



Peak

Roland Smith

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After 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*. He wants Peak 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.

Peak Details

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From Reader Review Peak for online ebook

karen says

everest is a giant mountain that people climb when they want to die. there is no other reason to climb it. is there a mac-and-cheese restaurant at the top?? no. is *tamerlane* up there?? nope. do you get free rent for life if you succeed? no way. so what's the allure??

the thrill of danger?? throw a rock at a bear. it will take less time and you are less likely to freeze to death. a sense of achievement? run a marathon - you will probably not lose any toes. wanting to be among an elite group of smug people? eat a lot of hot dogs, really fast - you will probably not asphyxiate. unless you aspirate one of 'em. try not to.

really - mountain climbing, who needs it?? everest does not want you to climb it, otherwise why would it be so big?? why would it be so hard to breathe up there?? to successfully climb everest, you have to clamber up a ways, then rest, then GO BACK DOWN so your blood doesn't explode or whatever, and then go back up to the same place you just were and somehow try to breathe the fake air that's up there, and you incrementally make progress, and maybe you get pneumonia or HAPE (where your lungs get all sloshy with liquid - awesome) or you lose some toes or other extremities, maybe you run out of food, maybe you fall down a crevasse and hopefully die instantly, maybe your rock crumbles beneath you or your rope fails and you tumble down forever, maybe a boulder falls on you or an avalanche buries you or a yak eats you. the only thing that could make this scarier is zombies. and that is only a matter of time - there are zombies everywhere else these days.

so despite all my feelings about people who would opt to lose fingers and toes (FINGERS AND TOES!! YOU NEED THEM!!), i loved this book. from the beginning, i knew i was going to love this book. it is purely awesome the whole way through.

peak, the son of two once-famous, now separated mountain climbers, gets caught scaling a skyscraper in manhattan and tagging the very top of it. this is not the first one he has done, but the first one they catch him at. after a copycat dies in his own attempt, peak cuts a deal and gets shipped off to live with his dad in thailand, but dad has a little surprise. instead of going fishing, like normal safe people, he takes his son to tibet climb everest (with a secret agenda to make peak the youngest american ever to reach the top, also conveniently getting publicity for his climbing business)

and the rest is all climbing. and danger. and friendship and personal growth and some really wonderfully touching scenes and a perfectly appropriate ending. i strongly recommend this book, to y/a and other audiences. this is both a great adventure book and a great coming-of-age novel.

and now i see he has a book called *sasquatch*. this author is my new best friend.

come to my blog!

Abbey says

Have you ever wondered how climbing is really like? What kind of things happen while people are climbing and how long it takes to climb to get to your destination? Peak gives you all of the information about it. And including a story line to go with it, not just facts on climbing. Being the kind of reader I am (reading

mysteries and crimes and such), this book is actually fascinating. It actually caught me onto some spots in the book where there was a twist and it got me more into it and wondering what will happen next. Peak, is a fourteen year old boy who loves to climb. Long story short, his dad left his mom for climbing while she took care of Peak. Anyway, Peak took the chances and climbed a building in New York. He got caught by the police and went to trial. It was either to go to a Juvenile Detention Center or have his mother bail him out. Peak has not seen his dad in seven years and Josh (Peak's dad) comes to trial to bail Peak out. He succeeded. The only reason why he bailed Peak out? Is so he can go climb Mount Everest and be the youngest person to reach the top. That means, they had to hurry before Peak's birthday, which was close. I'd have to say my least favorite character was Josh, because he's only been using Peak for fame. He left Peak's mom so he could climb, (she could not climb anymore because of breaking her back). My opinion on this book is that it was actually pretty amazing to read. There were great events in the story and points where I had fun reading it. One weakness is that it caught me off guard on some points, then it would redirect me and I figured out on what's been happening. I recommend this book to anyone who loves climbing and are into great twists in books. There was a twist that really got me and I kept my eyes locked on the book for a while. You can learn a lot about what climbers really do on the mountains and how they do it. That's why it's a great book to read.

Sherwood Smith says

Copy provided by NetGalley:

Peak Marcello is fourteen, and at the start of the novel he's clambering at the side of a New York skyscrapers, which he has climbed using his mountaineering training in order to tag. He's arrested and the authorities want to throw the book at him for maximum sentence as a warning.

So his absent mountain climber dad swoops in for the first time in Peak's life. Helps out, promising to whisk Peak off to Tibet and private school, until the notoriety dies down. But what his dad actually wants Peak to do is become the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Everest.

