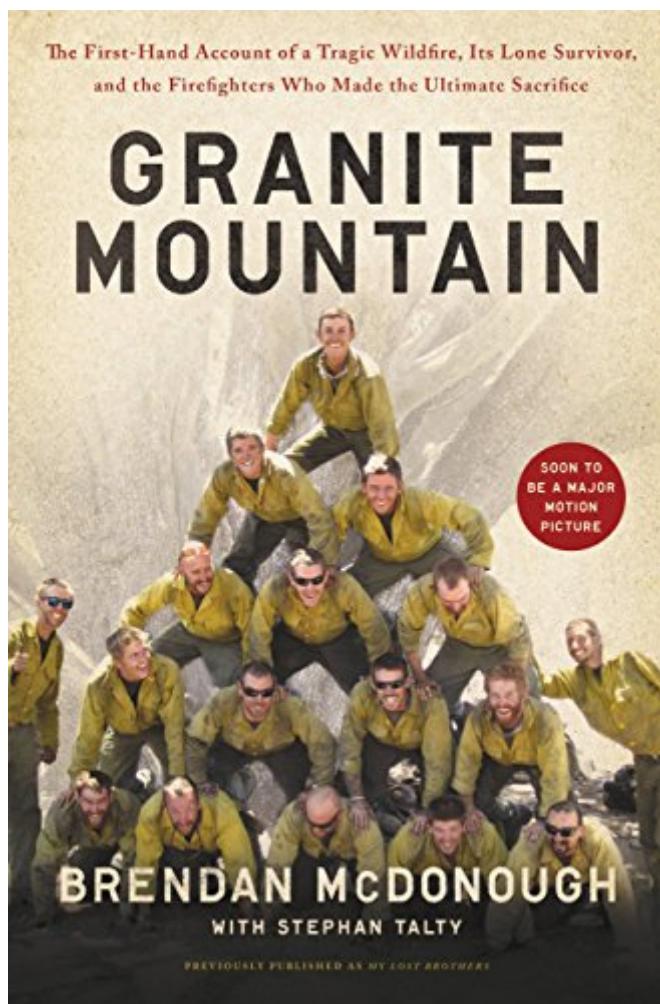


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# Granite Mountain: The First-Hand Account Of A Tragic Wildfire, Its Lone Survivor, And The Firefighters Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice



## **Synopsis**

The true story behind the events that inspired the major motion picture Only the Brave. A "unique and bracing" (Booklist) first-person account by the sole survivor of Arizona's disastrous 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire, which took the lives of 19 "hotshots"--firefighters trained specifically to battle wildfires. Brendan McDonough was on the verge of becoming a hopeless, inveterate heroin addict when he, for the sake of his young daughter, decided to turn his life around. He enlisted in the Granite Mountain Hotshots, a team of elite firefighters based in Prescott, Arizona. Their leader, Eric Marsh, was in a desperate crunch after four hotshots left the unit, and perhaps seeing a glimmer of promise in the skinny would-be recruit, he took a chance on the unlikely McDonough, and the chance paid off. Despite the crew's skepticism, and thanks in large part to Marsh's firm but loving encouragement, McDonough unlocked a latent drive and dedication, going on to successfully battle a number of blazes and eventually win the confidence of the men he came to call his brothers. Then, on June 30, 2013, while McDonough--"Donut" as he'd been dubbed by his team--served as lookout, they confronted a freak, 3,000-degree inferno in nearby Yarnell, Arizona. The relentless firestorm ultimately trapped his hotshot brothers, tragically killing all 19 of them within minutes. Nationwide, it was the greatest loss of firefighter lives since the 9/11 attacks. Granite Mountain is a gripping memoir that traces McDonough's story of finding his way out of the dead end of drugs, finding his purpose among the Granite Mountain Hotshots, and the minute-by-minute account of the fateful day he lost the very men who had saved him. A harrowing and redemptive tale of resilience in the face of tragedy, Granite Mountain is also a powerful reminder of the heroism of the people who put themselves in harm's way to protect us every day.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a resident of the Prescott AZ area, our hearts go out to the families of the 19 fallen Granite Mountain Hotshots heros every day, and to Brendan every day. Brendan is also a hero. It is a miracle that he survived. I found his book well written, and enjoyed reading on how he grew up, then his troubled ways, and how he overcame his shortcomings with the help of his fellow brother Hotshots. His accounts of the Yarnell firestorm allow us to imagine in our minds just what happened the day of the tragedy, and the preceding days leading up to the tragedy. And also to learn just how much training (and pain and exhaustion) all Hotshots go through, and just how brave they are to fight any fire to save our lives and our property.

I can't say enough about this book. I received it in the mail, opened it and took it to work. I read it all, as fast as I could. I then read it again that night at home. This is an easy read, built for those who understand wildland firefighters and those who don't. I have been a red-carded wildland firefighter for 18 years, but my wife (who has never had an interest in fire) understood it just as well. It's not just about the Yarnell Hill fire, but about the crew altogether. It is a fantastic book. Brendan, Thank you for sharing your story!!

Excellent recap of the events of June 30,2016. As a resident of Prescott,AZ on that day, the tragedy is still fresh in our town's memory today. It was good to read Brendon's recollections of his time as a Granite Mountain Hotshot as many questions remained about what really happened that day. It's a real page turner, I read it in one sitting. Fast, concise with great insights into our heroes last days. I still tear up as I write this and remember our Hotshots whenever I view Granite Mtn almost daily.

This was a fast read and mentally draining, after working 35 years in EMS career. I can not being to imagine this young mans burden. And it kills me to think of it ..A must read lessons learned book for

wildland fire fighters to study

Brendan writes a remarkably honest and straight forward story. He doesn't try to hide from his mistakes and in the end, he triumphs . This is a story of redemption and survival. He paints a picture of a Brotherhood that cannot be broken despite the tragic outcome for the GMH. Living in Prescott, I saw this story up close and personal and Brendan's brothers would be proud of his depiction of events. God bless and keep him as he continues his journey.

I started reading it this morning and finished by evening, I couldn't put it down. Brendan does an amazing job of explaining how wildfires are fought without being so technical that a civilian wouldn't understand, and he really brought his brothers to life on the page. Thank you to him for sharing his story with the world.

Excellent book. I grew up in Prescott so I'm may be biased, but this book was riveting and powerful. Thank you Brendan and God bless all 20 of the Granite Mountain Hot shots.

Very well written. Very good book to read. Gave me more insight regarding these heroes and increased my respect for these fallen heroes and their colleagues as they fight wild fires all over our country.

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