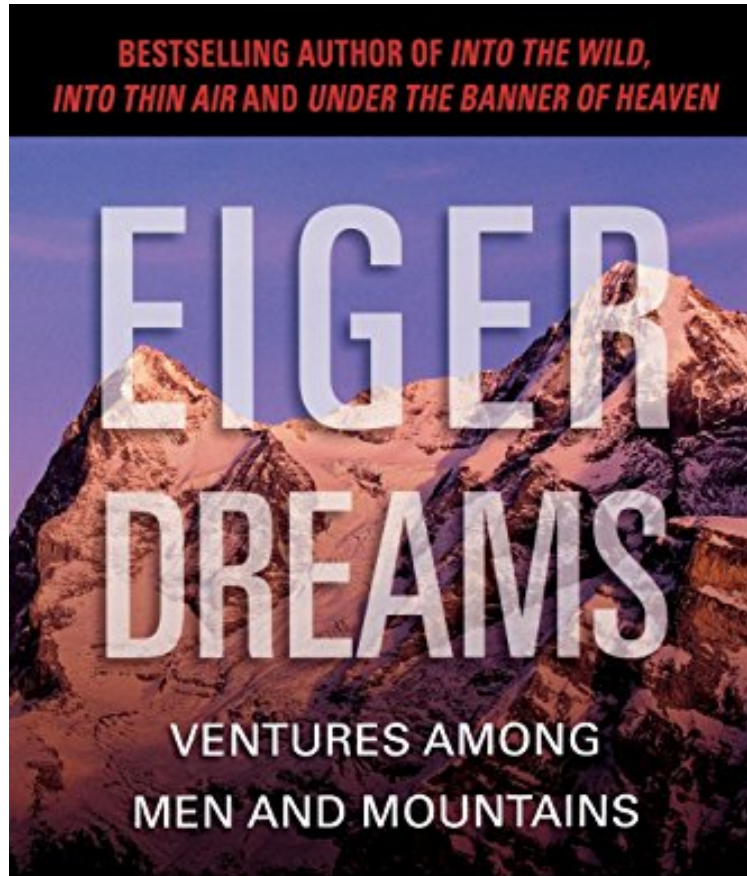


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## Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men And Mountains

*Jon Krakauer*

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# Jon Krakauer

*"Krakauer has taken the literature of mountains onto a higher ledge." — The New York Times Book Review*

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**Jon Krakauer : Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men And Mountains** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men And Mountains:

100 of 104 people found the following review helpful. A great read for those at sea level and rising By Trixie How to do justice to a writer like Krakauer....well, he's such a good writer that I feel any review I write would suffer compared to the source. Nevertheless, here I go. This is Krakauer's first book. It's a collection of his previously published articles on mountaineering (save the last one about Devil's Thumb which was written for the book.) What a great read too whether you are an aficionado of the sport or, like me, you've never seen a pair of crampons in your life (by the way,

those are a set of spikes climbers strap to their boots to support themselves and prevent slipping on icy slopes.) Some of the famous peaks that make an appearance here include K2, Mt McKinley, and the titular Eiger. Throughout you will read about some of the eccentric personalities in the international climbing community, personal triumph and inspiration, offshoots like bouldering and waterfall climbing, and horrific tragedy. If you read *Into Thin Air*, you'll be surprised at how funny this book is. Krakauer displays a wry, self-deprecating wit in several of these stories—something the somber subject matter of the latter book didn't permit. The last one, about his decision to solo the Devil's Thumb in Alaska in his early twenties is hysterical. Anyone who can make a story about being tentbound or the inventor of the perfect ice axe riveting deserves attention. If you are on the fence, just go ahead and get this book. It's definitely worth it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Geared toward climbing insiders  
By Vicki F. I was enthralled by *Into Thin Air* and enjoy Jon Krakauer's writing style. The reviews on *Eiger Dreams* were very good and I love being an armchair mountain climber, so I thought I would give *Eiger Dreams* a try. Unfortunately I found this collection of stories just so-so. Many of the stories include name-dropping of various famous climbers, which meant nothing to me since I am not a member of the climbing community. Same with some of the famous climbs and routes—as an outsider I just couldn't appreciate them. This book would probably be much more enjoyable to a knowledgeable climbing enthusiast. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full circle  
By monopoly matt From *Eiger's Nordwand* to *Devil's Thumb* the book spans a climbing universe and gives a nice survey. I liked it. Krakauer's writing style is so easy to read. My only fault is that I know he also wrote a book about Everest that was embellished to sell so I can't give any more of his books 5 stars.

No one writes about mountaineering and its attendant hardships and victories more brilliantly than critically acclaimed author Jon Krakauer. In this collection of his finest work from such magazines as *Outside* and *Smithsonian*, he explores the subject from the unique and memorable perspective of one who has battled peaks like K2, Denali, Everest, and, of course, the Eiger. Always with a keen eye, an open heart, and a hunger for the ultimate experience, he gives us unerring portraits of the mountaineering experience. Yet *Eiger Dreams* is more about people than about rock and ice—people with that odd, sometimes maniacal obsession with mountain summits that sets them apart from other men and women. Here we meet Adrian the Romanian, determined to be the first of his countrymen to solo Denali; John Gill, climber not of great mountains but of house-sized boulders so difficult to surmount that even demanding alpine climbs seem easy; and many more compelling and colorful characters. In the most intimate piece, *The Devil's Thumb*, Krakauer recounts his own near-fatal, ultimately triumphant struggle with solo-madness as he scales Alaska's *Devil's Thumb*. *Eiger Dreams* is stirring, vivid writing about one of the most compelling and dangerous of all human pursuits.

.com No matter what the actual temperature may be, several pages into *Eiger Dreams* you will begin to shiver. Halfway through you will acquire a new appreciation for your fingers, toes, and the fact that you still have a nose. And by the end of this collection, you'll define some commonly used phrases in an entirely different way. The understated "catch some air" and the whimsical "log some flight time" are climbers' euphemisms for falling, while "crater" refers to what happens when you log some flight time all the way to the ground. "Summitting," the term for reaching the top of a mountain, seems almost colorless in comparison. The various heroes, risk-takers, incompetents, and individualists Krakauer captures are more than colorful, whether they summit or not. The author is more interested in exploring the addiction of risk—the intensity of effort—than mere triumph. There's the mythical minimalist climber, John Gill, whose fame "rests entirely on assents less than thirty feet high," and the Burgess brothers—freewheeling, free-floating English twins who seem to make all the right decisions when it counts, and hence most often fail to reach the top. Of course, they are alive. Over these and other talented climbers hangs a malignant, endlessly creative nature—its foehn winds can make people crazy and its avalanches do far worse. *Eiger Dreams* is an adrenaline fest for the weary, an overdue examination of a stylish, brave subculture. As one of the heroes Krakauer outlines says of his occupation, "It's sort of like having fun, only different." From Publishers Weekly  
Armchair adventurers can't ask for better entertainment than this tour of the legendary locations of mountaineering and the eccentric climbers who gather there. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal  
Climber-turned-journalist Krakauer circles around the question of why a climber climbs by writing of various aspects of that culture. Revising pieces that appeared in *Outside* and *Smithsonian* magazines, he describes being tent-bound in a storm, and the competition among bush pilots flying climbers to Denali. Fresh material discusses related sports: frozen waterwall climbing and box canyon exploration. The obligatory chapters on particular climbs—an aborted attempt on the Eiger Nordwand, a lone ascent of the Devil's Thumb—are less successful in revealing to nonclimbers the emotions that drive a climber. Entertaining but not memorable. - Paula M. Strain, M.L.S., Rockville, Md. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.