



Dead Lucky: Life After Death on Mount Everest

By Lincoln Hall

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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.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

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

Review

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" magazine

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About the Author

Lincoln Hall is one of Australia's best known mountaineers, with a climbing career that spans three decades, most notably in the Himalaya, Antarctica and the Andes. He had a key role in the first Australian ascent of Mount Everest in 1984, and his account of that expedition, *White Limbo*, became a bestseller. Hall's second book was *The Loneliest Mountain*, the story of a journey to Antarctica in a small yacht and the first ascent of Mount Minto. His only published work of fiction is *Blood on the Lotus*, an historical novel set in Nepal and Tibet. *Fear No Boundary* is Hall's biography of his friend Sue Fear, who died mountaineering in the Himalaya while Hall was on Mount Everest in 2006. He has worked as a trekking guide, has edited adventure magazines, and is a director of the Australian Himalayan Foundation. Hall was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1987 for his services to mountaineering. He lives with his wife, Barbara Scanlan, and their two teenage sons, Dylan and Dorje, in Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales.

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