

# The Mountain: My Time on Everest

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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 world's highest peak.

In *The Mountain*, veteran world-class climber and bestselling author Ed Viesturs—the only American to have climbed all fourteen of the world's 8,000-meter peaks—shares 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 Everest's 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.

## The Mountain: My Time on Everest Details


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# **From Reader Review The Mountain: My Time on Everest for online ebook**

## **Richard says**

### **Good book**

One of the better books about mountaineering that I ever read. He is my favorite climber to read about and he tells it good.

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## **Dusti says**

### **Worthwhile Read**

I have enjoyed reading several books about Ed's exploits. This book is slightly different. While the book outlines all of his experiences on Everest, it also lends historical perspective to his accomplishments. I was somewhat disappointed that he didn't go more into the 1996 Everest tragedy. I felt like the "you can read the detailed account in my other book" was a thinly veiled attempt at boosting sales for "No Shortcuts to the Top" which is in my opinion a much better book than this one to begin with. I did enjoy this book despite that single annoyance. Ed's life is one that every mountaineer should know about.

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## **Patricia says**

I really love Ed Viesturs, and I think the point of this book is to bookend his career climbing and writing about Everest. With that in mind, I can see why he felt the need to write it. His writing and storytelling are as good as in his other books, but the focus of this one was disjointed. Much of what is said is covered by him in other books - which is is very open about. Some of this is interesting history about Everest - while I enjoyed reading this I think Shortcuts and K2 the other books I've read by him are a better place to start.

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## **Chuck Clark says**

Thoroughly enjoyable for the accomplished mountaineer or the avid armchair adventurer. Ed's candid writing and perspective on risk are very refreshing in an age of adrenaline addiction. He chronicles his time on Everest while weaving in tales from other historic expeditions on the mountain. While I may have first discovered Everest with Krakauer's legendary Into Thin Air it has been all of Ed's books which have really stuck with me and helped foster my love of the mountains and The Mountain continues that streak.

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## **Dara says**

I mostly enjoyed this book. Ed Viesturs spends a little too much time on the various historic climbs of

Everest that I wasn't too interested in and I got bored with it (you can only read about George Mallory and Andrew Irvine's climb so many times before it's dull. Same for Edmund Hillary's and Tenzing Norgay's successful first summit). I preferred reading about his own personal experiences climbing the highest mountain in the world. Viesturs and his co-author David Roberts work very well together, making Ed's experiences visceral and personal. I'll continue to read their collaborations.

**B**

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## **Tamara says**

Review Originally posted: Traveling With T

### The Mountain

Mt. Everest- the world's tallest peak. A climber's holy grail- as it takes strength, determination, guts and smarts to climb Mt. Everest and live to tell the tale. Ed Viesturs is this kind of person. When you have climbed all 14 of the world's 8,000 meter peaks, as a climber, you need a challenge. Something to work hard for. Mt. Everest hears Ed's need for a challenge and gladly supplied said challenge.

Ed, with eleven expeditions to Mt. Everest, has successfully reached the summit 7 times. One might wonder what type of skill Ed has or is it luck? In The Mountain, luck is not a word that used. And Ed, well he's different. Unlike other climbers, he's been able to avoid some of the physical ailments (frostbite, pulmonary edema or cerebral edema) that can take a mountain climb from dangerous to deadly. Ed comments on the differences of his physicality, but also remarks that before a climb- he goes through rigorous conditioning.

As Ed Viesturs talks about climbing, the reader begins to understand that making it to the top is not all Ed wants. He doesn't want to be the person who made it, then die the next day because he ignored conditions or gut feelings. His goal is to safely make it there and back- and not to have an obsession with the mountain. One might think, though, with 11 expeditions to Mt. Everest, he has a slight obsession. Maybe, maybe not. It should be noted that that in his 11 expeditions, he only reached the summit 7 times- which might have something to say about the conditions Ed was facing or a feeling he had.

Ed tell stories of the Everest International Peace Climb- the pit falls, the hard work, and more of working with climbers from different countries in this event. Ed also mixes in accounts of his climbs to Everest- stories of people who did it before, some with fatal consequences.

Ed Viesturs has had many successes at Mt. Everest- but the mountain has also taught him many lessons. Each story, as Ed writes, is written with the respect and awe that Everest not only deserves, but is entitled to.

### Traveling With T's Thoughts

The Mountain by Ed Viesturs is a book that is awe inspiring. His stories, his pictures- together, they make the book pop. Ed has great respect for Mt. Everest and it shows in his story. Whether a person is a climber or just fancies reading stories of others climb, this book, The Mountain, would make an excellent read.

The Mountain was provided by Touchstone Publishing in exchange for a fair and honest review. Above thoughts and opinions are mine alone.

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## **Hilary says**

Solid, but a little drier than some of his other works.

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## **Ken Peters says**

Ed Viesturs is a climber who has climbed all of the earth's 8,000-meter peaks without use of supplemental oxygen, but he has done so, incredibly, with such a conservative approach to risk-taking on his climbs that he doesn't fit the reckless stereotype of big-mountain climbers. And he has summited Everest more than any other peak. This book mingles Ed's experiences with the history of others who have climbed Everest.

