



# Leaving Everest

*Megan Westfield*

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***"Between the adventure, superb writing, and the heart-warming romance, I fell hard. A definite must read!" - Rebecca Yarros, author of the Renegades Series***

Twenty-year-old Emily Winslowe has had an adventurous upbringing. Daughter of a Himalayan mountain guide, she has climbed Mount Everest and other peaks most Americans only dream of. But for all her mountaineering prowess, she's lacking some key experiences. Namely, guys. Especially one guy in particular—Luke Norgay, her childhood best friend who she hasn't seen since he left for college in the United States two years ago.

Luke unexpectedly reappears as a guide just in time for the Everest climbing season. He's even more handsome than she remembers, and that something that had been building between them during their last season together is back in front of them, bigger than ever.

The problem is, there's a detail about Emily's past that Luke doesn't know. It's the reason she ended up in the Himalayas in the first place...and the reason she must make it to the summit of Mount Everest this year. It's also the reason she would never consider following him back to Washington after the climbing season ends.

But first, they'll have to survive the mountain.

## Leaving Everest Details

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Author : Megan Westfield

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# From Reader Review Leaving Everest for online ebook

## C says

This takes the friends to romance relationship up a whole lot by having the story setting at Mount Everest. Emily and Luke have reconnected after 2 years and are guides for a company that brings people up the Summit. Loved the tension from the craziness of being in that environment to the angst and sweetness of admitting their feelings for one another.

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## Megan Westfield says

Leaving Everest is a romance novel set on the Nepal side of Mount Everest. I'm a little partial to it since I wrote it and all. :)

It's a slow-burn, best-friends-to-lovers sports romance with a sport—mountaineering—that is not mainstream/televised.

If you're fascinated by Mount Everest and you also love getting lost in a heart-melting romance, this will likely be just the book for you!

Be sure to check out the link in the back of the novel because I created a free, 60-page Bonus Book of deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes details about writing the book, an interview with an Everest Base Camp trekking leader, and tons of gorgeous photos of the Nepal Himalayas.

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## Robin Bielman says

Being a lover of adventure and the outdoors, I loved this book! Megan made me feel like I was right there, at Base Camp, and beyond, with strong writing that captured all my senses. I also adored the romance between Luke and Emily. It's the best kind of slow-burn, with friends navigating their feelings for each other while also figuring out themselves. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough! Leaving Everest left me breathless, happy, and wishing for more. (I think we need a sequel, say set in Washington?) ;)

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## Christina Phillips says

Leaving Everest is a beautiful and captivating romance that I absolutely adored! With heart pounding adventure and the breathtaking, unforgiving backdrop of Everest, I couldn't put the book down. I can't wait for my next Megan Westfield fix!

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## D.M. says

Emily has experienced life many only dream of. She has the survival skills to tackle the largest mountains and the determination to match. Her father wants her to get a good education and Emily has already taken a gap year. One more trip and she is going to break the news to him. She wants to work the mountains and leave America in the past.

Luke is her best friend and she has always had a crush on him. He is gaining his education and spends his free time visiting beautiful places. They constantly communicate via pictures but Emily knows little about his reality. She doesn't even know if he has a girlfriend.

As the start of the educational year approaches Emily is forced to see the bigger picture, but that doesn't mean she will accept her fate. The mountains are her home and she wants to live her dream. Unfortunately, her dreams are expensive and there are others to consider. Emily thinks of America as the life she left behind. It brings up bad memories relating to her mother.

Leaving Everest is a becoming of age novel. The storyline is really interesting and Emily has a unique life. She has a lot of love around her and she is determined to make her dreams come true, but she needs to be realistic. Finding a place in the world comes with compromise.

Emily and Luke are a perfect duo. Their love is complicated and the ride is hard. Can they make their lives fit together or do they only have Everest?

This book has so much to offer and I really liked the geographical setting. 4.5 stars out of 5. This was a unique gem.

\*I received an ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Adventure romance with more than meets the eye. If you are looking for something different this book hit the nail on the head.

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### **Lauren loves llamas says**

This was absolutely lovely! While I've read a few books about Mt. Everest before – Into Thin Air being one of them – I'm not particularly well-versed in mountaineering or rock climbing or, basically, anything outdoors that doesn't involve tailgating. Even without that background or interest, this was completely engrossing.

“Luke was my whole world, past and present.  
But he might not be my future.”

