Alex's (Unabridged) Book List

This is my very incomplete reading list from the last 10 years or so - I pulled these from my books shelves, random lists in old journals, an old Goodreads account, and the back of my brain. There's a huge diversity of books here, but taken as a whole they give a good sense of how my brain works now. If you read all 111, I'll send you a prize. Seriously.

Alex Honnold June 2018

Environmental

The Prize and The Quest Daniel Yergin Both books, especially taken together provide a pretty in depth history of the oil industry. They form a base for other knowledge about energy generation and use.

The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be J. B. MacKinnon I really enjoyed this book. And the author also wrote a profile of my brain for *Nautilus* magazine. And he's a bit of a soloist. So he must be a great writer!

Oil on the Brain: Petroleum's Long, Strange Trip to Your Tank Lisa Margonelli

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History Elizabeth Kolbert Very depressing. Educational, but depressing.

The Global Warming Reader: A Century of Writing About Climate Change Bill McKibben, editor

This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. Climate Naomi Klein Depressing. Good, but grim. Kind of like the economic version of The Sixth Extinction.

The World Without Us Alan Weisman I think about this book a lot. It's interesting to imagine how the world would heal without us... Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit Al Gore

Diet for a Small Planet Frances Moore Lappé

No Impact Man Colin Beavan

The Better World Shopping Guide: How Every Dollar Can Make a Difference by Ellis Jones My sister bought this for me and signed it with this inscription: "For Alex - In case you ever start giving a shit. Love, Stasia" It was the beginning of a long process in which I've given more and more shits.

The Man Who Quit Money Mark Sundeen

Eat and Run: My Unlikely Journey to Ultramarathon Greatness Scott Jurek I'm good friends with Scott and his wife so I'm biased, but I found this book to be an inspiring tale of Veganhood. Scott's the man!

The China Study: The Most Comprehensive Study of Nutrition Ever Conducted and the Startling Implication for Diet, Weight Loss, and Long-term Health T Colin Campbell This was one of the first books that set me on the path to vegetarianism. I read it and several other diet books at the same time and decided to stop eating meat. Not that that was a huge sacrifice because I never bought meat anyway - no refrigeration in the van kept meat consumption down naturally.

Animal Liberation Peter Singer Animal rights!

Lives Per Gallon Terry Tamminen Don't remember much about this except for the takeaway that vehicle exhaust is really bad for human health. The Paleo Diet: Lose Weight and Get Healthy by Eating the Food You Were Designed to Eat

Loren Cordain

I read this book and then passed it off to my mom, who actually used the Paleo diet to great effect. It really helped her feel fit and trim. Though I think the "paleo" part of the paleo diet is mostly bullshit - I think it works well just because it follows Michael Pollan's advice of "Eat real food, not too much, mostly plants."

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals Michael Pollan

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto Michael Pollan "Eat real food, mostly plants, not too much." I think about that all the time. Words to live by.

Eating Animals

Jonathan Safran Foer

This book made me care more about animal rights than probably anything else I've read. I'd already been vegetarian for years when I read it, but it made me appreciate the suffering of animals a lot more.

Thrive: The Vegan Nutrition Guide to Optimal Performance in Sports and Life Brendan Brazier

The Skeptical Environmentalist Bjorn Lomborg This book gave me a more critical way to evaluate environmental issues. It makes sense to always consider how much good your money is actually having.

Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming Bjorn Lomborg

Small is Beautiful E F Schumacher

Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America

Thoma L Friedman

This was one of the first books I read on my green kick - it was a good primer to get me started in the subject.

Overview: A New Perspective of Earth by Benjamin Grant I loved this book, and follow @dailyoverview on instagram. It helps give a global perspective.

The Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World Emma Marris I actually think of this book more than I expected when I read it - the idea of our random extra spaces (think: highway medians) being nature really sunk in.

Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat Howard F. Lyman

The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture Wendell Berry I hated this book and found it extremely challenging to read. Not sure if I ever actually finished after months of lingering effort.

The Blue Zones, Second Edition: 9 Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who've Lived the Longest

Dan Buettner

We were given this book at a The North Face athlete summit many years ago. It's ironic because almost everyone on the athlete team is in more danger from the sport they do than their diet or lack of exercise... but it's a good reminder to live cleanly if you want to live a long time.

Silent Spring Rachel Carson It's a classic! Dated now, but worth knowing where modern environmentalism came from.

Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things Michael Braungart

Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet Bill McKibben This was also one of my earliest "green" books. Got me started on a long path.