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## **Susan Liston says**

Well if you want to read Ed Viesturs' version of the 1996 Everest tragedy, it's in his other book, No Shortcuts to the Top, apparently, he 'didn't want to repeat it here' even though this is a book about Everest...? That doesn't make a lot of sense unless of course it's make you go get the other book. But no matter, he's been to Everest 11 million other times. A lot of this book is about Everest history, some of which I could skip because I've read it multiple times before. But moments here are riveting, as with all mountain climbing books as your mind boggles that these people are even here to tell the story. And I have to give a shout out to a lovely saga about a Guy With A Mucus Plug...oh dear, well ya gotta read it. What fun! These people are truly insane, which is why I so love reading about them.

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## **Dianne says**

Although I give this 3 stars, it is not a bad book or one to pass by. My problem with it is that the title includes "My Time on Everest" but the vast majority of the book is about others' journeys on Everest. It's great at what it does - pointedly recount the history of climbing on Everest - but it wasn't what I expected. I have not read all of Viesturs' other books so perhaps they will help fill me in on what I was looking for out of this one.

If you've not read or otherwise learned about climbing, this is not the first book you should read about it because Viesturs jumps right in using terminology (jumar, fixed rope, etc) and locations (Yellow Band, Western Cwm, etc) that you will probably not be familiar with. You could miss out on further understanding if you don't know them already - or aren't willing to look them up as you go.

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## **Navarra says**

After having read a great deal of non-fiction about Everest and about mountain-climbing (mainly, but not exclusively, regarding the Himalayas) including nearly all Ed Viesturs' other books, I've begun to think that

nearly any book about the 8000m mountains is good. Re: I'm not sure how reliable a review I am. However, if you enjoy a book that "cuts to the chase." He's the mountain climbing non-fiction author for you. Personally, I enjoy his succinct style. Also, I truly appreciate his philosophy of climbing, which has been demonstrated not by his successes, but by his failures (i.e. his ability to trust his instincts and "live to climb another day"). Another bonus with Ed Viesturs is his ability to avoid (for the most part) judgment of other climbers and their philosophies.

There was not a lot of extremely new information for me in this book, but the Viesturs' perspective is always refreshing.

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### **Sherry says**

I returned recently from my fourth trip to Nepal and the Himalaya. I was lucky to visit the Tibet side of Everest this time. The high mountains have always been special to me, with of course Everest being the pinnacle. So it was great fun to read this book and feel a part of all the Everest adventures. Viesturs and Roberts, once again, did a wonderful job putting the adventures to words.

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### **Katherine Coble says**

See my review for [\\_No Shortcuts To The Top\\_](#).

Isn't that irritating?? Well, I was pretty irritated when I got to the chapter on the 1996 disaster that was immortalized in [\\_Into Thin Air\\_](#) and the IMAX film [\\_Everest\\_](#). Because this seminal event, in which Viesturs played a key role is mentioned. MENTIONED. He says "if you're interested I already talk about it in [\\_No Shortcuts To The Top\\_](#)." I swear to the gods of print media that I honestly heard Gilderoy Lockhart in the back of my mind saying "For further details see my published works."

This book is about Everest and the historic expeditions thereto. Chapters with Viesturs' experience alternate with chapters on expeditions of historic importance--eg. Hillary and Norgay. So if you are writing a book about famous expeditions, one of which you played a vital role in, one would THINK you'd include that in the book which is meant to discuss it. So what you already talked about it?? Talk about it again.

Well, I checked [\\_No Shortcuts\\_](#) out of the library. (So much for that cross-marketing tactic.) Frankly, he should at some point edit his books into one large compendium. There is do much repetition that the 3 books I've read really amount to what could be one comprehensive volume. If they ever do that it'd be a five star book. For now they've (and by they I mean Viesturs and his co-author) got quite a few 3 star books on their hands.

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### **Tfalcone says**

Yeah another mountain climbing book!

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## **Katherine Jones says**

There's something about the highest point on earth that beckons the romantic in all of us—even though there's nothing at all romantic about this peak. Summitting Mt. Everest requires absolute fortitude, determination and courage—which is underscored by the chilling truth that not every one who attempts to climb Mt. Everest makes it back.

In Viesturs' and Roberts' hands, *The Mountain* is a story that manages to be both personal and global. Viesturs offers his take on many of the historical climbs of Everest, as well as his own poignant moments—such as, when during the filming of the IMAX movie (the highest grossing IMAX movie to date), he paused to pay homage to the frozen bodies of his friends Rob Hall and Scott Fischer, who had died making the ascent a year earlier.

Another plus are the excerpts from Viesturs' diary, which add to the “you are there” flavor of the book. So do some of the brutal details that don't otherwise get a lot of press: the agonizing sore throats many climbers suffer, for example, as a result of breathing the cold, thin air; or their dry, hacking coughs, harsh enough to break ribs or bring up larynx lining.

*The Mountain* is not a romantic account but plainly reveals the darker underbelly of the legend. All in all, a fascinating read—even for non-climbers, like me. Recommended.

Thanks to Touchtone for providing me a free copy to review. All opinions are mine.

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