Emily is returning to Nepal for her – hopefully – historic seventh summit of Mt. Everest with her father's expedition company. What should be an exciting time is clouded by thoughts of her future – attend college in her home state of Washington, or trying to find a sponsor to keep climbing? – and past – her childhood best friend Luke, whom she hasn't seen for two years. When she unexpectedly runs into him before arriving at Base Camp, she's stunned to realize that she still has a crush on him, though he's changed in the years he's been attending college in the US. As before, though, she's unsure if he returns her feelings, and, even if he did, what future could they possibly have together? After a bad turn of events with her mom and grandparents, she's spent years of her life following her dad around the world and climbing mountains.

While she yearns for someplace of her own, of not having to carry around her whole life (including craft supplies!) in a backpack, of having her own home base, she also dreams of climbing new mountains.

“To get a sponsorship, I needed that seventh summit. But even then, it’s not like I’d get to the top of Mount Everest and find a magical sponsorship offer tied onto one of the prayer flags. There would still be a lot of time, work, and luck involved in this dream, and how would I pay for dinner in the meantime? How did Luke play into all this? It seemed impossible, but could he? Was there a way? And what about that white bungalow? That was a dream, too: having the permanence of a place of my own and people to come home to.”

I loved Emily. Someone on Twitter, while differentiating between young adult and new adult, described new adult as (paraphrased) “I know who I am, but how do I fit in the world?” and this book was absolute perfection for that. Emily has been shaped by the presence – and absence – of many people and things, and while she regrets that she’s not a “normal” college-age adult, she also realizes how lucky she is to have been able to pursue something that is an unattainable dream for many. And it’s not like Ms. Westfield just has Emily tell us that – Emily’s actions reflect her deeply held beliefs, even when she is sometimes unable to articulate them even to herself. I absolutely loved her journey. While I didn’t agree with some of her choices – I’ll admit to yelling at my eReader at points – I always understood why she was making them. Rather than just being a foil for Emily, Luke himself is also a fully realized character, with his own motivations and deeply held beliefs. I also loved that even when they had their disagreements – and, oh boy, did they have them, and they were some doozies – they are mature enough to realize they need cool down periods, and to see things from each other’s points of view. It was a refreshing dose of maturity that seems absent from a lot of adult novels, even, but something I found completely realistic considering these twenty-somethings were used to have other peoples’ lives literally in their hands on dangerous climbs.

Overall, I absolutely adored this book, and would recommend it to anyone looking for a thoughtful, heart wrenching new adult romance.

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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## **Asheley says**

4.5/5

OH MY GOSH. How much did I love this book? I loved it so, so much.

You guys may not realize how much I love reading about mountaineering and Mount Everest and the Himalayas. I have been obsessed with climbing for ages and I’ve read and watched a ton of mountaineering stuff since way back in my high school and college years.

When I saw Leaving Everest by Megan Westfield, I *\*needed\** to read it.

Emily has spent a chunk of her childhood among the tallest mountains in the world, having grown up with her father – a world-famous climber. She has a bit of a mixed-up childhood, but she has found her place

among the beautiful peaks of the world's tallest mountains. She also found her best friend there. Luke and Emily have known one another for over a decade, having grown and nurtured their friendship outside of America, in the mountains near Everest. This summer, things are about to change. Emily doesn't know that they both are back at Everest for the summer – both planning to summit the mountain – and when she is near him after two solid years of only communicating via social media, she can barely speak or see straight. She wonders if he may possibly feel the same about her, but she is almost too nervous to talk to him about it. SURELY after spending two years back in America for college, among beautiful people and “real” civilization, he can't possibly be interested in her, right?

There is so much that I love about this story. YES, I love the slowly-building romance between Emily and Luke. Based-on-friendship, BFF-romances are some of my favorites. But what made this book most wonderful to me is that this romance is against the backdrop of Everest, while they're both separately trying for the summit, and that they try to keep the romance secret while on the mountain. The setting is absolutely magical.

I love these characters and their backstories, and I love the secondary cast that is around them. I only want more of these people after reading this. And more of the mountains.

I super-slightly wish I would have known Emily's complete backstory sooner. As it is, her story is revealed in small pieces throughout the story. It certainly didn't lessen my love for Emily's story, but I was aware that I know little about her until that moment when I finally knew the why and the what that led her to where she is.

