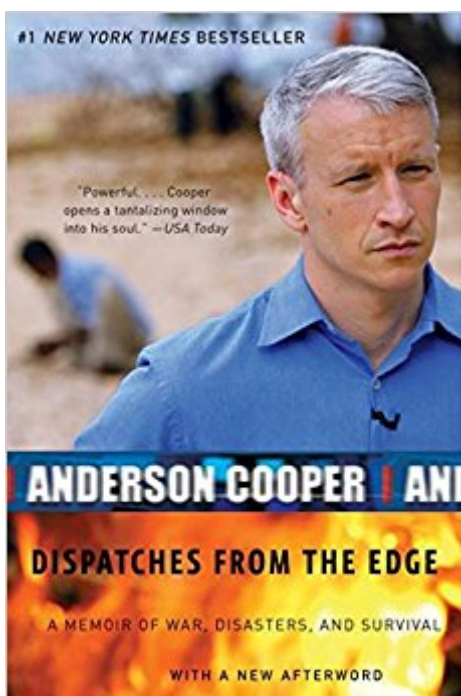


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# Dispatches From The Edge: A Memoir Of War, Disasters, And Survival



## Synopsis

From one of America's leading reporters comes a deeply personal, extraordinarily powerful look at the most volatile crises he has witnessed around the world, from New Orleans to Baghdad and beyond. *Dispatches from the Edge of the World* is a book that gives us a rare up-close glimpse of what happens when the normal order of things is suddenly turned upside down, whether it's a natural disaster, a civil war, or a heated political battle. Over the last year, few people have witnessed more scenes of chaos and conflict than Anderson Cooper, whose groundbreaking coverage on CNN has become the touchstone of twenty-first century journalism. This book explores in a very personal way the most important - and most dangerous - crises of our time, and the surprising impact they have had on his life. From the devastating tsunami in South Asia to the suffering Niger, and ultimately Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Cooper shares his own experiences of traversing the globe, covering the world's most astonishing stories. As a television journalist, he has the gift of speaking with an emotional directness that cuts through the barriers of the medium. In his first book, that passion communicates itself through a rich fabric of memoir and reportage, reflection and first-person narrative. Unflinching and utterly engrossing, this is the story of an extraordinary year in a reporter's life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 2005, two tragedies--the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina--turned CNN reporter Anderson Cooper into a media celebrity. *Dispatches from the Edge*, Cooper's memoir of "war, disasters and

survival," is a brief but powerful chronicle of Cooper's ascent to stardom and his struggle with his own tragedies and demons. Cooper was 10 years old when his father, Wyatt Cooper, died during heart bypass surgery. He was 20 when his beloved older brother, Carter, committed suicide by jumping off his mother's penthouse balcony (his mother, by the way, being Gloria Vanderbilt). The losses profoundly affected Cooper, who fled home after college to work as a freelance journalist for Channel One, the classroom news service. Covering tragedies in far-flung places like Burma, Vietnam, and Somalia, Cooper quickly learned that "as a journalist, no matter ... how respectful you are, part of your brain remains focused on how to capture the horror you see, how to package it, present it to others." Cooper's description of these horrors, from war-ravaged Baghdad to famine-wracked Niger, is poignant but surprisingly unsentimental. In Niger, Cooper writes, he is chagrined, then resigned, when he catches himself looking for the "worst cases" to commit to film. "They die, I live. It's the way of the world," he writes. In the final section of *Dispatches*, Cooper describes covering Hurricane Katrina, the story that made him famous. The transcript of his showdown with Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu (in which Cooper tells Landrieu people in New Orleans are "ashamed of what is happening in this country right now") is worth the price of admission on its own. Cooper's memoir leaves some questions unanswered--there's frustratingly little about his personal life, for example--but remains a vivid, modest self-portrait by a man who is proving himself to be an admirable, courageous leader in a medium that could use more like him. --Erica C. Barnett --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

HarperCollins touts the handsome, prematurely gray host of CNN's Anderson Cooper 360<sup>Â</sup> as the "prototype for a twenty-first century newsman." Sadly, that statement is all too true. This brief, self-involved narrative reaffirms a troubling cultural shift in news coverage: journalists used to cover the story; now, more than ever, they are the story. Cooper is an intrepid reporter: he's traveled to tsunami-ravaged Asia, famine-plagued Niger, war-torn Somalia and Iraq, and New Orleans post-Katrina. Here, however, the plights of the people and places he visits take a backseat to the fact that Cooper is, well, there. The Yale-educated son of heiress and designer Gloria Vanderbilt weaves personal tragedies (at 10, he lost his father to heart disease and later his older brother to suicide) awkwardly into far graver stories of suffering he's observing. Even when he plies the reader with his own unease ("the more sadness I saw, the more success I had") and obliquely decries TV news's demand for images of extreme misery ("merely sick won't warrant more than a cut-away shot"), he seems to place himself in front of his subjects. Cooper is an intelligent, passionate man and he may be a terrific journalist. But this book leaves one feeling he's little more than a television

