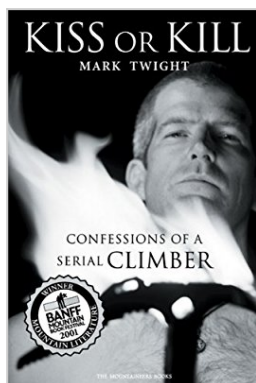


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Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber

By Mark Twight

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Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber By Mark Twight

- * 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 mountaineering 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
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Review

Read [*Kiss or Kill*] if you have alpine ambitions -- or have a disturbed mind. It's a good read, and you might glean 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:

Katherine Levy:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to read? Maybe the book with the concept Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber suitable to you? The actual book was written by popular writer in this era. Typically the book untitled Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber is the one of several books that will everyone read now. That book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know prior to. The author explained their plan in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to understand the core of this publication. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Heidi Odom:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both daily life and work. So, whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber.

Robert Mayo:

This Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So, this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt this?

Latricia Wynkoop:

The book untitled Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber contain a lot of information on it. The writer

explains your ex idea with easy technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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