Also, it looks like Megan Westfield's other standalone story – Lessons in Gravity – has a few of the characters from this book, so I'm DYING DYING DYING to go back and read that one now. I don't think that I've missed out on anything by not reading Megan's other book since they're standalones with different settings, but I love the characters in Leaving Everest so much that I want to know as much as possible about any of them that are featured anywhere. Plus, there is more climbing and I'm here for that! I definitely want to go back and read her other book.

This story was so easy to read and visualize and enjoy. If you love mountaineering, you'll love it. If you love mountain settings, you'll love this one. If you love friends-to-romance stories, you'll love this one. I'll be rereading this one when I'm in the mood for a story that has adventure, sport, and climbing.

*I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Thank you to the author and Entangled: Embrace!*

Find this review and more like it on my blog, Into the Hall of Books!

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## **Stephanie says**

From the Militant Recommender Book Review Blog:

<https://militantrecommender.blogspot...>

Emily Winslowe's life has been one of adventure, following her mountaineer Dad to some of the highest, most dangerous peaks in the world, and she has been able to hold her own, summiting even Everest, alongside him and the climbers who he guides through his company Winslowe Expeditions. She loves the

mountains and can't imagine a life without having access to them.

There's one other thing that she enjoys, a game of filming a 360 degree video panorama of her summits called #YCCM and checking those of someone else, those of Luke, a boy she has known most of her life who is now attending college in the US.

This summer is looking to be a challenging one for Emily. There's the Everest climb with her Dad, and finding a way to tell him she has decided not to go to Washington State to attend a college where she has a free ride. She has already taken a gap year. Her dream, instead, is to climb the top 5 mountains in the world. Returning from a climb, the Father and daughter take a break at the home of Mingma, a Sherpa woman friend and the widow of a man who had been an associate of her Dad and his company, killed in a climbing accident. She is also the mother of Luke, and a younger son, Pasang.

Emily has been longing to see Luke. He is not only her best friend, but someone she dares not tell that she has secretly been in love with him for years. Her heart stood still when she started noticing an American girl show up in some of Luke's videos.

As they are preparing for a meal at Mingma's, suddenly, there is someone leaning in the doorway. Emily can hardly believe what she is seeing. Is it really Luke? How can he be here and she not have known?

And so begins a heart-stopping adventure story and a completely believable love story set in a part of the world most of us only get to in movies or books and Ms. Westfield makes you, the reader, a part of the expedition. You will experience what it's like in the build up to making the attempt to climb the most treacherous mountain in the world and get caught up in Luke and Emily's love story, one of unspoken feelings, secrets and surprises. This is a book you will want to revisit, and characters so real you want to follow their journey beyond the pages of this wonderful story. Plus, I LOVE the cover! 10 Stars (and 10 mountain peaks)! Highly recommended!

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## **Adam Lottes says**

There are a number of things I enjoy about Megan Westfield's stories. First - they take people with baggage who feel like they are broken beyond repair and she puts them together. While we get to know them and see them interacting we are oftentimes left guessing as to what their future will be. Which is why her stories are so gripping. Second - she makes me want to get out into the outdoors and start rock climbing or, in this case, mountaineering.

In "Leaving Everest" we meet Emily, a young lady who is living life at her father's side climbing up and down Mt. Everest. She is a young lady who doesn't know too much of the greater world past the rocky slopes around her. She loves this life. And then one day someone arrives who makes her heart flutter. Luke, a young man attending college in Washington state has flown home for a visit. Their feelings for each other are deeply buried in years of friendship and Circs (geo-locating Snapchat type of photos - read the book to find out about them, unless they exist in real life and in that case download the app). They spent a few weeks together working for various mountaineering companies that take tourists up the mountain and back down. During this time we see this pair grow individually and together. I just love how I get swept up in these books! I devoured this one like I did the first.

What makes Ms. Westfield's stories of romance so captivating is the risk. These characters are like you and me - flawed and emotional and over thinking everything. And yet here they are trying to muddle through it all together and denying their feelings for each other but yet they can't help it. And neither can we! Will they or won't they? All of that aside the settings are in these fantastic places. The climb to the top of Mt. Everest is deadly so there's that risk thrown in. All in all - the risk is worth it, especially on Ms. Westfield's second novel.

There is a great tie-in to her first novel (as I was reading my mind kept coming back to April. Where have I read about her before?). Pretty slick I must say! A must-read for those who crave the fresh air of the great outdoors and for those who sigh that love-filled sigh after reading an amazing romance novel.

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### **Diane says**

Leaving Everest by author Megan Westfield is a delight! I have read so many non-fiction books of people who have climbed Everest and other beautiful but torturous peaks around the world, and this fiction does capture much of the true experience of the adventure.

