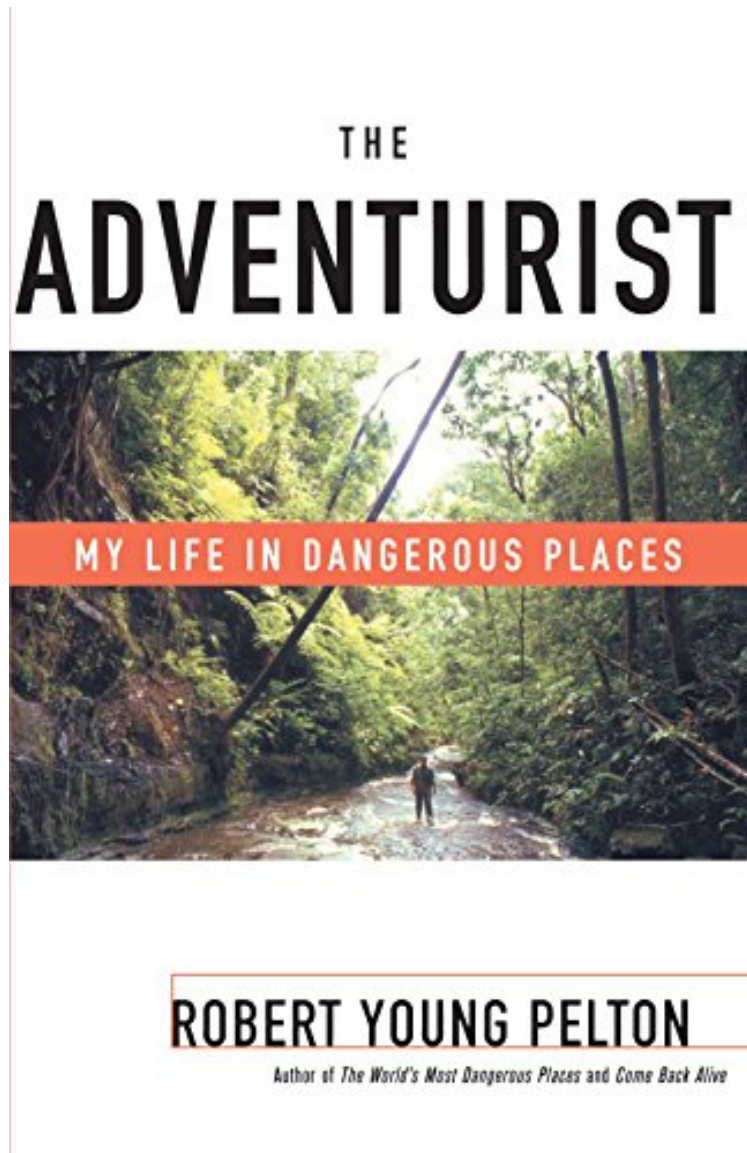


[Download pdf] The Adventurist: My Life in Dangerous Places

The Adventurist: My Life in Dangerous Places

Robert Young Pelton

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Robert Young Pelton : The Adventurist: My Life in Dangerous Places before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Adventurist: My Life in Dangerous Places:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Pelton Outta Control!By John WrightI have a hefty amount of admiration for Robert Young Pelton: not only is he a guy who gets to go to all the places I'd like to see, but he's a pretty talented writer with a nifty wit as well.So what's my beef with this book then? It seems like RYP admires himself equally well. To his credit, he never actually comes out and says so; nevertheless, his overly florid prose gives

