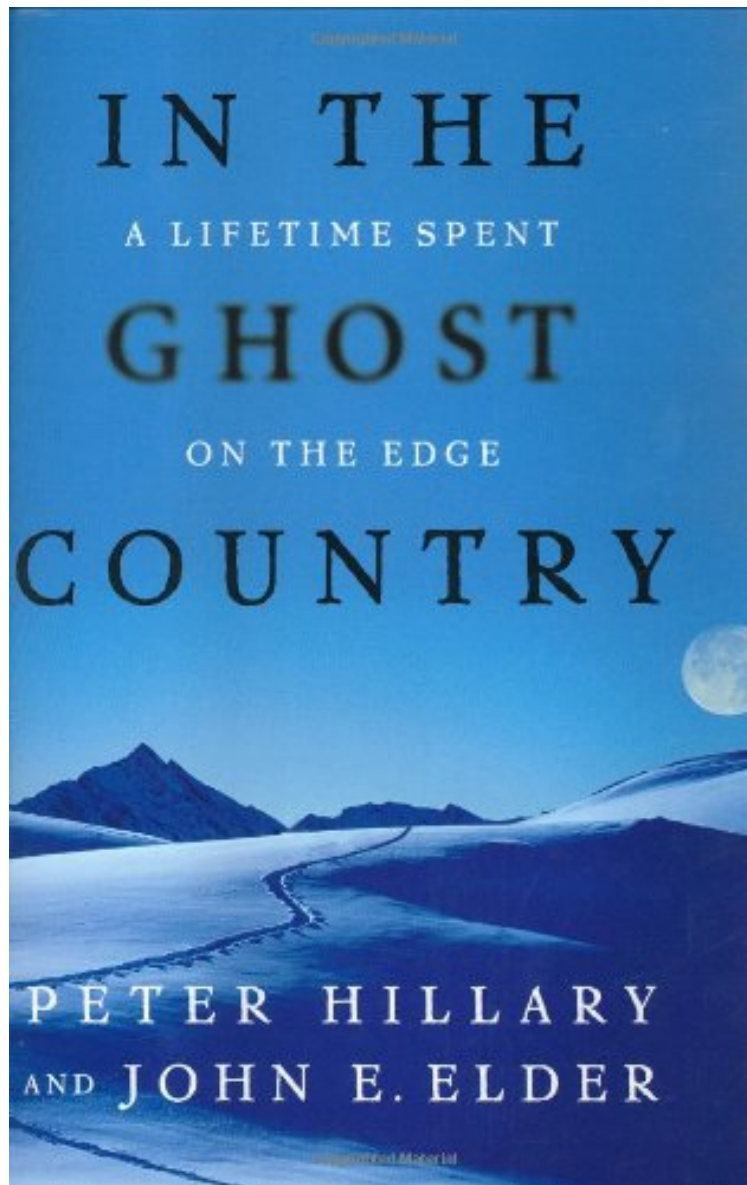


(Download free pdf) In the Ghost Country: A Lifetime Spent on the Edge

In the Ghost Country: A Lifetime Spent on the Edge

Peter Hillary, John Elder

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Peter Hillary, John Elder : In the Ghost Country: A Lifetime Spent on the Edge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Ghost Country: A Lifetime Spent on the Edge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book brings the reality of the incredible harshness of exploring Antarctica on foot, sharply into focusBy A watcher and thinkerI am really enjoying this book, not least as I've met Peter Hillary who is a most humble and interesting man, and somewhat of a legend in exploration himself. The book

brings the reality of the incredible harshness of Antarctica sharply into focus, and following in the footsteps of Captain Scott and walking on foot to the South Pole clearly was very different in the doing of the expedition, to the planning of it. You get the feeling that every moment is extremely tough for Hillary, not least as the environment is literally, mind-bendingly harsh. You feel for him. If you want to experience the reality of polar exploration, then this describes how it feels to be there in person. The discomfort and danger are palpable. I have been to Antarctica, and want to see more, but not like this. His journey was incredibly brave and the fact he survived is incredible. He is very truthful about what he experienced and the tricks the vacant whiteness of near-fatal cold plays on the mind. Peter Hillary is a passionate and motivational speaker, and it's good to read his account in living detail, real time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. interesting, yet...By Cornelius I knew nothing about extreme adventures of this kind, so that part was interesting. But the format of the book often made it difficult to follow. Peter's thoughts were in separate paragraphs in bold type; the co-writer's were in regular type in their own paragraphs. But sometimes, bold type showed up in the co-writer's paragraphs. So hard to know what's what. Also, there were typos scattered throughout the book. I found Peter's portrayal of his inner processes very interesting and touching, though. I'm glad I read it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poorly written By William S. Oetting I got sucked in by the endless good reviews to be overwhelmed by a poorly written and uninteresting book. The switch between the author and Hillary's voice became confusing and often took place in the middle of thoughts without connection. The style of writing also differed too much making the whole read choppy. Then they added in dream sequences and back stories that did nothing to progress the book nor give any information of interest to the reader. The narrator tried to be artful to the extreme causing me to lose the point and consider his poor use of metaphors. Then comes the fact of how unprepared these three supposed professional adventurers are. They don't have the proper equipment, nor the proper training, nor the proper mindset. I assume Hillary's purpose for this book is to make money for some new ill-fated attempt.