While the voice did not remind me of any fourteen year old boy [not just in its clear-sighted maturity, which some adults have trouble managing, but also in certain turns of phrase] I have ever known in a very long life of parenting, teaching, and counseling, that didn't matter much because I liked the voice, I liked the character, and I found the story brisk, vividly described, and gripping. This book is not new. NetGalley seems to have it as a publicity move to highlight the sequel.

Well, that worked. I want to read that sequel.

Alex says

Named Peak by his obsessed by mountain climbing father, Peak finds himself in court about to be sent to juvenile detention cell, for climbing a skyscraper. Peak is snapped away to China for an attempt on Mt Everest with his father. Peak can not decide if his father is there to use him or because he thinks Peak can make it. A gripping story with great characters, be sure to read this somewhere warm, because PEAK radiates an icy chill that settles into your bones.

Allison Tebo says

Once in a while, there is a piece of YA fiction with a style that is borderline genius – and that would undoubtedly be *Peak*. An incredibly strong style and voice utterly captivated me – more specifically I was utterly captivated by it's narrator – Peak, a fourteen year old climber. From the very first sentence, I was instantly transported into this boy's smart mind, hurting heart, and incredible integrity and strength. Peak was the first person this year to join my Hall of Favorite Characters and he is an utterly amazing edition. He is impossible to describe – you will have to read it for yourself. Thematically strong – compelling motifs of forgiveness, sacrifice and maturing are woven amongst a book that portrays the endeavor of surmounting Everest so realistically, it will make your heart pound and your muscles ache to read it. The descriptions in this book are gloriously detailed and startlingly pictorial, summing up a frigid and deathly environment that awes and crows the reader.

Mini review from my blog: <http://allisonswell.website/2018/04/1...>

Lex says

There are good books and then there are books you cannot put down. *Peak* was one of those books for me. I took it with me everywhere. I read it during every spare moment I had - even during boring parts of a movie I "watched" with my sister. I was, quite literally, on the edge of my seat through the whole thing.

In first person, written as a story for a school assignment, Peak tells the story of, well, *Peak*. A fourteen, almost fifteen, year old boy who loves climbing. Because he lives in New York, he resorts to - illegally - climbing skyscrapers and tagging blue mountains in inconspicuous places. When he gets caught, it seems he's set to spend the next three years in JV until his father shows up with an alternative. Peak will spend the next three years with his father. One thing quickly leads to another and next thing we know, Peak is preparing to be the youngest person ever to set foot on the summit of Mount Everest.

I picked this up because this book is probably the closest I'll ever get to climbing Mount Everest myself. I am addicted to books about survival, life and death. Airplane passengers stranded on islands, swimmers in shark infested waters, fourteen year old's climbing five feet above sea-level. (I live in the mile high city; I can't tell you how many out of towners have trouble breathing *here*.) It fascinates me. I can't look away. The book would have to be horrendously written for me to give up on it.

Fortunately, Peak didn't disappoint. It wasn't a mind blowing read. It wasn't difficult, and in fact I'd probably recommend it to middle school age kids, maybe even advanced readers younger than that. Peak keeps you hooked till the very end with surprises at every turn. It's not just a story about survival. It's a story about family and friendship and growing up. And I liked that things didn't turn out all cookie cutter, cheesy, everyone-lives-happily-ever-after. (Oops, spoiler?)

:P

(view spoiler)

Thomas says

"Peak" is about fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello who has just been arrested for climbing a skyscraper in the center of New York City. He has the choice of rotting away in juvy, or escaping with his father to climb Everest (although he doesn't know it at the time). It's no wonder he decides to go with his neglectful father, who wants Peak to call him Josh. The rest of the book is about Peak's adventure climbing the legendary mountain, including Josh's incentive and motivation to get his son up there. There are also other background characters, like Peak's friend Sun-jo and his grandfather Zopa.

"Peak" was a very good read, and I wasn't expecting it to be so good because mountain climbing isn't really my favorite hobby. The author described the climbing scenes very well though, so even someone like me - who is naive in the ways of climbing - could understand the adventure. I also enjoyed the family conflict between Peak and Josh. Overall, a decent read.

J says

"I have climbed my mountain, but I still must go back and live my life."----Tenzing Norgay on the summit of Mount Everest

Peak Marcello is a fourteen year old boy living in New York City who illegally climbs skyscrapers to satisfy his passion for climbing, handed down to him from both of his parents. Unfortunately, his last illegal climb of a skyscraper hands him a harsh sentence from a Judge who is trying to make an example of him. Peak's father steps in and offers to finish raising the boy halfway around the world. His father gives Peak an opportunity to climb Mount Everest in order to be the youngest climber to top the mountain, but Peak soon realizes there are strings attached to the deal.

