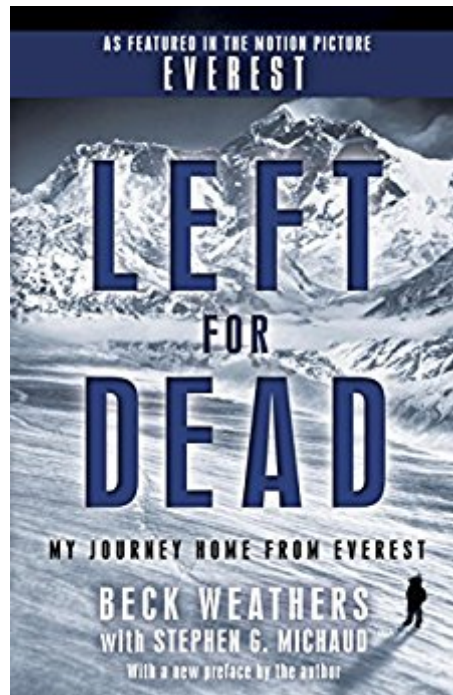




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Left For Dead: My Journey Home From Everest



Synopsis

With a new preface by the author • As featured in the upcoming motion picture Everest, starring Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawkes, Robin Wright, Emily Watson, Keira Knightley, Sam Worthington, and Jake Gyllenhaal • I can tell you that some force within me rejected death at the last moment and then guided me, blind and stumbling • "quite literally a dead man walking" into camp and the shaky start of my return to life. • In 1996 Beck Weathers and a climbing team pushed toward the summit of Mount Everest. Then a storm exploded on the mountain, ripping the team to shreds, forcing brave men to scratch and crawl for their lives. Rescuers who reached Weathers saw that he was dying, and left him. Twelve hours later, the inexplicable occurred. Weathers appeared, blinded, gloveless, and caked with ice • "walking down the mountain. In this powerful memoir, now featuring a new Preface, Weathers describes not only his escape from hypothermia and the murderous storm that killed eight climbers, but the journey of his life. This is the story of a man's route to a dangerous sport and a fateful expedition, as well as the road of recovery he has traveled since; of survival in the face of certain death, the reclaiming of a family and a life; and of the most extraordinary adventure of all: finding the courage to say yes when life offers us a second chance. • Praise for Left for Dead • "Riveting . . . [a] remarkable survival story . . . Left for Dead takes a long, critical look at climbing: Weathers is particularly candid about how the demanding sport altered and strained his relationships. • "USA Today • "Ultimately, this engrossing tale depicts the difficulty of a man's struggle to reform his life. • "Publishers Weekly

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 2314 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Bantam (September 21, 2000)

Publication Date: September 21, 2000

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000QCSAAY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #68,268 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Mountaineering #41 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese #77 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Mountain Climbing

Customer Reviews

Good book. Enjoyable read. I am not sure I know what to think about Beck. It was an amazing ordeal he went through and I'm glad he made it out alive. I just don't know if I wanted the additional back story into his personal life. Yes, that makes for more insight and filler. I just now see him as an average man that survived unsurvivable circumstances. I almost feel sorry for his family and for their life, but I wonder how different we all are when the curtain is pulled back and everything is exposed. This was a very brave book for him to write and I appreciate the time and effort put into this effort. I am really glad I read it. I read into thin air by Jon Krakauer and that is a very fast read because you just get caught up in the amazing events. These books must be read to give you the full story of their time up on the greatest mountain of all.

I've long felt that the most compelling biographies or autobiographies tell stories of sometimes startling personal transformation, and this book is a fine example of that genre. Told with candor by not only Dr. Weathers, but his wife, children, friends and associates, Left for Dead illustrates with great clarity how Earth's most devoted mountaineers come to embrace this often harrowing pursuit, as well as its inherent, breathtaking risks. I was first drawn to the Everest quest by Jon Krakauer's Into Thin Air, another (dare I say?) "cliffhanger." With these two page-turners in my rear view mirror, I'm compelled to further explore mountain climbing. This deeply engaging story explores the connections between Beck Weathers' psyche and the almost superhuman demands of Seven-Summit mountaineering while painting a portrait of the profound effects it has left on his family. We learn how the unique challenges of summiting the continents' tallest, most foreboding peaks can threaten life and limb, and Weathers takes us along as he faces the unimaginable stressors of uncertain terrain and fierce weather conditions. A delightful surprise: The author punctuates this riveting account of his unimaginably horrific ordeal with his unusual gift of humor. I have but one recommendation for the reader: Savor this account slowly, and like me, you might be eager to reread it!

May 10, 1996 marked one of the worst climbing disasters on Mount Everest. When a sudden storm trapped climbers high on the mountain, eight would perish in the unforgiving weather. One who was left for dead, who would have made it nine persons, recovered after spending over a day in the open. Though he would lose a hand and all the fingers on the other, Weathers had made it home alive. This is his story. Where Weathers could have spent a lot of time lambasting the decision to leave him, he has chosen to concentrate on how the mountain changed him. Weathers reveals that he was clinically depressed most of his life, and that climbing mountains was his way of coping with his problems. The climbs became his sole focus and his marriage was disintegrating around him. Depression can do strange things to people, and like many others, Weathers was unable to see past his solution from the crippling illness. His near death on Everest changed him more than physically. When he awoke on the mountain and staggered into camp, Weathers really woke up to the things that are important in life. I really liked this book. I also deal with depression, and Beck Weathers's story was a real shot in the arm. When you feel like you can't go on, there is always someone who has faced worse and survived. Thanks for your book, Beck Weathers. I will not soon forget the lessons you have taught me. I give this book five stars. Quoth the Raven

Highly recommended for those interested in Everest '96. Dr Weathers has formatted this book in such a way to allow his loved ones to input their perspective. I admire his mental stamina and his loyalty to family, friends, and the medical center he worked in. He went from Nepal to Dallas in the course of his treatment for frostbite. Integrity and faith!

Interesting book of one of the worst disasters Everest has ever seen told from the perspective of one of the survivors. It's a good read, but not written as well as *Into Thin Air* by Krakauer.

There is no doubt that Beck Weathers is an indomitable man and a lucky man, too. The book, however, is more about his watershed moment of personal reflection and a commitment to be a better husband and father now regretting the interpersonal relationship turmoil his mountain climbing caused. I agree that, but the page after page of wallowing in his self-denigration and struggles with his wife was just too much. His wife, Peach, comes off as an unforgiving and not quite forgetting the (overstated) cruel injustice inflicted by her husband's obsession with climbing mountains. I tired at repeatedly reading her half-hearted statements about

staying with Beck. She really seems a bit vindictive. After the 25% mark, the book descends into a personal journey of relationships one might view on the Hallmark Channel. Not my cup of tea.

I wanted to strangle Beck throughout this book. His obsession for mountaineering was so unfair to Peach and his kids. The discussions of his climbs were remarkable. But the strength in this story is his family, including his brother. They stuck with him. We should all be so lucky to survive the disaster he did and to have the luck to recover as he did surrounded by love as he did.

Beck's story is well-known. He's one of the most compelling characters in David Breashear's documentary on the '96 Everest disaster. He doesn't disappoint in his personal account of the disaster and the aftermath. I found the jumping around from person to person (Beck, his family, his friends) a little annoying at times but it's his story. I think he deserves to tell it like he wants to.

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