part of the **Karakoram** Range in Pakistan. K2 is the

second-highest mountain on Earth; only Mount Everest reaches farther into the clouds. Most mountain climbers consider it to be the toughest peak in the world. Its slopes are so steep that snow can't cling to them. But Greg Mortenson knew what he was doing. He'd reached the summit of Mount **Kilimanjaro** by the age of eleven. He'd learned to climb in Yosemite National Park. He'd made it up mountains in the **Himalayas** before. He had no doubt that he'd reach the top of K2 with the **amber** necklace he carried in his pocket.

It had belonged to his sister, Christa, who'd died on her twenty-third birthday, in July 1992. Greg planned to leave the necklace on K2 in Christa's honor. And he'd come close— within six hundred feet of the summit. But now he was headed
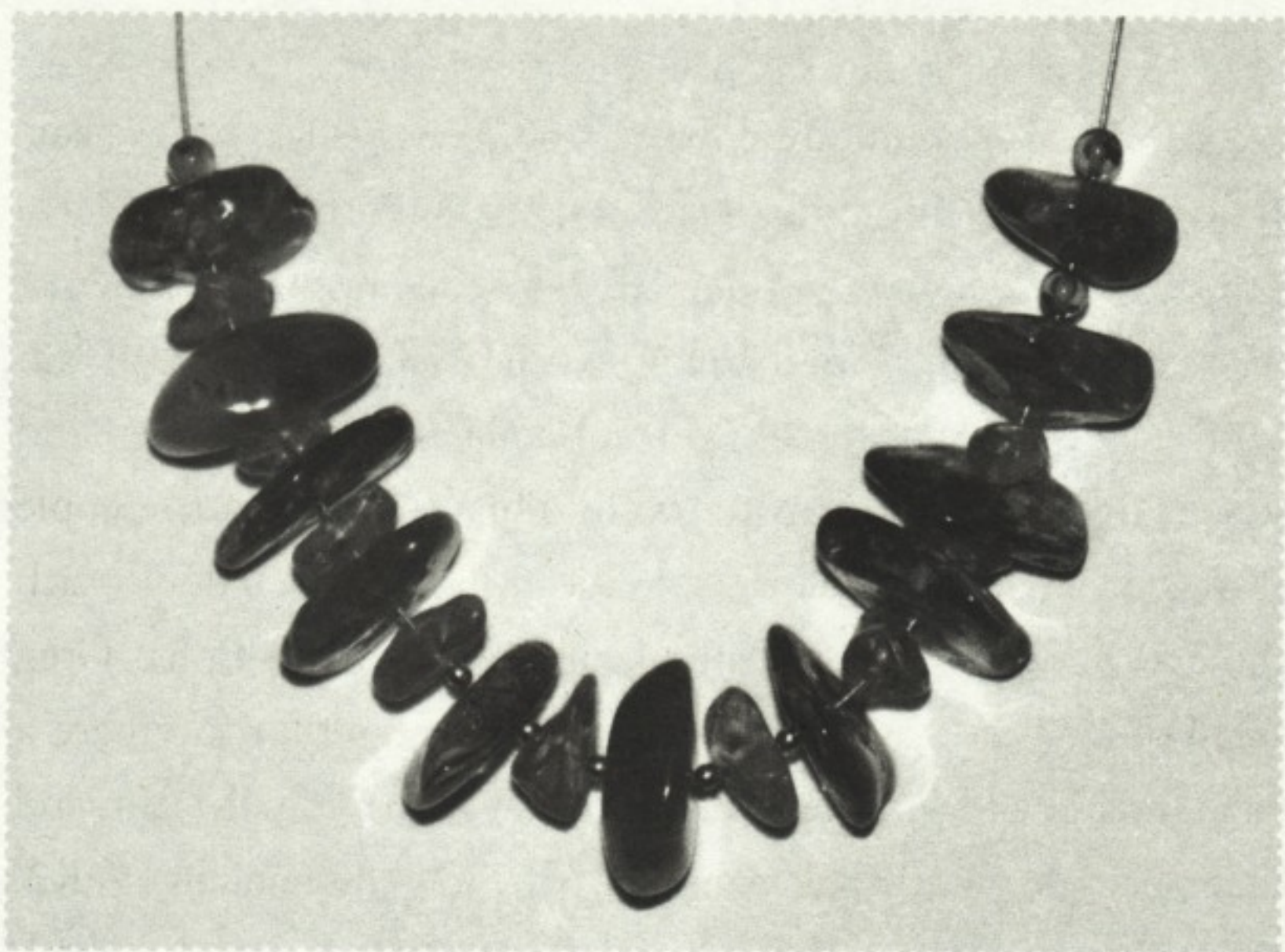
Christa's amber neckace

Tara Bishop

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Greg Mortenson (third from right in cap) with Scott Darsney (far right) before taking on K2

back down the mountain, Christa's necklace still in his pocket. Failure—not something he was used to—was on his mind.

Greg and Darsney had helped to rescue another member of their team, Etienne Fine. When Fine neared the summit of K2, he'd gotten extremely sick as fluid collected in his lungs, and tissues in his brain began to swell. This can happen to people at altitudes above what their bodies are used to. Along with the expedition's leaders, Dan Mazur and Jonathan Pratt, Greg and Darsney had carried Fine down the mountain to where a helicopter could land and take him to a hospital. Mazur and Pratt had returned and managed to reach the summit of K2, but Greg and Darsney, already exhausted from a stressful climb

With the first cup of tea you are a stranger.
With the second…a friend.
With the third cup of tea, you are family.

In 1993, Greg Mortenson tried to climb K2 in honor of his younger sister, but when another member of his group got sick, they turned around, and Greg became lost in the mountains of Pakistan. He wandered into a poor village, where the village chief and his people took him in. Moved by their kindness, he promised to return and build a school for the children. Over the next decade, Mortenson built more than sixty schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He has endured death threats, a kidnapping, and more to dedicate his life to building literacy and peace, one child at a time.

INCLUDES AN INTERVIEW WITH 12-YEAR-OLD AMIRA MORTENSON

This YOUNG READER'S EDITION of the worldwide best seller *Three Cups of Tea* has been adapted for younger readers and updated to bring Greg's remarkable story to life with new photos and illustrations, a glossary, and an exclusive interview with Greg's twelve-year-old daughter, Amira, who has traveled with her father.

www.threecupsoftea.com
www.gregmortenson.com
www.penniesforpeace.org
www.penguinyouthvoices.org