Sir Edmund Hillary: A Life of High Adventure and Inspiration

Early Life and Career

Sir Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand, on July 20, 1919. He grew up in Tuakau, a small town in Waikato, and attended Auckland Grammar School. From an early age, Hillary had a passion for adventure and exploration. He was a gifted athlete and mountaineer, and he spent much of his free time hiking and climbing in the nearby ranges.



High Adventure by Sir Edmund Hillary

4.6 out of 5

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After graduating from high school, Hillary worked as a carpenter and beekeeper. He also joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force during World War II. After the war, he continued to pursue his passion for climbing and mountaineering. In 1951, he became the first person to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

The Conquest of Mount Everest

Hillary's ascent of Mount Everest was one of the most daring feats of exploration in history. The expedition was led by British mountaineer John Hunt, and Hillary was accompanied by Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa mountaineer from Nepal.

The team set off from Kathmandu, Nepal, in March 1953. They spent several weeks acclimatizing to the high altitude and preparing for the climb. On May 29, 1953, Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming the first people to ever stand on top of the world.

Hillary's ascent of Mount Everest was a major accomplishment that captured the imagination of people around the world. He became a national hero in New Zealand and was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II.

Later Life and Legacy

After his ascent of Mount Everest, Hillary continued to be an adventurous spirit. He led several other expeditions to the Himalayas, including one that reached the summit of Mount Makalu, the fifth highest mountain in the world. He also became involved in philanthropy and humanitarian work.

Hillary founded the Himalayan Trust, a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of people in Nepal. The Trust has built schools, hospitals, and clinics, and has provided food and emergency relief to communities in need.

Sir Edmund Hillary died in Auckland, New Zealand, on January 11, 2008, at the age of 88. He is remembered as one of the greatest adventurers and mountaineers of all time. His life was an inspiration to millions, and his legacy continues to live on through the work of the Himalayan Trust.

Sir Edmund Hillary was an extraordinary man who lived a life of high adventure and inspiration. He was a true pioneer who pushed the boundaries of human endurance and achieved great things. His legacy continues to inspire people around the world to pursue their dreams and never give up, no matter how challenging the obstacles may seem.

PBS Nova: Edmund Hillary

National Geographic: Sir Edmund Hillary Biography

Encyclopædia Britannica: Sir Edmund Hillary



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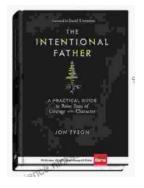
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