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High Exposure: An Enduring Passion For Everest And Unforgiving Places



Synopsis

This extraordinary memoir is the story of the famed IMAX cinematographer, adventurer, and mountaineer, whose terrifying experiences during the 1996 season on Mt. Everest became the defining moment of his life. of full-color photos.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1st edition (May 10, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684853612

ISBN-13: 978-0684853611

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 86 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

David Breashears has climbed Mt. Everest four times. For this, he is known as a world-class mountaineer. A lengthy career in documentary filmmaking--including the Imax film, Everest--has earned him wide acclaim and four Emmy awards. For this, he is known as one of the elite cinematographers in his field. But his new autobiography, High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Other High Places, proves he is more than a climber and a filmmaker; he is also an able writer. Breashears has no lack of good material. We follow him through the stunning backdrops of Yosemite, Europe, Nepal, and Tibet, brushing up against triumphs and tragedies along the way. And while the nuts and bolts of his adventures are entertainment enough, his knack for building suspense and employing understated drama makes his autobiography read like a novel: "The morning was sunny and calm, and Rob looked as though he'd lain down on his side and fallen asleep. Around him the undisturbed snow sparkled in the sun. I stared at his bare left hand ... I wondered what a mountaineer with Rob's experience was doing without a glove." Breashears also likes to remind his audience of humble beginnings surmounted: his early climbing days when he was known as "the kid," and a winter he spent sleeping under a sheet of plywood during the Wyoming oil boom when he was called "the worm." But mostly he documents his filmmaking career

and climbing passion, both of which he approaches with an obsessive fervor. Readers interested in either pursuit will find *High Exposure* a fascinating traverse across the spine of the world. --Ben Tiffany

Possibly the most interesting aspect of this book is how improbable it seems that Breashears (*Mountain Without Mercy*) ever lived to write it. An accomplished alpinist, Breashears not only recounts his numerous, dicey ascents of the planet's peaks but also explores his motivation for doing so. Though he is an experienced cinematographer whose past employers range from PBS to Hollywood, Breashears is most widely known as the director of the IMAX film *Everest*. While filming the movie, Breashears and his crew were fortunate to avoid the unforgiving storm at the mountain's summit that led to the death of eight people and was chronicled in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. Breashears uses that tragic season on Everest as a frame for a personal memoir. The focus is on how he stepped out of the shadow of his violent military father and discovered his passions for climbing and filmmaking. Some of his psychology is simplistic, but there is no doubt that Breashears is as serious about understanding his actions as he is about succeeding in them. And there is no shortage of action, whether he is scaling a 1000-foot vertical rock or narrowly escaping being swept off a cliff by a runaway tonnage of snow. Though at times the book is self-aggrandizing, a little ego can be tolerated in this largely engrossing work, and is, perhaps, only to be expected from someone who has four times scrambled up the ice and rocks of Everest to reach the top of the world. 16 pages full-color photos not seen by PW. Major ad/promo; appearances on *Larry King Live* and *Today*; first serial to *Mens Journal*. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Imagine being so broke that you're living between two palettes of plywood in a lumberyard...outdoors...in Wyoming...in the winter. Wow, that is exactly what Breashears did while trying to find wildcat work in Wyoming's oil fields. He eventually crawled his way out of poverty to pursue his real passion, mountain climbing. Eventually he found his calling as a movie maker and was in the process of making an IMAX movie on Mount Everest in the fateful year 1996. You get the sense that were it not because Breashears and his team had to lug heavy camera equipment up the mountain that year they could easily have also been high up on the mountain during the 1996 Mount Everest tragedy. This autobiographical memoir wends its way through Breashears' early childhood and mountain climbing exploits in Colorado to his numerous forays into the Himalaya with particular focus on numerous attempts at difficult ascents of new routes on Mount Everest. The early part of the book spends too much time belaboring his childhood and the latter part of the book

re-hashes much of what is already known about the 1996 tragedy, albeit from a different perspective. Nevertheless, it is a good, enjoyable read.

this is a good book for those who want insight into the world of climbing. this year i have read five books by everest climbers and this one has given me the best understanding of the discipline and training involved in climbing. breashers's account of his climbing career, beginning with his childhood passion for rock climbing, is far from self-indulgent. instead the reader gains respect the skill, psychological mindset, and preparation required for rock climbing and high peak climbing. my only complaint is that breashers rarely mentions the well-known physical hardships endured in high peak climbs. he rarely describes his physical state of being, as if climbing involves only technical logistics, not also overcoming the physical hardship of functioning in states of dehydration, sleep deprivation, oxygen deprivation, undernourishment, and frostbit extremities. nonetheless, his narrative has left me with valuable lessons about how disciplined training can provide one with the confidence necessary for making wise decisions when faced with formidable challenges.

This is a terrific book which draws you into David Breashears' world. You follow his development from young rock climber to world class mountaineer and filmmaker. You also see his development as a person, all while drawing you into that exclusive club of mountaineers. He makes you feel his passion for the mountains he so loves. You learn how he combined that passion with the art of cinematography, making him an award winning filmmaker. You live through the 1996 tragedy on Everest with him, and feel the compassion that he has for those who died on the mountain under such tragic circumstances. The narrative is always compelling and informative, making the book a hard one to put down. His compassion and sensitivity towards those who did not fare well on the ill-fated 1996 Everest climb is palpable, and for his assistance to those who needed it, even though it put him and his expedition in jeopardy, he is truly an unsung hero. This is, without a doubt, a man who leads by example. David Breashears writes beautifully of his experiences and his book is a must read for all climbing enthusiasts, as well as for those simply interested in the human condition. This is a book that is simply too good to pass up.

I enjoyed this book cover to cover. Being obsessed with the Himalayas... Lol.. I loved reading the thoughts, opinions and experiences straight from the horses mouth! I read every book on Everest and the Himalayas I can get my hands on and this book was so Important to read since David is right in the middle of it all! I live vicariously through these amazing climbers and thus man is on the

top of the list.

interesting!

Good read. The title does not accurately depict the actual theme of the book. It's about author's life, which is beyond a doubt very grasping, but felt like it lacks detailed depictions of the actual adventure. Not as articulate as some of the other climbing books like *Into Thin Air* etc.

I must agree with the reviewer who commented about the book being written by committee. The narrative is choppy and lacking not only key details, but also historical background. Because it's an autobiography, I don't necessarily think that it's fair to damn the book for being self-centered; it IS about him. I do feel, however, that the book needs better editing and a bit more self-examination. It's an okay addition to one's list of books about Everest expeditions - which I must admit, I've developed a morbid fascination with after recently re-reading "*Into Thin Air*". I wouldn't, however, use it as my primary source for information or impressions.

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