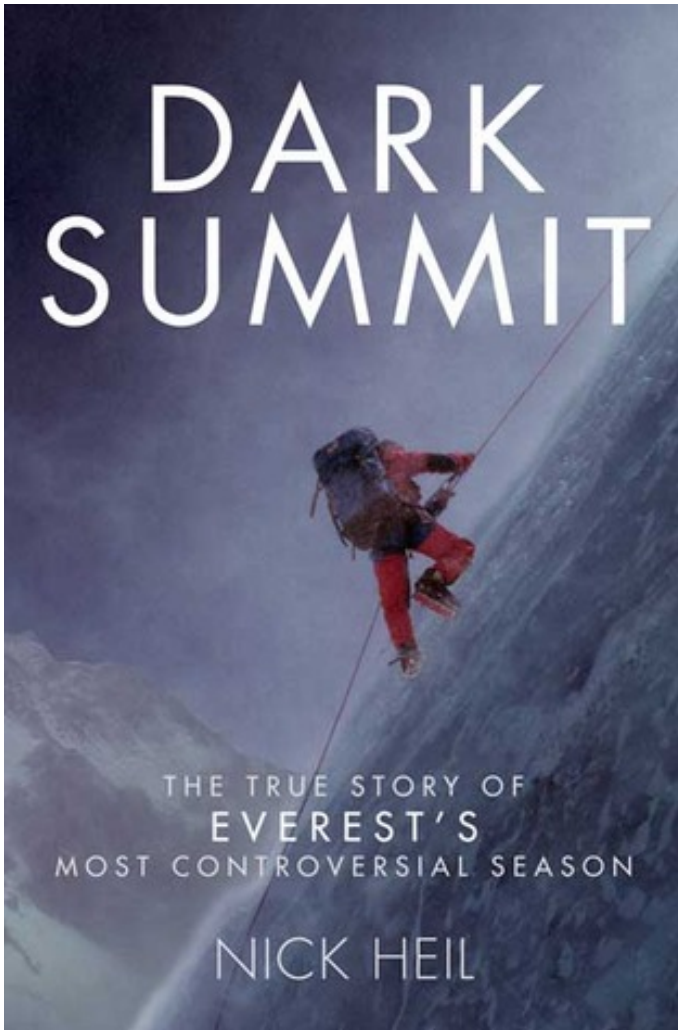

Nick Heil

Dark Summit: The True Story of Everest's Most Controversial Season



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Author: Nick Heil

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Description

The inside story of the deadly 2006 climbing season on Everest

On May 15, 2006, a young British climber named David Sharp lay dying near the top of Mount Everest while forty other climbers walked past him on their way to the summit. A week later, Lincoln Hall, a seasoned Australian climber, was left for dead near the same spot. Hall's death was reported around the world, but the next day he was found alive after spending the night on the upper mountain with no food and no shelter.

If David Sharp's death was shocking, it was hardly singular: despite unusually good weather, ten others died attempting to reach the summit that year. In this meticulous inquiry into what went wrong, Nick Heil tells the full story of the deadliest year on Everest since the infamous season of 1996. He introduces Russell Brice, the commercial operator who has done more than anyone to provide access to the summit via the mountain's north side—and who some believe was partly accountable for Sharp's death. As more climbers attempt the summit each year, Heil shows how increasingly risky expeditions and unscrupulous outfitters threaten to turn Everest into a deadly circus.

Written by an experienced climber and outdoor writer, *Dark Summit* is both a riveting account of a notorious climbing season and a troubling investigation into whether the pursuit of the ultimate mountaineering prize has spiraled out of control.

Insightful reviews

Heidi Willis: It's hard for me to be unbiased about a book on Everest. It is the one subject I devour without a critical eye. I've read a huge amount of books on the subject, and though some books are better written than others, they all bring a unique perspective that's hard to critique.

This book might stand on the 2006 climbing controversy, but in doing so, it spends a considerable amount of pages up front delving into the history of both the mountain and the biography of some of the significant people in that season. For some readers this slows the first half of the book, but for me it added depth and a much better understanding of who was on Everest in May of 2006 and why decisions were made that were made.

By the second half of the book, the climb was well under way and the book took off. Although the outcome is no surprise - who lives and who dies is, afterall, the reason the book was written - how it all plays out is plot tension at its best.

A good amount of research obviously went into this book, and unlike many others, it felt quite objective. The people on the climb and in charge that month are shades of grey, nuanced, and very human.

This is a great book that deserves a place on any Everest-lover's shelf.

