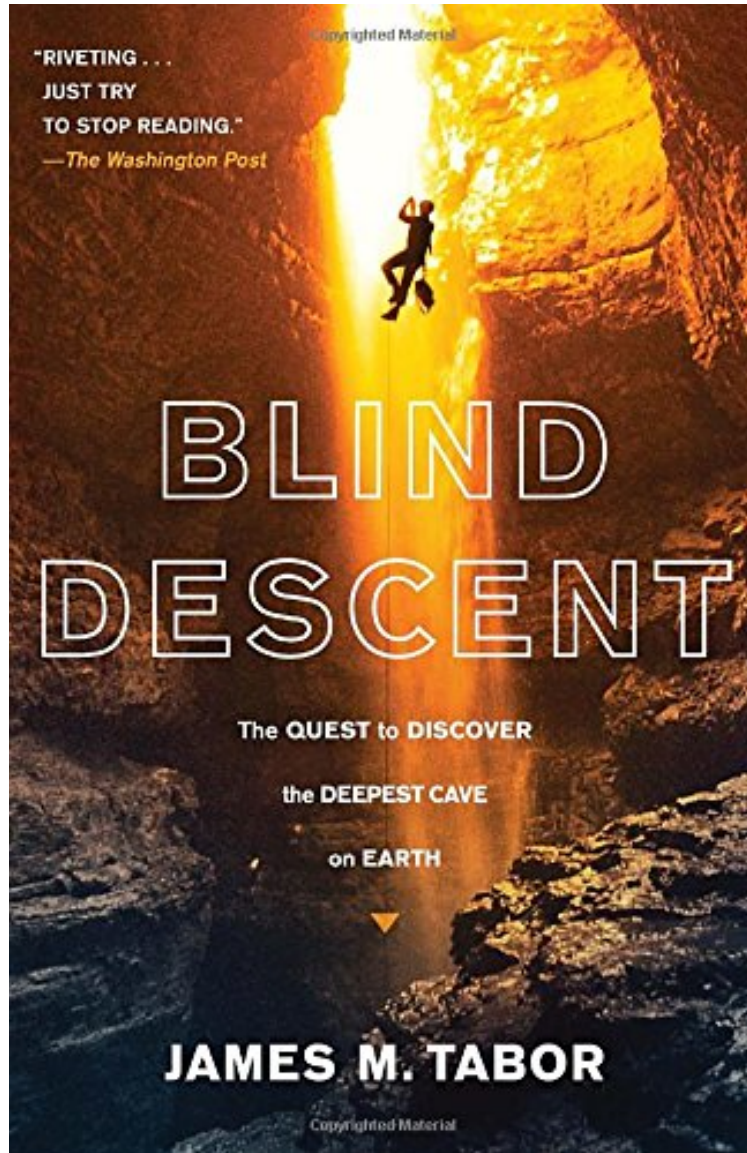


(Mobile ebook) Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth

# Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth

*James M. Tabor*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#660812 in Books Random House Trade Paperbacks 2011-02-15 2011-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.01 x .68 x 5.16l, .55 #File Name: 0812979494320 pages | File size: 47.Mb

**James M. Tabor : Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Cave on Earth:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mountaineering in reverse! By Anthony M. Frasca Blind Descent is the story of the obscure international competition to find the deepest cave on earth. We meet Bill Stone, a career spelunker, who explores supercaves in Mexico including Hualta and Cheve over decades. And Alexander Klimchouk

who descends into Krubera cave in Abkhazia. The stories delve into the difficulties of spelunking including technical and psychological issues. There are underground rivers, gorges, waterfalls and sumps. Stone's obsession with Hualta cave and the difficult San Augustin sump leads him to invent a rebreathing scuba system that creates controversy when an expedition member, Ian Rolland, an experienced cave diver dies suddenly trying to crack the sump. The author belabors the issue unnecessarily, mostly because numerous expedition members and others implicate the rebreathing system in Rolland's death. However, when Stone and his girlfriend, novice cave diver Barbara am Ende, crack the sump with the same system Rolland used it becomes clear that Stone's rebreather is revolutionary despite its complexity. The title of deepest cave eventually goes to Krubera and Klimchouk's team. The book is filled with the technical difficulties of descending into deep supercave systems. The story is well written and exhaustively researched however it does ramble on at times and perseverates over some issues that can be dealt with in one paragraph. Still, it is a worthwhile read and a window into the underworld exploits of spelunkers.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Go Where Few Have Gone Before By William Capodanno After reading quite a few books on some of the world's most alluring and deadly mountains --- Everest, K2 -- and books on climbing to the highest parts of earth, this presented an interesting counterpoint. Tabor captures the world of deep cave diving and the world of extreme spelunkers attempting to explore the deepest caves the world has to offer. Bring together no personal experience exploring caves and without any knowledge on the subject, I found "Blind Descent" to be a fascinating and at times a nerve wracking read. The individuals who pursue these caves possess some of the same characteristics as world class mountain climbers, except they enjoy spending their time in the dark, burrowing through rocks, descending giant waterfalls and into sinkholes and looking for air pockets that might lead to new, unexplored passages. There are times when it can be a bit difficult to make a mental image of what Tabor is describing, especially without experience exploring caves and without pictures (completely realize why there aren't) but overall, "Blind Descent" makes for a fascinating read about some of the least explored and least hospitable parts of the earth.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well-Written, Well-Conceived Adventure Story By Kindle Customer I love books of this kind, so I'm a bit partial. But I loved the way Tabor framed this story as a race between two very different explorers, in very different environments, with very different management styles, temperament, and personalities. Could the book have used a little editing? Sure. I also would have liked more pictures and maps, or perhaps that's just an issue with the Kindle edition -- I'm not sure. But in the whole I would recommend this book as a look at a relatively unknown yet massive achievement, which happened just a few years ago while no one was really paying attention.

