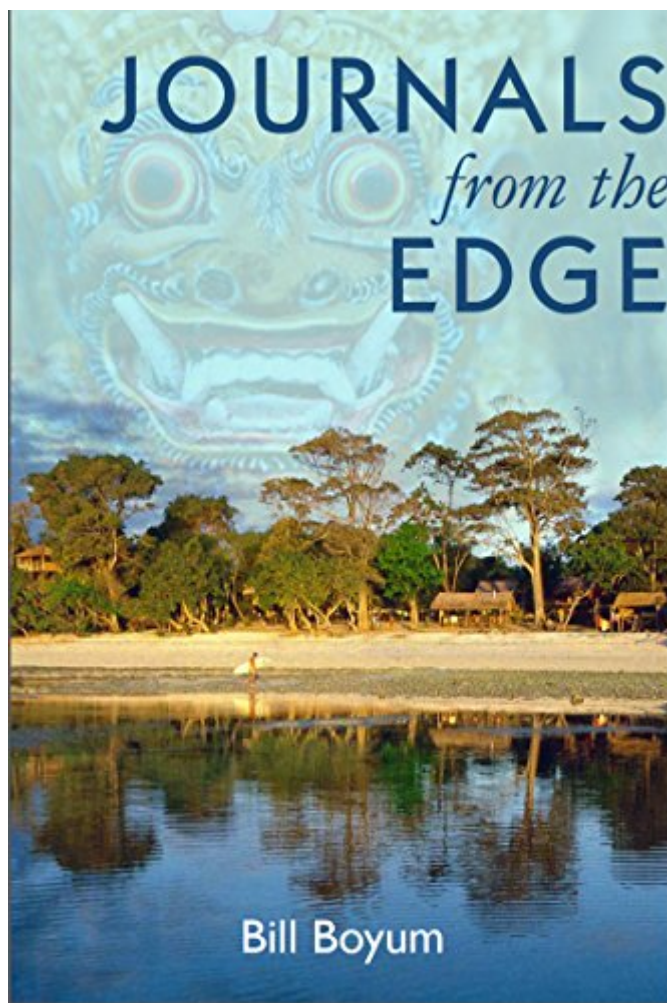


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JOURNALS FROM THE EDGE



Synopsis

Mikey leads his younger brother Bill on a round-the-world odyssey that will test the vow they made as boys. Their journeys, both hilarious and heartbreaking, take them through Maui during the groovy 60's, to surfing meccas of Bali and Java, and through the Khyber Pass into the hashish trade of Afghanistan. A raw and honest look at the consequences of growing up with a military father whose undiagnosed post-WWII violence stayed under the cultural radar of that time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bill Boyum's perspective of the generational clash between the broken titans of WW2 and their children grabs you from the first page and thrashes you until the final sentence. An unrelenting tale of brotherhood, rebellion, adventure, love, and ultimately acceptance that takes you from the violence of a family tormented by undiagnosed PTSD in bucolic Coronado, to the emotional and physical escape of brothers Mike and Bill. In escaping their suffocating and violent father's orbit, through the mountains of Afghanistan, battles of Pakistani - Indian conflict, untouched Bali, drug

deals gone very wrong, and ultimately in starting the first surf camp in Indonesia at G Land, the brothers through adventure, trust, sheer luck, betrayal, and ultimately, death begin to understand the penultimate sacrifice of war, the brokenness of the survivors and their progeny. This book is personal and unsparing. It will rip your heart out. You must read it.

Journals from the Edge is without a shadow of a doubt, the best surf book I've ever read or you'll ever read. The way Bill brings you into his world of growing up in that magic time of surfing history when you had to "Go and see" and as a result created the history that created the mystique of a sport that looking back as a surfer see as the Holden Age. Not just of surfing but of travel. Travel that you never knew what was going to happen. Unlike nowadays where you can ready a Lonely Planet guide so detailed that after reading it you don't even need to go. The adventure is gone. Bill let's you in to the dream and the nightmare of loving something and someone so much that it continually upends everyone's lives leaves me astounded at how resilient we are as humans and how happy I am to be reading a survivors first hand account of it all. Yes this book has surfing in it but it's a lot more about what we will do and how far we will go to live the life we dream of and find the happiness we all seek. The rawness of Bill's upbringing makes me really happy that he lived through it to become the person he is today. The travel tales of adventures without money, plans, guidebooks and internet access make me yearn for a simpler time where when you went "away" you went away. When, as my mum put it to me before I left on my snowboarding adventures, "Have fun, if I don't hear from you I'll assume you're fine and I'm in wrong I'm sure the cops will phone". Buy this book and then I'll assume you're fine.

Bill is a good friend, and I've been reading this book from it's early inception as it got better, and richer, and better, and more important, and better, and more exciting. I read it again just a few days ago and I hardly recognized it. What a spectacular book. I hope Bill has another one in him, though after everything he packed into this book it's hard to imagine what that might be. Hollywood describes a new movie idea by mashing together several existing ones. If I did that with this book it would be: Think Gerry Lopez' "Surf is Where You find it" mixed with "The Great Santini" plus "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" and a then toss in a little of everything Paul Theroux ever suffered through and wrote about. Of course for any surfer who has dreamed of Indo, this is who found it and how it started. But this isn't just a book for surfers, it's a book for adventurers, whether you like your adventures up close and personal, or you prefer them from the vantage of an easy chair with a nice Pinot.

Honest is the first word that comes to mind when I think about "Journals from the Edge." I'd heard rumors of the Boyum Brothers ever since I went to G-Land and stayed at the very same place they started their surf camp. For all the tales I've heard since then, none match the reality of what Mike and Bill went through in this book. Bill has a concise and clear writing style that works well for the journal format and lets you into all the personal trauma of a violent upbringing and the life paths that arose from it. From the Vietnam war to drug smuggling in Afghanistan to being the first to ride some of the best waves in the world, this story covers tumultuous times in a family—and in the world surrounding it. Heartfelt, unflinching and introspective, anyone who feels the personal need to adventure—both in their minds and across the world—should check out this true story.

Having just read *Barbarian Days* by William Finnigan, *Journals* was a hard act to follow. I'm not used to reading journals, as they follow a linear timeline. The book dragged a bit as the voice evolved from an abusive childhood, something I'm not that interested in reading about. It was a long setup. But like the first underground swell you've waited months to arrive, as soon as the book hits Bali, it crescendos. The stakes get higher. Things get heavy. Few, if any, have walked in Bill Boyum's shoes and lived to tell the story. Bill rides his own heartbreak ridge, caught between the euphoric perfection of surfing paradise and the tigers that lurk in the jungle. I do know Bill (or I thought I did, until I read this book) and was once rescued by him in high surf. But as a fellow pensmith, I cut friends no slack. In the end, the writing, like the surfing, is superb.

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