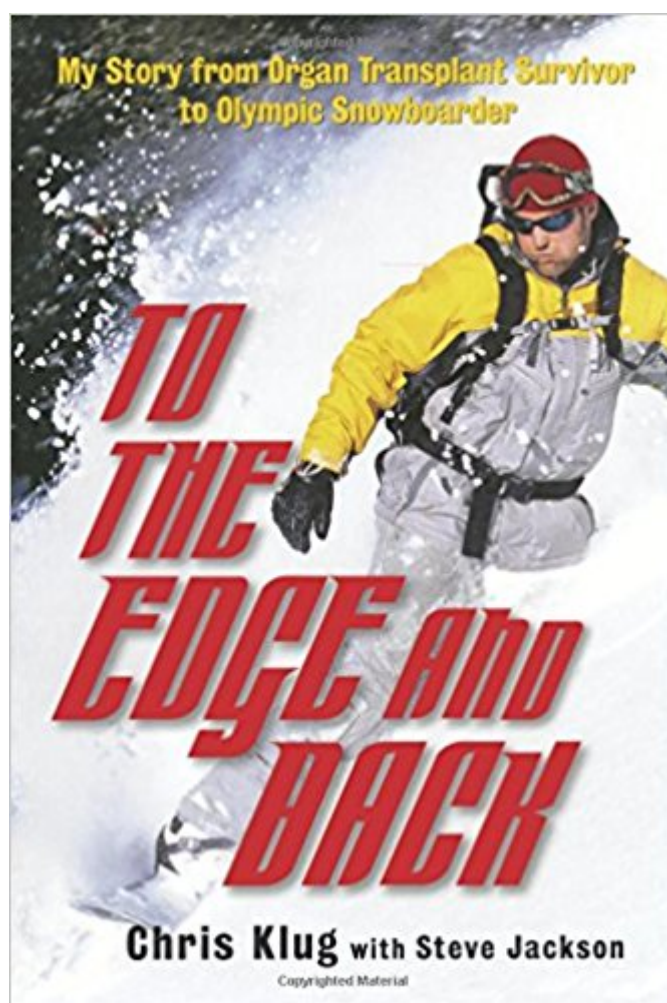


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# To The Edge And Back: My Story From Organ Transplant Survivor To Olympic Snowboarder



## Synopsis

Displaying faith, courage, and perseverance, snowboard racer Chris Klug battled for years to have his "extreme" sport accepted in the mainstream. He rose through the World Cup ranks and won a bronze medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics less than two years after undergoing a lifesaving liver transplant. Not since Lance Armstrong's *It's Not About the Bike* has a stricken athlete's story been as poised to transcend the sport. In 1996, during snowboarding's World Cup season, Chris was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis; the same disease that would cause the death of his childhood hero, football great Walter Payton. His four-year wait for a donor came to an end when his rapidly failing liver prompted doctors to move him up on the transplant list. With the shocking death of a thirteen-year-old boy, Chris was given the organ that gave him a second chance at life. From his youth as a high school football hero, to his campaign for snowboarding's acceptance, and through surgery, recovery, and Olympic glory, every setback and victory in Chris Klug's ride is riveting. *To the Edge and Back* will be cherished as a story of an athlete who represents the best of the human spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After *TO THE EDGE AND BACK*, don't be surprised if your own desire . . . to aim a little higher becomes undeniable. -- U.S. Snowboarding News  
Chris Klug has shown the courage, resolve, and faith that make me proud to call myself a fellow transplant recipient. -- Sean Elliot, former NBA star and transplant recipient  
Chris Klug is a model for us all with his courage, perseverance, and will to

live.... A true American hero. -- Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Chris Klug is the first athlete ever to win an Olympic medal after organ transplant surgery. He has compiled four World Cup victories, three Grand Prix wins, five national titles, a U.S. Open victory, a bronze medal in the 2002 Winter Olympics, and is in training for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. He was one of the eight Olympians chosen to carry the Ground Zero flag into the 2002 Winter Games Opening Ceremonies. He lives in Aspen, Colorado. Steve Jackson, from Evergreen, Colorado, is the author of LUCKY LADY, which won the 2003 Colorado Book Award for History.

