

# The Savage (K2)

*by* Tabatha Stirling

Rises monstrous out of the Baltoro Glacier

Playing poker with oxygen levels

Plays leap frog with embolisms.

Malice and vanity join forces so  
murder guns the air even before  
the Death Zone. Down suits, bold and cocky  
registers the climber's ambitions.

The Serac , a crisp, white wall of kill,  
threatens to round and pound for  
days before it does so,

a devious cancer waiting for its moment.

Art's rescue was in full flow when  
the avalanche took him and he faded into  
powder.

All the boys gone, doing what they loved

Big Ger and Rolf, who left his Cecilie

on the ropes. Wilco's lust for his summit  
saw the Koreans tangled and questions asked.

No answers, though, and ninety different stories

Crowded into a bottleneck of truth and

lies as the moans of Winter's

ghosts howled louder.