Emily Winslowe has grown up as the daughter of a Himalayan mountain guide. Her mother had some problems and Emily has lived a physically grueling life in the brutal Himalayan mountains. Emily loves her life! If she could hike, climb mountains, and guide other adventurers for a living, it would be like a dream come true for her. She has climbed Mount Everest six times in her young life and hopes this current season will be her seventh before age twenty-one. That is the goal and it would be a world record for a person her age. This successful climb could be her path for a sponsorship for college or for funding other climbs. It is time she makes a decision for her future, and with no money of her own, she has limited options.

As accomplished as Emily is in the arena of outdoor mountain climbing, she has lived a sheltered life. She finished her school through correspondence and has had very few friends. She has access to the internet and keeps in touch with her childhood friend Luke through a media app for adventurers, CIRC. She has not seen Luke in two years and misses him terribly. The last time they were together the parting was a bit awkward because they were discovering deeper feelings for each other. Emily is worried because Luke has not emailed her since he left to attend college in Washington.

Much to her surprise, Luke Norgay appears in the camp as a guide for a group planning to summit Everest during the current season. Oh My, how he has changed! Will he ever realize how much his friendship meant to her? Follow along on a romantic adventure on a grand scale. There are scenes which reflect the dangers and possibility that some climbers on Everest will never come off the mountain.

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### **Harmony Williams says**

This book gripped me from the moment I opened it. I'm a sucker for best friends-to-lovers romance, and I bonded with Emily from the start. I love the friendship that Megan Westfield built for the main characters. It felt like an adventure in itself. Even though I'm afraid of heights, I found myself longing to climb to the tallest peaks and take a Circumference video of my own. By the time Luke entered the picture (in person) and the chemistry between him and Emily surged, I was hooked on this book. I loved the tidbits of information about Everest, I loved watching Emily's relationships with various people on Mount Everest unfold, especially Doc. I found myself rooting not only for Emily to get her guy, but also for her to succeed in her seventh Everest summit so she could gain the sponsorship she needed to become the first woman to climb the five tallest peaks in the world. This book was riveting, gripping, and oh so empowering. I definitely recommend!

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### **Elaine says**

This is an absolutely brilliant story that I thoroughly enjoyed and have absolutely no hesitation in highly



recommending. It has a very unique romance setting in and around Mount Everest and the communities of mountaineers and their support teams. It is an insightful coming of age story in which cultural expectations, dreams and love all have key roles to play and secrets to be revealed that will be life changing.

Emily Winslowe has had a very different upbringing as the daughter of a Himalayan mountain guide. She has already - unofficially - climbed Everest six times and she's only twenty years old. Her dream is to be the youngest person to climb the big five mountains but her gap year is coming to an end and she's expected to go to study in the US. When her childhood best friend, Luke Norgay, returns from college their attraction is growing even stronger but with a mountain to conquer, secrets to be revealed and challenges to be faced, nothing will be easy for this couple!

With excellent character development, superb secondary characters, an enthralling story line and plenty of complications en route this is a superb adventurous romance that I loved escaping into and hope many others will, too. Climbing Everest is really a challenging expedition most of us never dream of even attempting let alone participating in, but this story takes readers on that journey in an epic adventure with danger, drama and, of course, romance.

I requested and received a copy of this novel via NetGalley. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.

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### **Alice Kaltman says**

No one writes about rocks and mountains and romance like Megan Westfield. I'm a HUGE fan of her book "Lessons in Gravity" and now I have "Leaving Everest" to add to my fangirl pile. Emily is a complicated girl who's grown up doing something so challenging and unique. And when Luke comes into the picture things get even more intense. Westfield writes their slow burn romance as flawlessly as she describes Mount Everest and the community that lives there. She also does a fine job with believable dialogue and complex family dynamics. Everyone is flawed, yet they all muddle their way forward. Everything about "Leaving Everest" feels real. While it is a romance, it's not some fairy tale. I was riveted by the detailed scenes of this intense and dangerous sport.

I'm an oceancentric jock, but Westfield's oeuvre of landlocked lovers in craggy places almost has me thinking I could put on some of those heavy boots and claw my way to the top of a peak! I highly recommend Leaving Everest to anyone who wants to read compelling literature with a sporty edge.

