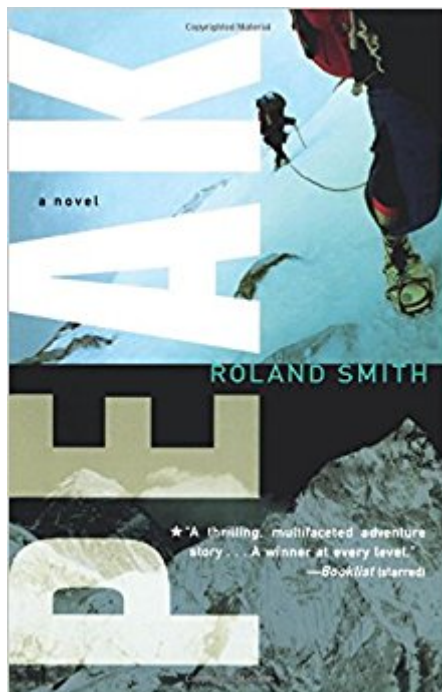


The book was found

Peak (A Peak Marcello Adventure)



Synopsis

The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below. Peak Marcello After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life. Roland Smith has created an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family, and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent told in his own words is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Series: A Peak Marcello Adventure

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Harcourt; 1 edition (August 1, 2008)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 356 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,219 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports #10 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #20 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up – In this high-altitude adventure, 14-year-old Peak Marcello's passion for climbing is clearly in the genes, but when he is arrested for scaling tall buildings, his mom and stepdad make a deal with the judge to ship him out of the country to live with her ex-husband and

squelch the media attention that might inspire "Spider Boy" copycats. The teen's father, Josh, and his Himalayan expedition company are preparing teams to climb Mount Everest and suddenly Peak is faced with the possibility of becoming the youngest climber to reach the summit. Excited about the adventure, he learns that Josh may have less-than-fatherly motives involving publicity and financial gain for his company, at the expense of his paying customers. Peak is handed off to his father's head Sherpa for training and altitude acclimation with a Nepalese boy his own age, named Sun-jo. At the same time, a media crew gathers at base camp to witness the climb, and an overzealous Chinese police captain doggedly searches for passport violations and underage climbers. Facts about Mount Everest, base camps, and the dangers of climbing are plentiful, depicting an international culture made up of individuals who are often self-absorbed and indifferent to the Tibetan Sherpas, who risk their lives for them. Peak's empathy for Sun-jo helps him make a critical decision as they near the summit, revealing his emotional growth and maturity. A well-crafted plot and exotic setting give the novel great appeal to survival adventure fans.

--Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Starred Review Fourteen-year-old New Yorker Peak ("It could have been worse. My parents could have named me Glacier, or Abyss, or Crampon.") Marcello hones his climbing skills by scaling skyscrapers. After Peak is caught climbing the Woolworth Building, an angry judge gives him probation, with an understanding that Peak will leave New York and live with his famous mountaineer father in Thailand. Peak soon learns, however, that his father has other plans for him; he hopes that Peak will become the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. Peak is whisked off to Tibet and finds himself in the complex world of an Everest base camp, where large amounts of money are at stake and climbing operations offer people an often-deadly shot at the summit. This is a thrilling, multifaceted adventure story. Smith includes plenty of mountaineering facts told in vivid detail (particularly creepy is his description of the frozen corpses that litter the mountain). But he also explores other issues, such as the selfishness that nearly always accompanies the intensely single-minded. A winner at every level. For more mountaineering adventures, suggest Edward Meyers' *Climb or Die* (1994) and Michael Dahl's *The Viking Claw* (2001), both for a slightly younger audience.

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I thoroughly enjoyed this teen boy adventure. Peak Marcello is a 14-year-old boy, the son of two

well-known mountaineers, so he hardly can help it that climbing is in his blood. But when he's caught climbing a New York skyscraper, he only escapes jail when his father, Josh, shows up and offers to take him back to Thailand with him until things cool down. But Josh has never been part of Peak's life. He left when pregnancy and then a serious fall caused Peak's mom to give up the sport. Peak hopes for a meaningful time with his dad, and he's stunned to find out Josh's motivations are primarily financial. Josh wants Peak to climb Mount Everest. If he succeeds, he'd be the youngest climber ever, which could only benefit Josh's guide business. This is a fantastic adventure novel. Not only do we have a well-rounded character in Peak with a tough predicament, we get to climb Mount Everest with him! The context is a virtual crash course in procedure, equipment, hazards, glories, geography, and topography. It got my blood pumping, I'll tell you! In addition, we're introduced to several sherpas, those unsung heroes who guide climbers to the top, making the trip again and again. It was an interesting look at the local people who live, work, and often die tragically on Mount Everest. We even get a taste of the restrictive politics of China (Tibet), which shares the mountain with Nepal. Peak becomes close friends with a local Nepalese boy named Sun-jo whose grandfather is a sherpa. Without giving away anything, let me just say the friendship does much to drive the story into deeper levels and illustrate who Peak really is, deep down. Peak's classic quote, the great takeaway at the end of his emotional journey, is: "The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below." I loved Peak. I enjoyed his story, and I liked his conclusions. Highly, highly recommended for boys (and girls who like a good kick-butt adventure now and again). Ages 12+.

From jail to the top of the world! Basically, the plot of this book is a kid named Peak Marcello (whose parents use to be climbers) tries to climb a skyscraper but gets caught by the police who thought he was a terrorist right before he made it to the top. Then in trial his dad shows up and offers to take Peak to Tibet, China away from New York in hope that eventually people would forget about his climb. Then, Peak's dad surprises him and takes him to climb Mt. Everest. As I mentioned the book starts out in New York. Before he climbs Everest, his dad takes him to Tibet, China to get his climbing gear. After getting his climbing gear, the rest of the book takes place on Mt. Everest. The Main characters are Peak, Peak's Dad and Mom, The Two Peas (Peak's twin sisters), and his language arts teacher. The Main character, Peak, has an angry grudge towards his father for leaving them when Peak was little; however, as they get

farther up the mountain they start to trust each other and that grudge slowly wears out. The book is written in a perspective where Peak is writing this book in a moleskine notebook as he climbs Mt. Everest. He explains this at the beginning of the book. I think the author of this book (Roland Smith) nailed the way the story is being told. The way it's written, Peak sounds just like a fourteen year old boy trying to reach the top of Everest. If that's what the author was going for, he did a great job. I think the theme of this book is that it's not the mountain that matters, it's what lies at the bottom. I know this because on the last page of the book (page 246) Peak says: "The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below." I don't think the author would have made those the last two sentences if he didn't want the reader to remember that. Overall, I thought the book was great! I couldn't put it down!

Good book, fast shipping, excellent condition. This book came in exactly as expected and the content is perfect for a freshman boy. My son had to write a short paper over the summer for the first day of school, and thoroughly enjoyed this book. The story is about a young man who has lost his way and when his life completely changes (because his living situation does), he not only thrives physically but also learns life lessons along the way. He learns that everyone is not as fortunate as he is, although it may not appear to him that he IS fortunate, and he also learns the value in putting other people first. He learns to appreciate the selfless acts of others and pay those acts forward to help the less fortunate. My son is not an avid reader and it was no problem getting him to stay focused on this story. Well written, well packaged, well shipped. Highly recommend for this age group and from this seller.

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