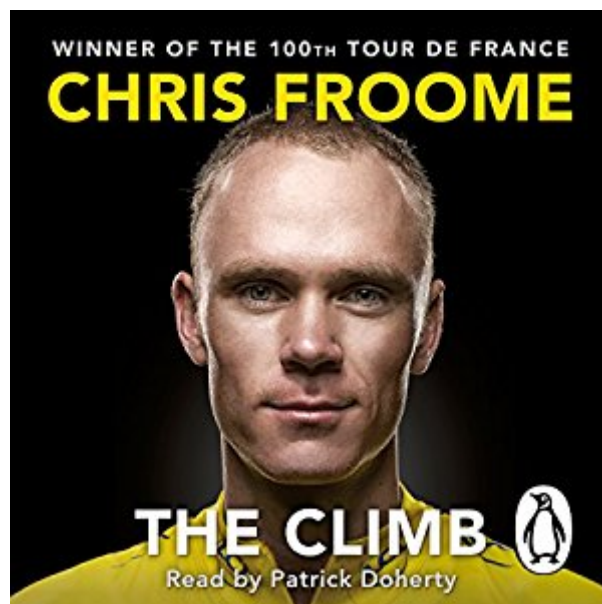


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# The Climb: The Autobiography



## Synopsis

Penguin presents the unabridged, downloadable audiobook edition of the revealing, inspirational memoir from the British winner of the Tour de France. *The Climb* tells the extraordinary story of Chris Froome's journey from a young boy in Kenya, riding through townships and past wild animals, and with few opportunities for an aspiring cyclist, to his unforgettable yellow jersey victory in the 2013 Tour de France. A journey unlike any other in the history of cycling, Froome has crossed continents, overcome the death of his mother and conquered debilitating illness to follow his dreams and represent Team GB and Team Sky. He has experienced soaring triumphs, humbling defeats, a public rivalry with Bradley Wiggins and, most recently, the pressures of Lance Armstrong's legacy. Extraordinary and life-affirming, *The Climb* is a story of determination, hardship and unimaginable success.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I reviewed Bradley Wiggins "My Time", which was really an excellent book, I gave it only 4 out of the maximum 5 stars because while I really enjoyed it, it was perhaps missing that little bit which would make it truly at the top of the genre. If I was teaching a class in bicycling literature, for example, I don't think it would make the short list. That cannot be said of Froome's book, written primarily by David Walsh, which is really remarkable. The description of Froome's history, from Kenya to South Africa to Italy to Monaco (racing for a UK team) is an absolutely remarkable one. There's no way, simply no way, he should have been expected to have had the opportunity to

become a pro cyclist. Yet a combination of crazy determination, miraculously good fortune, and incredibly hard work combined to make it actually happen. A common reaction to Froome is "how did he come out of nowhere to win the Tour de France?" This book describes that. It was perhaps the most consistently addictive biography I've read. 5 stars for this one is no-brainer.

I really enjoyed this book. Was not a huge Froome fan before (didn't dislike him either, just indifferent) but after reading his story it's hard not to root for the guy. He had such an interesting childhood and for the reviewer who did not like those sections, I found them to be the meat and potatoes of the story. Hearing what exactly was going on in the tour with Wiggins was also very interesting. I want to read Wiggins account now so I can compare them although I'd be inclined to believe Froome's account. Also, the insight to how Team Sky operates is very interesting. I have no trouble believing that they would be very "plan oriented" and by design unable to switch up if things do not go according to plan. All in all, one of the better books on cycling to come out in the last year or so. Although he did take a few shots at Armstrong it was refreshing to read a cycling book that was not page after page after page of Armstrong bashing.

I love reading about how the top pro's got to where they are and I've read Wiggo's, Cav's, Hoy's, Lizzie Armitstead and Micheal Hutchinson's works but this book bored me. If you want to understand that Chris liked keeping snakes and fighting turkeys then this book might be for you - the first four chapters cover his schooling in Kenya and then his err schooling in South Africa and then of course there are pages and pages on how to keep a python. I found myself skipping pages and pages of uninteresting detail of Mr Froome's childhood. Although he is undoubtedly one of the greatest cyclists the UK/Africa has ever produced an exciting read this is not.

I am an avid cyclist and have been a participant and fan of the sport since the late 1960's. In recent years there have been a spate of books written about the sport by active and former professionals. The code of silence has been broken and many of the books that have emerged in the past few years have truly exposed the inner workings of professional cycling - the good, bad, and ugly. There is no antidote to cynicism and it's not possible to prove a negative, which means fine individuals smeared with the same suspicion as genuine scoundrels. The emergence of Chris Froome from apparent obscurity to the top ranks of cycling has been put forth as a reason for suspicion. Yet when you read this fine autobiography his path to his current status is perfectly clear and reasonable. If anything he's written, given his stature, simply didn't happen, the falsehoods would

have been exposed within days of its publication. Chris Froome is a remarkable person with an amazing personal story and the inside story of some of the events that cycling fans have followed closely for the past 5 years or so is fascinating. Let's put it this way: having read his book will make this year's Tour de France far more interesting, if he survives - and if you read his story you will appreciate what a long shot his success will be if he achieves it. An inspiring story combined with an excellent tutorial on contemporary sport cycling.

I bought this after Froome won his 3rd Tour de France title in a row this year. I'm not finished with the book yet, but I've been very pleasantly surprised with the book so far. I'm not sure whether the author had help in writing the book, but it is quite well-written and sounds very authentic. On top of that Froome is pretty obviously an intelligent and thoughtful person who happens to be a world-class cyclist with an extremely unusual and (to my way of thinking) interesting early life. Born and raised in Kenya, tutored by native Kenyan cyclists, fluent in Swahili and maybe other African languages. Froome was bitten by the cycling bug early and had the kind of inner passion that took him from very, very humble beginnings to the pinnacle of the cycling world. I started to appreciate his cycling ability much more after the 2016 TDF stages where he pulled off some very exciting and non-typical rides: winning a stage with a daring and risky surprise attack after cresting a long climb and then battling a breakaway group and going head-to-head with Peter Sagan for miles at the end of a stage--which he lost, but not by much. This guy can ride a bike with the best of them and has written a superlative account of how he got to where he is. Head and shoulders above 99% of sports bio's/auto-bio's. Highly recommended. STP

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