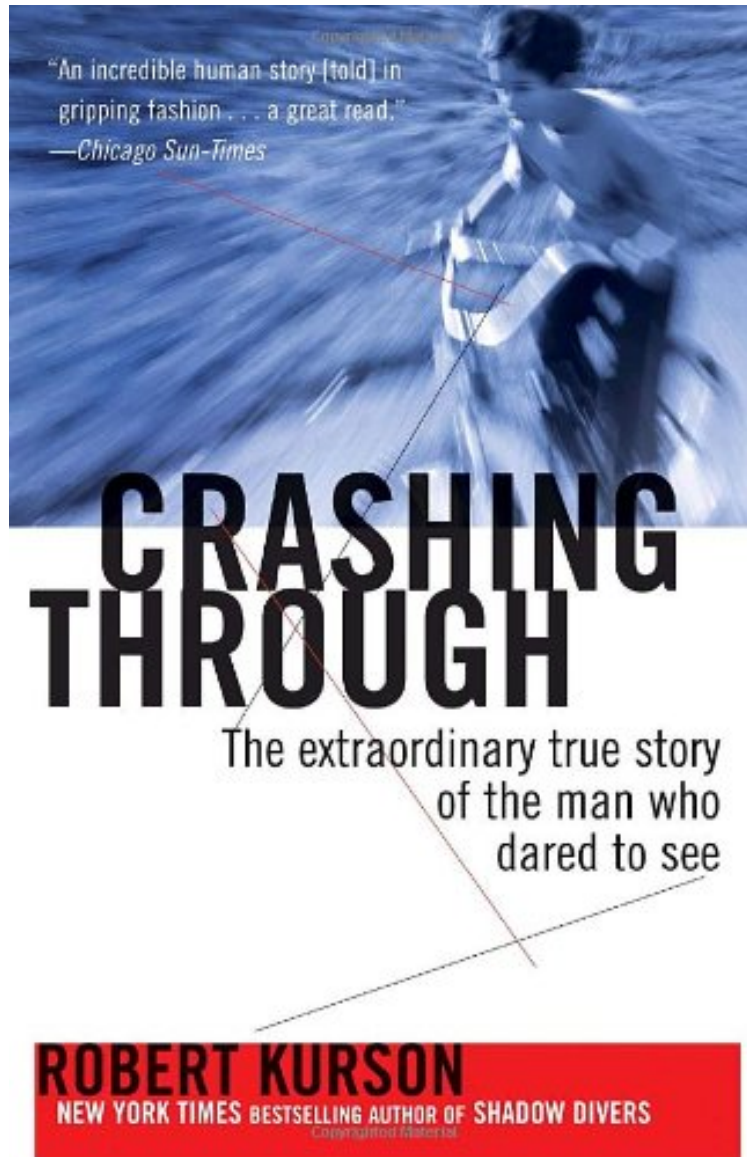


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# Crashing Through: The Extraordinary True Story of the Man Who Dared to See

Robert Kurson

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**Robert Kurson : Crashing Through: The Extraordinary True Story of the Man Who Dared to See** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crashing Through: The Extraordinary True Story of the Man Who Dared to See:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Can Be Trusted Fascinating read. 1 of 1 people found

the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Pamela K. Biergood1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Humorous story about seeing the world after being blindBy Laura MartinsonAmazing story about a man who, blinded at age 3, still rode his bike, ran, and even skied in the olympics. When he gets his sight back as an adult, he very humorously explains what it is like to see a sexy woman, his family, and such things as shadows verses a curb. It is both an uplifting story and an eye opener into the world of vision and the brain.

Mike May spent his life crashing through. Blinded at age three, he defied expectations by breaking world records in downhill speed skiing, joining the CIA, and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur, and family man. He had never yearned for vision. Then, in 1999, a chance encounter brought startling news: a revolutionary stem cell transplant surgery could restore Mays vision. It would allow him to drive, to read, to see his childrens faces. But the procedure was filled with gambles, some of them deadly, others beyond Mays wildest dreams. Beautifully written and thrillingly told, *Crashing Through* is a journey of suspense, daring, romance, and insight into the mysteries of vision and the brain. Robert Kurson gives us a fascinating account of one mans choice to explore what it means to seeand to truly live.Praise for the National Bestseller *Crashing Through*:An incredible human story [told] in gripping fashion . . . a great read.Chicago Sun-TimesInspiring.USA Today[An] astonishing story . . . memorably told . . . May is remarkable. . . Dont be surprised if your own vision mists over now and then.Chicago Tribune[A] moving account [of] an extraordinary character.PeopleTerrific . . . [a] genuinely fascinating account of the nature of human vision.The Washington PostKurson is a man with natural curiosity and one who can feel the excitement life has to offer. One of his great gifts is he makes you feel it, too.The Kansas City StarPropulsive . . . a gripping adventure story.Entertainment Weekly NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

From Publishers WeeklyBlinded in a childhood accident, Mike May never hesitated to try anythingdriving a motorcycle, hiking alone in the woods, downhill skiinguntil the day, when May was 46, an ophthalmologist told him a new stem-cell and cornea transplant could restore his vision. As *Esquire* contributing editor Kurson (*Shadow Divers*) relates, the decision to have the surgery wasn't easy. May, always a "pioneer in his heart," had never really felt he was missing anything in life. The surgery also had a few risks: the restoration of sight might only be temporary; the immunosuppressive drug was highly toxic; May might never adjust to the changes having sight would cause. Previously, patients had become depressed, their lives ruined because, while it might seem strange to sighted people, these patients found that the idea of vision was better than the reality. May went forward, only to find that, even though his eye was now perfect, his brain had forgotten how to process visual input. Fascinated by colors and patterns, he had difficulty discerning facial features, letters, even men from women. How May adjusts to his medical miracle, living with the disappointments as well as the joys, makes for a remarkable story of courage and endurance.Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From *Bookmarks Magazine*Robert Kurson's *Shadow Divers* (\*\*\*\* Sept/Oct 2004), a tale of a deadly search for a German U-boat off the coast of New Jersey, became an instant classic among adventure readers who enjoy well-told, high-octane nonfiction. In *Crashing Through*, the author finds an equally compelling subject. Kurson's journalistic instincts are strong, and tight writing and thorough research reflect his journalist background. The profile of Mike May is generally engaging-particularly in describing the difficult transition to the sighted world and what happens when May is ripped out of his comfort zone. However, readers should know that the story of May's personal struggles takes a back seat to Kurson's lucid exploration of the brain's circuitry and fascinating details of how we can have vision without really seeing.Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.From *Booklist*By the time he turned 44, Mike May had accomplished a lot. He had been an Olympic downhill skier and won three gold medals at the 1982 Winter Games. He was an entrepreneur with a specialized portable GPS system under development. He had lived for a time in Ghana among the villagers of Kumbuli, helping them to build a schoolhouse. He had even worked briefly for the CIA. So when doctors offered May the opportunity to regain his eyesight via a risky corneal transplant, he took the chance of a lifetime. May had been blinded by a chemical explosion at the age of 3, and the operation would make him one of only 60 documented cases of vision restoration after long-term blindness. The surgery proved successful, and May's experience with his new eyesight was packed with adventureand difficulty. Kurson wrote the best-selling *Shadow Divers* (2004), about risk-taking deep-wreck divers. His latest offering documents a different kind of courage, as embodied by a man who was willing to take enormous risks on behalf of his curiosity. Eberle, Jerry