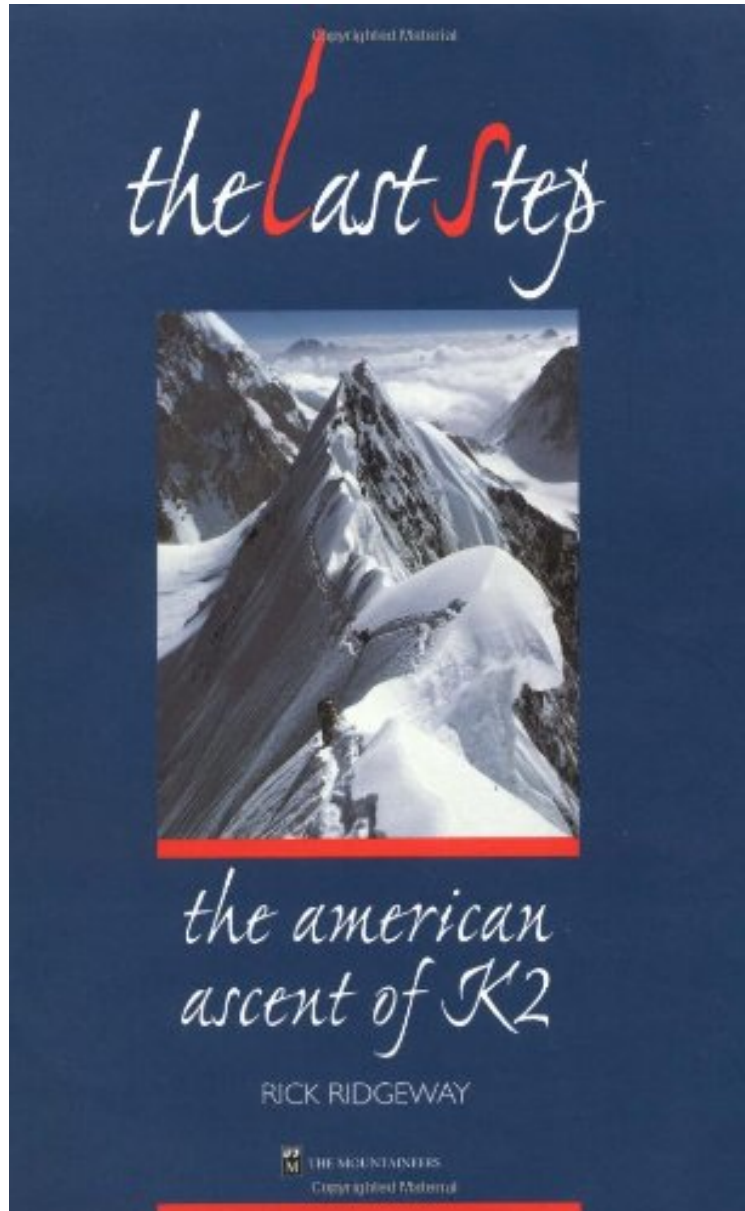


(Download free pdf) The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2

The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2

Rick Ridgeway

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Rick Ridgeway : The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the great classics of American mountaineering literature By DaveS Really an excellent book. I first read it decades ago and it's just as good with a re-reading today. 1 of 1 people

found the following review helpful. Mountain climbers!By Jacqueline Davidsonwell, I am crazy about reading these books on mountain climbing. I still haven't figured out why they do it, but this book and each of the books I have gathered on this subject entertains me and keeps me reading.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Sixty-Seven Days to the Top of K2By HMS Warspite"The Last Step: The American Ascent of K2" is Rick Ridgeway's extremely well written account of the first successful American ascent (and only third overall ascent at the time) of the world's second highest peak. "The Last Step" is the "expedition account" and includes fascinating commentary from several climbers, making for a more rounded view than most climbing books. "The Last Step" is blessed with a stunning collection of photographs which provide a sense of scale both of the beauty of the Karakoram Mountains and of the incredibly difficult terrain the expedition overcame.Ridgeway's account candidly describes the tensions and acrimony that built up in the expedition as it was repeatedly stalled by poor weather in the fall of 1978. The expedition spent 67 days on the mountain, much of it exposed to the debilitating effects of high altitude. The normally driven and competitive natures of good climbers became points of friction as the expedition faced oncoming winter and the likelihood that few if any of the climbers were going to get a shot at the summit.Ridgeway's narrative of the two successful summit attempts is absolutely hair-raising, as men too long in the "dead zone" above 26,000 feet climbed like near-zombies over dangerously exposed snow slopes. One climber, Jim Wickwire, was forced to bivouac overnight in sub-zero temperatures at 28,000 feet after zoning out and lingering too long at the summit.The account makes clear that only the most fit, capable, and single-minded climbers had any chance of topping out on K2 under the conditions faced in 1978. Those climbers with lesser skills or with distractions such as homesickness or as in one case, an affair with another member of the team, were unable or unwilling to risk all for the summit.This book is most highly recommended to fans of the climbing account genre. Although a long read at over 300 pages, others may find it of interest as an indepth look at what happens on world-class climbing expeditions.

In September 1978, after 67 days on the mountain--nearly all of them above 18,000 feet--Ridgeway and three others stood atop K2, the first Americans ever to accomplish this feat. The Last Step tells the story of their extraordinary expedition. Illustrations. of color photos.

"The Last Step goes paces beyond the usual mountaineering expedition story." -- Adventure Travel"The final approach has all the suspense and excitement the reader can bear...A gripper." -- Publisher's WeeklyAbout the AuthorRick Ridgeway has climbed in the United States, the Andes, Antarctica, and the Himalaya and was a member of the successful 1976 American Bicentennial climb of Everest. He has been involved in a number of outdoor and climbing films and television specials as cameraman, rigger, and climber. He lives in Ventura, California.