

Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber

By Mark Twight



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- * Mark Twight's collected works, some never before published in North America
- * Includes dramatic black and white mountaineering photos
- * Features brand new epilogues to all of the stories They call him Dr. Doom.

Raving and kicking against mediocrity, his anger and pain simmer close to the surface. He speaks and writes the language of the punk music that defined him. He is extreme alpinist Mark Twight, and he doesn't back down from the truth. He's a one-man literary punk band. If you have any doubt, here comes his knockout punch: the only collection of writing Twight swears he'll ever publish.

Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber is raw, unfiltered Twight. These author's cut are the real deal, not the homogenized fluff offered up by magazine editors who are often unwilling to offend. Twight's words make it clear that climbing is only distantly about the summit. Several of these pieces are new to U.S. readers. Twight edited all of the selections and appended each with a current author's note; confessing his inspiration, events that followed, and lessons learned (or not learned, some might say). It adds up to a frightfully lucid look into Twight's personal life as both man and hardcore alpine climber. The dissection scares me sometimes...

Whether railing against the spinelessness of American siege-style mountaineering, admitting addiction to pushing the bounds of the possible, or reveling in his ability to cut away anything in life that holds him back, Twight never blinks. Along the way, there is the drama of new and epic routes, unbreakable bonds between climbing partners, and Twight's evolution as a climber and a man. He tells every story in a unique, in-your-face style.

Kiss or Kill is not an easy read. It may scare some readers-but that's the point. "I want this book to help you recognize your own anger, which will help you understand mine", says Twight. "Somewhere out there somebody understands these words and knows they matter. They were written in blood, learned by heart."

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From Chamonix to the Himalayas to Peak Communism in the Pamirs, extreme climbing has been Twight's response to "stupidity and mediocrity" and at times it is even "a tool to forestall suicide." Following Extreme Alpinism, this volume collects more than 12 years of Twight's extreme outdoor journalism for such magazines as Climbing, Outside and Men's Journal. Punk rock lyrics pepper these essays, providing context and form for his rage, cynicism and obsessive, masculine drive. Avalanches, rotten ice, the deaths of fellow climbers, the rescue of others, dwindling food supplies, lost tents at 18,000 feet Twight survives mortal dangers and tragedies, writing, "No matter what I did, the suffering I experienced did not satisfy me. I had to have more." Twight's in-your-face style is both his strength and his weakness fans of Henry Rollins or Charles Bukowski may find a sport nut analogue in Twight. Deeply personal, arrogant, grandiose, thrilling and unapologetic, this record of his 15-year career will gratify and repel extreme athletes, their admirers and their detractors. 40 b&w photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Mountain climber and coauthor (with Jim Martin) of Extreme Alpinism, Twight has here compiled a collection of previously published articles from Outside, Men's Journal, and other U.S. and European magazines. The articles have been revised for this book, often restoring their original length and language, and each one has a "2000 Author's Note" that gives background material on the original article and the climb itself. Twight's moutaineering experiences led him all over Asia, Europe, and North America and are presented in chronological order. The entire book is about mountain climbing and climbers, and because it is so full of personal reactions and experiences, it reads somewhat like the extended ego trip of a Sixties throwback. While Kiss or Kill may be of interest to public libraries with extensive mountaineering collections, it will be of little interest to most libraries. George M. Jenks, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg PA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Read [Kiss or Kill] if you have alpine ambitions -- or have a disturbed mind. It's a good read, and you might gleen some perspective from it. (*Scree*)

If you've delved into the growing body of mountaineering literature by reading books like Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* ... be forewarned: They're like Billy Joel; **Kiss or Kill** is like the Dead Kennedys ... Prodding the deepest recesses of fear the way he'd stab a wafer-thin ice runnel with the pick of his axe, Twight's **Kiss or Kill** is an engaging read. (*The Vancouver Sun*)

With chapter titles such as 'House of Pain' and 'I Hurt, Therefore I Am,' no one would mistake Twight for a member of the Von Trapp family. A bracing tonic for us desk-bound wussies. (*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*)

[Twight] is brutally honest, and nobody, including his friends or himself, is safe from his high standards and criticism. Many of these [collected pieces] are gems and shed new light on his earlier work... This is literature about the soul of alpinism, not a blow-by-blow account of climbing drudgery from some tourist peak bagger. (*Rock & Ice*)

A glimpse into the psychological reasons one person faces extreme danger. (*Reference & Research Book News*)

Deeply personal, arrogant, grandiose, thrilling and unapologetic, this record of [Twight's] career will gratify and repel extreme athletes, their admirers and detractors. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Puccio:

Book is usually written, printed, or created for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A publication Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you seeking best book or acceptable book with you?

Melanie Roberts:

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They should answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber to read.

James Rogers:

This Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber without we recognize teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Pedro Dillon:

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book.

Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

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