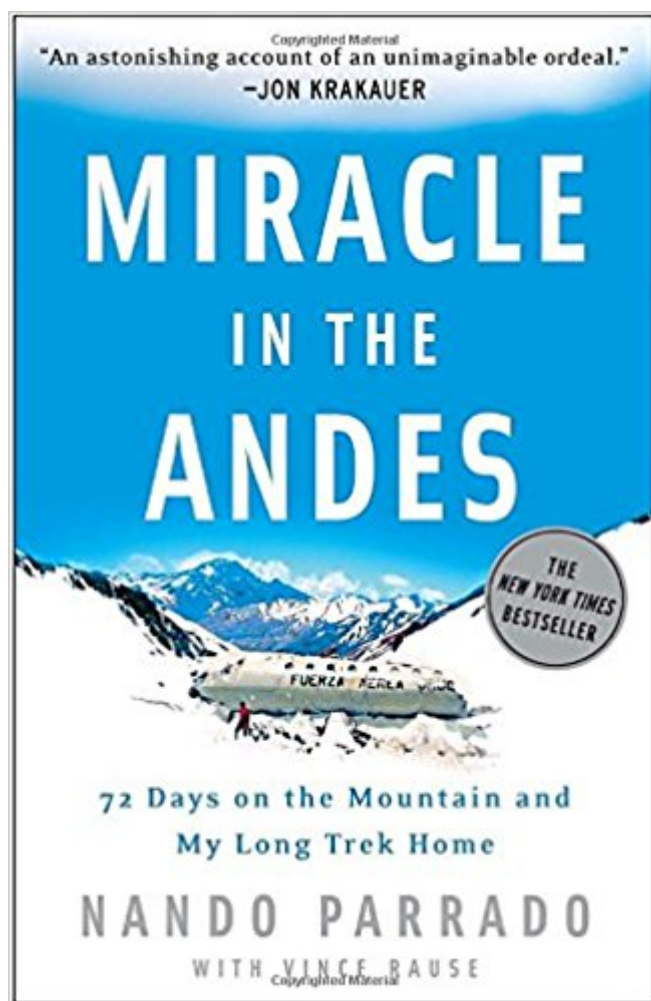


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Miracle In The Andes: 72 Days On The Mountain And My Long Trek Home



Synopsis

In the first hours there was nothing, no fear or sadness, just a black and perfect silence. Nando Parrado was unconscious for three days before he woke to discover that the plane carrying his rugby team, as well as their family members and supporters, to an exhibition game in Chile had crashed somewhere deep in the Andes. He soon learned that many were dead or dying—among them his own mother and sister. Those who remained were stranded on a lifeless glacier at nearly 12,000 feet above sea level, with no supplies and no means of summoning help. They struggled to endure freezing temperatures, deadly avalanches, and then the devastating news that the search for them had been called off. As time passed and Nando's thoughts turned increasingly to his father, who he knew must be consumed with grief, Nando resolved that he must get home or die trying. He would challenge the Andes, even though he was certain the effort would kill him, telling himself that even if he failed he would die that much closer to his father. It was a desperate decision, but it was also his only chance. So Nando, an ordinary young man with no disposition for leadership or heroism, led an expedition up the treacherous slopes of a snow-capped mountain and across forty-five miles of frozen wilderness in an attempt to find help. Thirty years after the disaster Nando tells his story with remarkable candor and depth of feeling. *Miracle in the Andes*—a first person account of the crash and its aftermath—is more than a riveting tale of true-life adventure: it is a revealing look at life at the edge of death and a meditation on the limitless redemptive power of love. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

In October 1972, a plane carrying an Uruguayan rugby team crashed in the Andes. Not immediately rescued, the survivors turned to cannibalism to survive and after 72 days were saved. Rugby team member Parrado has written a beautiful story of friendship, tragedy and perseverance. High in the Andes, with a fractured skull, eating the flesh of his teammates and friends, Parrado calmly ponders the cruelties of fate, the power of the natural world and the possibility of continued existence. "I would live from moment to moment and from breath to breath, until I had used up all the life I had." Parrado, who for the past 10 years has been giving inspirational talks based on his experiences, lost his mother and sister in the crash. Struggling to stay alive, his guide becomes his beloved father: "each [stride] brought me closer to my father... each step I took was a step stolen back from death." More than a companion to the 1970s bestselling chronicle of the disaster, *Alive*, this is a fresh, gripping page-turner that will satisfy adventure readers, and a complex reflection on camaraderie, family and love. Photos. First serial in *Outside*. (May 9) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Adult/High School — In 1972, Parrado and his rugby teammates from Uruguay were flying to Chile to play a match against the national team. Crossing the Andes, the aircraft crashed on a remote, high-altitude, glaciated slope. This remarkable story of the survivors omits none of the raw intensity and brutality of their experience but is burnished by time, casting an analytical perspective on ways in which their subsequent lives were influenced by the ordeal. The many forms of courage exhibited and the sustaining power of love of family are the basis of the narrative as the group supported one another in a collective refusal to surrender to the mountain. Parrado credits their physical conditioning and the rigorous team ethic inherent in the sport as the foundation for the trust and allegiance that enabled the men to battle the odds. Reduced to the most elemental human needs and learning from a radio transmission that rescue efforts had been abandoned, they reluctantly realized that their only food source was the bodies of the victims. Parrado was respectful of the spiritual faith of those who clung to a belief in rescue, but put his energy into engineering a plan and acted as a leader of the expeditionaries who hiked through the perilous mountains to find help. A detailed chronicle of these events was presented in Piers Paul Read's *Alive* (Avon, 1975), but Parrado's memoir offers a reflective expansion of that work. Dramatic photographs are included. — Lynn Nutwell, Fairfax City Regional Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

