



Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest

By Beck Weathers, Stephen G. Michaud

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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.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Left for Dead is a deeply personal story, told in first person by a variety of people who contributed to the survival of Beck Weathers during the Everest accident of 1996 that left nine climbers dead. It goes past the tragedy to discuss why Weathers got involved in climbing in the first place, his lengthy and painful recovery, and the all-important relationship with his wife, Margaret (commonly referred to as Peach). Without Peach's hope and tenacity, it's likely that rescue efforts would not have been continued, and Weathers may never have recovered from the hypothermic coma and its dreadful results. The story of their relationship--they were estranged at the time of the accident--is told from both perspectives, and his obsession with mountains seems almost like another family member. The overall tone is straightforward and conversational: children, pets, and clothing feature as prominently as reconstructive surgery and heroic rescues. But no matter how plainly they are told, the events of that climb are sure to bring tears. Rob Hall's last conversation with his wife, climbers disappearing into the storm, Anatoli Boukreev's rescuing three people, and Weathers and climbing partner Yasuko being left for dead are just a few from a long list. Still, you'll find yourself laughing just pages later, when Weathers gets his rescue team to sing "Chain of Fools" while hiking back to safety--you can imagine Peach being in full agreement of that song's appropriateness. The Everest deaths affected people around the world, and this chronicle of one survivor and his family is a hopeful reminder of the good that can result from such tragedies. --*Jill Lightner*

From Publishers Weekly

A survivor of the disastrous Mt. Everest expedition described in Jon Krakauer's bestseller *Into Thin Air*, Weathers is the climber many readers will remember from searing media photos of a man with heavily bandaged hands and a face so badly frostbitten it scarcely seemed human. In fact, Weathers had been abandoned by his fellow mountaineers as dead and spent some 18 hours on the mountain in subzero temperatures before miraculously regaining his senses and staggering into camp. Back in the U.S., Weathers, who is a physician, lost both hands and underwent extensive facial reconstruction. But there were other wounds to heal: he had neglected his family so much in pursuit of his hobby that his wife had decided to end the marriage once he returned. Co-written with Michaud (*The Evil That Men Do*; *The Only Living Witness*), this book deals in part with the climb but mainly with Weathers's life before and after the catastrophe. The man who wrote this book doesn't seem any less self-absorbed than the one who climbed Mt. Everest. In the years before the disaster, Weathers spent every spare moment pursuing his own interests as his wife and children became strangers to him. Now he claims to have rediscovered his family, but, unfortunately, the reader learns very little about them. Ultimately, this engrossing tale depicts the difficulty of a man's struggle to reform his life. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. (Apr.)

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From Library Journal

When a blizzard trapped the author and dozens of other climbers near the summit of Mount Everest in 1996, much of the world closely followed the tragedy, in which nine died. Weathers, a Dallas-area pathologist who paid \$65,000 to climb the mountain, was given up for dead only to amaze everyone, himself included, when he survived the seemingly impossible conditions. The author begins this work with the tragedy on Everest, chronicled in Jon Krakauer's best-selling *Into Thin Air* (LJ 4/1/97) as well as David Breashears's *High Exposure* (LJ 6/1/99). He then spends the majority of the book examining his reasons for pushing himself to climb tall mountains and explaining how the experience has changed him and his family. A deeply moving account of a person coming to terms with his shortcomings and his response when given a second chance,

this book is highly recommended for all collections.

-DTim Markus, *Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, WA*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Crow:

The book *Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest* to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a book *Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

Kathleen Edwards:

As people who live in the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This *Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Salvador Perez:

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Kimberly Foley:

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