

No Shortcuts To The Top Climbing The World S 14 Highest Peaks By Ed Viesturs David Roberts

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"Pressestimmen ?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 Über den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende ED VIESTURS is the first and only American to ascend all fourteen of the world's 8,000-meter peaks without supplemental oxygen and the author of *The Mountain, K2, and The Will to Climb*. In addition to his collaborations with Ed Viesturs, DAVID ROBERTS is the author of more than twenty books, including *Finding Everett Ruess*. Leseprobe. Abdruck erfolgt mit freundlicher Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber. Alle Rechte vorbehalten. CHAPTER 1Self?ArrestAt last things seemed to be going our way. Inside our Camp III tent, at 24,300 feet, Scott Fischer and I crawled into our sleeping bags and turned off our headlamps. The next day, we planned to climb up to Camp IV, at 26,000 feet. On the day after, we would get up in the middle of the night, put on all our clothing, grab our gear and a little food, and set off for the summit of K2, at 28,250 feet the second-highest mountain in the world. From Camp IV, the 2,250 vertical feet of snow, ice, and rock that would stretch between us and the top could take as long as twelve hours to climb, since neither Scott nor I was using supplemental oxygen. We had agreed that if we hadn?t reached the summit by two P.M., we?d turn around?no matter what. * It was the evening of August 3, 1992. Fifty-four days earlier, we had started our hike in to base camp on the Baltoro Glacier, which we had reached on June 21. Before the trip, even in my most pessimistic scenario I had never imagined that it could take us more than six weeks just to get in position for a summit push. But this expedition had seemed jinxed from the start?by hideous weather, by minor but consequential accidents, by an almost chaotic state of disorganization within our team. As usual in the midst of a several-day summit push at high altitude, Scott and I were too keyed up to fall asleep. We tossed and turned in our

