



# **Conquering the Impossible: My 12,000-Mile Journey Around the Arctic Circle**

*Mike Horn*

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## **Conquering the Impossible: My 12,000-Mile Journey Around the Arctic Circle Mike Horn**

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.

This is the gripping account of Horn's gruelling 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 in the vein of Jon Krakauer and a Arctic survival tale rivaling Jack London. Most of all, it's a testament to one man's unrelenting desire to push the boundaries of human endurance.

## **Conquering the Impossible: My 12,000-Mile Journey Around the Arctic Circle Details**

Date : Published May 29th 2007 by St. Martin's Press (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780312362621

Author : Mike Horn

Format : Hardcover 368 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Adventure, Travel, Biography

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# From Reader Review Conquering the Impossible: My 12,000-Mile Journey Around the Arctic Circle for online ebook

## Jennifer says

Inspiring book, whether you're hoping to conquer something crazy or just be reminded that humans are capable of much more than we give ourselves credit for.

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## Kenneth says

I really liked this account of Horn's journey around the Arctic Circle - even though it was really stressful to read.

I had already heard parts of this story because a few friends of mine had met the adventurer. So if it weren't for their stories and excitement I wouldn't have known about Horn or picked up his book.

The story in a nutshell is basically how Horn leaves Norway going West and tries to get around the Arctic. It's a grueling tale of endurance- physical and psychological. I mean, it's bad enough to read the sections about it being more than 40 below zero where there's equipment failure (even duct tape can shatter at certain temps), but also just thinking about being alone for that long and without sunshine for much of the journey.

It's a fascinating read and didn't make me feel too much like a slacker for not doing things even 1/1000th as adventurous. Pick up the book.

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## David says

J'ai lu ce livre dans le prolongement de celui racontant les expéditions de Scott et d'Admundsen pour la conquête du Pôle Sud. Il est clair que la différence de préparation est flagrante entre les deux époques, le périple de Horn avec son téléphone satellite, sa logistique assurée semble vraiment trop bien préparé pour convaincre. Et pourtant, la partie finale pour traverser toute la Russie a du être une sacré épopée malgré tout.

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## Evelin Xristova says

?mazing book... I love Mike and his adventures. He changed my life!

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## ASP says

Aventures palpitantes, même si l'écriture laisse à désirer (c'est très souvent le cas des récits de voyage), en quelque sorte une leçon de vie.

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## ?????? ?????? says

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## Ramya says

A true testament to the human will. The title is apt. What he describes about his journey, in every sense of the word is Impossible. But pushing himself at every step of the way, in an environment that challenges every part of your being is truly commendable. I recommend it for all.

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## Michal Angelo says

I've read some of the best adventurer accounts-- Endeavor, A Wicked and Precarious Situation, et.al--but this account surpasses the sum of them all! Mike Horn is immortal; every few pages is yet another close brush with death. Mike's determination is the epitome of the saying, "never lose sight of your goal"

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## Cecile says

What a fantastic book! I highly recommend it. I love the writing style, the sense of humor, the descriptions. It's like you were there yourself. You feel the pain, the agony, the joy, the emotions shared by the author, which lead you each step of the way through this incredible arctic journey.

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## Martin Gallois says

Amazing adventure, I am a huge fan of Mike Horn and this is a great tale of exploration !  
The best modern explorer according to me.

ADVISE : Read it before watching the movie because it tells a lot more !

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### Bookmaniac70 says

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### Andrei Colceriu says

O carte, care pe lângă izbânda acestui om, ne prezintă pas cu pas evoluția acestuia, toată experiența și cunoștințele acumulate în acești 2 ani în care a străbătut Cercul Polar de Nord. Oamenii pe care i-a întâlnit și mai ales acei oameni simpli, care prin bunățatea lor l-au adăpostit, l-au hrănit, l-au îndrumat și l-au învățat să supraviețuiască? Fără să-i ceară nimic în schimb și aici citez: „viața socială ne face egoiști, dând la iveală tot ce avem mai rău în noi. În locurile spre care mă îndrept, mascaradele „civilizate” iau sfârșit și ăi apare, în toată splendoarea, tot ce omul are mai bun.” „cred că fiecare minut trăit este o comoară, ce contribuie la propria noastră perfecționare.”

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### ZSR Library says

As the title suggests, this story documents the trek above the arctic circle that Mike Horn took 27 months to complete in 2002-2004. In reading this story I appreciated the really strong will to survive that exists in some people. Many times I thought, "yep, I think I'd just give up right there." Every day was a struggle. And also, one gets a little bit of perspective when one thinks "it's cold outside" on a 27 degree day, when he routinely dealt with temperatures hovering around 40 below! But he saw some amazing sights that no one else on earth has ever seen. And he met some amazing people that he otherwise never would have encountered. And he, of course, lived to tell the tale.

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### Lin Rahim says

The most incredible and extreme journey book that I have ever read. Surviving in a cold climate where the lowest temperature was -75°C, facing bears and wolves, suffering frostbitten, walking through the Arctic winter storms - to name a few terrifying moments on his remarkable expedition to North Pole which took about 2 years (27 months) and covered 12,000 miles. Almost throwing in the towel, though Mike Horn took an enormous risk and succeeded in achieving his amazing goal. Unbelievable!!

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## **Alma Horn says**

This is a gripping book, written true Mike Horn style. You will be mesmerized by Mike's humor despite his seeming-to-be-impossible adventures in the most outthere ice deserts. He writes about his encounters with amazing people (few though) and his driven will to survive in this stretched out adventure through ice and bureaucracy. The DVD is also available from his website and is great entertainment.

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