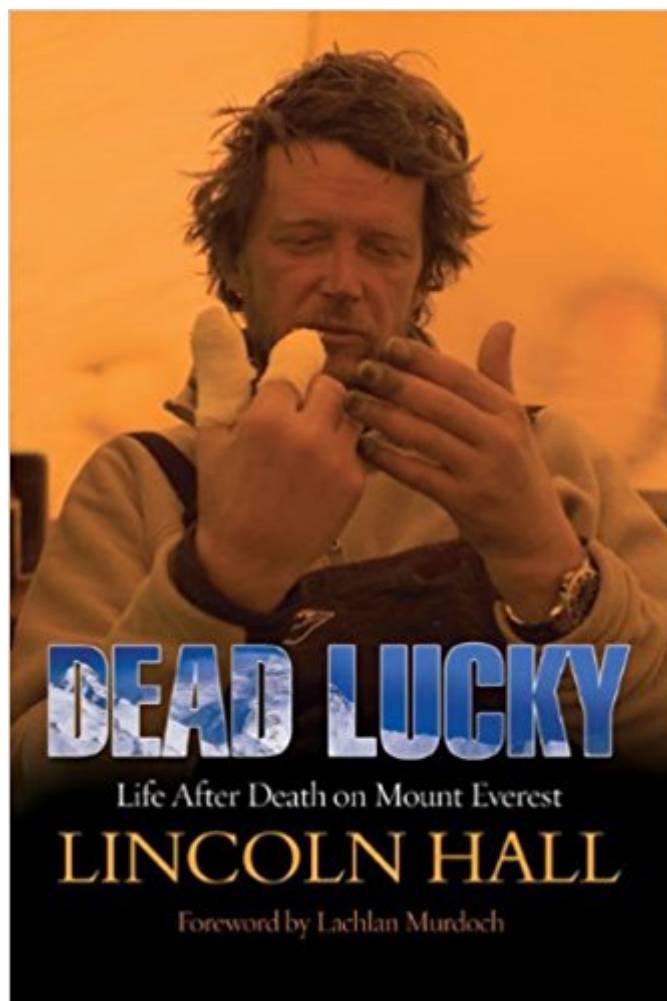


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Dead Lucky: Life After Death On Mount Everest



Synopsis

Lincoln Hall's breathtaking account of surviving a night in Everest's "death zone." Lincoln Hall likes to say that on the evening of May 25, 2006, he died on Everest. Indeed, Hall attempted to climb the mountain during a deadly season in which eleven people perished. And he was, in fact, pronounced dead, after collapsing from altitude sickness. Two Sherpas spent hours trying to revive him, but as darkness fell, word came via radio from the expedition's leader that they should descend in order to save themselves. The news of Hall's death traveled rapidly from mountaineering websites to news media around the world, and ultimately to his family back in Australia. Early the next morning, however, an American guide, climbing with two clients and a Sherpa, was startled to find Hall sitting cross-legged on a sharp crest of the summit ridge. In this page-turning account of survival against all odds, Hall chronicles in fascinating detail the days and nights that led up to his fateful night in Mount Everest's "death zone." His story is all the more miraculous given his climbing history. Hall had been part of Australia's first attempt to reach the top of Everest in 1984 but had not done any major climbing for many years, having set aside his passion in order to support his family. While others in the team achieved their dream during this 1984 expedition, Hall was forced to turn back due to illness. Thus, his triumph in reaching the summit at the age of fifty is a story unto itself. So, too, is Hall's description of his family's experience back in Australia, as sudden grief turned to relief and joy in a matter of hours. Rarely has there been such a thrilling narrative of one man's encounter with the world's tallest mountain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review In May 2006 on Mt. Everest, veteran climber Hall was left for dead because, to his fellow climbers, he appeared to have died. But the following morning, members of another expedition found him, sitting on a rock and very much alive. Hall's story made headlines around the world -- not too many dead men walk down off the tallest mountain in the world -- and now Hall, the author of seven previous climbing-themed books, tells us the full story. It is a remarkable account. Hall's ordeal is the stuff of nightmares: collapsing from altitude sickness, slipping into unconsciousness, waking up all alone at the top of the world, left behind as though he were a corpse. As a storyteller, Hall has a tough job: to convey to the reader what was going on inside his head as he slipped in and out of hallucination until the line between fantasy and reality was so blurred as to be nonexistent. He does this with a grace and sense of drama that befit a novel: we feel we're there with him, seeing and hearing things that can't possibly be real. There have been a great many Everest-themed books lately, but this one stands alone, the first-person account of a climber's journey into, and back out of, death itself. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

