

The Race to Climb the World's Most Dangerous Mountain

K2, the world's second-highest mountain, is also one of the most dangerous. Only a few hundred people have ever reached its summit, and many have died trying. In this gripping account, journalist and climber Ed Viesturs tells the story of the first successful ascent of K2, and the challenges the climbers faced along the way.



Into the Clouds: The Race to Climb the World's Most Dangerous Mountain (Scholastic Focus): The Race to Climb the World's Most Dangerous Mountain by Tod Olson

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 288 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



In 1953, a team of Italian climbers led by Ardito Desio became the first to reach the summit of K2. Their ascent was a major achievement, but it was also marred by tragedy. Two of the team members died on the descent, and a third was seriously injured.

In the years that followed, several other teams attempted to climb K2, but all failed. The mountain's extreme altitude, steep slopes, and unpredictable weather conditions made it a formidable challenge. In 1978, a team of American climbers led by Jim Whittaker finally reached the summit, becoming the second team to do so.

Whittaker's ascent was a major milestone in mountaineering history, but it also came at a price. One of his team members died on the descent, and another was seriously injured. In the years since Whittaker's ascent, several other teams have successfully climbed K2, but the mountain remains one of the most dangerous in the world.

In his book, Viesturs tells the story of the race to climb K2, and the challenges the climbers faced along the way. He draws on interviews with climbers, scientists, and historians to create a gripping account of one of the greatest adventures in human history.

The Challenges of Climbing K2

K2 is a formidable challenge for climbers. The mountain's extreme altitude, steep slopes, and unpredictable weather conditions make it one of the most dangerous peaks in the world.

The first challenge climbers face is the altitude. K2 is 8,611 meters (28,251 feet) above sea level, which is higher than Mount Everest. At this altitude, the air is thin and there is less oxygen available for climbers. This can lead to altitude sickness, which can cause headaches, nausea, and vomiting. In severe cases, altitude sickness can be fatal.

Another challenge climbers face is the steep slopes of K2. The mountain's slopes are often covered in ice and snow, which can make them treacherous to climb. Climbers must use ropes and ice axes to ascend the slopes, and they must be careful not to slip and fall.

The weather on K2 is also unpredictable. The mountain can experience sudden storms, which can make climbing extremely dangerous. Climbers must be prepared for all types of weather conditions, and they must be able to make quick decisions in Free Download to stay safe.

The Race to the Summit

The race to climb K2 began in the early 1900s. Several teams attempted to reach the summit, but all failed. In 1953, a team of Italian climbers led by Ardito Desio became the first to reach the summit. Their ascent was a major achievement, but it was also marred by tragedy. Two of the team members died on the descent, and a third was seriously injured.

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The Legacy of K2

K2 is a mountain of legend. It is one of the most challenging peaks in the world to climb, and it has claimed the lives of many climbers. But it is also a mountain of beauty, and it has inspired climbers from all over the world to attempt its ascent.

The race to climb K2 is a story of human endurance and ambition. It is a story of triumph and tragedy. And it is a story that will continue to be told for generations to come.



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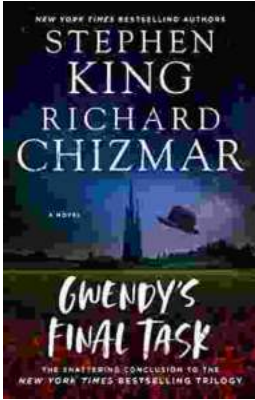
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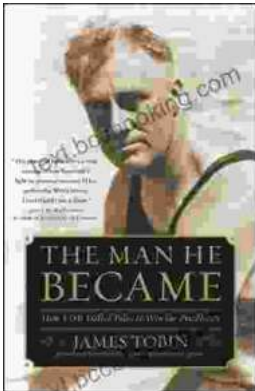
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