I was absolutely blown away by this book. I should start by saying that I thought I had seen/read every account of this fascinating story: the 1993 movie *Alive*, the Piers Paul Read book by the same name, and every documentary film I could find on this unbelievable disaster. So I obviously knew the details of the events as they unfolded quite well and wondered if this book would add a new dimension to my understanding of them. Any doubts were erased within seconds of reading the Kindle sample. Parrado's personal, first-hand account is nothing short of amazing. I couldn't put it down, dreaded reaching the end, and literally started re-reading it immediately after finishing it. I even devoured the epilogue. The story is astonishing, and the account of the "hero" of the "Miracle of the Andes" took my breath away. My all-time favorite work of non-fiction.

I, like many people at the time, was astounded at the news of a group of survivors that had been found 72 days after a horrific plane crash in the Andes. I read Piers Paul Read's book *"Alive"* right after it was first published. Through the years I've watched every movie, every documentary, and read everything I could place my hands on on the subject, but this book is the culprit of it all. It was well worth the time waiting for Nando to finally decide to write his story; in my opinion no other account of this event is as honest, touching the deepest fibers of the reader and placing him/her in his shoes - literally. My praise to Nando, to the superb work of Vince Rause, and to everyone involved, especially to all the survivors and their families. Nando is so right. Love transcends everything - even death itself.

This was a well-written account of the emotional impact and graphic details of what was experienced by the passengers on the plane. The character development of each person gives the true story and allows the reader to be in that subzero fuselage with the survivors. Nando is an amazing writer and I appreciate his honesty and willingness to share the deep feelings he experienced during his ordeal. Thank you for sharing your story and for giving an amazing tribute to those who succumbed to their injuries, as well as those who survived. The human "grit" is amazing and this story proves what man is capable of in the most unimaginable circumstances.

I've read a lot of survival stories and most of them have been incredible and unbelievable. But what do you say about a book that's even more incredible and unbelievable than all the others. High altitude- Everest, McKinley, Annapurna, Arctic, Antarctic-Shackleton, Karluk, too many to mention. I was on the edge of my seat through them all but when I read *Miracle In The Andes* I was just

flabbergasted! The strength, determination, comraderie, bravery, instinct - everything about Nando Parrado is remarkable. The whole group of survivors were remarkable. When I read that I wondered if I could have been half as brave and remained as level-headed as he did. The story coming from an actual survivor - the one who really saved the remaining group made it special. The only book I've read that comes close as an unbelievable survival (so far) was Adrift - the guy who was stranded at sea on a raft for almost 3 months. This book is a keeper in my library.

What an excellent read! As someone who read the book *Alive* at a very young age, it was nice to see the story from one person's perspective. The first book, and movie, tell only the general story. Reading this provides much more personal insight to the story from directly how a survivor witnessed it. If you are someone who has followed this story at all, it is a must read!

Don't start this book unless you've got a few hours to spare because you'll scarcely be able to put it down. Before I'd finished reading the book I'd already watched the Discovery Channel documentary and also the major motion picture. Still, this compellingly written book captures the emotional, spiritual and physical nuances of this "Miracle in the Andes" and transports the reader right onto that glacial slope and into the fuselage of the mutilated Fairchild aircraft. Nando's candid and honest retelling will grip you and won't let you go. Even the epilogue keeps one turning pages (and brushing away the occasional tear) right to the end. Highly recommended! This account has given me a greater appreciation and gratitude for the simple blessings of everyday life; particularly the love of friends and family.

Every time anything is difficult for me lately, I think, "Nando Parrado and Roberto Canessa climbed out of the freezing mountains with almost no food and no equipment. And Roberto was sick." And I remember that I really have no real problems. It ought to be assigned in high schools. Not even the most faux-jaded teen could read it and not help but be impressed and inspired...even if they didn't admit it.

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