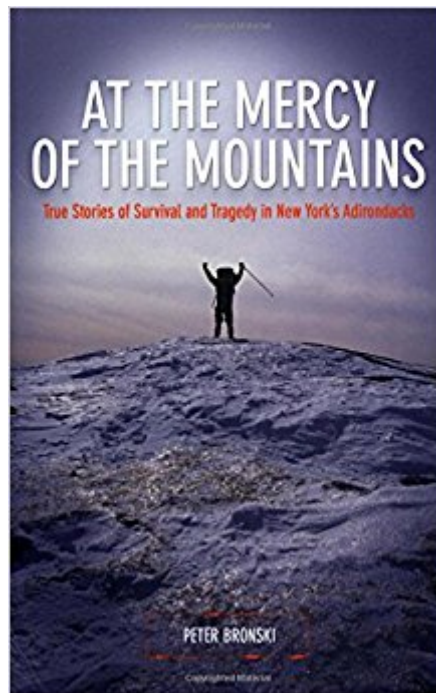




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At The Mercy Of The Mountains: True Stories Of Survival And Tragedy In New York's Adirondacks



Synopsis

In this compelling book, award-winning adventure writer and former Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue team member Peter Bronski chronicles true stories of survival and tragedy, from famous historical cases during the early 20th century, to modern tales of harrowing struggle in the mountains and wilderness. Extensively researched, these gripping tales pull together historical accounts, first-hand interviews, previously untold stories and expert analysis to retrace each misadventure

Book Information

Perfect Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Lyons Press; 1st edition (February 26, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1599213044

ISBN-13: 978-1599213040

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #462,458 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Mountains](#) #122 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Survival Skills](#) #539 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Mountain Climbing](#)

Customer Reviews

"For every hiker, climber or canoeist who gets into trouble, there are thousands more who don't. Peter Bronski's compelling account of misadventures in the Adirondacks is a necessary corrective for those who go into the mountains unwary of the dangers." --Jim Wickwire, author of *Addicted to Danger: A Memoir About Affirming Life in the Face of Death* and the first American to summit K2 "In this compelling book, award-winning adventure writer and former Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue team member Peter Bronski chronicles true stories of survival and tragedy, from famous historical cases during the early twentieth century to modern tales of harrowing struggle in the mountains and wilderness. Extensively researched, these gripping tales pull together historical accounts, firsthand interviews, previously untold stories, and expert analysis to retrace each misadventure. More than just a recounting of tragedy in the wilderness, *At the Mercy of the Mountains* is an affirmation of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity and an insight into why misadventure happens in the first place—and how to avoid it. It is a must-read for

hikers, climbers, paddlers, armchair travelers— anyone who loves great tales of adventure."

--Associated Press

Every year thousands of outdoor enthusiasts venture into a six-million-acre wilderness that is the size of Yosemite, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon combined. They are attracted by its accessibility, spectacular views, and challenging terrain. But, when adventure is easy to find, so, too, is misadventure. In this compelling book, award-winning adventure writer and former Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue team member Peter Bronski chronicles true stories of survival and tragedy, from famous historical cases during the early twentieth century to modern tales of harrowing struggle in the mountains and wilderness. Extensively researched, these gripping tales pull together historical accounts, firsthand interviews, previously untold stories, and expert analysis to retrace each misadventure. More than just a recounting of tragedy in the wilderness, *At the Mercy of the Mountains* is an affirmation of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity and an insight into why misadventure happens in the first place—and how to avoid it. *At the Mercy of the Mountains* is a must-read for hikers, climbers, paddlers, armchair travelers— anyone who loves great tales of adventure.

