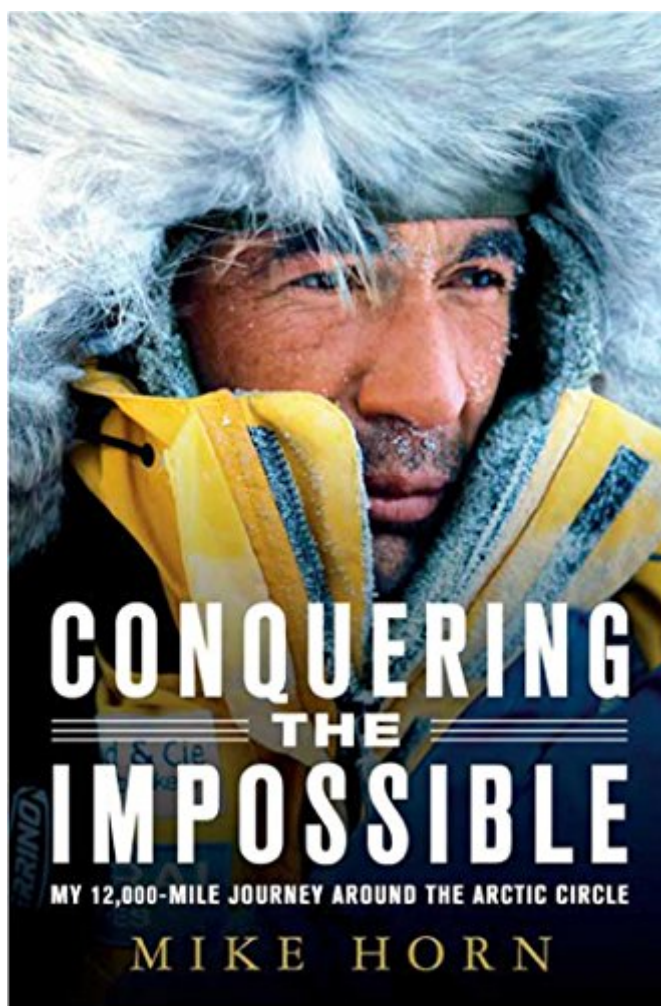




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Conquering The Impossible: My 12,000-Mile Journey Around The Arctic Circle



Synopsis

In August 2002, Mike Horn set out on a mission that bordered on the impossible: to travel 12,000 miles around the globe at the Arctic Circle - alone, against all prevailing winds and currents, and without motorized transportation. *Conquering the Impossible* is the gripping account of Horn's grueling 27-month expedition by sail and by foot through extreme Arctic conditions that nearly cost him his life on numerous occasions. Enduring temperatures that ranged to as low as -95 degrees Fahrenheit, Horn battled hazards including shifting and unstable ice that gave way and plunged him into frigid waters, encounters with polar bears so close that he felt their breath on his face, severe frostbite in his fingers, and a fire that destroyed all of his equipment and nearly burned him alive. Complementing the sheer adrenaline of Horn's narrative are the isolated but touching human encounters the adventurer has with the hardy individuals who inhabit one of the remotest corners of the earth. From an Inuit who teaches him how to build an igloo to an elderly Russian left behind when the Soviets evacuated his remote Arctic town, Horn finds camaraderie, kindness, and assistance to help him survive the most unforgiving conditions. This awe-inspiring account is a page-turner and an Arctic survival tale in one. Most of all, it's a testament to one man's unrelenting desire to push the boundaries of human endurance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found this to be a book which drew me in and allowed me to see what he saw and feel the elation and the despondency. That a person could walk so far on foot in such extreme conditions is amazing. The stupidity of bureaucracy at times seem more likley to end Mike Horn's adventure than any polar bear. I also took some valuable lessons from Mike Horn's story and his attitude towards overcoming challenges and achieving goals. One of my favourites is "...By extending my stride by 4 inches...my journey would be covered a month and a half sooner." Imagine how many times he took another "4 inches in 12,000 miles!

Amazing engrossing story filled with detail and first hand descriptions of an incredible trip around the world at the latitude of the Arctic Circle.

An incredible adventure; however, I really wish the author had put more into the story about the people and cultures he encountered on his expedition. Although Horn's journey was remarkable, this book was one long "Me against the elements" story, which became a bit monotonous. Still, I liked the book and recommend it to anyone with a taste for adventure. I wish Horn's other book, Latitude Zero, would be translated into English.

Mike Horn pushed the limits of human endurance and survival again and again. Just when you think he has endured the worst, another element of surprise pops into his life to challenge him greater. Small mistakes in an extreme environment turned into enormous ordeals. He traveled by sailboat, skis, foot, kayak and bicycle. Although it was an amazing feat, it must have cost a fortune as he met up with his shore crew and family in remote areas several times during his journey to be re-supplied and to be supplied with his various modes of travel.

This book details explorer Mike Horn's 2 year journey, all 12,000 miles of it, along the Arctic circle, in incredibly harsh conditions. I found it enthralling, fascinating and inspiring. How do you travel solo in temperatures often 50 degrees below where perhaps noone has ever been before? For weeks on end? In case you're interested, you'll find a few tips here. Not least of his accomplishments is dealing with Russian bureaucracy as he travelled through northern Siberia, encountering deserted

gulags and a town with only a single inhabitant. Brushes with polar bears, wolves, it's all here. If you like adventure books, this is one that grabbed me and which I could not put down. Foremost, you'll feel the spirit of this man coming through. This is not someone else describing this mindblowing odyssey, it's the person who actually lived it. It was a privilege for me, an outdoors lover and Appalachian Trail hiker, to be able to share his journey. A possibly life-altering book.

The book itself is awesome. But it was supposed to be "New", and it arrived with a turned down corner and a thick permanent black marker dot on the edge... This was a gift. Not really happy about the condition.

It was a gripping read till the end, I couldn't stop once I started. I suggest it to anyone who would like to build courage.

This is a superb read, a fascinating record of an unimaginable journey, detailing the wide range of cultures, bureaucracies and nature's own forces encountered by Mike. A South African to be proud of. A read to savour.

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