sleeping bags. Then suddenly, around ten P.M., the radio in our tent crackled to life. I turned on my headlamp, grabbed the walkie-talkie, and listened intently. The voice on the radio was that of Thor Kieser, another American, calling from Camp IV, 1,700 feet above us. "Hey, guys," Thor blurted out, his voice tense with alarm. "Chantal and Alex aren't back. I don't know where they are." I sighed in pure frustration. In the beam of my headlamp, I saw a kindred expression on Scott's face. Without exchanging a word, we knew what this meant. Our summit push was now on indefinite hold. Instead of moving up to Camp IV to get into position, the next day we would find ourselves caught up in a search—and possibly a rescue. The jinx was alive and well. On August 3, as Scott and I had made the long haul from base camp up to Camp III (a grueling 7,000 feet of altitude gain), Thor Kieser, Chantal Mauduit, and Aleksei Nikiforov had gone for the summit from Camp IV. Chantal, a very ambitious French alpinist, had originally been part of a Swiss team independent from ours. When all of her partners had thrown in the towel on the mountain and left for home, she had stayed on (illegally, in terms of the permit system) and in effect grafted herself onto our group. She was now the only woman on the mountain. Aleksei—or Alex, as we called him—was a Ukrainian member of the Russian quintet that made up the core of our team. That morning, Alex and Thor had set out at five-thirty a.m., Chantal not until seven. These starting times were much later than Scott and I would have been comfortable with, but the threesome had been delayed because of no shortcuts to the top high winds. Remarkably, climbing without bottled oxygen, Chantal caught up with the men and surged past them. Struggling in the thin air, Thor turned back a few hundred feet below the summit, unwilling to get caught out in the dark. Chantal summited at five p.m., becoming only the fourth woman ever to climb K2. Alex topped out only after dark, at seven p.m. The proverbial two p.m. turn-around time isn't an iron-clad rule on K2 (or on Everest, for that matter), but to reach the summit as late as Chantal and Alex did was asking for trouble. And trouble had now arrived. On the morning of August 4, as Scott and I readied ourselves for the search and/or rescue mission that would cancel our own summit bid, we got another radio call from Thor. The two missing climbers had finally showed up at Camp IV, at seven in the morning, but they were in really bad shape. Chantal had been afraid to push her descent in the night and had bivouacked in the open at 27,500 feet. Three hours later, Alex had found her and talked her into continuing the descent with him—possibly saving her life. Staggering through the night, the pair had managed to stay on route (no mean feat in the dark, given the confusing topography of K2's domeshaped summit). But by the time they reached the tents at Camp IV, Chantal was suffering from snow blindness, a painful condition caused by leaving your goggles off for too long, even in cloudy weather. Ultraviolet rays burn the cornea, temporarily robbing you of your vision. Chantal was also utterly exhausted, and she thought she had frostbitten feet. In only marginally better shape, but determined to get down as fast as possible, Alex abandoned Chantal to Thor's safekeeping and pushed on toward our Camp III. He just said, "Bye-bye" and took off. Thor himself was close to exhaustion from his previous day's effort, but on August 4 he gamely set out to shepherd a played-out Chantal down the mountain. It's an almost impossible and incredibly dangerous task to get a person in that kind of shape down slopes and ridges that are no child's play for even the freshest climber. Thor had scrounged a ten-foot hank of rope from somewhere—that's all he had to belay Chantal with, and maybe to rappel. Over the radio to us, Thor had pleaded, "Hey, you guys, I might need some help to get her down." So Scott and I had made the only conscionable decision: to go up and help. As we were getting ready, we watched as Alex haltingly worked his way down the slope above, eventually stumbling toward camp. We went up a short distance to assist him, then helped him get into one of the tents, where we plied and plied him with liquids, since he was severely dehydrated. Meanwhile, surprisingly, he didn't show any concern for Chantal. Going to the summit, both he and Chantal had pushed themselves over the edge, driven themselves to their very limits. It happens all the time on the highest mountains, but it's kind of ridiculous. To make matters worse, on August 4 the snow conditions were atrocious. Same with the weather: zero visibility. Scott and I tried to go, made it up the slope for a couple of hours, then had to turn around and head back to camp. We made plans for another attempt the following day. We were in radio communication with Thor. He'd started to bring Chantal down to Camp III, but he only got partway. They had to camp right in the middle of a steep slope, almost a bivouac, though Thor had been smart enough to bring a tent with him. The next day, August 5, Scott and I got up, packed our gear, and started up again, hoping we could meet up with Thor and Chantal and help them back to our camp. At some point, we could see them through the mist and clouds, two little dots above. It was blowing hard, and little spindrift avalanches were coming down the slope we were climbing. Part of it was stuff Thor and Chantal were kicking off from way above, stuff that by the time it got to us was a little bigger. But no really big slides. I'd scrounged a fiftyfoot length of rope, with which Scott and I were tied together, because of the crevasses that riddled the slope. At one point, Scott was above me. Something just didn't feel right. I yelled up to Scott, "Wait a minute, this is not a good slope." It was loaded, ready to avalanche. If you've done enough climbing, you can feel the load on a slope. I attribute that sense to the years of guiding I'd done by that point in my life. At that time, Scott hadn't done as much guiding as I had. We stopped in our tracks. I said, "Man, let's..."

No shortcut to the top gives vivid descriptions of the attempts and successful summits by ed viesturs climbing the 14 8000m tallest mountain peaks in the world lots of action and adventure ed bees only the sixth in the world and america s first climber to climb to the top of all 14 8000m peaks without supplemental oxygen

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After surviving a terrifying avalanche ed viesturs is the first american to summit all 14 of the world s highest mountains without supplemental oxygen. 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 bee the first american to achieve that goal as it is about his

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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. No shortcuts to the top i am not a mountaineer and only recently hiked a trail and a mountain in alaska this book climbing the world s 14 highest peaks no shortcuts to the top by ed viesturs is however a real kicker. I just finished reading and of course by reading i mean listening to an audio book called no shortcuts to the top by ed viesturs ed is a living legend of extreme mountaineering and the book follows along as he conquers one 8 000 metre summit at a time. Description a thrilling chronicle of the tragedy ridden history of climbing the world s most difficult and unpredictable mountain by the bestselling authors of the mountain and no shortcuts to the top ed viesturs one of the world s premier high altitude mountaineers explores the remarkable history of k2 and of those who have attempted to.

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