personality. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Life in all its agony and glory reaches out to the reader from the pages of Anderson Cooper's harrowing unforgettable memoir, *Dispatches from the Edge*. Poignantly intertwining his personal and public life, he takes the reader into places few have been or ever want to go. Fueled in part by the early death of his father and by his brother's suicide, Anderson seeks out those places where the pain outside mirrors his pain inside. His willingness to be vulnerable through his writing, as well as on-air, is a gift to us all. Anyone who has worked for justice and truth in a developing nation, or in their own backyard, will recognize much here, as well as find themselves somehow comforted by Anderson's telling of an age-old story that unfortunately never ends. Elizabeth Geitz Author of *I Am That Child*, and more

Autobiographical story of CNN's Anderson Cooper. His mother Gloria Vanderbilt gave him great advice: follow your bliss. He describes his career in international reporting. Warning: some of this can be difficult to read. Cooper's leading an interesting life, but can be haunted by his brother's suicide and the loss of his father. He struggled to understand his mother's reaction to his brother's death. His stories are interesting to other journalists as well as fans. The anchor and correspondent comes off as a real person, caring and appalled by what people do to others. Covering hard news isn't easy, but Cooper does it with compassion and courtesy.

Wow what a story. Anderson Cooper is an amazing journalist and story teller. He tells the story of a brief period of his life both personal and professional. He's a man searching for answers about his family and the world. This is so interesting and informative it was hard to put down. I believe if you get a sample of the book you're going to be drawn in just as I was.

In *Dispatches from the Edge*, Anderson Cooper takes us into places where we have never been; some geographic, some spiritual. He not only describes his experiences in Bosnia, the Middle East, Louisiana, and other locales, but we observe the sufferings of the people torn by war and natural disasters through his eyes. This is a very spiritual journey, for in describing the internal sufferings there, we feel his own pain; not only for what has happened to the victims, but how he is able to relate, based on his own life experience, to their pain as well. This is an extremely empathic book. Anderson takes us into his own psyche, his own soul, through relating to us what he really felt after

his father's death, and his brothers suicide. All of the imprints on his psyche make us aware of the fact that he is a very relatable journalist who really feels the angst of others and can descriptively and precisely deliver it to the reader. I cannot say enough good things about this book. This is a must read. Even if you are not into current events, you, dear reader, will be into the humanity of the author, and will come away a changed person.

The author grieves through personal losses, disasters, wars, famines and the most painful of all how New Orleans was abandoned by all those who were responsible. The descriptions he brings from there make a natural catastrophic event into the shame of America for we have the resources we are the greatest country on earth and yet thousands die un-necessarily. The book comes across helter-skelter smelter not linear progress over the calendar or geography sending the message of chaos abandonment and flailing at the world

I wasn't sure how I would like the book- but I love Anderson Cooper. I read the first chapter- and couldn't put it down. I read the entire book in less than 3 days - and it had opened my eyes to all he has seen first hand and also re-opened my eyes to what our Gov't, State Officials, etc lacked in immediate help when Hurricane Katrina hit- I learned more from him than most media as he was there 1st hand. Great book- powerful book by a human being who happens to be a journalist - there are injustices that is impossible to be able to separate a job and the emotional turmoil he went through seeing all the horror that he did. A passionate Journalist with a fragile heart for ppl.

Anderson Cooper is a fine story teller. I read the book cover to cover in a day. Loved how Anderson set up the different chapters and their content....mixing and interweaving his own personal memoirs with his international work as a CNN correspondent. I hope he writes more books. I love his writing structure. It hits home and it hits hard. It is sometimes done in a rapid fire mode, sometimes intensively introspective and philosophical. Because of Anderson, I have bought books written by Gloria Vanderbilt and books written about the Vanderbilt family. Did not know that Mr. Wyatt Emory Cooper had written his own book, and will try and obtain a copy of, what I believe, is a rare gem. I believe Anderson Cooper to be a good human being, and the older he gets, he is opening more and more to his past, his present, and his future. To his happy memories and his darkest pain. Although he is a blue-blooded American on his mother's side, I admire that Anderson has searched into his Southern roots and has wanted to re-connect with his father's side of the family. I believe it is a labor of love on his part. Anderson is able to try to make a difference in this world for the many that

are voiceless and helpless....even while at the same time he enjoys his privileged past and place in history. And why not? It takes the strong to sometimes look around and decide to assist the weak, the easily forgotten, the bullied, those that will only be counted as a casualty of war. Kudos Anderson, for a job well done.

The book had a great mixture of personal and professional life stories. I'm even more impressed with Anderson Cooper after reading this in what an independent, hard working, dedicated and honest man he is. It reads quick - I didn't want to put it down

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