In 2004, two great scientist-explorers attempted to find the bottom of the world. American Bill Stone took on the vast, deadly Cheve Cave in southern Mexico. Ukrainian Alexander Klimchouk targeted Krubera, a freezing nightmare of a supercave in the war-torn former Soviet republic of Georgia. Both men spent months almost two vertical miles deep, contending with thousand-foot drops, raging whitewater rivers, monstrous waterfalls, mile-long belly crawls, and the psychological horrors produced by weeks in absolute darkness, beyond all hope of rescue. Based on his unprecedented access to logs and journals as well as hours of personal interviews, James Tabor has crafted a thrilling exploration of man's timeless urge to discover and of two extraordinary men whose pursuit of greatness led them to the heights of triumph and the depths of tragedy. *Blind Descent* is an unforgettable addition to the classic literature of true-life adventure, and a testament to human survival and endurance. Includes a 16-pg black and white insert

.com Best Books of the Month, June 2010: Set in impenetrable darkness, James M. Tabor's *Blind Descent* is as awe-inspiring as any adventure story above ground. Tabor's claustrophobic and pulse-pounding narrative follows two of the world's premier cavers--American Bill Stone and Ukrainian Alexander Klimchouk--as they race to explore Earth's deepest caves, swimming through steering wheel-sized tunnels and scaling rock walls slick with spring runoff. Caving is dirty and dangerous work, and Tabor pulls no punches in describing the many terrifying hazards that cavers face underground, including falling rocks, hypothermia, starvation, nitrogen narcosis, hallucinations, hypoxia, and deadly anxiety attacks. He captures the eerie mixture of excitement and horror that accompanies life in extreme environments, while shedding light on the ineffable and complex moral code that governs men and women in places where survival is hoped for, but never guaranteed. *Blind Descent* is a captivating summer read for adventure seekers and armchair adrenaline junkies alike. --Lynette Mong From Publishers Weekly Starred . Tabor, a former contributing editor at *Outside* magazine and author of *Forever on the Mountain*, contrasts two sterling teams, one American and the other Russian, in their perilous search to locate the deepest supercave on earth. While the book dwells largely on the obsessive, authoritative American star caver, Bill Stone, the writer gives just enough ink to the bold Soviet team counterpart, Alexander Klimchouk, and his fair-but-firm leadership in his expeditions into the subterranean world. However, the personalities of the adventurers aside, it's the fascinating information of the big supercave treks that holds the reader to his seat, containing dangers aplenty with deadly falls, killer microbes, sudden burial, asphyxiation, claustrophobia, anxiety, and hallucinations far underneath the ground in a lightless world. Using a pulse-pounding narrative, this is tense real-life adventure pitting two master cavers mirroring the cold war with very uncommonly high

stakes. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In Tabor's narrative of recent deep-caving expeditions renowned in the speleological community, the saga of exploration occurs in grottos of Hadean darkness, where the margin between life and death is narrow and occasionally crossed. Centering on two leaders who competed to discover the most profound natural cave on earth, Tabor works their engineering and scientific backgrounds into descriptive chronicles of their daring, dangerous descents. He depicts William Stone, who wrote his story in *Beyond the Deep* (2002), as a controversial leader whose several expeditions to cavern systems in Mexico incurred dissension and fatalities en route to successes in reaching extreme depths. But the superlative laurel of the deepest eluded Stone's strivings; that went to Tabor's second star, Ukrainian Alexander Klimchouk. As driven as Stone but more emollient a chief in Tabor's description, Klimchouk took his teams down a sinuous chasm in the Republic of Georgia, vertically dropping by rappelling, crawling, and swimming to more than two kilometers. Fully evoking the peril, lure, and Everest-scale logistics of extreme caving, Tabor is an able dramatist for the adventure-reading audience. --Gilbert Taylor