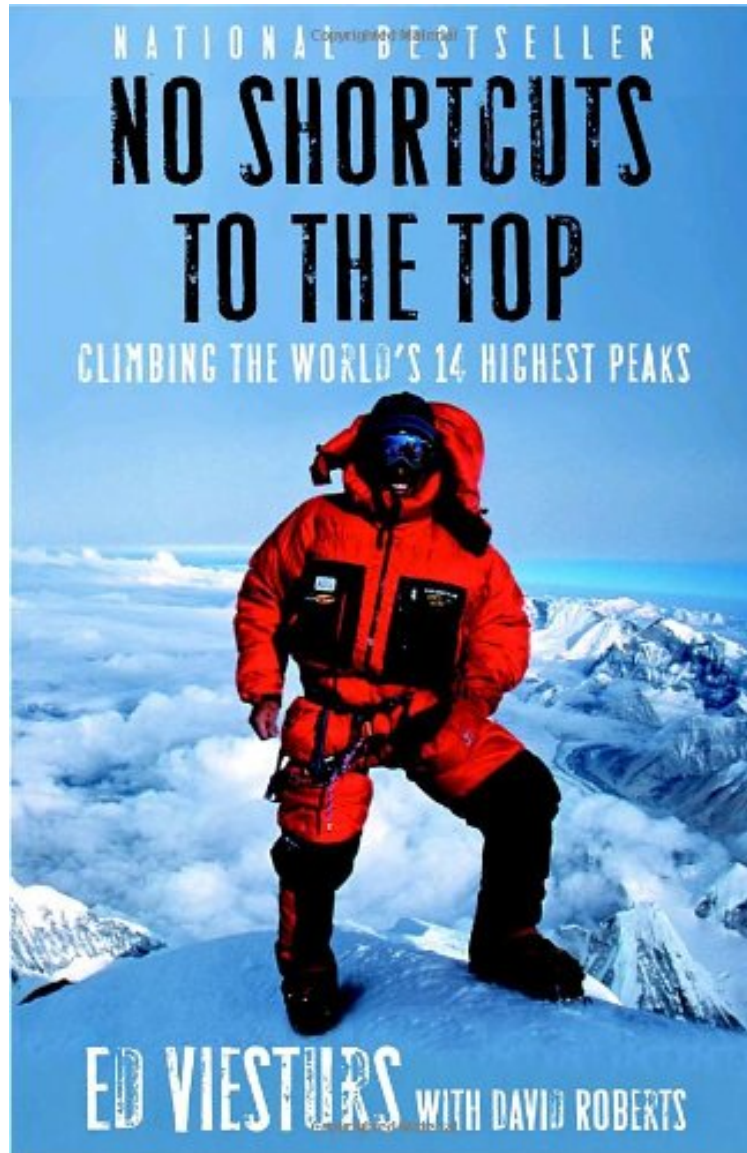


[Free pdf] No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks

No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks

Ed Viesturs, David Roberts
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#85166 in Books Random House 2007-11-27 2007-11-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.98 x .80 x 5.19l, .61 #File Name: 0767924711372 pagesNO SHORTCUTS TO THE TOP | File size: 15.Mb

Ed Viesturs, David Roberts : No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Top is Only Part of the Climb - Getting Back Down is the Important PartBy Wayne A. SmithInteresting and informative.Ed Viesturs is an adventurer - and with one heck of an

accomplishment. He is one of the few human who have summited (and returned - an important part of his mantra) all 14 of the Earth's 8,000 meter peaks. This book is the Ed Story and weaves his life into the telling of his accomplishment. It is well written and easy to follow. The action - mountaineering's close calls, including Viesturs famous self-arrest on K-2, is gripping and presented tightly without over dramatizing the events. It does occasionally get repetitive - after all there are 14 mountains over about 20 attempts that make up the story. While mentioning all, Viesturs focuses on a few to highlight his career. Career is an accurate description. Viesturs gave everything to climb, starting with subsistence employment and basement housing to be able to afford his dream. As his fame grew, and the real chance to summit all of the 8,000ers developed, the author was able to piece together corporate sponsorships and motivational speaking opportunities in order to sustain himself - at a quite comfortable level in the end one is left to believe. This isn't just a mountain tale book. The strength is Viesturs describing his approach to risk and the often dangerous and fatal activity that has defined his life. His self-discipline and ability to make the right choices in trying situations is the real story here. Viesturs turned away several times just yards away from summits when the weather or terrain didn't feel right - a discipline too many of his colleagues ignore when "summit fever" overcomes many after weeks assaulting a mountain with the top in plain sight and a short (relative term to be sure) climb away. The author would have to go back, often multiple times and over a period of years, to tag those hold-out summits - a time consuming, costly, and frustrating endeavor but one borne of an approach that kept Ed Viesturs alive. Not only does this book give the armchair mountaineer good insight into what is involved in all facets of a climb, it is an excellent example of a disciplined and consistent approach to significant undertakings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good story, mildly confusing at times. By Douglas Terry I liked the book. I enjoy reading about climbing the high peaks even though I've never done any of it and I have no desire to do so. The author did a good job of describing what it's like on the high peaks. I like his very conservative approach to climbing. The timeline is a bit choppy in places, back and forth in time to the point it was a bit confusing to me at times. He also uses a lot of technical terms that the average reader won't know but X-Ray will generally give a good definition and there is a complete glossary in the back as well as a timeline. He does pat himself on the back some but it's his book and he did accomplish a lot. If you enjoy the high mountaineering books, you will likely enjoy this one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A bit short of the zenith. By Docta KI applaud Ed for his accomplishments, the life he has lived, and the impact he has had on others' lives, but that is quite independent of the quality of this book. While I felt his pain, understood his frustrations, and appreciate the overview of climbing during the last 60 years, I was constantly annoyed by the self-serving nature of his prose. He and his editors never figured out how to say I'm great without saying I'm great. He is one of the greatest of my life, but I didn't need to be reminded so frequently. The book has a great title but the theme could have been exploited more completely. The title is a universal truth. That point was missed.

