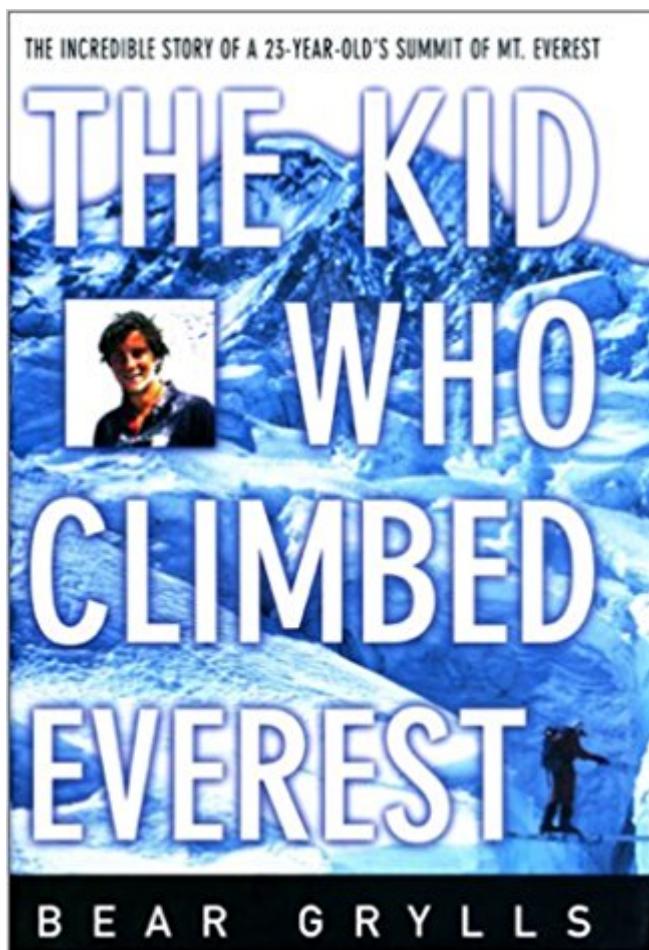


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The Kid Who Climbed Everest



Synopsis

In 1996, while serving in the British Army, Bear Grylls broke his back in a freefall parachuting accident in southern Africa. Miraculously, he was not paralyzed. After spending months in a military rehabilitation center, Bear decided to leave the army in order to realize a childhood dream: to climb Mount Everest. Bear endured over seventy days on Everest's southeast face, and only narrowly escaped death when he fell into a crevasse at 19,000 feet. At the age of twenty-three, he overcame extreme weather conditions and months of limited sleep to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain. "The Kid Who Climbed Everest" is a personal story of courage, humor, friendship, and faith, and will inspire readers both young and old alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Everest," writes British climber Bear Grylls, "is no place to prove yourself. The likelihood of reaching the summit is so slim that you're inevitably setting yourself up to be disappointed." But, Grylls continues, mountains are most definitely an arena where alpinists express their deepest drives, and he had more ambition than most. Badly injured in a parachuting accident in 1996, he resigned his army commission and cast about for a new career--a decision he succeeded in putting off by enlisting in a climbing expedition to the world's tallest mountain. Now, Grylls points out, the odds of a well-conditioned climber's making the summit of Everest are something like one in a hundred; for climbers under the age of 30, who lack the experience and conditioning that age brings, those odds slim down to 1 in 1,000. Twenty-three at the time, Grylls took his chances nonetheless, despite the "sinking feeling that I had just made a commitment that was going to drag

me a little too far out of my comfort zone." He fulfilled his commitment, though surely not without discomfort, scared but determined, making his way up deadly obstacles such as the Lhotse Face Icewall and its deep crevasses. Other climbers were not so lucky, he writes in this you-are-there account of his time on the mountain, and death is a constant presence on these pages--which may deter readers who seek to follow in his footholds. For those content to travel up sheer rock and ice walls vicariously, though, Grylls's book is a spirited exercise in adventure writing and a promising debut. --Gregory McNamee

