

## Bonita Norris

Record-breaking Mountaineer, Award-winning Motivational Speaker, and Bestselling Author of *The Girl Who Climbed Everest*

When she was 20 years old, Bonita set her sights on the summit of Mt Everest, despite never having climbed a mountain before. In the process of getting to Everest, she climbed the world's 8th highest mountain in the Himalayas, Mt Manaslu, becoming one of the youngest people ever to climb it.

The following year, she secured nearly £50,000 in corporate sponsorship after cold calling countless British businesses and was able to fulfil her dream of reaching the summit of Everest. Upon successfully completing the expedition, Bonita set a record as the Youngest British Woman to reach the top of the world.

The following year, Bonita skied to the North Pole, finishing the expedition aged 23, she became the youngest person ever to reach both "tops of the world: the summit of Everest and the North Pole".

Not content with her performance on Everest (she fell on the descent), Bonita set herself the challenge of climbing another 8000m peak- the formidable Mt Lhotse, the world's 4th highest mountain. Lhotse is a much more committing and dangerous climb than Everest and it took Bonita another year to train for the mountain, in doing so, she climbed Ama Dablam, a peak in the Himalayas often described as the world's most beautiful mountain. Finally, Bonita reached the summit of Mt Lhotse at the age of 24, becoming only the third British woman in history to climb it. From there, she has also attempted K2 in Pakistan and guided multiple teams to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro, the world's highest freestanding mountain.

Bonita began speaking about her experiences in the mountains in schools but quickly found herself invited to speak on stages all over the world. In 2024 she became an award winning motivational speaker, winning "Best Speaker Storyteller" at the Speaker Awards in London.

Bonita is also the bestselling author of her memoir, *The Girl Who Climbed Everest*, which reached the top of the mountaineering book chart in 2022.

Bonita is now a mum to two children and lives in Ascot, Berkshire.

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