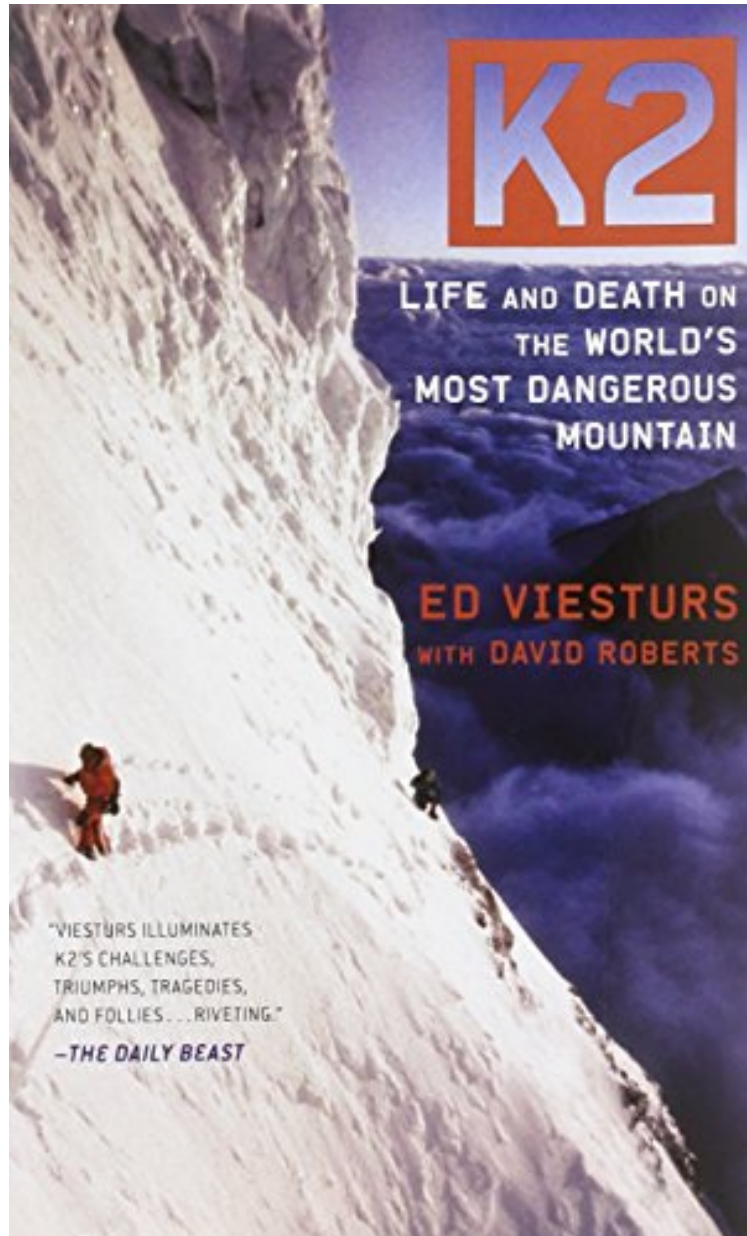


(Download free pdf) K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain

## K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain

*Ed Viesturs, David Roberts*

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#125507 in Books Ed Viesturs 2010-08-03 2010-08-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .90 x 5.201, .70 #File Name: 0767932609352 pages K2 Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain | File size: 49.Mb

**Ed Viesturs, David Roberts : K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched, well documented, well written book about significant attempts to climb K2. By C Mak I've enjoyed Mr. Viesturs' other books and this is no exception. Unlike 'no shortcuts' this is not autobiographical, the title is exactly what it is, a book about various expeditions on K2. Mr. Viesturs' has done his research and references the books he read in preparation and gives you his view on what's 'normal' within the context of mountaineering. (Every sport has its norms and he knows what's customary and what's not so in a far better position to comment.) As a librarian I appreciate good research and use of authoritative sources, if I were grading his work I'd give it an A. As a read it's a compelling narrative making me wonder yet again why anyone wants to climb those monster peaks but then again, why do I love reading the books they write after?! I wish I had bought this in paper as opposed to Kindle because I'd love easier access to the bibliography. Bottom line, if you like books about mountaineering and the history of mountaineering this is a great read. If you're looking to read more about Viesturs' experiences this isn't it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. k2 what an engima. By Jamestells what went on behind the movies and tells the true facts and ties up the mystery behind the mountains. As a real mountain climber he can just and is equal on how he writes. I know the first chapter has answered many of my most unanswered questions from Wilco how at this time I think is still lying about Aug 1, 2008 and will never say what happened on the mountain that night, why they didn't follow Pemba down when he made the decision to leave the Korean team who wasn't strong enough to make the climb that day and put all the lives in danger. It felt to me after watching the doc. movie over 150 times that he planned on there always being someone there to get him out of a jam, Ger a person he knew would give his life for anyone even if it could cost him his and its to bad it did but what a true hero he was!!! McDonnell's be proud!!!!!! I think that maybe the only reason Gerard may have stayed that night was he was not leaving people alone on the mountain that night. only my theory. Great book

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and factual without boring 'insider mountaineering terms" By Denise M Own most of Viesturs books, he's good about giving the history and factual events of mountains climbing. His books hold some 'juicy' insight into characters at times, but he doesn't gossip. Explains climbing safety and techniques without talking over reader's head using inside terminology of the climbing sport that makes it boring and difficult to understand, as some writer's do. Knows the history of this sport and tosses in past events to illustrate more current ones I'd recommend to others interested in this extreme sport.

