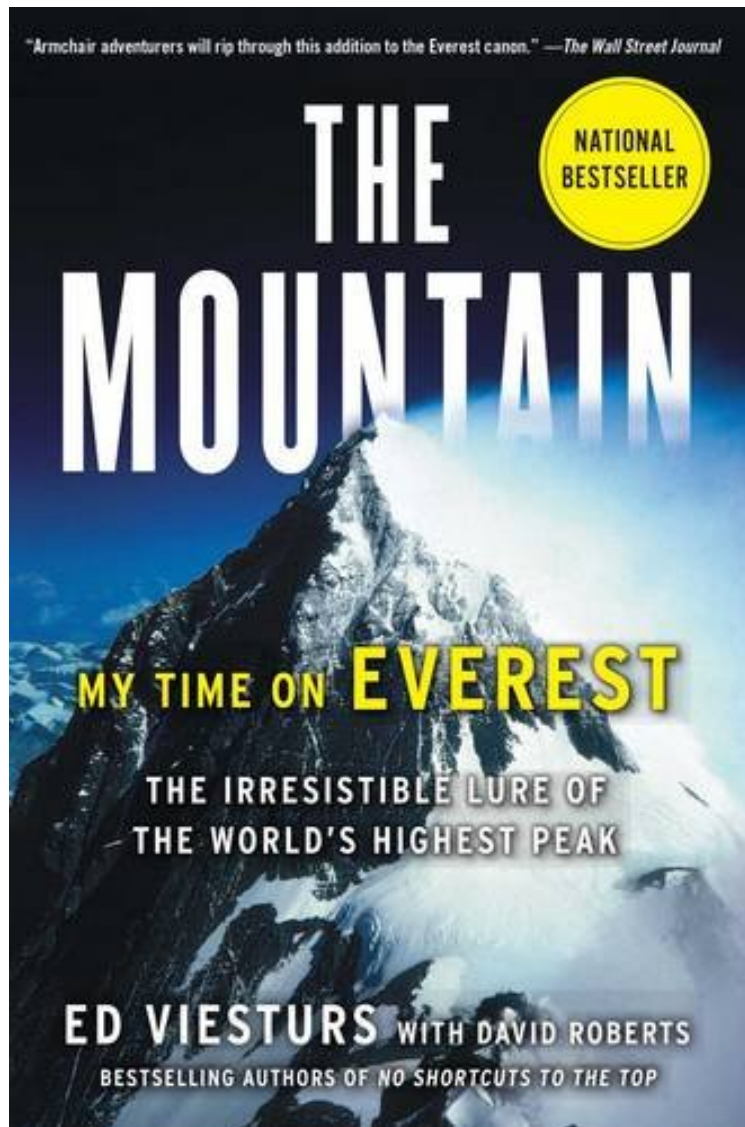


[Free read ebook] The Mountain: My Time on Everest

The Mountain: My Time on Everest

Ed Viesturs

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Ed Viesturs : The Mountain: My Time on Everest before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mountain: My Time on Everest:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Recycled materialBy Bruce MacDonaldSort of a strange book that isn't quite what it claims to be. I expected more of a personal account of Viesturs's Everest climbs. Instead, about two-thirds of the book is simply a rehash of previous expeditions, from the British attempts in the 20s up to the present day. Trouble is, most of this stuff is readily available in much more detail elsewhere. If you've read Unsworth's Everest,