I love this book because Peak realizes that there is more to life than just grazing skyscrapers and topping mountains. He learns a lesson that his father will never learn---that there is more to life than climbing mountains and One must set his sights on something higher in the end. Peak learns that he must find a healthy balance between his passion for climbing and other goals in life that build a young boy's character. Famous climbers have often said that "Altitude is the great equalizer" in one's life. Peak begins to wonder if his lack of selfishness and self-centeredness will ultimately costs him his claim to fame as the world's youngest climber to top Mount Everest.

"The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things in life that really matter lie far below."-----Peak

Great read for middle school boys!!!

Heather says

Peak Marcello is a fourteen year old boy living in New York City who illegally climbs skyscrapers to satisfy his passion for climbing, handed down to him from both of his parents. Unfortunately, his last illegal climb of a skyscraper hands him a harsh sentence from a judge who is trying to make an example of him. Peak's father steps in and offers to finish raising the boy halfway around the world. His father gives Peak the

opportunity to climb Mount Everest in order to be the youngest climber to top the mountain, but Peak soon realizes there are strings attached to the deal.

Will Peak's lack of selfishness and self-centeredness ultimately cost him his claim of fame as the world's youngest climber to top Mount Everest?

I loved this book because I actually felt like I was there climbing the treacherous mountain with Peak. I often found myself gasping for air and had to remind myself that I was safe at a moderate altitude! Ha! This book will have you on the edge of your seat the entire time. If you like action, suspense, and danger, this is the book for you. Fans of Hatchet and other survival stories will love Peak.

Peak is a climbing enthusiast and has just been busted climbing and tagging a sky scraper in NY. To avoid a jail sentence, he is sent to live with his estranged father and climbing guru. But, his father has other plans for Peak... becoming the youngest American to summit Mt. Everest.

I was pleasantly surprised with this story. It seems that this story was well researched (or maybe the author is into climbing). I found myself gasping for air with Peak as he climbed further up the mountain.

Duffy Pratt says

Asked why he wanted to climb Everest in 1923, George Mallory quipped "Because it's there." The mountain killed him soon thereafter. He was last spotted 800 feet from the summit, and disappeared after that. Seventy five years later they found his body, and from the examinations that were done on it, it sounds like it was mostly intact, basically frozen for eternity or until discovered. There's still some debate over whether Mallory got to the summit, and if he did, whether that counts as the first "ascent" of Everest, or whether the laurels should still go to Sir Edmund Hillary.

Since then, an additional 216 people have died trying to climb Everest. If you like stats, that's 4.6 deaths for every 100 successful attempts at the summit. Of those, over a quarter of the people who died actually reached the summit, and then died on the way down.

Peak is about a 14 year old whose father wants him to climb to the summit. His father runs a commercial climbing company, and it would be a big boon to business to lead the youngest climber to ever reach the summit. Peak, however, does not have many of his own reasons. He can't even say that he's climbing it "because it's there."

At the start of the book, Peak is both a climber and a graffiti artist. He illegally climbs skyscrapers in Manhattan to tag them with his mark. During the book, he is simultaneously climbing Everest and keeping a journal about it (the book we get to read). So which is he? A climber, or a graffiti artist/journal keeper. In a strange way, that's what this book is about. Peak is in search of motivation, and on Everest he finds it.

And that would be a great story, except that I didn't buy the ending of the book at all. At first, it looked like this book would be a bonding story between Peak and his estranged father. But Smith thankfully avoids that aspect, at least for the most part, and that relationship never becomes cloying. But the book ends up with Peak making an arbitrary choice and decision, and the more I think about what happens, the more arbitrary and unconvincing it seems to me. (view spoiler)

The book did a wonderful job of detailing the pain and boredom of acclimating to extreme high altitude. It did a less good job of conveying the wonder of climbing. Instead, it stressed the concentrated focus of doing things one step at a time and repeating the process. Between the pain, the boredom, the repetition, the illness, and the dead bodies littering the trail, it convincingly makes one wonder why anyone would want to climb Everest at all. And if it had had a more satisfying conclusion (and there's part of me that doubts the reliability of the narrative at the end), I would have liked it much better.

