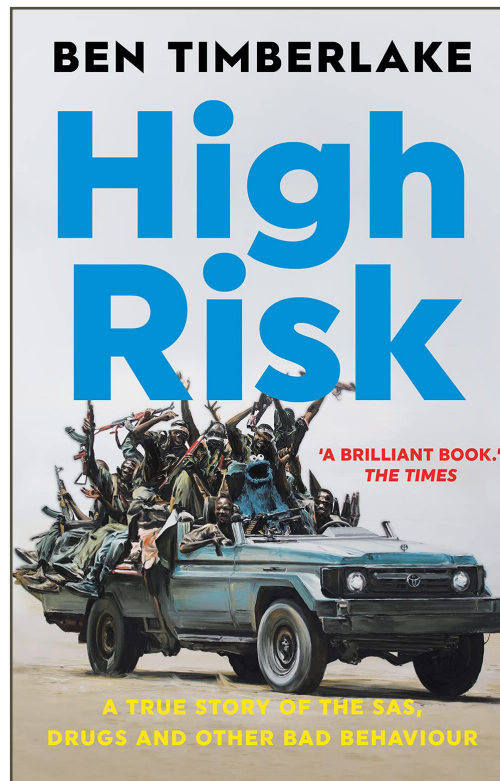


HIGH RISK*A True Story of the SAS, Drugs and Other Bad Behaviour*

By
Ben Timberlake

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*A high-octane memoir
of Special Forces, hard
drugs, extreme sex and
useless terrorists.*

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

This is a dark, raw and uncompromising tale of the human condition in extremis, drawing on the many lives of Ben Timberlake: as an archaeologist, Special Forces soldier, combat medic and drug addict.

Starting with Ben's first near-death experience—in a Nazi-themed bar in wartime Yugoslavia—*High Risk* is a whirlwind tour of everything from service in the SAS, combat in Iraq, and encounters with a gambling-obsessed 9/11 hijacker, to veterans blissed out on MDMA, hook-ups in the world of extreme sex, and battling a heroin habit on a remote Scottish island.

Ben pursued the rush, and the chase often took him over the edge. Instead of asking why, he asked, why not? Blending confessional narrative, classic reportage and acerbic humour, this memoir takes a gonzo look at terrorists, junkies, soldiers and strippers, through the tale of one extraordinary life.

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AUTHOR(s)

Ben Timberlake is a security consultant and medic in high-risk areas, specialising in Iraq and Syria. In a previous life his undercover missions concerned nuclear terrorism, the Far Right, and the trafficking of people, wildlife, looted antiquities and organs. He has written for the Financial Times, The Guardian and The Economist, and made Channel 4 and Discovery films on topics from Japanese mummies to prehistoric rock art.

REVIEWS

'[Timberlake's] powers as both observer and writer make the journey utterly compelling. ... It's rare to find a book like this where the writing is just as exhilarating as the thrills. It is dark, visceral, clever and very funny. *Boy's Own* with brains.' — Justin Marozzi, *The Sunday Times*

'Funny, chaotic but unexpectedly profound, [High Risk] provides not just a clear-eyed memoir of addiction, but an examination of human behaviour and the reasons why some people choose to put themselves in situations that most others would not.' — *Times Magazine*

'While publisher after publisher wanted him to tell an Andy McNab style story of hard men at war, Timberlake went his own way, writing a book that is as profound as it is eye-popping.' — *Vice*

'A damn scary book so of course I loved it. Ben Timberlake makes a neurobiological experiment in a laboratory that I'd advise everyone to stay out of—the self. *High Risk* is, in a way, the story of a wicked Mr Hyde inventing a serum to transform himself into a reputable Dr Jekyll. Let's hope the serum keeps working.' — P.J. O'Rourke, author of *Give War a Chance and Holidays in Hell*

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