For a year, Grylls held the record for the Youngest Englishman on the Hill for his summit ascent at age 23 (only to be bested the following year by a 22-year-old). Grylls, while serving in the army, suffered a parachuting accident that nearly severed his spinal cord. After eight months in a military rehab center, he decided to leave the military and climb the legendary Everest. Barely escaping death (he fell into a crevasse at 19,000 feet), he reached the summit just 18 months after his accident. Unfortunately, Grylls's account of 70 days on Everest has a flat pitch, stiff syntax and little insight to offer on the experience of reaching for the top of the world save earnest observations on grit, body functions at high altitudes, his grandpa, faith, queen and country. The transcendent folly and physical drama of climbing above 26,000 feet were sharp narrative tools in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*, but the Kid can't quite elaborate on how he felt as he passed the decayed, mummified body of Rob Hall, who tragically failed to scale the summit ridge. Grylls's report from the top of the world is almost without discernible color except the "bully" attitude Grylls and his mates brought along from England and took back home after a few celebratory ales in Kathmandu. His story adds little to the ever-expanding Everest genre. (May) Forecast: No matter how unexceptional they might appear to the uninitiated, diehard Everest fans never seem to tire of books like this. The effusive blurb from British Prime Minister Tony Blair certainly won't hurt sales, either. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Great book and very motivational. Not many people know about Bear's background and early times before he got his own show and this book shines a bit of light into it. It's an easy read and not boring. While it's not a motivational book of that sort I felt like I could take on the world after reading it.

Let me start by saying I thought this book was excellent. I've read about all there is when it comes to Everest and this is not your typical Everest book. Bear, best known in America for the TV show Man

vs. Wild, does an excellent job bringing you into his climb of the world's highest peak. What the "other" Everest books always seemed to lack, in hindsight, was humor, something this book has no shortage of. Probably one of the most interesting and favorite parts of the book for me were his descriptions of the mountain. He does a great job painting the picture of what he sees, something I've always thought the big name Everest writers have lacked. His descriptions of the view (top to bottom) and the western Cwm/South Col really helped me envision a place I will likely never see. Bear is a storyteller and it shows in this book. As I said before, I found the humor a pleasant surprise and I found myself laughing out loud on numerous occasions. But Bear also knew how to bring the book to a serious point when the story called for it. His story is amazing and inspiring. Do yourself a favor and buy this book.

I love the show "Man vs. Wild." The star of the show is Bear Grylls. As I was looking through the local book store, I noticed this book by Bear about climbing Everest. I love two things, Bear's survival in the harsh conditions and Everest stories. It seemed like a book I would love. The book starts with a little background information. Bear (which is a nickname) was in Britain's special forces. But an accident in which bear was parachuting out of the plane, and his parachute did not open completely and he broke his back; this caused him to get out of the military. He was doing little until he was asked to climb Everest. This was his motivation to start life again. The book journeys into the heart of the high country. This is dangerous territory, and a unforgiving landscape. The account is interesting and scary at times. There are close calls, sickness, and weather that is going to stop everything. But in the end, Bear makes it. He was the youngest Briton to do so. Though I might never climb Everest, these books always provide for me some powerful inspiration to climb the mountains that I travel. Bear is the man!

I have read this book several times and never fail to be drawn into it. Bear is a fascinating man in his own right, but getting the whole, unabridged account of his Everest climb is a blessing. He's perfectly willing to share the bad with the good, from mistakes that were made to the truth of those last few steps to the summit itself. His modesty and honesty are refreshing. If it's bravado you're looking for, you won't find it here, and that's one of the many things to appreciate about this book. It's well-written, funny, emotional and intriguing. I can only hope that people read it for what it is and not what they expect it to be. I see a few reviews here that tell me some people went into it hoping for something (though what, I'm not sure) and were irritated that they didn't get it. This book deserves to stand on its own and not be compared to others. It is what it is-- a wonderful tale of a real man,

with doubts and fears and weaknesses, who just wanted to accomplish a dream.I thank him for sharing it with us.

Not the best writing (whoever edited it was asleep a lot of the time, as there were grammatical and spelling errors throughout) HOWEVER, I found the details of the experience fascinating, as I always do when it comes to stories about climbing Everest. I will read every book on the subject to continue to convince myself that I NEVER want to do it myself!

Incredible young man and still at it. Hopefully getting older and a wee bit safer. I relayed the book along to my younger adventure buddies - I know they will enjoy it. Good photos.

One of my favorite books, much more maturely written than the average 20 something could do. Very inspiring, I've read it the past few winters.

This account of Grylls' climb is interesting and captivates the reader who is interested in adventure mountaineering. Reading this book coupled with watching Everest Beyond the Limit Reality TV series helped give me an appreciation of the mountain and the difficulties that it presents to climbers. Grylls has a casual tone that guides the reader on a exciting trek up the biggest mountain in the world. This made an excellent vacation read for me. Recommended.

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