Oh, and if you think the idea of a 14 year old kid climbing Everest is a preposterous premise, the current record for youngest to reach the summit is 13 years old, set in 2010, three years after the publication of Peak. There are also records for first blind person, first amputee, etc...

nova ryder ♥ says

[except i lowkey wish peak had actually gone on to the top ughhhh (hide spoiler)]

Donalyn says

I have several students who jokingly tell each other, "Climb high, sleep low," when they have a problem, great advice from Peak! This is definitely a book that adds to your schema for all things Everest. I learned so much from this book--the types of people drawn to mountain climbing, technical terms for gear and mountains, and the dangers of attempting to reach the summit.

A great coming of age story which parallels the mountain climb.

Ashley says

In the beginning, fourteen year old Peak Marcello winds up getting arrested for illegally climbing skyscrapers in New York City. This leads him to his long-lost father and to a climb that changed everything--a climb on Mount Everest.

I learned three main things from this book...

- 1) "...what makes a story unique is not necessarily the information in the story but what the writer chooses to put in or leave out. (pg. 146-147)"
 - 2)"You don't have to be alone to feel alone. (pg. 154)"
 - 3) Sacrifice. Think of others before yourself.
-

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Peak Marcello is fourteen years old and like most fourteen year old boys (that I have encountered) he is kinda dumb. He has been climbing skyscrapers in New York City because I guess he is bored. He gets busted after climbing one of them and is given a choice..go to Juvenile Detention or go live with his dad. Peak doesn't really have the typical type of parents..back in the day his mom and dad were known as rock rats..they would climb any mountain. Mom calmed down after she broke her back climbing and went on to settle down and have Peak a couple of sisters. But Dad? He now has started his own adventure expedition company.

Guess what's up next on Dad's agenda?

Oh heck yes! I'm have weird fascinations with several things and that dang Mt. Everest is one of them. I'll read anything featuring that mountain or sit through any movie/documentary or whatever.

Anyways...

Dad surprises Peak with the fact that he is going to be the youngest to summit Everest. He doesn't really ask..it's more a tell situation.

Peak has never had a close relationship with his dad due to the fact that he wasn't a mountain so their relationship has always been strained. Then when he gets to the mountain base camp thinking he is going to go with his dad he realizes that he is living in a dream world. His climbing companion is to be an old monk who used to be a Sherpa and a young boy.

Now let's talk about how good this was. The author does an amaze balls job with how scary that damn mountain is. (Including that elusive 'death zone' where every minute you spend in it is your body dying.)

He even talks about the dead bodies on it. I expected a young adult book to gloss over those.

I need to buy a copy of this one to ~~make~~ convince the boy child to read. It's got all the good stuff: No lurrve story, great writing, quick paced and there is a real heartwarming part for the people that have feelings.

And best of all????

Everest for the ones of us that are fascinated but no there is no way in hello that we'd ever do it.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review. PS...I got this from Netgalley a hundred years ago and forgot to read it. Because I'm a dumbass. :D

Dianne says

Roland Smith has captured the ever elusive thoughts and feelings of a teenaged boy who journals his thoughts, life and experiences on his climb up Mt. Everest and most importantly, his new found maturity and values as he braves frigid temperatures, a death-defying climb and the gritty side of human nature, as well as the best humanity has to offer. Welcome to the world of **Peak**, bundle up, grab some oxygen, and settle in for a breathtaking read for all ages!

Born to climb, born to parents who lived for the thrill of the danger, the exhilaration and feeling of

accomplishment in defying gravity, Peak was a natural. When a stunt in NYC lands him in the custody of his mountain climbing, absent father, he is caught between his own desire to make his mark in the world and his father's single-minded selfish desires to use his son as a marketing tool to stroke his own ego and fill his pockets.

Enter the mind and thoughts of a teen who learns what is important in life as his eyes are opened to the world and the people around him. Roland Smith has given us adventure, danger and tells it with the youthful voice of young Peak. Magnetic, adventurous, young readers will feel the highs, the lows and the awe of this adventure as if they were there. An amazing journey filled with the heart of a young boy, the brutality of an ancient mountain and the narcissist egos of the adults around him who seem to forget there is no "I" in TEAM when lives are always ON THE LINE and there is no room for the phrase, "Every man for himself." Eye-opening, realistic, enough to fuel younger readers' minds with the power of reaching for the sky, while learning to stay well-grounded in life. Highly recommended for ALL ages, classrooms, libraries, everywhere!

I received this copy from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group in exchange for my honest review.

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