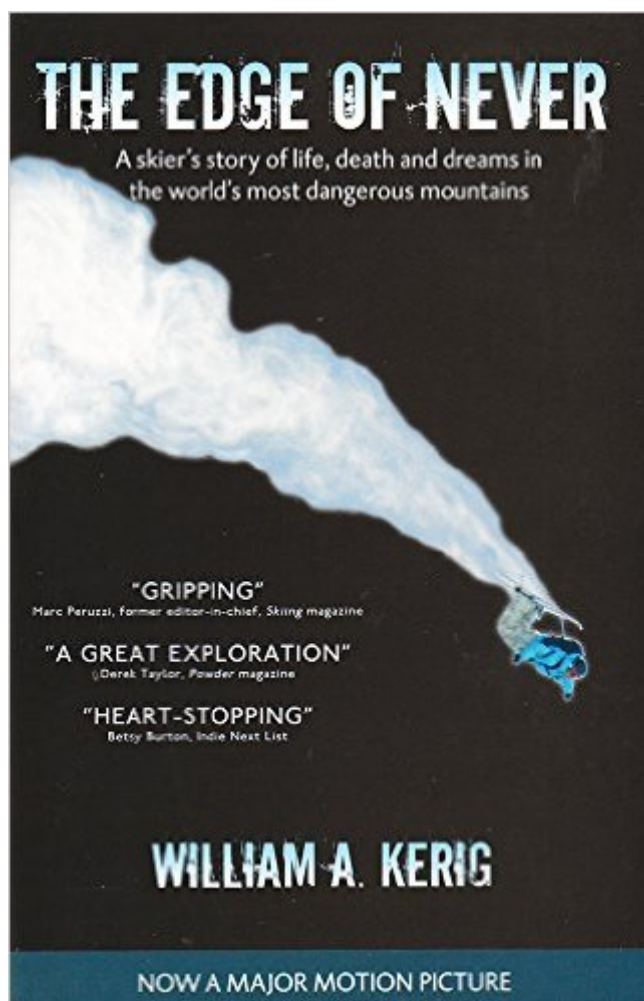


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# The Edge Of Never: A Skier's Story Of Life, Death, And Dreams In The World's Most Dangerous Mountains



## Synopsis

In the world of big-mountain skiing, Trevor Petersen was a legend. Appearing in countless films, magazines and photo shoots, his ponytail flying behind him, he was the very embodiment of the freewheeling spirit of extreme skiing in the 1980s and early '90s. Then it all came to an end. On February 26, 1996, while skiing in Chamonix, France—the so-called Death Sport Capital of the World—an avalanche swept Trevor away. His body was found sitting up in the snow as if gazing at the mountains he loved. Nearly a decade later, Trevor's fifteen-year-old son, Kye Petersen, a rising star in his own right, traveled to Chamonix to ski the run that took his father's life and, with the aid of some of the world's greatest ski mountaineers, to become a member of skiing's big-mountain tribe. There to chronicle Kye's story was William A. Kerig, a filmmaker with a dream of his own—to create a film about the soul of big-mountain skiing and the band of mountaineers who ski the steepest, wildest, most dangerous terrain in the world. In *The Edge of Never*, Kerig gives us not only a ripping adventure tale about a young man coming of age but a frank and subtle portrait of the extreme skiers who "live big" in the face of death and risk everything to experience the fullness of life in the mountains.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bill Kerig made his bones as a skier competing for ten years on the World Pro Mogul Tour. After retiring in 1996, he began building his reputation as a writer and film producer/director, married an understanding woman, and started a family, which led him to mastermind the extraordinary adventure he relates in this remarkable book. Kerig takes us inside the world of big mountain skiing

with a group of skiers who arguably invented the sport, with a story within a story within a story. In the center is the legendary Trevor Petersen, who was killed at the height of his prowess in the prime of his life in an avalanche at Chamonix in 1996; that story is encapsulated by the coming of age journey his son Kye makes to Chamonix in 2005 to ski the run where his father died; and surrounding both stories is another equally compelling one about Bill Kerig's personal quest make a movie that will enable skiers and nonskiers alike "see what it is that makes this mountain life so special that people are willing to die in order to live it. I wanted to see selflessness, the loyalty of family, tradition and respect. I wanted to see men risk their lives to help a boy become a man--a better man than themselves, perhaps."It is rare for me to read a book start to finish in one day, especially one with the girth of *The Edge of Never*, but that's how it was.

I appreciate that a lot of people like this book a lot. I can't argue with the fact that it is heartfelt and that Bill Kerig is both honest and writing from a vulnerable perspective (he is honest about his own travails and difficulties and how they play into the story). But the bottom line in all of this is that after reading the book and listening to the protagonists explain why they did what they did, I can't help but to conclude that at its core, this book is about the adults and their manipulation (for lack of a better word) of a kid, Kye Petersen, for what's in the end their own good rather than his. It's complicated for sure, but it's hard to run away from the unsettling thought that this is sad story about adults exploiting a teenager and running their own agendas under the guise of doing "what's best for him." The book made me cringe, and I felt "dirty" reading it. I have lived in the world of which the authors write (albeit not necessarily at their level of it). I have skied and played with people who were hard-core "extreme" skier types (I hate that word, but it does successfully connote something), and with them I have done backcountry skiing, hiking, climbing, etc., although I would never claim to be "the real deal" in this regard (although some of my friends were). But I'm also not some armchair weekend warrior. What bothered me about this story is that it feels like a form of "pimping" by adults who are bringing "new fresh meat" into "the business" as an excuse for a project that is ultimately intended for their own benefit. Perhaps the "new fresh meat" would have followed that pathway anyway, but it felt like adults were making decisions for the kid while passing it off as "his decisions" and "his own free will." I think not.

*The Edge of Never: A Skier's Story of Life, Death, and Dreams in the World's Most Dangerous Mountains*"The Edge of Never". Just finished reading it. WOW ! Very powerful, gut wrenching irony, extreme honesty, excellent insight & reads of people. Tremendous respect of character, trust, and

integrity. Simple, honest, clear story telling of real life events that have an everlasting impact on the reader. You are actually there, seeing, feeling, watching, experiencing. Best book I have read for several or more years. So powerful & gripping, I had to put it down many times & do something mundane to let it sink in. I would recommend this book for all the serious or addicted skiers & boarders on your Christmas list. If you have to order it - see if you can get Bill Kerig to inscribe it. Bill, thank you for getting the story told. It is an outstanding book, amazing story. I love your straight forwardness and clarity. I was initially surprised by your glaring honesty, and appreciated the lack of "drama" attached to the chapters that were less than complimentary and probably a bit hard to bring up & tell. You brought them in as simply factual and part of the story(s) needing telling. And there were a number of stories that are important parts of the whole story. You knew it, and included them. A lot of killer gut wrenching, I guess I'd call ironies? Trevor's decision to move forward with earlier plans made with his wife & family as soon as he returns. Page 120 - "Never" as defined by Glen Plake. The Gendarmes rescue training, then the best guide in Chamonix in exactly the situation he pointed out, just days later.

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