This is an excellent story of a determined athlete to overcome all odds, to obtain and to survive a liver transplant, then to bounce back to win an Olympic gold medal. It is written clearly, in an interesting manner. The author's expression of gratitude towards the donor family, and all other donor families, and his work in encouraging organ donation is exemplary. I came across this book while searching under the keywords Liver Transplant. There is proportionally very little about liver transplant as such in this book. The author is diagnosed with liver failure, put on a waiting list, moved up on it, then he got the transplant, and he recovered quite well after that, and went on to win an Olympic medal. These things in themselves are interesting, but the liver transplant in this narration is presented in an off-hand, passing manner, with an eye on the snow covered peaks. His description of the surgery, as if he was awake during it, is interesting, and not generally available elsewhere in books like this. The transplant itself almost turns out to be a non-event here, and is treated by the author as a hindrance or a nuisance to be gotten out of the way to something else that matters more. There is some information about liver transplant in this book, and some may find it to be adequate. The author does not claim to be writing an encyclopedic work on liver transplant either. As a non-athletic, non-skier person, I actually found 2-3 chapters about the transplant holding my attention. I skimmed through the rest, which others have found captivating, and it probably is. Therefore, the conclusion, that this is an excellent book, but it is not the first choice for someone primarily interested in liver transplant.

This book was page after page of snowboarding races and the insanely boring journey for the olympics. Yes, the man has drive and worked hard to reach his goals. I skipped through all but the material related to transplant because the endless chapters literally put me to sleep about how fabulous this guy is. I wanted to read about Liver Transplant from someone who actually

experienced it. My daughter is on the "list" and I was hoping to find a common ground or something to inspire her. Maybe 2 mere chapters covered the transplant. Chris made it seem like a trip to the dentist, an annoying problem stopping him from surfing, snowboarding and traveling the world and being all around great. Probably not realistic for the rest of us humans let alone a 15 year old girl to have a transplant and be up and ready to go in three days.

A great book about overcoming some of life's hardest challenges

This is an amazing story about an Olympic snowboarder who underwent organ transplant and then came back to win a bronze medal! It is an inspiring and exciting story and makes for a good read. Highly recommend it.

My husband loves this book. He is going through the same thing, and this book is helping him greatly. Great read for anyone about to go on this journey.

The motivation and dreams of a champion are inspirational. Champions operate on a different set of parameters that set them apart from the rest of mortal humans. Chris' passion helps bring snowboarding mainstream and carry it forward to world and Olympic competition. As life throws us curve balls always, Chris must fight the fight of his life with his health in order to live out his dream. He is true champion in every sense of the word and now a organ donor recipient and spokes person-helping others in ways he could never dream. Great easy read. Loved it, love him. Local flavor from a favorite play ground.

Very inspiring story. I recently purchased this book because I would be meeting Chris Klug and wanted to know his story. My youngest grandson was given a kidney by my oldest grandson about 2 years ago. We were invited on the Rocky Mountaineer Life Changing Train for Heroes as was Chris Klug and his family along with other recipients and/or donor families. These 40 people have incredible stories and became life long friends in a very short time.

Before picking up the book, everyone should be ready for an incredibly inspiring story. Having survived a liver transplant to return to a professional athletic career, and then win an olympic medal should leave anyone in complete awe. Comparisons to Lance Armstrong and his book campaign will abound. However, in "To the Edge and Back," Klug does much more than just inspire. The story

is an incredible one of course, but this piece is also very well written and impeccably put together. Each of the chapters brings the reader to (and sometimes past) the verge of tears, and then moments later has one holding his/her sides in laughter. What will seem to many as a story primarily about overcoming unimaginable odds offers much more as Klug pays homage to his sport, his friends and his family. The book is clearly an influential work for Chris's primary cause of organ donation, and shows readers the importance of the medical miracle and the necessity for more organ donors right here in America. This is a must read for all athletes, but is a moving and entertaining work that should find its way onto bookshelves and bedside tables world wide.

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