The End of Nature Bill McKibben As the title implies, this is depressing. Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future Bill McKibben

Prosperity Without Growth Tim Jackson

Limits to Growth Dennis and Donella Meadows

Beyond the Limits Dennis and Donella Meadows Old school - I read this mostly to get a greater appreciation for past generations environmentalists.

The Population Bomb Paul Ehrlich It's a classic - good to know how people were framing these problems 30 years ago.

Lighting the World Jim Rogers and Stephen P. Williams A good reminder that there are 1 billion people on earth without access to power and that we should be doing something about it. Which is a big part of why I started the Honnold Foundation.

The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists Michael Brower

The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves Matt Ridley

Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think Steven Kotler and Peter Diamandis This book and "The Rational Optimist" are both close to my natural way of thinking. I clearly see a big arc of human progress - it's nice to read about it as well instead of typical environmental doom and gloom.

Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution Paul Hawken, Hunter Lovins, Amory Lovins

Getting Green Done: Hard Truths from the Front Lines of the Sustainability Revolution Auden Schendler Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming Paul Hawken, editor Humans have messed up the world but have tremendous opportunities to improve. There's so much we can do - everyone just needs to start working on their own little piece.

Economics & Business

Economyths David Orrell Modern economics is broken and needs to be replaced by a more realistic and dynamic model. Social and environmental crises are systemic in the current economy. Lots of ties back to basic science and physics. Nice place to learn the basics.

Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits Leslie R Crutchfield

Freakonomics Steven D Levitt I remember enjoying this but don't remember much more about it.

Super Freakonomics Steven D Levitt

Shameless Exploitation in Pursuit of the Common Good: The Madcap Business Adventure by the Truly Oddest Couple Paul Newman and AE Hotchner

The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other Mountains: How JanSport Makes It Happen Skip Yowell

The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About it Paul Collier

Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies Jim Collins I read Jim's books because I once saw a quote where Tommy Caldwell said that Jim was his favorite author. That was before I knew Tommy really well so I couldn't ask him about it - all I could do was read all the books! Great By Choice: Uncertainty, Chaos, and Luck - Why Some Thrive Despite Them All Jim Collins

Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't Jim Collins Jim Collins, besides being the best selling business author of all time or something like that, has also free soloed The Naked Edge (5 pitch 5.11c). Whoa!

The Compass and the Nail Craig Wilson A book about branding and marketing. Basically it was a good reminder that I could probably never handle a real job.

The End of Poverty Jeffery Sachs I don't remember anything about this, though I'm sure it's one of many books that have slowly formed my views on how to make the world a slightly better place.

Let My People Go Surfing: the Education of a Reluctant Businessman Yvon Chouinard I have a ton of respect for Yvon both as a climber and a businessman. He's definitely lived his life correctly.

Climbing & Adventure

Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills The Mountaineers Club I read this when I was a child, and have signed tons of copies for over stoked young climbers since then. It takes me back.

To Be Brave Royal Robbins Royal is a total legend and I bought this book at a talk that he gave. It's too bad that he didn't have enough time to write more of his story before he died.

The Lost Explorer: Finding Mallory on Mt Everest Conrad Anker and David Roberts

With Bare Hands: The True Story of Alain Robert, the Real-life Spiderman Alain Robert

This book was either translated to English by Google or by someone who didn't actually speak English. But thankfully I speak French, so it made some sense anyway. But the climbing is amazing.

Touching the Void: The True Story of One Man's Miraculous Survival Joe Simpson A truly amazing tale.

The Climb: Tragic Ambitions on Everest Anatoli Boukreev

No Picnic on Mt. Kenya Felice Benuzzi I read this right before climbing Mt Kenya. It was the proper primer. Made me grateful that I didn't have to escape from a POW camp before undertaking my climb...

No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks Ed Viesturs and David Roberts I read this when I was quite young and found it super inspiring. Not sure if I still would, but at the time it was perfect for me.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School at a Time Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin I also found this really inspiring at the time. After reading Jon Krakauer's *Three Cups of Deceit* I'm a little less enamored. But still, it's a good idea. Just too bad that Mortenson seems a bit unscrupulous.

The Endurance: Shackelton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition Caroline Alexander This is possibly the greatest adventure tale of all time. Must read!

The High Lonesome: Epic Solo Climbing Stories John Long

Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors Piers Paul Read Epic!!

True Summit: What Really Happened on the Legendary Ascent of Annapurna David Roberts

On the Ridge Between Life and Death: A Climbing Life Reexamined David Roberts David co-wrote my book *Alone on the Wall* with me. So he's a close friend. But I still called him a total curmudgeon after I read this book. As he gets older his ruminations on adventure grow more dour. The Last of His Kind: The Life and Adventures of Bradfor Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer David Roberts This book made me feel like I needed to be doing more with my life. Brad Washburn is the man.

