



Flying Off Everest: A Journey from the Summit to the Sea

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Perched impossibly on a ridge overlooking a 10,000-foot drop into Tibet, Sano Babu Sunuwar and Lakpa Tsheri Sherpa wait. Heel to toe, connected at the waist by a pair of carabineers that's connected to nothing else, they stare down the North Face of Mount Everest, a red and white nylon tandem paragliding wing fluttering behind them. They know that jumping off the top of the world marks only the beginning of a longer, more audacious journey. And they know that the two-mile ride down Everest will be the easiest part. If the jump doesn't kill them. In April 2011 the two unsponsored Nepalis set out on an unprecedented expedition to climb Everest, paraglide from its peak, and paddle nearly 400 miles to the ocean. Little problems wouldn't stop them. Like the fact that Babu had no technical climbing experience. And that Lakpa had never been kayaking--or swimming. But after summiting, surviving their flight off the world's tallest mountain, and being arrested, robbed, and nearly drowned--repeatedly--the two friends discovered their adventure had only just begun.

Flying Off Everest: A Journey from the Summit to the Sea Details

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Ken says

FLYING OFF EVEREST is a relatively slim volume in the world of travelogs and true adventure books . Do not be misled by its size. This candidly refreshing book covers nearly as much ground figuratively as its two young heroes did in reality.

Reminiscent of the style of contemporary greats like David Grann (LOST CITY OF Z) AND David Quammen (SPILLOVER), Mr. Costello alternates his very human characters with history or geography lessons that inform and support the story he tells. And that story is a picaresque adventure story of two self taught Nepali men who learned as they went along on their quest to be the first of their nationality to paraglide off Mt. Everest (in tandem) and eventually kayak (in tandem) to the ocean some 400 miles away.

While at times light hearted or harrowing, with a supporting cast of friends and family, as well as non-believers and bureaucrats, the final pages tell of the adventurers' return to family and reality.

Do not dismiss this book as yet another mountaineering book in an already worn out format. This is a very human tale with the human spirit at its center.

Jeanne says

This is the most unique and interesting outdoor adventure book I've ever read. In April 2011 the two unsponsored Nepalis set out on an unprecedented expedition to climb Everest, paraglide from its peak, and paddle nearly 400 miles to the ocean. They took the trip with little planning, practically no gear or money, not even a map. Well done.

Richard Chenoga says

I liked reading this book and enjoyed it tremendously. For years, I have been reading and watching documentaries about the challenges and dangers associated with climbing Everest. When I realized Babu and Lakpa, who are both relatively inexperienced, were going to attempt to climb Everest, paraglide off the mountain, and kayak to the Bay of Bengal, I thought they would die trying - especially with very little money or resources.

I found it interesting and exciting reading about their journey to accomplish the impossible. It's a good book which kept my attention all the way through.

Rosie says

Received ARC from First Reads.

A gripping account of National Geographic's Adventurers of 2012 , Babu and Lakpa's formidable

accomplishment of climbing Mt Everest, paragliding down and paddling to the sea in a tandem kayak. Reads more like a novel than a conventional adventure account. Interestingly told back stories of the two poor Nepalis and the challenge they set for themselves and accomplish. Frustrating and intense in parts by their naïveté and lack of planning. Would highly recommend the book as a way of sharing in their tenacity , adventure of a lifetime and remarkable feat.

Max says

What an incredible story, wonderfully well told. Dave Costello gives us valuable insight into life in Nepal, while entertaining us with the story of two Nepalese men who fly from the top of Everest and paddle to the Bay of Bengal, as unlikely as that sounds. One of the great adventure narratives