Peter Bronski's collection of survival stories is riveting. Beginning with an introduction discussing the unique history and characteristics that are the Adirondacks, Bronski sets the tone for some amazing and harrowing true stories. The infamous 1995 'blowdown' (derecho) is witnessed by several campers, where tornado-like microburst combined with thousands of lightning strikes terrifies the region. The storm leaves campers stranded in a mix of tangled trees piled like matchsticks. Four young men on a winter hiking trip suddenly experience a fast regional thaw and watch as several feet of snow turn to slush, suddenly flooding their lean-to and leaving them to hike over treacherous lakes and rivers that can't hold their weight. An experienced pilot and his wife crash their small plane into a mountainside, barely surviving, only to find themselves miles from nowhere. These are just some of the stories that the author brings to life, some old and some recent. The most striking aspect this collection is the emphasis on search and rescue (SAR) in conjunction with the survivors ordeals. There are numerous missing persons mentioned over the years, some found and some lost forever. Instead of dwelling on morbid or gory descriptions, Bronski focuses on the survivors and those that risk their lives to save others. Sometimes remnants of a lost hiker are found years later. Sometimes the family never gives up the search. This book is an instant classic and a must read for any outdoor enthusiast, especially if they travel in the Adirondacks.

I just read the Preface and I am hooked. Peter Bronski's writing style is both passionate and eloquent. The pages come alive with his love and respect for the outdoors and especially the Adirondacks. I am very happy and jumping back in right now :)

Bought this book as a gift for my husband's birthday. Arrived quickly and in great shape. We frequent the Adirondack park multiple times a year and my husband and kids are avid backpackers. He loved this book. He's since lent it to a couple of fellow backpacking friends.

To those of us who have come to appreciate the God-created majesty and beauty of the Adirondack Mountains, Peter Bronski's book reminds us that "the wildness" of weather and terrain can quickly become desperate enemies to the overly adventurous among us. Amazing stories that give us a deep appreciation for those mountain natives that are able to mount death defying rescues quickly.

What a wonderful read. I just recently discovered hiking/camping in the Adirondacks and it's become my new love.... So during the week when I'm in the city working and there is no chance of being in the wilderness (And I'm itching for the weekends)... This book helps to quell that itch and gives me something to read so I feel like I'm there. This book brings it all to life, the perfect mix of storytelling, facts/information (perfect for understanding where everything is taking place) and suspense. It also makes one respect the power of nature and the Adirondacks, and if you're a hiker, definitely helps you get an understanding of what can go wrong. The stories are numerous and just the right length. Just when you have reached the end of one, the next is beginning. Lastly the author does an excellent job of combining quotes in the beginning of each chapter from sources that I'm sure to follow up on and will make my reading list in the future. Good job and thanks for the awesome read!!!

Got this as a gift for my fiancé. We have both hiked all the high peaks and spend a lot of time in the ADKs. It is neat reading about places we have been. Makes me a little nervous about some of our adventures, but it is a great book. Nice easy reading!

Bronski does a good job of chronicling many of the most exciting and newsworthy mishaps and misadventures committed by those who have ventured into the wilderness of the Adirondacks. Some are tragedies and some are triumphs, but all are unique and interesting. What I appreciate

most is that he makes a laudable effort to not only cover mountaineering accidents, but lost hikers, airplane crashes, canoeing disasters, even the occasional avalanche. His interest is not merely sensationalistic, however. He seeks to discover how these accidents happened and how they can be avoided. I suppose my only slight complaint is that a majority of the stories are from the last few decades, but I understand why he did this. Many of those involved in the rescues, and the survivors themselves, are still around for interviews. This gives the stories narrative power and immediacy. This book is well worth reading for anyone who puts on a pack or picks up a paddle and heads into the 'dacks.

I definitely enjoyed this book and found many of the stories interesting and engaging. I have to say, however, that I read this book almost immediately after having read a similar work that recounts stories of misadventure and tragedy in the Presidential Range of New Hampshire written by a one Nicholas Howe (in fact, I have little doubt that Bronski modelled his book on Howe's which was published earlier. An Adirondack version as it were). I preferred Howe's artful and quirky craftsmanship and the content of the stories themselves (the more varied cast of characters and the more ferocious weather in the Presidentials) made "Not Without Peril" more enjoyable. Basically, I recommend both books but I just want to tip people who might be interested in (or who have read) this one to also read that one. You will enjoy them both.

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