A memoir of extraordinary depth and searing honesty, *In the Ghost Country* is the story of Peter Hillary's physical and emotional journey across the icy wastes of Antarctica. A place where the thoughts and memories of a lifetime were called forth by the blank slate of the Antarctic snows -- so real that the ghosts of lost friends and loved ones walked with him in the white maelstrom. In the Antarctic summer of 1998-99, Peter Hillary and two companions skied to the South Pole -- each man pulling a 440-pound sled 900 miles across some of the most forbidding country on earth. The plan was to complete the tragic journey of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, to the Pole and back. But under the pressure of a relentless media spotlight, fatal team chemistry, and food and fuel stores, the expedition fragmented into hostile isolation. Instead of completing Scott's journey, they found they were repeating it. For Peter Hillary, this was the loneliest trek of his life. Estranged from his companions, tortured by the sensory deprivation of "the great white everywhere," Hillary's journey became a hallucinogenic pilgrimage through a country where "he could see the dead and the places of the dead": the ghosts of too many friends who had perished at his side in the mountains; and most powerfully, the ghost of his beloved mother, who it seemed "had turned up on the ice to keep me company." *In the Ghost Country* is the story of that trip, a chronicle of profound isolation, grief, and loneliness. It is a meditation on a lifetime spent on the edge. Told here are the tragedies: on Ama Dablam in Nepal, a near perfect climb until its shocking finish with an unexpected death; on Makalu where half the party was wiped out; on Everest where two more were lost, including a great friend; and later on K2, in 1995, where Hillary barely survived the storm that killed seven people. But here also are the "marvelous times": Growing up in New Zealand, where the family's holiday adventures were turned into documentaries; first seeing Everest at seven years of age; the near-fatal teenage adventures; working on the schools and hospitals that Sir Edmund built for the Nepalese people; traveling with his father and Neil Armstrong to the North Pole; summiting Everest twice. Informed by a strong literary sensibility, *In the Ghost Country* is compelling contemplation of adventure and a joyful tribute to "the rapture" of getting "out there" on the edge.

From Publishers Weekly In 1998, explorer-adventurer Hillary (son of Sir Edmund) set off on skis with two ill-chosen companions to retrace the South Pole route that killed Robert Falcon Scott in 1912. Like Scott, Hillary and company hit horrendous barriers. The cold chewed up equipment and ravaged fingers and toes. Storms pinned the team in its tiny, fetid tent. They slowly starved, as the brutal march burned more calories than their bodies could absorb, and Hillary nearly ruptured himself dragging his 400-pound sled of supplies. But the worst torture was mental. The unending white landscape gave everyone a bad case of expeditionary madness, and Hillary got the brunt of it. His teammates began blaming him for their setbacks, and soon excluded him from the smallest social interactions. Alone in a frigid sensory-deprivation tank, Hillary began to hallucinate. Dead friends and relatives tramped with him through imagined landscapes and, with him, revisited the adventures and tragedies of his past. The miserable journey makes a terrific book, as Hillary's visions frame frequent flashbacks to other expeditions and to his New Zealand childhood. The main narrative, written in the third person by journalist Elder, is larded throughout with first-person commentary by Hillary, who is a fine, frank writer. This unusual structure solves the problem of the toneless voice that "as told to" accounts can have, while retaining a sense of intimacy and authenticity. The result is moving and insightful, scraping away the hubris of the adventure-book genre to examine the forces that propel explorers through godforsaken places.

Photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. David Breashears leader and codirector, Everest IMAX Filming Expedition Peter Hillary's harrowing account of his attempt with two companions to complete Captain Robert Falcon Scott's doomed journey to the South Pole makes for powerful reading. A masterful story of an expedition's precipitous collapse and a study of a life lived on the brink, this is a vivid tale of physical endurance, heartbreaking loneliness, and ultimately the triumph of a man over the cruelty of the Antarctic wasteland and the ghosts of his own past. -- About the Author When Peter Hillary climbed Mt. Everest in 1990, thirty seven years after his father's historic first ascent in 1953, they became the first father and son to reach the top of the world. It was just one of more than thirty major expeditions to the Himalayas, the Andes, the Karakoram, the Arctic, and the Antarctic. Peter Hillary works as a speaker, a writer, and an adventure travel operator. He is married and has four children.