the secret away. While there is some great writing in this book (most of which has appeared before in his Dangerous Places books, see below) there are far too many passages that reek of an author out of control. Where was the editor on this book? I have no problem with the content here: the biographical passages describing his youth are just as compelling as his travel stories. It's a great story... I just wish he had written it with the same modest restraint that characterizes his other work. For his great stuff, pick up a copy of *The World's Most Dangerous Places* (preferably the new edition.) Required reading for the enlightened traveler and citizen of the 21st century. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Robert reminds us there may be many valid sides to each conflict. By MikeyBR Robert Young Pelton survived the torture chamber of that Canadian boy's school his mother abandoned him to. I grew up a few hundred miles south in the northern Montana winter blizzards and summer prairie wind storms across the river from the Blackfeet Indian reservation and remember being told the weather was more severe up north in the provinces. In his day, misbehaving children (by someone's standards) had no place to turn, no social services to complain to, no safety net to catch them, you accepted the punishment or were crushed by the process of being sent to a boy's school, the state reform school or mental institution. Remember this was pre-wireless, pre-cell phone, pre-Apple, pre-Microsoft, pre-internet, pre-pager, pre-voice mail, with possibly one landline per household and you didn't use the rotary dial telephone without permission, television was black and white (if at all) and the radios had just switched from tubes to transistors. Good kids without strong families to protect and guide them (even in tiny rural towns) were frequently bullied into submission and became passive or worse - just gave up or ran away. We didn't really know much about suicide, yet most homes had guns, and only the father touched them until you went through the hunter's safety course at 12 and then you went hunting to prove your manhood; corporal punishment was administered swiftly. If the brutalized ever thought about a Columbine type massacre for the bullies, it didn't happen. But not Robert, he didn't give up, he did not devolve into passivity, or become a mean bastard, he coped with the situation and went on to overcome the emotional scars with an adventurous bravery to reveal the many sides of each story he pursued. I admire him and enjoy his work (the *Adventurist* was read first). How his scarred bright cheerful persona can now be called "ego, arrogance, self-aggrandizing," baffles me, he survived hell. His work brought back tearful memories. I will agree that some of his books could benefit from more photos, there are format questions, and occasionally I wonder who proofed the spelling and grammar. Yet, those small points aside, I will purchase everything he writes. This is a great book and needs to be enjoyed in the context of what now seems like a pre-historic existence when considered by today's cultural norms, yet remember it was just a few decades ago (African Americans and Women have only been allowed to vote in the United States for a few more decades than his time frame). We need more people like Pelton who must know the facts, beliefs and biases of each party in a conflict. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Internal and external dialogue with a man seeking the edge of experience in life. By BEANIE From the moment I opened the book I was hooked. Robert intersperses his adventures with the outlaws and freedom fighters of the world with insights into his own life, into what he perceives as the critical childhood experiences that first crushed the child out of him at age ten and then reformed him into a solitary internal man. His ability to meet with and communicate with many of the warlords of the world, to seek to experience the extremes of endurance, to seemingly reach toward deadly situations is what makes his work so fascinating. Whether in Borneo, Somalia, Uganda, especially Afghanistan, Robert finds kinship with the struggles of the men who are fighting against the forces that invade their lands and their societies. He empathizes with them deeply and respects them. As a child he was basically abandoned into a hellish school which was a gulag, torture camp and boarding school; his mother threw him out of the house the day he graduates from high school at 16 and refuses to send him to university despite his excellent academic abilities. He is careful to not dwell on his feelings of a second abandonment. He is more caring of his twin girls (very beautiful) than anyone ever was of him. He seems to have not allowed bitterness to destroy his spirit. An excellent read, a new point of view into the Talibs, Afghans.

The Adventurist is one man's story, a story that will change the way you think about travel, survival, where you have been, and where you are going. Enter the world of Robert Young Pelton (if you dare), adventurer extraordinaire, author of *Come Back Alive* and *The World's Most Dangerous Places* (required reading at the CIA), and host of his TV series, *Robert Young Pelton's The World's Most Dangerous Places*. A breakneck autobiography, *The Adventurist* blasts across six continents and spans four decades of hard-core living with its dispatches of mayhem, adventure in exotic locales, survival against formidable odds, memories of the pivotal events, and memorable portraits of the people that have shaped Pelton's obsessive spirit. Be shelled with the Talibs on the front lines of Afghanistan; hang out with hit men and rebels in the Philippines; survive a plane crash in Borneo; narrowly escape a terrorist bombing in Africa; dance with headhunters in Sarawak; crew with pirates in the Sulu Sea; explore the events that led Pelton to his unusual calling (including how he honed his survival skills at "the toughest boys' school in North America"); and, perhaps most important, discover Pelton's secret mission--to understand the hearts and minds of the people he meets. *The Adventurist* is a real book about the real world, an inspirational read that takes you places you might never willingly go. From the Hardcover edition.