Higher Love: Skiing the Seven Summits Kit Deslauriers Kit gave me this book and I loved it. I like straight forward, long term goals. Go Kit!

The White Spider Heinrich Harrer

The Great Book of BASE Matt Gerdes I read this when I was considering learning how to BASE jump. I'm glad I avoided the aerial sports...

Classic Climbing Stories: Thirteen Awesome Adventures Kerry Burns and Cameron Burns

High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places David Breashears

The Rise of Superman: Decoding the Science of Ultimate Human Performance Steven Kotler My solo of Half Dome is included in this book I think, though I still had somewhat mixed feelings about the book.

Queen Maud Land Antarctica Ivar Tollefsen I read this in Antarctica and we referenced the photos all the time for beta and route descriptions. It's a great, readable account of the first climbing trip to Queen Maud Land.

Everything Else

Weep Not, Child Ngugi wa Thiong'o I rarely read fiction. When I do, I make sure it's depressing African fiction while on an expedition in Africa. But it was quite moving.

The Foundation Trilogy Isaac Isamov I loved these books. I think of them often.

The Dune Trilogy Frank Herbert I really enjoyed reading these at the time, though now I don't really remember them.

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking Malcom Gladwell I think I read this in a single sitting in a random hotel coming home from an expedition to Borneo. I think it was Jimmy Chin's book and I borrowed it for the afternoon. I don't remember a ton... it went by in a blink.

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference Malcom Gladwell Very readable, but it kind of annoys me how Gladwell books are kind of pseudoscience. Journalism masquerading as research. But still fun.

The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal Jared Diamond

Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon Daniel C Dennett

Guns, Germs, and Steel Jared Diamond I read this a long time ago and it provided a good framework for many of the other books I've read about evolution and human development.

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed Jared Diamond

The God Delusion Richard Dawkins Sort of boring, but part of a big atheist reading kick I had when I first set out on the road. The Selfish Gene Richard Dawkins

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason Sam Harris I really enjoyed this book.

Letter to a Christian Nation Sam Harris I loved this book. I wish I could give a copy to everyone in America. It's freakin' genius. I read it in a sitting. Two different times.

What I Talk About When I Talk About Running Haruki Murakami A joyous look at running.

The Alchemist Paulo Coelho

Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything Joshua Foer Ironically, I don't remember enough about this book. Obviously my memory palace is a bit too small or cluttered. No, but seriously - it's a great book.

Thinking, Fast and Slow Daniel Kahneman A slow, somewhat boring read. But educational.

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail Cheryl Strayed

The Signal in the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail - But Some Don't Nate Silver This book kicked around my van for several years - it was recommended by the guys at Sender Films once upon a time. But when I finally read it I was glad I did - it's great!

The Dorito Effect: The Surprising New Truth About Food and Flavor Mark Schatzker I remember nothing about this. Maybe the book is as empty as a Dorito...

Desert Solitaire Edward Abbey The Monkey Wrench Gang Edward Abbey I've read a few Edward Abbey books because he's such a classic environmentalist, but I just don't love his style.

Beyond Geography: The Western Spirit Against the Wilderness Frederick W Turner This was a bit of struggle to read. I think I was in a tent in Kenya. And I took many naps.

Rules For a Knight Ethan Hawke Conrad Anker gave me this book and it's freakin' great. I've read it several times and given a few copies to friends. It makes me want to be a better knight.

Sapiens Yuval Noah Harari Pretty amazing book. It was recommended to me by Brad Gobright, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World Michael Lewis I really enjoyed the travel writing feel of a book about financial collapse. Good times!

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game Michael Lewis Great book, though now I only really remember the movie. How can you forget Brad Pitt?!

Shoe Dog Phil Knight The memoir of the founder of Nike - I think my biggest takeaway was that I'm glad that someone who's made a career out of making shoes really does love them.

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry Neil deGrasse Tyson Fun, easy reading that reminds us of our place in the universe.

Welcome to Paradise, Now go to Hell Chas Smith I don't even love surfing and I still really enjoyed this book. Stayed up till 2am reading on a climbing day in Antarctica. Legit. Barbarian Days William Finnegan A true surfing lifer! Makes me hope that I can have that kind of love for climbing my whole life. These last two surf books were Jimmy Chin's - I borrowed them in Antarctica after I finished all of mine. . . the beauty of real, paper books.