

CRAIG STORTI is founder and co-director of Communicating Across Cultures, an intercultural communication training and consulting firm based in Washington, DC. He is the author of ten books and has written for the *Washington Post, Los Angeles Times* and *Chicago Tribune*. Having lived in Nepal for several years and trekked extensively in the Himalayas, he now lives in Maryland.

Jacket illustration © Joe Wilson Author photograph © Charlotte Storti johnmurraypress.co.uk craigstorti.com @johnmurrays #HuntMtEverest The Untold Story of the SEVENTY-YEAR QUEST TO FIND THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN.

> 'Tense and detailed' John Keay, author of India: A History

'A rich and fascinating book that tells the story of Everest in glimpses from unexpected angles, revealing one face then another, discovering surprising new routes through well-trodden terrain. Nick Hunt, author of Where the Wild Winds Are

'Entertaining and enlightening' Peter Gillman, co-author of The Wildest Dream: The Biography of George Mallory spine conf @ 28mm

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JOHN MURRAY

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In the centenary year of the first Everest expedition, the breathtaking story of how the mountain was found.

The legend of Everest begins, in most accounts, with the first British expedition of 1921. And yet the quest to identify, measure and – at last – set foot on Everest was itself a remarkable feat. *The Hunt for Mount Everest* ends where the popular legend begins: it is the seldom-told account of all that happened before.

The height of Everest was first measured in 1850, but the closest any westerner got to Everest during the next seventy-one years, was forty miles. It is a story that traverses the Alps, the Himalayas, Nepal and Tibet, the British Raj, the Anglo-Russian 'Great Game', the disastrous First Afghan War and the phenomenal Survey of India. A tale of high drama, its prize attracted larger-than-life characters – George Everest, Francis Younghusband, George Mallory, Lord Curzon, Edward Whymper – and a few quiet heroes: Alexander Kellas, the 13th Dalai Lama and Charles Bell. It drew together spies, adventurers, renegades, hundreds of mules, camels, bullocks, yaks and two zebrules.

As we approach the centenary of the first expedition, this book tells the fascinating and overlooked sagas of exploration, engineering, diplomacy, daring, persistence and even conflict that made possible that moment in June 1921 when two English climbers became the first westerners (and almost certainly the first human beings) to set foot on Everest – so claiming the last remaining major prize in the history of exploration.

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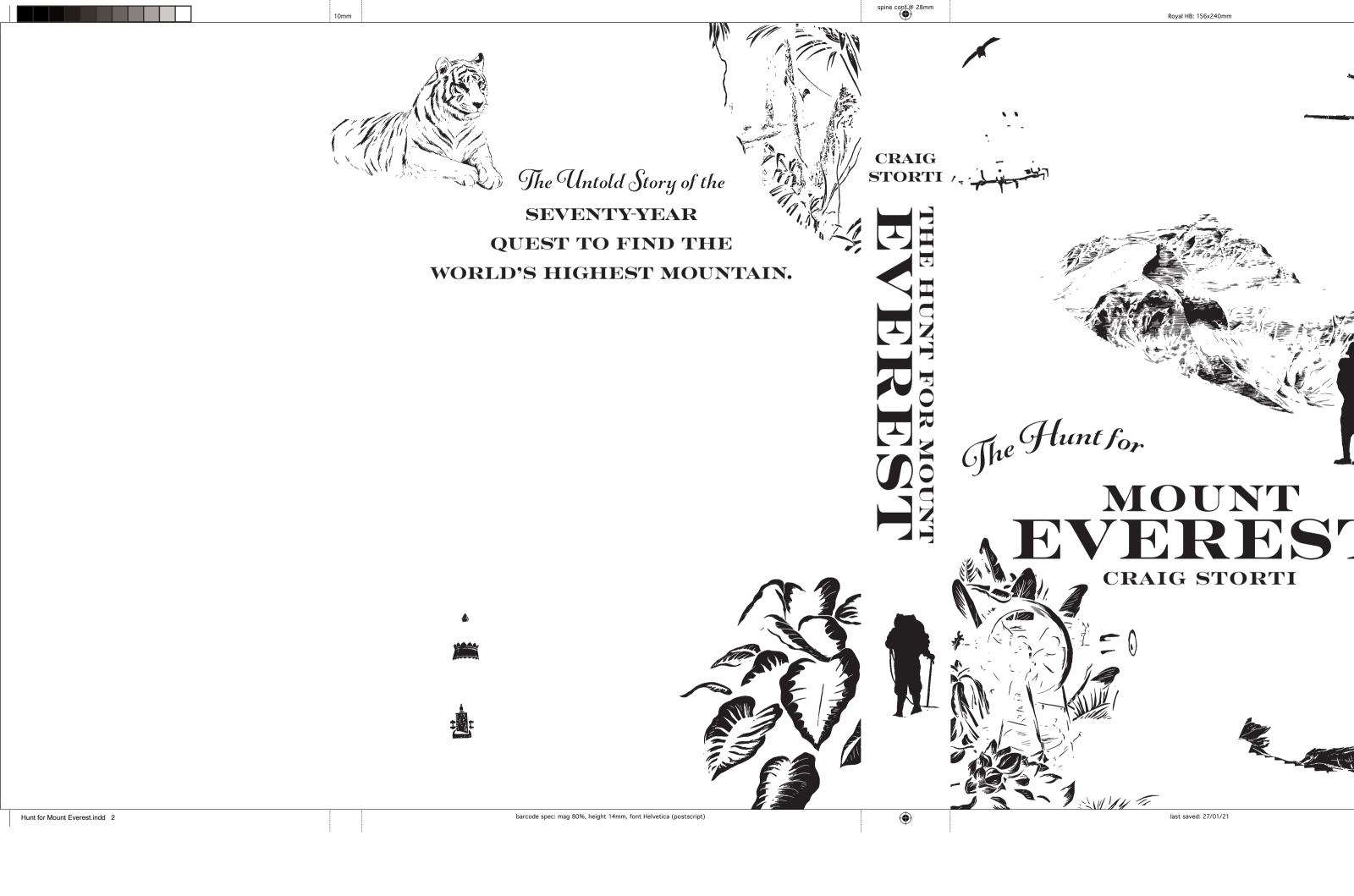
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