.com Readers for whom the word travel ordinarily conjures images of white-sand beaches or Tuscan hill towns might wonder what person of above-average intelligence leaves home in hopes of face-to-face contact with Afghan rebels, Malaysian pirates, warlords, headhunters, or terrorists. That person, apparently, is Robert Young Pelton. Among adventure enthusiasts, Pelton is probably best known for *The World's Most Dangerous Places*, his utterly unique, tough-guy's guide to where not to travel, and a similarly named series on the Discovery Channel. Part travelogue, part memoir, *The Adventurist* is Pelton's attempt to explain what some would call his lifelong death wish, but that the author describes as "an expedition of discovery, a dangerous one with no scripted endings." *The Adventurist* juxtaposes scenes and reminiscences of Pelton's youth and young adulthood with stories of his latter-day adventures in the jungles, waterways, and deserts of some of the planet's most perilous locales. "It's in vogue now to blame things on your parents or society. I don't blame anybody for anything," Pelton explains, but considering his descriptions of his abusive parents and his harrowing stint at "the toughest boys' school in North America," it is difficult not to draw connections between the privations of Pelton's youth and his obsessive need to confront danger--and the people who survive it--in order to feel alive. Although at times Pelton's prose style is about as subtle as the firing end of an AK-47 ("It was time to live like the wind and then to die like thunder"), *The Adventurist* delivers on its "invitation to you to join me on the wire. To take that first step, look forward, fight your fears..." It offers views of places and experiences that most readers would otherwise never know, with the careful reminder that, "like home, adventure is not places so much as people." --Svenja Soldovieri

From Publishers Weekly

In this jumble of exploration tales, Pelton (*The World's Most Dangerous Places*) combines biographical anecdotes, travel log entries, personal musings and philosophical realizations. Tests of survival begin early on when his parents enroll him in the "toughest boys school in North America," where he partakes in grueling excursions in the wilderness of Alberta, Canada. Painful but crucial childhood memories are often interlaced with accounts of his defiant journeys to the world's most dangerous places. One wonders why he seeks out outrageous peril, such as walking through minefields in Afghanistan, dancing with headhunters in Sarawak, communing with pirates on the Sulu Sea or simply visiting Algeria. He counts among his global acquaintances Robin Hood-like ruffians, freedom fighters and terrorists, including Taliban members in Afghanistan and hit men in the Philippines. His thirst for adventure appears insatiable. But behind Pelton's wild exploits lies something deeper

The search for meaning in life: "I am happy running, at high speed, through danger, past even the most remote and unseen places. There is something here that is deeper than religion, a timeless window to what makes life worth living." Pelton's self-assurance can be supercilious, but the denouement of each episode brings personal reflections imbued with humility. (June) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Part autobiographical, part adventure story, *The Adventurist* is one of the funniest books this reviewer has read in a long time. Pelton, author of *World's Most Dangerous places* most people would not set foot in and there he befriends waiters and shopkeepers as well as hitmen and terrorists. He then mixes these travel experiences with the tale of his rise as a professional journalist through comical anecdotes. Whether he's dodging gunfire and bombs in Algeria or earning his keep as a copywriter in Ontario, Pelton keeps his reader laughing and on the edge of his seat as he leads them into the always interesting and sometimes scary places and situations. Although some of the chapters have already appeared in *Blue, Road and Track*, *Soldier of Fortune*, and *World's Most Dangerous Places*, all of the tales in this most enjoyable book are worth reading again. Highly recommended for any travel collection.

Stephanie Papa, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Law Lib., MD

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