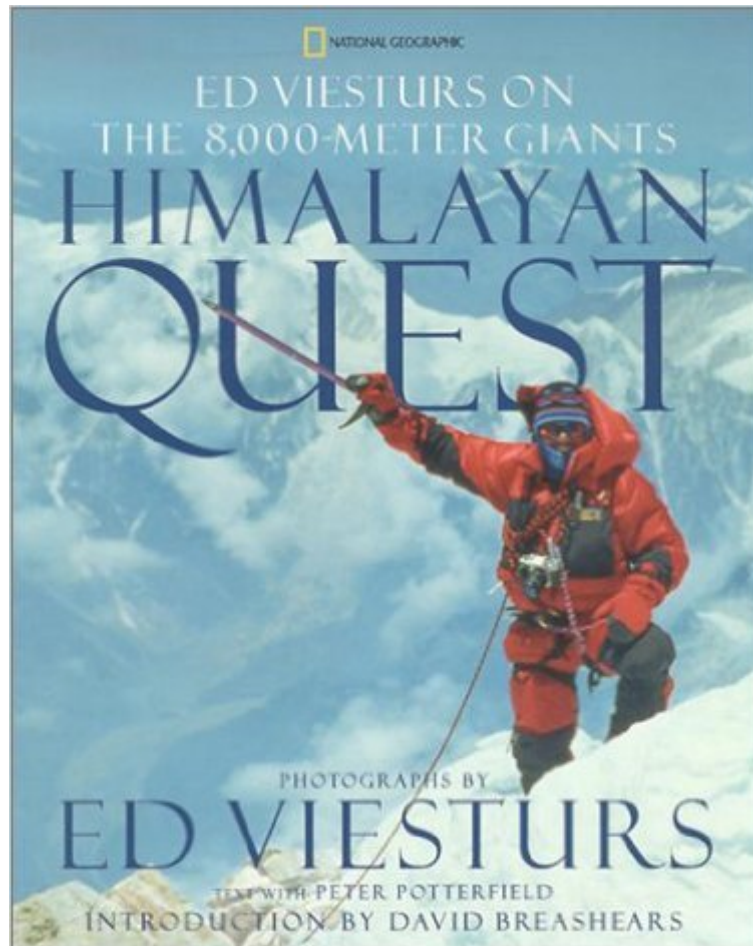


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Himalayan Quest: Ed Viesturs On The 8,000-Meter Giants



Synopsis

Now updated to include the triumphant culmination of a monumental quest—to stand on the summits of all fourteen of the world's highest mountains; Himalayan Quest offers an unforgettable glimpse into the remarkable world of Ed Viesturs, America's best-known high altitude climber, and the breathtaking landscape in which he works. It is an unparalleled showcase of both the heartbreaking tragedy and the ineffable joy Viesturs has experienced while striving at the limits of human endurance. At the center of this extraordinary account of his mountaineering adventures are Viesturs's own awe-inspiring photographs from the top of the world. This collection of images will show readers the deadly beauty and haunting menace of the Himalaya. A unique, inspiring, and spine-tingling glimpse into the rarified world of the extreme climber, Himalayan Quest will appeal not only to Viesturs's significant fan base (fondly known as Edophiles or Edheads), but also to outdoor aficionados and armchair adventurers everywhere. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I can't overemphasize the excellence of this book. The pictures are beautiful! Of course, Ed Viesturs had the most beautiful country in the world to work with but he did a wonderful job of capturing it. I especially liked the breath-taking views that were taken going up the mountains - the views of Annapurna for example. I can see why this is such a deadly mountain when you see these pictures. Also, the picture taken at sunrise at 27,000 feet hanging from a ledge on K2. Then there is the

picture of the Nanga Parbat Diamar face - Wow! I could go on an on...And, the prose is pithy - that is the most powerful word to use for it. There are three short write-ups at the beginning to set up the pictures, and excellent write-ups for each picture providing the context for it. In the write-up at the beginning, Ed Viesturs asks for our forgiveness for the poor quality of some of the pictures especially the one on K2 - is he kidding??? He is a humble man - no doubt - but these pictures are awe inspiring. And, I personally appreciate that he put the one at sunset on K2 in the book. When compared with the book by Reinhold Messner, which this one is no doubt similar to, I would highly recommend this book instead. Ed Viesturs provides the map on how he arrived at the top of each of these dangerous and beautiful mountains, just like Reinhold's book. But, unlike Reinhold's book, the prose is pithy and has a high level of humility. Also, I liked the map of where each of the mountains are located in Nepal and Pakistan that was provided. This was an extra treat. This is going to be one of my favorite books of all time. In Ed's section, he mentioned that he has many more pictures. I hope that he rewards us by publishing another book with further pictures. What a treat!

This is the second mountaineering book I've read by Ed Viesturs. This 160 page book read fantastic and the pictures of the mountain peaks and people are magnificent. Text was with Peter Potterfield and an Introduction by David Breashears (done very well). Ed says his primary concern was safety and climbing the world's tallest 8000M mountain peaks not photography. He only used one good camera and one lens as he did not want to lug around a lot of extra weight. Ed's main sentence of wisdom on mountain climbing....Reaching the top is optional, completing the decent is mandatory! I learned most people died on the decent when they were exhausted, ill from altitude sicknesses, and tired thus making mistakes. A few times, Ed only a few hundred feet from the top turned around and descended and listened to his instincts rather than die. He says his biggest mistake was pushing on, making the top of K2 and not listening to his survival instincts to not continue. He made it to the top but almost died on the decent. His pictures were spot on and magnificent. Most in focus and very good. One picture was soft and slightly blurred due to cold and a freezing lens held by one hand with insecure footing. He goes on explaining his accents on the 8000 meter giants. Also some about people of Tibet and Nepal. All the world's 14 8000M mountains including Everest, K2 (hardest climb and most dangerous), Annapurna, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum 1 & 2, and the rest are in a giant crescent in the Himalayas in and around Nepal, Pakistan etc. when continental driftthe subcontinent of India millions and millions of years ago smashed into Asia/China, creating the magnificent fourteen 8000 meter mountain peaks.

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