This gripping and triumphant memoir from the author of *The Mountain* follows a living legend of extreme mountaineering as he makes his assault on history, one 8,000-meter summit at a time. For eighteen years Ed Viesturs pursued climbing's holy grail: to stand atop the world's fourteen 8,000-meter peaks, without the aid of bottled oxygen. But *No Shortcuts to the Top* is as much about the man who would become the first American to achieve that goal as it is about his stunning quest. As Viesturs recounts the stories of his most harrowing climbs, he reveals a man torn between the flat, safe world he and his loved ones share and the majestic and deadly places where only he can go. A preternaturally cautious climber who once turned back 300 feet from the top of Everest but who would not shrink from a peak (Annapurna) known to claim the life of one climber for every two who reached its summit, Viesturs lives by an unyielding motto, Reaching the summit is optional. Getting down is mandatory. It is with this philosophy that he vividly describes fatal errors in judgment made by his fellow climbers as well as a few of his own close calls and gallant rescues. And, for the first time, he details his own pivotal and heroic role in the 1996 Everest disaster made famous in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. In addition to the raw excitement of Viesturs's odyssey, *No Shortcuts to the Top* is leavened with many funny moments revealing the camaraderie between climbers. It is more than the first full account of one of the staggering accomplishments of our time; it is a portrait of a brave and devoted family man and his beliefs that shaped this most perilous and magnificent pursuit.

From Publishers Weekly In the opening scene of Viesturs's memoir of his quest to become the first American to climb the 14 mountains in the world higher than 8,000 meters, he and a friend nearly get thrown off the face of K2 when they're caught in an avalanche. It's one of the few moments in the story when his life genuinely seems at risk, as his intense focus on safety is generally successful. "Getting to the top is optional," he warns. "Getting down is mandatory." That lesson comes through most forcefully when Viesturs recounts how he almost attempted to reach the summit at Everest the day before the group Jon Krakauer wrote about in *Into Thin Air*, but backed out because it just didn't feel right. His expertise adds a compelling eyewitness perspective to those tragic events, but the main focus is clearly on Viesturs and his self-imposed "Endeavor 8000." From his earliest climbs on the peaks of the Pacific Northwest to his final climb up the Himalayan mountain of Annapurna, Viesturs offers testimony to the sacrifices (personal and professional) in giving your life over to a dream, as well as the thrill of seeing it through. (Oct.)

Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist For nearly two decades Viesturs has been living his dream: to scale the world's 14 tallest peaks--the 8,000ers, as they're known, the 14 mountains taller than 8,000 meters (26,247 feet). All of them are in Nepal, Pakistan, and Tibet, and none is easy to conquer. Viesturs, who has stood atop Everest half a dozen times, is among the world's most accomplished climbers, and even he admits it's no picnic dragging yourself up to those heights. With coauthor Roberts, a veteran mountaineering author, Viesturs turns his quest to conquer the 8,000ers into a compelling story of dedication, desperation, danger, derring-do, and devotion (physical and spiritual). Fans of extreme-sport books, especially tales of high adventure, will want to add this one to their collections. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Ed Viesturs is not merely one of our strongest mountaineers; he's also one of the most remarkable. He's demonstrated that it's possible to climb the world's highest peaks without taking reckless chances, and without sacrificing one's honor or integrity. He has never hesitated to help other climbers in need, even when it meant putting himself in danger or sacrificing his own opportunity to achieve a summit. Ed, simply put, is a genuine American hero. Jon Krakauer From the drama of the peaks, to the struggle of making a living as a professional climber, to the basic how-tos of life at 26,000 feet, *No Shortcuts to the Top* is fascinating reading. Aron Ralston, author of *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* Ed Viesturs the first American to climb all fourteen 8,000 meter peaks without bottled oxygen is an animal. A human animal blessed with enormous strength balanced by intelligence, honesty, and a heart of gold. And besides, HE IS A NICE GUY. This is a great read for those of us who climb, those who want to learn to climb and live to tell about it, and those who like great adventures. Jim Whittaker, first American to climb Mount Everest Ed Viesturs was an inspiration to me personally and to the Seahawks team in 2005. I highly recommend reading this account of one of America's heroes. Mike Holmgren, coach of the Seattle Seahawks