

MEDIA KIT · 2026

BRIAN DICKINSON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER · BESTSELLING AUTHOR · PODCAST HOST

Everest Solo Summiteer · U.S. Navy Aviation Rescue Swimmer

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2025
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WWW.BRIANDICKINSON.NET

INFO@BRIANDICKINSON.NET

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

FROM THE DEATH ZONE TO THE BOARDROOM

Brian Dickinson is a keynote speaker and bestselling author. A former U.S. Navy Aviation Rescue Swimmer, he is best known for his 2011 solo summit of Mount Everest: at 29,035 feet he lost his vision to snow blindness and descended alone — the highest solo blind descent ever recorded. He brings the lessons of that descent, and of six years of Navy rescue missions, to corporate, military, university, and faith audiences.



Keynoting for corporate and military audiences.

WHAT AUDIENCES TAKE AWAY

Leadership — Make the call when there is no good option.

Resilience — Keep the mission moving when the plan fails.

Teamwork — Train for the worst day; communicate under stress.

Decisions under pressure — Assess, decide, and commit — without panic.

FOUR RULES FROM THE DEATH ZONE

TRUST YOUR TRAINING

Execute what you have practiced.

CONTROL WHAT YOU CAN

Narrow the objective to the next fixed point.

DON'T LET PANIC DECIDE

Panic kills. Calm creates options.

ADAPT AND KEEP MOVING

Adaptation stays disciplined, not reactive.

KEYNOTE PROGRAMS

01 Surviving the Impossible

The full Everest story — the solo summit, going snow-blind at the top of the world, and the seven-hour descent that followed — translated into leadership, resilience, and decision-making frameworks for organizations facing high-stakes moments.

02 Calm in the Chaos: Leadership & Resilience Under Pressure

Lessons from Navy rescue missions and the Death Zone on staying clear-headed when the stakes are real. Built for corporate leadership summits, military command events, and university audiences.

03 Faith, Resilience & Healing — with JoAnna Dickinson

Brian and his wife JoAnna share a message of resilience, faith, and healing after trauma. JoAnna is a counselor (MSW, University of Washington) with 25+ years in social services. Presented together at Grace College, Cedarville University, Redeemer University, and the SAU School of Nursing.

Every keynote is customized after a pre-event call with Brian. Solo keynotes are available in person or virtual.

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

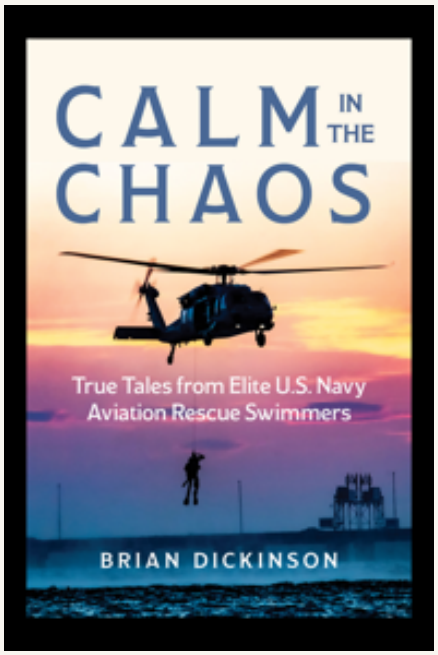
THE BOOKS



BLIND DESCENT

Surviving Alone and Blind on Mount Everest · Tyndale

The memoir of the 2011 climb. His partner turned back sick below the summit; Brian summited alone, went snow-blind at the top, and descended by feel, training, and faith — the highest solo blind descent ever recorded.



CALM IN THE CHAOS

True Tales from Elite U.S. Navy Aviation Rescue Swimmers · Lyons Press

True stories from the rescue swimmer community — and the mindset that holds when conditions are at their worst. With contributions from JoAnna Dickinson.



BLOODLINE OF REDEMPTION

A Military Thriller · Focused Ascent

A rogue Russian submarine. A buried Cold War vendetta. A hunted American aircrew. A pulse-pounding military thriller that races from covert naval ops to mountain survival to stop a nuclear strike on U.S. soil.

> "Few thrillers carry this much grit and authenticity… a bold, uncompromising story of loyalty, betrayal, and the fight to endure."
>
> — JACK CARR, #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR, ON BLOODLINE OF REDEMPTION

FORTHCOMING · FORGED — WATERBROOK (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE), 2027

The biography of Navy SEAL Chief Kevin Houston — a DEVGRU operator Brian served with and called a friend, killed when Extortion 17 was shot down in 2011.

PODCAST HOST

CALM IN THE CHAOS

THE RESCUE SWIMMER PODCAST

Hosted by Brian Dickinson — bestselling author, former U.S. Navy Aviation Rescue Swimmer, and Everest solo summiteer — the show tells the raw, untold rescue stories of the U.S. Navy's elite, unsung heroes, and goes inside the mindset of the men and women who head into the chaos to save others. So others may live.

229,401
streams & downloads in the show's first year

TOP 10%
global ranking on Listen Notes

96%
more popular than 96% of new podcasts on Spotify

70+
episodes · 4.9 rating on Spotify

First-year figures as reported by Spotify for Podcasters and Listen Notes (2025). Episode count and rating as of November 2026.



Recorded with the guests who lived it — rescue swimmers, aircrew, and survivors.

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WHAT EVENT PLANNERS SAY

"Your message was exactly what our team needed. You impacted lives today, Brian!"

BOB TONEY · SVP, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

"That was one of the best keynotes we've ever had!"

BRIAN BLAIR · SVP, LINDE

"The best keynote we've had for this event! People traveled from 8 states to see you."

DEREK BORKHOLDER · MIDWEST CLASSIC

ABOUT BRIAN

THE STORY BEHIND THE SPEAKER





Brian Dickinson is a bestselling author, keynote speaker, and former U.S. Navy Aviation Rescue Swimmer. He served six years in the Navy, including two deployments to the Persian Gulf. On May 15, 2011, about 1,000 feet below the summit of Mount Everest, his climbing partner fell ill and turned back. Brian continued alone, reached the summit at 29,035 feet, and lost his vision to snow blindness. Alone and low on oxygen, he descended seven hours to high camp — the highest solo blind descent ever recorded. He has climbed all seven of the Seven Summits and summited six. His story has been shared on CNN, Good Morning America, Fox News, NBC, and in Success Magazine.



BOOKINGS

CHECK AVAILABILITY

Speaking engagements are customized based on the event, audience, format, and location. Contact Brian's team to discuss availability and receive a personalized proposal.

info@briandickinson.net

briandickinson.net/everest-keynote-speaker

linkedin.com/in/briandickinson

@briancdickinson · Instagram / Facebook / X

SCAN FOR THE SPEAKING PAGE + REEL

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