



Nowhere Near First: Ultramarathon Adventures From The Back Of The Pack

Cory Reese

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Long before Cory Reese strapped on his first pair of running shoes, he learned the key to being a successful ultrarunner: He knew how to suffer.

In “Nowhere Near First,” Cory shares his deeply personal story about experiencing his father’s suicide at a young age, and how this led to a career in endurance running and a desire to live life to the fullest.

“Nowhere Near First” is a humorous, captivating, and uplifting account of Cory’s memorable ultramarathon experiences. Not only does Cory’s entertaining and powerful writing allow readers a unique perspective into the challenges and rewards of running, but it also inspires each of us to turn tragedy into triumph.

“Cory Reese writes with humor, humbleness and honesty. His story is both uplifting and real, and his tales of persistence and perseverance are sure to inspire, whether you’re at the front of the pack or nowhere near first. Regardless of the title, this book’s a winner!”?

~ **Dean Karnazes, author of Ultramarathon Man: Confessions of an All-Night Runner**

“Cory Reese’s book, Nowhere Near First, is an immensely entertaining and profoundly educational story about overcoming challenges to forge a meaningful life. Reese’s story is must-read for people looking to find meaning and purpose in modern-day society.”

~ **Karl Hoagland, Publisher, UltraRunning Magazine**

“Cory has penned a very personal account of overcoming hardship in his personal and athletic life. Nowhere Near First tells his story of perseverance and survival in a vivid, down and dirty way that peaks with his extraordinarily positive way of looking at life.”

~ **Marshall Ulrich, author of Running On Empty: An Ultramarathoner’s Story of Love, Loss, and a Record-Setting Run Across America**

Nowhere Near First: Ultramarathon Adventures From The Back Of The Pack Details

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The Pack Cory Reese**

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Thebestdogmom says

Wonderful book. I loved Cory's stories. He truly is a great ambassador for the running community.

Holly says

Hilarious, Heartfelt, Inspiring

Having run countless 5ks, 10ks, and half marathons, I consider myself a distance runner. However, ultramarathoners are a different breed altogether, with grit and determination that is truly mind boggling.

Cory Reese pulls off a literary feat just as impressive as his athletic ones: making the reader feel like an ultramarathoner, right there beside him. What otherwise might be an unthinkable task suddenly becomes relatable, told with warmth and wit.

Whether you're an ultramarathoner or have never run a step, Nowhere Near First is a book that can speak to anyone about tenacity, friendship, and family.

Jenny says

I really enjoyed this book. I am not a huge runner, but if I were this would have provided great insight into what it is like to run an ultramarathon. Reese provides plenty of hilarious real life experiences. I felt like he really captured an accurate picture of the encouragement of running community culture, which I have experienced in small doses in the few 5Ks I've run. Heartwarming book. Read it if you run a little or a lot.

Sarah Grey says

Oh gosh, how do I review this book? This isn't a hardcover hero-worship shirtless-wonderbook with flawless proofreading. But it's so heartfelt, and Reese is so human. It's the first running memoir I've read that didn't leave me feeling like a mere mortal, like I lack the willpower/genes to do this running thing. I mean...Reese is normal. Definitely funnier than me, but he has a job and a happy family and humble roots and personal heartbreaks and huge successes and...you know. Normal-person things.

But he just. Keeps. Going. (And eating Hostess.)

I'm almost forty and I can barely run three miles without keeling over but this book made me feel like even I could do this ultrarunning thing, someday. It's got a special place on my keeper shelf.

UMass Dad in SLC says

I enjoyed reading Nowhere Near First because it showed how someone who isn't a particularly gifted athlete can still do extraordinary things and enjoy doing them. I like trail running and am getting more into running on pavement. I know I'm slow as molasses but am still having a good time. I like that Cory continuously pushed himself to complete ever increasing running challenges but couldn't have cared less that he wasn't likely to be a top finisher. It gives hope to the rest of us who will always end up someplace near the back of the pack that we can also find a great sense of accomplishment.