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 conquer it. At the same time, he probes the mountain's most memorable sagas in order to illustrate lessons about the fundamental questions mountaineering raises: questions of risk, ambition, loyalty to one's teammates, self-sacrifice, and the price of glory. Viesturs knows the mountain firsthand. He and renowned alpinist Scott Fischer climbed it in 1992 and got caught in an avalanche that sent them sliding to almost certain death before Ed managed to get into a self-arrest position with his ice ax and stop both his fall and Scott's. Focusing on seven of the mountain's most dramatic campaigns, from his own troubled ascent to the 2008 tragedy, Viesturs crafts an edge-of-your-seat narrative that climbers and armchair travelers alike will find unforgettably compelling. With photographs from Viesturs's personal collection and from historical sources, this is the definitive account of the world's ultimate mountain, and of the lessons that can be gleaned from struggling toward its elusive summit.

.com Exclusive: Christopher Reich's *K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain* Christopher Reich is the New York Times bestselling author of *Rules of Vengeance*, *Numbered Account*, and *The Patriots Club*, which won the International Thriller Writers award for best novel in 2006. Is there anything more enthralling than a true tale of high adventure well told? Stories about men and women braving impossible odds under daunting conditions in far flung locales, often risking life and limb, keep me glued to the page every time. I'm talking about books like *Papillion*, *Alive*, *Into Thin Air* and *The Perfect Storm*. Well, today, I'm happy to add another book to that list. *K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain* by Ed Viesturs with David Roberts. K2 is the world's second tallest mountain. Located in the Karakoram Range in northern Pakistan, it has more than earned its nickname as the "world's most dangerous mountain." Just a year ago, thirteen climbers lost their lives on the mountain in a single day. A few mountains may have killed a higher ratio of those who have tried to climb them, notably Annapurna, but none combine the danger, lore, and prestige of K2. In Viesturs' new book, he tells the story of six expeditions to the fabled mountain. Some successful. Some ill-fated. All spellbinding. First, a word about the author. Ed Viesturs is widely acknowledged to be among the world's top five living mountaineers. In 2005, he became the first American to summit all fourteen of the world's 8000 meter peaks. And he did so without supplemental oxygen. (His fine memoir, *No Shortcuts to the Top*, chronicles that adventure.) To offer but one example of his prodigious skills, Viesturs once climbed 7,000 feet from an altitude of 16,000 feet to 23,000 feet up a near vertical slope in only eight hours. Did I mention he was carrying a forty-pound pack on his back? The man is to mountaineering what Michael Jordan is to basketball. If that is, Michael Jordan had risked losing his life every time he stepped onto the basketball court. Be

impressed. Be very impressed. In K2, Viesturs recounts the most dramatic expeditions to the mountain and he does so in today's frank and honest terms. Older tellings followed the time-honored "gentlemen's code" of never speaking poorly of one's climbing partners. To read, "The White Spider," by Heinrich Harrer, the story of the first ascent of the Eiger Nordwand written over fifty years ago, is to believe that anyone who ever strapped on a helmet and a harness was "noble fellow," or a "strong-willed lad," whose motivations were as pure as a knight seeking the Holy Grail. Viesturs sifts through such rose-hued accounts and casts today's halogen spot light on them. Friendly disagreements amongst climbing pals become knock-down, drag-out arguments between the fiercest of rivals. Mild discomfort morphs into severe frostbite that costs a man his fingers and toes. And an analysis of where a climber might better have situated an upper-altitude camp becomes an indictment of attempted murder. The best example is to compare The Green Berets versus Platoon. Both are about Vietnam; but one is quite a bit more realistic than the other. Similarly, Viesturs' modern updating makes for fascinating reading. In a sense, K2: Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain is a book written by a mountaineer for mountaineers. After all, Viesturs is telling the same story over and over again. But that is exactly what lends the book its magic. Though all of the expeditions shared the same goal, each followed its own unique course. In fact, I often felt as if Viesturs were describing a different mountain altogether. The lesson I took away from this outstanding piece of nonfiction is that K2 seemed to somehow alter its very topography to defeat the "strong-willed lads" and "noble fellows" who tried to conquer it. And it succeeded much too often. From Publishers Weekly Starred. Facing the world's second-highest peak, the Karakoram Range's K2 in Northern Pakistan, mountain climbers encounter incredible dangers, including a huge serac (an overhanging glacier), snow-obscured crevasses, whiteouts and avalanches that have killed even accomplished mountaineers. With clarity and compassion, renowned peak-scaler Viesturs recounts campaigns up K2's 28,000-plus feet from the late 1930s through the tragic 2008 season that saw 11 climbers die in the space of 36 hours. An American master of the climb, Viesturs shares secrets, inside jokes, history and lore such as the "psychological protection" afforded by clipping onto rope or handrails, the climbers' habit of "looking up to see if anything's coming your way," and the "miracle" of "one man with a single ax and a grip of steel stopping the otherwise fatal fall of six teammates and of himself." Admitting to "a disturbing fanaticism" that's driven himself and others to tackle the world's fourteen 8000-foot-plus peaks, Viesturs's you-are-there narration communicates effortlessly the enormous effort, and high adventure, of scaling K2. Gripping...reveals a good deal about the rarefied noble-gonzo world of high-altitude mountaineering. New York Times Viesturs illuminates K2's challenges, triumphs, tragedies, and follies...Riveting. The Daily Beast Viesturs's you-are-there narration communicates effortlessly the enormous effort, and high adventure, of scaling K2. Publishers Weekly