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### **Bec\_BookMagicReviews says**

Emily Winslowe hasn't seen her childhood best friend in two years, but now Luke Norgay is back in her life and ready to be a guide for the Everest climbing season. However, as old feelings for each other resurface and the pair finding themselves working together, Emily finds herself needing to make decisions for what she's going to do with her future. Will she and Luke get the happy ever after they both deserve, or will the secret Emily's been hiding from her best friend keep her from ever giving the pair a chance at forever?

This is the first book I've read by Ms. Westfield, but I've got to say that it won't be my last. Really, this story was absolutely incredible due its fast-paced storyline because climbing Everest sounds exciting and I

couldn't wait to discover whether the group would make it to the top; the dialogue was the perfect blend of intense moments due to the main characters back stories, especially that of the heroine, that makes her balk at following Luke back to Washington and wonderful banter that had me loving this couple together.

As for the way this story started, it sets the fast-pace of the story, especially from the moment the hero and heroine come face-to-face for the first time. Being around each other for the first time in two years, especially after what happened to them on one of their climbing adventures, isn't easy for Emily and she's determined to ignore their chemistry while Luke is all for seeing where things can lead, which makes this story very interesting. Will Luke win in his pursuit of Emily? Moreover, I absolutely loved both the main characters and the secondary characters definitely add that extra something special to the story when they're offering sound advice.

Luke and Emily are both compelling characters that entertained me from start to finish with their back stories, their growing relationship and the obstacles they face on their journey to happy ever after including what happens to Luke that has Emily worried for him and could make her lose focus on the climb; the secret that Emily is keeping from Luke that could lead to him never being able to trust her again if he discovers the truth; and the big decision the heroine has to make towards the end that could decide this couple's future.

With Emily, she's had a very adventurous upbringing and I loved her enthusiasm for climbing. She's resilient and courageous, but at the same time, her secret holds her back. Doesn't she know that facing the past will finally set her free? I also liked how determined the heroine was to help those in need, even if her sense of loyalty and honor could put her in danger. While the hero, he lost someone he loved that could very easily have made him not want to climb ever again, but I liked that he was ready to be a guide during Everest climbing season. It proves he's strong, brave and ready to face the past. I also liked how determined he was to win over the heroine because he wants more than to be her best friend. Then again, they're so good together so why wouldn't he want more. Will the heroine be able to give Luke what he wants -- the chance for a future together?

Overall, Ms. Westfield has delivered an amazing and well-written read in this book where the chemistry between this couple is powerful; the romance delightful and definitely shows how good these two are together; and the ending had me worried for the main characters, but had me cheering for their happy ever after, as what they go through makes Emily realize what's important. Certainly, she needs to face her past in order to have a fighting chance for a future with Luke. I would recommend *Leaving Everest* by Megan Westfield, if you enjoy New Adult Romance, the friends to lovers trope, or books by authors Rebecca Yarros, Beth Ann Miller, Lindsey Frydman and Cindi Madsen.

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## **Teresa says**

**\*\*I received a copy of *Leaving Everest* from Entangled Publishing and Net Galley in exchange for a honest and voluntary review\*\***

*Leaving Everest* by Megan Westfield gives the reader such vivid descriptions of the Himalayan mountains and the families that help guide mountain climbers to their summits for a small window of time each year. Since I live in the beautiful state of Washington myself I loved how the hero and heroine both attend college here. I'd give the entire book a 4.8 stars for its beauty and its more of a coming age story with out of this world scenery.

Emily Winslowe is at the end of her gap year from college and is trying to find the right time to tell her guide father that she doesn't want to go back. But when her father tells her his own news, she decides to go straight to work for another guiding company instead of achieving her goal of being the first woman to summit 11 mountains. But Emily is also trying to sort through her feelings about Luke Norgay who has come home to see if his feelings for her and work guiding a group of climbers. But when he finds out that Emily has a secret regarding her mother will they both be able to put anger away and learn how to grow as a couple? There's a very tense moment towards the end that will have you reading well into the early AM just to see how it all ends.

Luke Norgay grew up in the mountains often going with his parents as they worked for the companies leading climbers to the top of the highest mountains of the world. But he's now spent two years away at the University of Washington taking Pre-Med classes to become a doctor. He's known Emily since she was 10 years old and came to live with her father after her mother's issues became too much. But in the past year they've traded photos of places via the Circ app guessing where they are in the photo. However, his feelings have graduated beyond friends and he must try to understand why both Emily and her father never talked about her mom. Can he convince Emily to return to school and pursue a career beyond climbing? Will they work through their hurt feelings and see where their new love will take them?

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