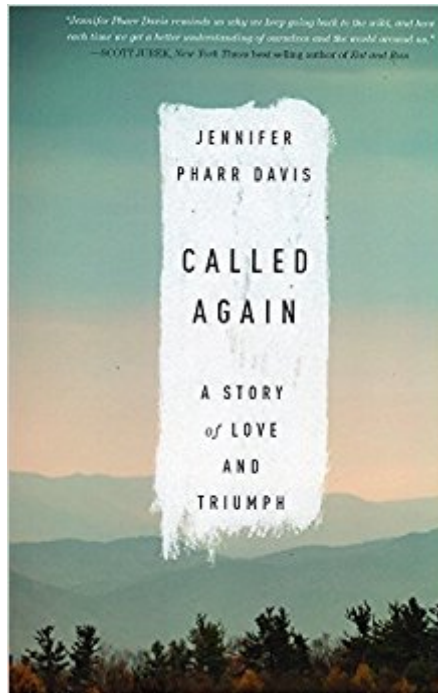


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Called Again: A Story Of Love And Triumph



Synopsis

History: In 2011, Jennifer Pharr Davis became the overall record holder on the Appalachian Trail. By hiking 2,181 miles in 46 days - an average of 47 miles per day - she became the first female to ever set that mark. But this is not a book about records or numbers; this is a book about endurance and faith, and most of all love. The most amazing part of this story is not found at the finish, but is discovered through the many challenges, lessons and relationships that present themselves along the trail. This is Jennifer's story, in her own words, about how she started this journey with a love for hiking and more significantly a love for her husband Brew. Together, they were able to overcome rugged mountains and raging rivers, sleet storms and 100 degree heat, shin-splints and illnesses. They made new friends and tested old friendships; they shared together laughter, and tears - a lot of tears. But, through it all, they fell more in love with one another and with the wilderness. ã ã By completing this extraordinary amateur feat, Jennifer rose above the culture of multi-million dollar sports contracts that is marked by shortcuts and steroids. This is the story of a real person doing something remarkable. Jennifer Pharr Davis is a modern role-model for women, and men. She is an authentic hero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jennifer Pharr Davis grew up in the North Carolina Mountains, where she developed a love for hiking at a young age. At age twenty-one, Jennifer hiked the entire Appalachian Trail as a solo female and fell in love with long-distance backpacking. Since then, Jennifer has hiked more than

11,000 miles on six different continents, with North American hikes including the Pacific Crest Trail, Vermont's Long Trail, and the Colorado Trail, and completed three thru-hikes on the Appalachian Trail. She has hiked and traveled on six continents; some of the highlights include Mount Kilimanjaro, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, and the 600-mile Bibbulmun Track in Australia. In the summer of 2011, Jennifer topped her own 2008 Women's Endurance Record for the fastest thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail, making her the overall record holder for both women and men. Jennifer is the first woman to hold the overall title. Jennifer hiked from Katahdin, Maine to Springer Mountain, Georgia. Her goal was to hike the entire 2,180-mile faster than the current overall speed record of 47 days, 13 hours and 31 minutes, which she did in 46 days. To break the record, Jennifer hiked an average of 47 miles a day, camping along the trail. She had trail support from legendary ultra-runner and former AT and Pacific Crest Trail speed record holder David Horton, as well as veteran AT expert Warren Doyle and Davis' husband, Brew Davis. Her hiking and backpacking accomplishments, as well as her influence as an outdoor role model, are remarkable and momentous. Jennifer is a 2012 National Geographic Top Adventurer of the Year nominee for her record-breaking thru-hike, has been on CNN, The Early Show, NPR numerous times, and was featured in Fitness Magazine and Shape magazine, among others. Jennifer has also written for Trail Runner magazine, Away.com, is a frequent contributor to Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine, and has written three guidebooks. Jennifer lives in Asheville, North Carolina, with her husband, and is the owner and founder of Blue Ridge Hiking Co.