June: This was on the shelf next to *Into Thin Air*, so I picked it up after I suggested that Emma

read ITA for school. It's about the 2006 climbing season on Everest. The book wasn't as good as ITA because Heil wasn't actually on the mountain in 2006, but visits Base Camp (I think) in 2007. He puts together several accounts of death, frostbite and general foolishness on Mt Everest. I found it hard to follow at times because Heil is trying to tell several stories from different vantage points. I don't think it worked well for me.

Although I think most of the climbers are fools with too much money, I am fascinated by their drive to achieve. I am also very, very interested in reading a book about the Sherpas that work at keeping these fools alive.

L: Heil does not, and cannot, answer the question of where to draw the line of climbers' and guides' responsibility to help other climbers and/or climbers not under their corporate wing. It isn't clear whether David Sharp could have been saved, though it does seem clear that climbers passed him, saw the shape he was in, and kept going, their eagerness to summit outweighing their humanity. The explanations/rationalizations/excuses are there. For the most part, these folks are cold, both literally and figuratively.

What is missing here, what was so prominent in "Into Thin Air," is the visceral sense of what it is to climb Everest. This book is more analytic and less passionate.

Mamma: I want i may upload a half-star. The e-book used to be good. Riveting, filled with interesting stuff. however it was once confusing. The format for a ebook like this is often constantly going to be tricky, yet there is means an excessive amount of going backward and forward in time. there has been an excessive amount of info given in regards to the different hikers at the a variety of expeditions, and such a lot of them did not have a true position within the story. i discovered myself counting on a chart first and foremost exhibiting who belonged with what excursion company, and infrequently I needed to use the index to remind myself who definite humans have been and what their tale was. The end was once greater than a bit lame. there has been nice build-up to the talk from that mountaineering season, but if the reader truly received to the talk itself, it used to be anti-climactic. i've got my very own critiques now, too, and so they differ just a little from the author's. it is a reliable learn for someone drawn to Everest, yet bookmark the index and the consultant in front. you'll desire it.

Ob-jonny: this can be a nice booklet approximately mountaineering and it jogs my memory of Into skinny Air by way of Jon Krakauer. it really is an severe tale like Into skinny Air yet of a unique season and a special crew of people. This publication makes a speciality of the phenomenon of climbers being left in the back of or walked earlier via humans now not checking to work out if they are okay. it sort of feels so bad at the floor yet when you relatively dig into the tale you know how advanced the placement is. an informal observer could give some thought to these humans strolling via to be monsters however the truth is that these humans strolling by way of have loads of issues to consider. For one thing, climbers who cease usually are only resting and because of the urgency of the location different climbers have to retain relocating and do not have the point of view to grasp how lengthy the stopped climber has been there. Also, whether an individual have been to prevent to help, that climber has to get down on his personal strength and can't be carried or dragged down. humans mountaineering down are on the greatest of exhaustion and can't imagine instantly usually. That being said, it sort of feels a

bit ridiculous that extra humans would not cease to invite questions or may go by way of a person at the manner up. Climbers don't desire to jeopardize their likelihood to make the summit because of the entire time, money, effort, and education it took to get them to that position. yet i'd consider like my summit of Everest will be tainted if I had handed humans in hassle at the method up. there has been a prime mountaineering workforce that this booklet occupied with and every of the folks have been fascinating characters within the storyline. The chief Russell Brice used to be in part blamed for the deaths that happened in the course of the days his time was once at the mountain. This publication analyzes the placement extensive and what can truly be blamed on convinced people. tricky conditions reason climbers to act heroically occasionally and others appear to holiday down and turn into incompetent. it is a interesting examine of human personality a result of strain every one of them have been placed in. Many climbers weren't healthy for a summit try out like in Into skinny Air yet during this booklet lots of them had the humility to show again and behave in an admirable manner. this can be a must-read for those who have an interest in books approximately hiking and particularly approximately Mt. Everest.

Sam Page: In spring 1996, over ten climbers died in a hurricane whereas mountain climbing Mt. Everest, together with the complete leaders of 2 advertisement expeditions, Rob corridor and Scott Fischer. the tale of that negative season was once told, no longer with no controversy, through Jon Krakauer in his best-selling e-book Into skinny Air. In spring 2006, over ten climbers back died hiking Mt. Everest, yet this time in really superb weather. Nick Heil explains what went mistaken in his ebook darkish Summit: the genuine tale of Mt. Everest's so much arguable Season, released in 2008. Read the remainder of my overview

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