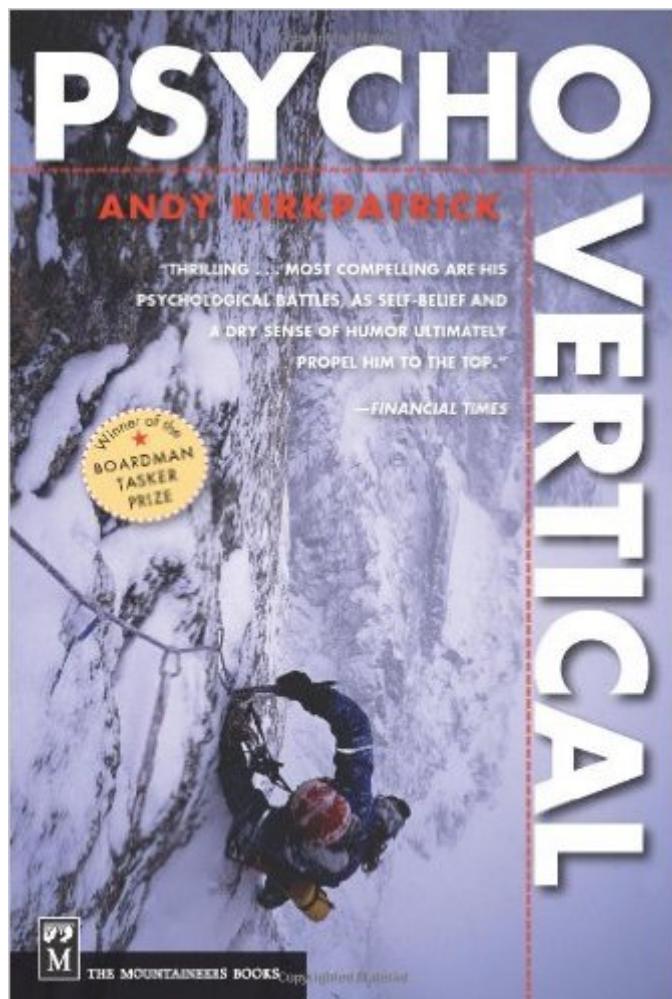


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# Psychovertical



## Synopsis

Psychovertical is the story of what happens to a nice lower-class kid with dyslexia who gains control over his circumstances by clinging to giant stone faces, thousands of feet in the air, for days at a time. In this case, Kirkpatrick uses his 12-day solo climb of the Reticent Wall on California's El Capitan as the experience that helps him understand how growing up poor, and struggling with dyslexia and low self-confidence set him on a path of extreme adventure.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (25 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

‘Psychovertical’ is the excellent autobiographical book from Andy Kirkpatrick that quite rightly won the Boardman Tasker prize in 2008. It follows his life in climbing and is written in an accessible and engrossing way. This follows the format of having alternate chapters, with one telling the story of his major climb ‘The Reticent’ on the big wall El Capitan and the others recounting other past climbs and events from his life. You flick back and forth between these events and single climb until you have a real feel for what makes Andy tick and inspires him to climb. Many parts of this book had me chuckling out loud or smiling to myself and the humour contrasted well with the danger that is inherent in climbing. There are two colour photo section that illustrate the various stories he tells, as well as a few black and white line drawings to show some of the technical equipment he uses. If you have read and if you enjoyed other climbing books, then this one should feature highly on your wish list. Kirkpatrick writes with style and humour and this makes for a couple of days excellent reading. Highly recommended. Feel free to check out my blog which can be found on my profile page.

Climbers will def enjoy. Great read. It captures the love, excitement, thrilling effort and mind of a climber very well. Not too technical for non-climbers to read and not too "explainy" for knowledgeable readers to be annoyed. More of a memoir and reflection of a very interesting, introspective, climber persona. Dig it.

If you ever wondered why people are possessed with mountaim climbing Andy Kirkpatrick's book will help you understand. Andy explores his inner self with a discerning eye toward answering the "why do I do it" question. This memoir is well written and properly edited and is a worthwhile read. He brings the reader along with him on a number of interesting journeys. Highly recommended

A fascinating insite into the mind of a mountaineer and why he does the things he does. Starting from his childhood and finishing at the end of big wall climb Andy take you on HIS journey of personal achievement, sadness and death defying adventures to understand why he does what he does with a good dose of comedy thrown in for good measure. This might not be to everyones taste and Touching the Void this is not (completely different and far better in my opinon) but as a climber it got me to think about my own life and why I do the things I do.

SO good. May times, stories about climbing and mountaineering get "embellished" and lack the honesty and humbleness with which Andy Kirkpatrick describes them. I loved the sense of humor, and how you can go from sweaty palms to laughing out loud, back to sweaty palms. Great book, great writing.

This is one of the few books that I can honestly say that I was not able to put down. one of the few books that I would get yelled at in class for reading, then pick it up again in my next class to read again. I highly recomend this book--one part a tale of a cutting edge ascent of El Cap, another of alpine climbs all over the world. Truly a great book.

Really good book, I really enjoined reading it. It was quite good time I did not have a reading about climbing so real and vivid as Kirkpatrick one. It talk about climbing, but with British humor, strong words and boldness without compromise. I can compare this lecture only with Mark Twaight Kiss or Kill: Confessions of a Serial Climber or just few other ... You start to read it and after finished the first page you will shut the light once you finished the last page of the book.

Andy KP must be the best loved climber in the UK; and the reason is simple - he is absolutely genuine and authentic, and so are his adventures. Psychovertical is a very personal story that reveals the inner and outer journey of a climber who has become one of the best of this generation. The biggest difference between Andy and most of his peers is that he shares everything with his readers (have a read of his blog when you get a minute) so you get a warts and all description of both his personal and professional life as a climber and how they are inextricably linked. Andy is also a VERY funny guy and had me in tears a dozen times in this book.

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