

# O'Bryon's book a tale of survival

By Kelvin Wee  
Emerald Encore Editor

It was October, 1967. Eleanor Dart and her fiance, Ogden Kellogg, were both lost on Devil Mountain in Baja, Mexico.

American and Mexican newspapers and television news were filled with their story. Nearing death from starvation and exposure, the two young Americans were finally rescued.

Today, 22 years later, Eleanor Dart O'Bryon has completed her book entitled *Coming Home From Devil Mountain*.

The book contains excerpts from the journals of both O'Bryon and her late father, Francis Dart, a former physics professor at the University, who looked for the lost couple.

"The book is not just about being lost in the mountain," O'Bryon explained. "It's also about my relationship with my father."

O'Bryon said the high level of honesty in the book is due to the fact that she never originally wrote her journals for publication, but for the pure reason of chronicling her life.

"I've always written journals," O'Bryon said. "I feel like I want to touch people's hearts and you can't touch people's hearts without being honest."

In addition, O'Bryon said she chose to use the journal excerpts in its original form with little or no editing because she wanted her readers to feel the uncensored emotions that went

through her while she was chronicling her life.

"I didn't change my father's words and I didn't change my own words, those are exactly the words I wrote when I was in that situation," she said. "The only thing I did was to delete repetitious phrases. That's what gives it the power."

The book's power also comes from O'Bryon's struggle to publish her book; it has taken a 20-year struggle for that to happen.

"I had touched something very deep in myself and in the connection with the natural world and I had discovered that death is nothing to be afraid of," she said. "I struggled with it for a while. I knew that something incredibly important had happened to me but there was really nobody around me who was able to help me."

But things have improved since she moved to Tucson, Ariz., a few years ago to gather her life together and now is ready to pursue the future as a writer, she said.

"My priorities are not to make a living and buy things," she said. "My priorities are to listen to myself and live as deeply as I can. If I just slow down and listen to myself I find that I know what is important for me."

"I didn't start doing that until a few years ago," she said. "And what I found out was that I need to maintain the kind of deep connection with nature that I discovered in the mountain and I need to share what I



Eleanor Dart O'Bryon

feel through writing." *Coming Home From Devil Mountain* is an intense book, filled with uncensored emotions, fears and feelings.

In addition, O'Bryon will be signing copies of her book at the Eugene Hilton Hotel, 2 Eugene Center, at the Northwest Booksellers Convention today.

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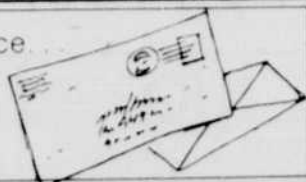


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