I wanted to love this book, and I did enjoy it, but didn't love it. First off, if you're looking for a hiking book this isn't that. While it does center around Jennifer's record-setting hike on the AT, it focuses on her relationships with friends, family and her spouse during that hike. And while it centers on her hike, the first 25% of the book is about her first thru hike, her first record-setting hike and then also her record-setting hike on the Long Trail (which I didn't even know she'd done, so that was kind of cool). There are moments in this book where you do not like Jennifer. In fact, you feel really bad for those around her because she treats them so poorly. I'm sure being exhausted and under the physical strain she was experiencing I'd be a little bitchy too, but unfortunately you don't get that from her writing. I want to sympathize with her, but she just doesn't give me the material to allow me to do that. While there are moments of this book that are truly heart felt and make you connect with her, the vast majority of the book lacks that so it makes it hard as a reader to connect. There are no photos in the book, though they did take photos. There are drawings, but I don't feel they really capture the moments and really missed seeing photos. Her Christian faith also rears its head a lot. I

haven't decided yet if this is good or bad. It was important to her, but maybe not to the extent that us the reader needed to be bombarded with it.

I thoroughly enjoyed Jennifer Pharr Davis's book, *Becoming Odyssa*, and really looked forward to reading this book as a result. As opposed to not wanting *Becoming Odyssa* to end, I looked forward to finishing *Called Again: A Story of Love and Triumph*. I hate to say that, but that's how it was for me. The nature of what Jennifer was working to accomplish makes this a much different type of story, although the part leading up to her actual attempt was an enjoyable read for me. A fair amount of the content involves her frustration, lack of patience, annoyance, etc. with friends and family working to support her along the way and that significantly reduced my interest in the book. I completely understand that was part of her story with what she was going through, but it just wasn't something I wanted to invest my time to read about.

An excellent and well-written book about Jennifer Pharr Davis' record-breaking hike on the Appalachian Trail. Her tale is introspective and communal, with absolutely no chest-thumping. I could very much identify with her effort because she is first and foremost a hiker and not an ultra marathoner, and because back in the day, before records were kept, I was told that a friend and I had the fastest time on the Long Trail. So I can identify with 3 miles an hour. What I can't identify with is 3 mph for 16 hours a day, for 46 days!! Yikes! Even more amazing to me is that she was able to walk through her numerous maladies and not give up. I would have been interested to know more about her physiology--fiber types, treadmill testing, etc. My guess would be that at 3 mph she burns only fats, and that she has almost all slow twitch fibers, and that when she was a basketball player, she couldn't jump worth a damn. I had to laugh at her very honest accounts of her disagreements with her husband during her ordeal. In almost all cases, I thought he was right. Probably a guy thing.

After reading Jennifer Pharr Davis' book, *"Becoming Odyssa"*, I couldn't wait to read her next book, *"Called Again."* I couldn't put it down. The author is so transparent that I felt like I had hiked most of the way with her. What she accomplished with her husband Brew, and her support team was nothing short of "miraculous!" It has given me new insights into my own goals as a hiker, a husband, and a parent! It doesn't just raise the ceiling for what women can accomplish, it "shatters" it! A great read!

I love Jennifer Pharr's writing style. I also love and hope to hike the entire AT in the near future. The

nice thing is though, is I really didn't have to have the interest in the AT to read this. It's a real and sometimes comical story about her determination and struggle to complete the Appalachian Trail in record time. Very honest, yet motivational, it was an easy read. I read Finding Odyssa previously (book about her first hike thru the AT at the age of 21) and was so happy that this book was a completely new experience on the trail. In this book she is now married and is balancing life, work and her passion if thru hiking. My only suggestion would be to read Finding Odyssa first - was easier to relate when she mentioned the past trail experiences and the people she met along the way that came back to help her on this adventure.

I have to admit to being prejudiced. I live at the southern end of the Appalachian Trail and while I've taken maybe 4-5 steps on the Trail myself I have two grandchildren who have hiked portions of the trail starting at Springer Mountain. If you'd not heard the name Jennifer Pharr Davis you would not know till the end if she did set a new record! The detailed description of physical events both externally and internally gives good insight into the rigors of the trail and the visual descriptions make one want to see it for themselves. Because of the very nature of the repetition of hiking, hiking, hiking with the end goal of breaking the record it becomes repetitious and at times you want to tell her to just stop if you don't like it! Overall a good read!

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