you've already trudged over most of this ground, with the exception of a couple of the later expeditions, and there are many other fine books covering the individual expeditions. What you have here is a breezy, once-over-lightly overview of the history of Everest that's only slightly enhanced by Viestur's perspective. The remaining third of the book that does deal with his own climbs is somewhat disappointing too, as he's often reduced to saying (in effect): "I won't go into this in any detail because I've already covered it another book." One wonders exactly why this book was written. It smacks of a publisher's idea for recycling old material. On the positive side, it's a pleasant enough read, and if you haven't read much about the history of Everest, this would probably be a fine introduction.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Readable Account of Viesturs' Everest Experiences Brief Descriptions of the Most Significant Everest Climbs By timcon1964 Ed Viesturs, Americas most successful Himalyan climber, devotes about a third of *The Mountain* to his personal experiences on Mount Everest (which have involved large and small expeditions, and various routes up the mountain); the remainder of the book covers what he believes to be some of the most visionary deeds in the long chronicle of mountaineering. Although he considers Everest not the most interesting or most challenging of 8,000-meter peaks, Viesturs claims that no mountain in the world has a richer or more varied history than Everest. Given his commitment to the mountain Viesturs has spent a cumulative total of two years participating in 11 Everest expeditions his views on the subject command respect. He is unhappy with much of the conventional wisdom regarding Everest he wrote this book partly to counter the sordid caricature of Everest as a circus for dilettantes that resulted from some accounts of the 1996 disaster. Viesturs does not believe the 1996 climbers were clueless yuppies; and he feels that guiding a client can be a morally admirable act. But, readers interested in Viesturs comments on his 1996 experiences will have to read two other books in addition to *The Mountain: No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks*, and *The Will to Climb: Obsession and Commitment and the Quest to Climb Annapurna--the World's Deadliest Peak*. For those unfamiliar with the history of Everest climbs, this book can serve as a useful introduction to the subject. Those who have read Viesturs other books, and those who know something about the history of Everest, will find in *The Mountain* much that is familiar; but even they may be enlightened by Viesturs impressions of the major expeditions, and his descriptions of his own climbs and of the men with whom he climbed at one time or another Carlos Carsolio, Scott Fischer, Rob Hall, Tom Hornbein, John Roskelley, Eric Simonson, Jim Wickwire, and Krzysztof Wielicki. Like some of Viesturs other books, *The Mountain* is organized in a curious non-chronological sequence. It begins with Viesturs 1987 climb up the Great Couloir (North Side); then drops back to the 1920s British expeditions; then moves ahead to Viesturs 1988 and 1989 efforts on the Kangshung Face and the 1990 International Peace Climb; then drops back to 1930s British expeditions, followed chronologically by the 1950-1953 U.S., Swiss and British expeditions; Viesturs 1993 solo attempt on the Great Couloir, his 1994 and 1995 climbs through the South Col with Rob Hall; it then drops back again to the probably apocryphal 1952 Soviet expedition, the 1960 Chinese expedition, the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition, the 1996 tragedy and the IMAX expedition, and the 1997 NOVA expedition; then back to the 1972 and 1975 British Southwest Face expeditions, the 1981 and 1983 U.S. Kangshung Face expeditions; then back to the 1980 Polish Winter climbs; and further back to Reinhold Messners 1978 and 1980 climbs, and then ahead to the 1986 efforts of Jean Troillet, Erhard Loretan, and Pierre Beghin. The organization of the text is of course the authors prerogative; but I find it hard to see what is gained by this peculiar presentation. It is difficult to quarrel with the selection of expeditions with which Viesturs has chosen to deal, or with the amount of space he devotes to each, although he allots relatively few pages to Hillary and Tenzings 1953 climb the first to reach the summit. Some have doubted that Chinese climbers actually reached the summit in 1960, but Viesturs, after mentioning evidence that casts doubt on the success of this attempt, is inclined to give the [Chinese] climbers the benefit of the doubt. He does not, however, offer much explanation for why he accepts the Chinese claims. (Such other experts as Chris Bonington, Jochen Hemmleb, and Tom Holzel, have examined the evidence and concluded that the Chinese did reach the summit.) Viesturs description of the 1990 Peace Climb presents some interesting insights. *The Mountain* includes 16 pages of photographs (mainly in color), a 2-page bibliography, and a 12-page index. It lacks any photographs or diagrams showing the climbing routes of the various expeditions.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, doesn't bog reader down in climbing jargon By DeniseMH Have most of Viesturs books. They are recommended books if you like that genre or want to learn more. He writes about people, events, history and personal experiences. Along with some technical facts, but not too much to confuse people who don't know a lot about this sport.

In national bestseller *The Mountain*, world-renowned climber and bestselling author Ed Viesturs and cowriter David Roberts paint a vivid portrait of obsession, dedication, and human achievement in a true love letter to the worlds highest peak. In *The Mountain*, veteran world-class climber and bestselling author Ed Viestur the only American to have climbed all fourteen of the worlds 8,000-meter peak strains his sights on Mount Everest in richly detailed accounts of expeditions that are by turns personal, harrowing, deadly, and inspiring. The highest mountain on earth, Everest remains the ultimate goal for serious high-altitude climbers. Viesturs has gone on eleven expeditions to Everest, spending more than two years of his life on the mountain and reaching the summit seven times. No climber today is better poised to survey Everests various ascents both personal and historic. Viesturs sheds light on the fate of

Mallory and Irvine, whose 1924 disappearance just 800 feet from the summit remains one of mountaineering's greatest mysteries, as well as the multiply tragic last days of Rob Hall and Scott Fischer in 1996, the stuff of which *Into Thin Air* was made. Informed by the experience of one who has truly been there, *The Mountain* affords a rare glimpse into that place on earth where Heraclitus's maxim "Character is destiny" is proved time and again.

.com Jim Whittaker Reflects on Ed Viesturs