



# High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places

By David Breashears

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For generations of resolute adventurers, from George Mallory to Sir Edmund Hillary to Jon Krakauer, Mount Everest and the world's other greatest peaks have provided the ultimate testing ground. But the question remains: Why climb? In *High Exposure*, elite mountaineer and acclaimed *Everest* filmmaker David Breashears answers with an intimate and captivating look at his life. For Breashears, climbing has never been a question of risk taking: Rather, it is the pursuit of excellence and a quest for self-knowledge. Danger comes, he argues, when ambition blinds reason. The stories this world-class climber and great adventurer tells will surprise you -- from discussions of competitiveness on the heights to a frank description of the 1996 Everest tragedy.

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## High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places By David Breashears Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

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

#### From Publishers Weekly

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.

#### From School Library Journal

YA--A world-class rock climber and a professional cinematographer, Breashears is renowned for having organized and led the Imax filming expedition to the summit of Mt. Everest in May 1996. In this autobiography, he describes himself as the third son of a controlling and abusive army major who broke up his family when David was 10-years-old. He was ambivalent about schoolwork and spent all his free time

rock climbing in the Rocky Mountain foothills. After completing high school, he honed his skills and tackled difficult rock faces. A British writer and rock climber hired him as a gofer on a documentary filming expedition in Yosemite. With this serendipitous introduction to filmmaking, Breashears was fascinated by the combined art and science of photography. He had already climbed Everest twice when he was hired to put together a team to film the climb of the world's highest mountain with the world's largest camera. His vivid and poignant observations on the fatal expedition in which 12 climbers died complement Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* (Villard, 1997). Teens will appreciate Breashears's honesty in his personal reflections, and will be thrilled with the exciting stories of rock climbing and danger at the roof of the world.  
*Penny Stevens, Centreville Regional Library, Fairfax, VA*  
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Typically the book *High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places* will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very suited to you. The book *High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

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