aA gripping, almost unbelievable story of survival.a a"The Sun- Herald" aA compelling story that explores the outer reaches of human strength, endurance and endeavour.a a"The Sunday Telegraph" aA powerful account.a a"Illawarra Mercury" aAn incredible, educational spiritual and entertaining book.a a"Independent Weekly" aAn inspirational tale.a a"Outdoor Australia" magazineIn May 2006 on Mt. Everest, veteran climber Hall was left for dead because, to his fellow climbers, he appeared to have died. But the following morning, members of another expedition found him, sitting on a rock and very much alive. Hall's story made headlines around the worldanot too many dead men walk down off the tallest mountain in the worldaand now Hall, the author of seven previous climbing-themed books, tells us the full story. It is a remarkable account. Hall's ordeal is the stuff of nightmares: collapsing from altitude sickness, slipping into unconsciousness, waking up all alone at the top of the world, left behind as though he were a corpse. As a storyteller, Hall has a tough job: to convey to the reader what was going on inside his head as he slipped in and out of hallucination until the line between fantasy and reality was so blurred as to be nonexistent. He does this with a grace and sense of drama that befit a novel: we feel weare there with him, seeing and hearing things that canat possibly be real. There have been a great many Everest-themed books lately, but this one stands alone, the first-person account of a climberas journey into, and back out of, death itself.a --"Booklist" (starred review) aA gripping, almost

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Of the 287 pages, the climbing adventure finally begins on page 121. What's in the first 120 pages? Dunno, I kept falling asleep night after night (something about a lot of useless trivia not even pertaining to his nightmare on the mountain... bragging... worthless material). He bragged so much about his climbing abilities that I was left feeling like a skeptic. First, suffering from cerebral edema (due to high altitude sickness) he explains how one loses their mind, hallucinates, etc etc and eventually dies quickly thereafter. But for some odd reason, in the middle of suffering from cerebral edema, he made all the right choices to assure his survival. Furthermore, later he has the miraculous ability to recall most of the experience. Hmmmph. I also wonder if after his sherpas (expert climbing companions) decided to leave him on the mountain (so that they could get down the mountain alive) that he, in a full down suit, bedded down in a safe haven of boulders and survived for 12 hours until a group of climbers found him sitting there on the mountain... on a spot exactly where each climber had to pass by in order to get to the summit. [side note: other climbers have survived overnights on the mountain in this manner, as he explains in the book]. Years and years before this climb, Lincoln already had suffered from frostbite and lost the tips of some toes and/or fingers. But on this expedition, he happened to sit crisscross applesauce to keep his fingers and toes warm... good decision, even in the midst of cerebral edema. I dunno, his story and facts don't add up, to me. Nonetheless, he did suffer a night on the mountain and lived to tell about it (lucky for him the weather was perfect that night). But I felt compelled to write this review because of the disappointment and frustration I was left with over buying this book. If you find this story interesting and don't want to waste time reading this, there is a documentary on YT and it's far more riveting and entertaining. Plus, more of a focus is on the sensational aspect of David Sharp. Now THAT was interesting - but Lincoln glosses over it in his book, of course.

I love anything Everest. Mr Hall is a really good writer. He is insightful and honest and I enjoyed this book immensely. That he survived is a miracle and he saw the very negative side of Everest,

including the despicable behavior of some on the mountain. I was so sad to hear that Mr Hall passed away from Cancer in 2012. He had a great live of life, much courage and a ton of love for his family. RIP Lincoln. I recommend this to anyone interested in stories of survival, the outdoors and mountaineering. This is one of the best books I've come across in this genre.

I have read, and have loved, many Everest books. This one is one of my, if not the very, favorites in the stack. Lincoln's incredible tale is infused with warmth, great humour and abundant feeling. We really feel as if we have crawled into his imperfect skin and are experiencing this life journey with him. An Everest climb is beyond me at this point in my life but that's okay, because I have already done it -- via this book. It's that good. Bless your soul, Mr. Hall, wherever it may be, and thank you for this offering.

All around good read maybe drags a little at times. Probably the most interesting part for me is his bizarre interactions with the Sherpas. It's cool how he really integrated Buddhism with climbing and wasn't just another crass narcissistic tourist. I have to say I had this sense that there was some sort of big elephant in the room issue in this guy's life which was never discussed and which he took to his grave, like there's a missing blank not filled in here, a mystery that motivated his quest that somehow can't be discussed. A missing piece that was the reason he ultimately chose to go back to the spirit world early in life.

Great Book~

A harrowing account. The author cheated death. He is quite full of himself and the narrative leading up to the near tragedy is often annoying. Remains a good read for fans of mountaineering, but be prepared to often pull for the mountain in this struggle.

As a wannabe mountaineer, it is useful to read a book like this from time-to-time to remind myself that Everest is in a whole different league and the guys that climb it are a whole lot tougher than me. I really enjoyed this book and was happy that Lincoln made it off of Everest and survived the ordeal. Although he paid a very high price. I couldn't figure out if his experiences with the sherpas beating him were real or an hallucination. I'm not sure he knew either.

Very well written!

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