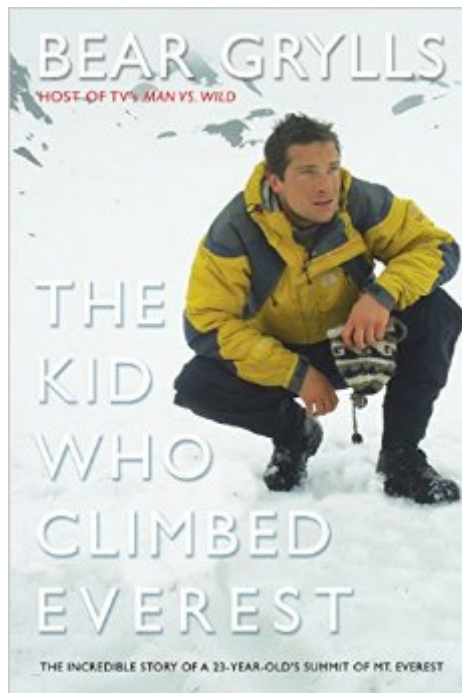


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# Kid Who Climbed Everest: The Incredible Story Of A 23-Year-Old's Summit Of Mt. Everest



## Synopsis

In 1996, a twenty-three-year-old soldier in the British Army was flying over an African desert on a routine parachute jump. He had a lot to look forward to—a long career ahead of him in the army, a beautiful girlfriend back home. But those dreams were cut short when his parachute failed to open at eleven thousand feet. He had cracked three vertebrae and come within a fraction of severing his spinal cord. A grueling eight months of physical therapy followed. Bear had to retrain his muscles to do all of the things we take for granted—how to sit, stand, walk, even breathe. Eighteen months after his accident he overcame incredible odds to reach the peak of Everest. **THE KID WHO CLIMBED EVEREST** is a tale of courage and determination. Bear's quest for funding for his expedition, his seventy days on Everest's southeast face, and a narrow brush with death after a fall into a crevasse at nineteen thousand feet, make the story an essential read for anyone who's ever had a dream and made it come true.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Someone once commented on this book saying that they had "read better accounts of climbing a mountain" but in saying that I think they have entirely missed the point of the book!! I picked it up and was unable to put it down. Maybe it isn't the best piece of literature around but is certainly one of the most honest. I was gripped by Bear's account of events, emotions, respect, friendship and faith and finished the book feeling both exhausted and inspired!! I would recommend this book to anyone that feels they are incapable of achieving anything greater than life behind a desk.

Climbing Mt. Everest at the tender age of 23 is a great feat in itself. Only one in a thousand climbers under the age of thirty in top physical shape ever reach the summit. What people don't know is that Bear Grylls had just recovered from an accident that nearly claimed his life, after his parachute tore at 11,000 feet during an Army training exercise. After spending months in rehab recovering from a broken back, he decided to follow an impossible dream. There are few surprises here - you know the ending from the title alone. However, his tales of adventure, close calls, and vivid and very candid descriptions of life in the mountain will keep you reading and cheering him on! Although his prose pales somewhat when compared to literary classics such as "Into Thin Air", and he lacks the experience and knowledge of legendary climbers such as the original "Kid", David Breashears ("High Exposure"), what he lacks in these areas he more than makes up in his enthusiasm, humor, and love of life. You cannot help but wonder what the older, more experienced climbers he is compared to - or even you - were doing at his age.

At 23 Bear Grylls decided that he was going to see and needed to do something so he and a buddy went off to Mt. Everest. He wrote a book about the experience and it left me alternately laughing and awed. First, forget what you think you know about mountain climbing. Getting to Everest is an experience in itself that requires close encounters with bathrooms that are really just huts with mountains of other people's poop on the floor, diarrhea (inevitable-- the locals are none too clean and unless you want to offend them by not eating or drinking with them you will get a stomach bug and/or a severe respiratory infection) and air sickness which can kill you if you don't attend to it right away. And because there's no place to bathe you will stink and after awhile even the female yaks will avoid you. Vomiting plays a big role in attacking Everest. On the very first night getting acclimated Bear was serenaded by the sounds of his buddy chundering into his boots. It's not romantic and not a bit like the adventure movies. Still, Bear has a sense of humor and being 23 at the time he made the absolute grossness of it all incredibly funny. He starts out as a sweetly goofy kid (much "younger" than I was at that age) and gets more serious as he goes up the mountain. He has a couple of nearly deadly close encounters and life in the Death Zone of the mountain is not cute at all. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and was sorry to come to the last page.

(Presumably the book has been re-titled for the US market - it's published as "Facing Up" in the UK.) Bear was 23 when he wrote the book - the text sometimes reflects this as he expresses a kind of undergraduate attitude and sense of humour. It's not great literature - not nearly as well written as "Into Thin Air" for example. But he vividly describes the conditions on the mountain - from the

squalor of Base Camp, to the brutal, painful fight at extreme altitude and it was this that gripped me. I really enjoyed the book - and I believe it does add to the genre. He has a different perspective - as he says in the text, most Everest climbers are much older and more experienced and their writing reflects this. Bear's book is a breath of rarified fresh air!

I could not put this book down...finished it in 3 days, and I work full-time! I am a non-climber, but have read many books on people's experiences on Everest. This is one of the best accounts I've read...I was riveted and felt like I was right there with Bear on the mountain. Well done!

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.

I bought this book as a gift for my 12 year old brother, because he loves Bear Grylls. I ordered it early and decided to read it first. :) Thankfully I did because I ended up marking several things out of the book that I did not want my brother to read. It was an interesting enough book, especially if you like that kind of stuff, but it had some language in it, as well as a sexual "scene". Just wanted to put this out there in case anyone was thinking of giving this as a gift. I know I would have appreciated the heads up!

I have just finished TKWCE and I am totally blown away. I have been a fan of Bear Grylls ever since I saw my first episode of Man vs. Wild and this book has elevated him greatly in my eyes. He is a man to be admired. Bear's storytelling style made the entire book sound as though it was his interior monologue from Man vs. Wild which made for a quick and entertaining read. As a military man myself as well as an amateur mountaineer, I had no trouble identifying with Bear and his team as he described the pain, fear, exhaustion, and sense of adventure intrinsic to an assault on Mt. Everest. I enjoyed the humor, humility, and introspection throughout the book. Obviously since Bear wrote this at age 23, it is not Into Thin Air as many previous reviewers have mentioned. However, I enjoyed it a great deal more than ITA as Krakauer had a MUCH different climb and was surrounded by a great deal more controversy than Bear Grylls. Additionally, I think that the editor should be roundly thrashed for merely spellchecking and submitting the manuscript to the publisher! For somebody new to mountaineering or in the lower age bracket, this is a great book to start you off into Mountain

Literature. It is not the flowing epic of *Into Thin Air* by Krakauer, nor is it the intensity driven, nihilistic assault of *Kiss or Kill* by Twilight. This book is very simply about "A Kid" with a young man's perspective and worldview talking about scaling Everest. Bear makes no secret of the fact that he is a church going man, true, so if that turns you off, this might not be the book for you. However, all would do well to remember that there are no atheists on battlefields,...or in deserts,...or across oceans,...and certainly not on mountaintops!

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