Craig says

Truly my favorite book ever. I have read Nowhere Near First countless times, and will download the audio book to listen to during long races. It makes me howl with laughter, sad at times, and always makes me want to get out and run. I made the leap from half-marathons to Ultramarathons after reading this book, because Cory convinced me that I, too, could do it. I ran the Across The Years 48 hour race last year (and will again this year) solely because Cory made it sound so amazing. And it didn't disappoint. Cory is humble, self-deprecating, kind, insightful, and inspirational. I wish I lived closer so his awesomeness could rub off on me. Whether you run or not, Nowhere Near First is a worthy read.

Jen says

What a fun read! I've run a few "shorter" ultras; in fact, I'm running my 5th 50K in May. While I don't have the desire to run a 100-miler, I wouldn't mind trying a 50M. Cory's book helped dispel some of the doubts that flit around my mind. If you've ever considered an ultra - do it! It's a great community. This book sums up the best parts of ultra running. Even if you don't plan to run an ultra, if you're a runner you'd probably enjoy this book. It's just plain fun. :)

John says

I want to start by saying that I (pretty much) enjoyed this book.

As a runner, I would belly up to any bar and listen to anyone who talks about the mindset it takes to finish a hundred-mile ultramarathon.

As a writer, I found Cory's use of exaggerated metaphor (like, 900 bajillion of them) distracting and laborious; for me it lessened the impact of some of the truly wonderful dramatic writing sprinkled throughout this piece. Also, I could have done without the gratuitous, borderline psycho-sexual, pandering to Hostess products. I get it dude, you like junk food. But no, Twinkies did not fly down from heaven on the wings of angels and if that is the fuel you rely on while training for these races I would bet you are in for quite a surprise as you roll into your forties. I would have much rather listened to how one balanced out that sweet tooth with foods that legitimately make the boat go faster. I struggle with diet all the time, and while Jurek's vegan utopia has not yet stamped my passport for entry, I don't think candy mountain is the answer either. A realistic look at any ultra-runner's diet is always something I'm looking to... digest.

Any who, I did finish Reese's book and there were some wonderful nuggets on the mindset it takes to accomplish what Cory has accomplished (especially if that was a realistic examination of his dietary practices). It's not up there with Born to Run, but it's not the least enjoyable running book I've read... I'm looking at you Unbreakable Runner!

This book really makes me wish I could dole out half stars... but, it's worth more than three... so four it is.

Jayk says

Corey has a true passion for making others smile

Even though this book is about Corey and his navigation of life and experiences in running, it is very apparent that he is a guy with a huge heart, nonstop sense of humor, and a genuine passion for helping others push past their perceived emotional and physical limitations. Fun book to read, and pretty amazing some of the things he has been able to accomplish, if by nothing else, sheer will power!

Sabine says

What a great read! Some very valuable advice wrapped in entertaining stories and great race reports told from the view that I experience which is "nowhere near first". I love Cory's blog and I loved the book!!! A highly recommended read.

Zoey Collins says

I absolutely loved this book! I am beyond inspired.
Cory's book is funny, positive and touching.
He writes about the struggles and beauty of ultra-marathon running.

Mindy says

Amazing

Man he is funny and so inspiring. I don't know if I will ever be able to run a hundred miler but I feel inspired to at least try at some point in my life. First up another marathon or two and then a 50k. Who knows maybe someday I will be on course with Cory Reese and see him in action. Tell you one thing I am for sure a back of the packer and am going to embrace my place there!

Vanessa Bishop says

Hyperbole and awesomeness

I just started running a couple of weeks ago. It's been harder mentally and emotionally than physically. Having this book to listen to on my runs has been wonderful. It's kept me going with positivity, kindness, honesty, and humor. Cory's openness about his journey becoming a runner and his adventures on ultras is refreshing and endearing. Please read this book. The audiobook is also fantastic and worth its weight in megabytes. Just buy it. You won't regret it.

Trung Nguyen Dang says

Highly recommended for anyone interested in ultra trail running

Interesting stories about various trail run experience. Highly recommended for anyone interested in ultra trail running. That said, the book may have limited audience and limited appeal to the general readers. I particularly like the story about the incredible support from the running community in the author's first solo 100 miler. The story about Grand Canyon R2R2R is also fantastic, making me want to put that on my bucket list.

Pam says

great fast read and perfect as I start training for my first ultra. love Cory's positivity, humor, and honesty.
