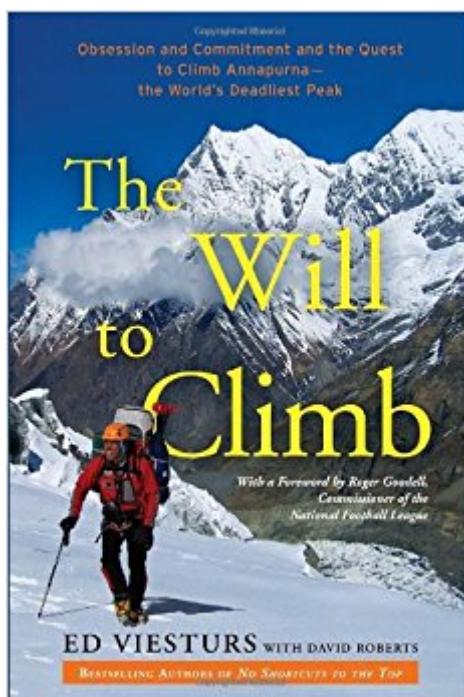


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# The Will To Climb: Obsession And Commitment And The Quest To Climb Annapurna--the World's Deadliest Peak



## Synopsis

The bestselling author of *The Mountain and No Shortcuts to the Top* chronicles his three attempts to climb the world's tenth-highest and statistically deadliest peak while exploring the dramatic and tragic history of others who have madeâor attemptedâthe ascent. As a high school student, Ed Viesturs read and was captivated by the French climber Maurice Herzog's famous and grisly account of the first ascent of Annapurna in 1950. When he began his own campaign to climb the world's 14 highest peaks in the late 1980s, Viesturs looked forward with trepidation to undertaking Annapurna himself. Two failures to summit in 2000 and 2002 made Annapurna his nemesis. His successful 2005 ascent was the triumphant capstone of his climbing quest. In *The Will to Climb* Viesturs and co-author David Roberts bring the extraordinary challenges of Annapurna to vivid life through edge-of-your-seat accounts of the greatest climbs in the mountain's history, and of his own failed attempts and eventual success. In the process Viesturs ponders what Annapurna reveals about some of our most fundamental moral and spiritual questions--questions, he believes, that we need to answer to lead our lives well.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *The Will to Climb* "The Will to Climb captures the essence and spirit of the great sport of mountaineering... For anyone who loves the outdoors and for those who admire the will of mankind, this book is a must-read." "Tod Leiweke, CEO of Tampa Bay Lightning" Viesturs and Roberts have written an exhaustively researched and wonderfully compelling history of the most fascinating and dangerous of the Himalayan giants." "David Breashers, veteran

mountaineer and documentary filmmaker, director of IMAX film Everestâ a detailed, nicely told account of a manâs endurance and perseverance in achieving a singular goal.â Publishers Weekly

ED VIESTURS is the first and only American to ascend all fourteen of the worldâs 8,000-meter peaks without supplemental oxygen and the author of *The Mountain, No Shortcuts to the Top*, and *K2*. In addition to his collaborations with Ed Viesturs, DAVID ROBERTS is the author of more than twenty books, including *Finding Everett Ruess*.

I rank this book lower than both "No Shortcuts" and "K2" by Ed Viesturs, mainly because there is too much repetition with stories already covered in the previous books, and the somewhat unexciting, wandering writing. Ed Viesturs is a person I really admire for his generous personality and outstanding sensibility, but he is no great writer. In this book I actually thought the writing was poorer than in both *Shortcuts* and *K2*, and the research felt more hurried. He makes up for his limitations, however, by wisely choosing to focus on Annapurna, and the abundance of drama associated with climbing that deadly mountain. I particularly enjoyed reading about the 1984 traverse by Loretan and Joos. If you want more information about Annapurna, go ahead and buy the book, but if you are looking for a mountaineering book in general, you should consider buying Ed's previous books "No Shortcuts" or "K2", "Above the Clouds" by Anatoli Boukreev, or "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer.

I've read all of Viesturs' books, and he never disappoints. His accounts of his experiences and those who came before are always fascinating.

I suppose it's no surprise books about Everest dominate the majority of mountaineering books; well at least mountaineering books read by non-climbers. This is a great overview of Annapurna and a very nice read about a mountain not named Everest. Viesturs and his co-author give a thorough yet manageable history of the mountain, while retelling Ed's three attempts (also told in *No Shortcuts to the Top*, which was also great.) Known as the most deadly mountain, this book gives the readers the reason behind that title. I'm left wondering why anyone would be foolish enough to attempt it knowing 1 in 3 climbers die on its slopes. But as the famous quote says about Everest, "because it's there!"

I like Ed Viesturs writing style because it is both personal and more wide -ranging at the same time. How much of this is David Roberts' co-writing is impossible to tell. This book covers the history of the attempts to climb Annapurna, including Viesturs' own attempts,, and details why it is such a dangerous mountain. I have read a lot of books on mountaineering, and I find Viesturs to be one of the least melodramatic (and also least judgmental) of them, yet I am fascinated by his accounts. If you like good adventure writing, whether you are an armchair adventurer, or someone who wants to climb, this is a good book for you.

The book is well written but it is a slog through the initial chapters. There is very little about the personality of the author as he seems to distance himself from the reader. It is hard to accept his obsession when the writing seems so devoid of emotion

The author is a much better climber than he is a writer. But his book reviews of the other various ascents saved me a lot of extra reading on the subject.

Viesturs is not a writer, hence his having a co-author who is. He gives opinions about himself and other climbers and other's climbs, one nice thing about his books though is that he gives the history of other climbs one might want to read about. Still one good thing about his view of climbing is that it teaches caution and the right attitude. Hence why he may still be alive.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It covered such a vast subject, it was not just about Ed. Truly a great book on mountaineering!

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