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Everest The Cruel Way



Synopsis

On 30 January 1981 Joe Tasker and Ade Burgess stood at 24,000 feet on the west ridge of Mount Everest. Below them were their companions, some exhausted, some crippled by illness, all virtually incapacitated. Further progress seemed impossible. *Everest the Cruel Way* is Joe Tasker's story of an attempt to climb the highest mountain on earth - an attempt which pushed a group of Britain's finest mountaineers to their limits. The goal had been to climb Mount Everest at its hardest: via the infamous west ridge, without supplementary oxygen and in winter. Tasker's epic account vividly describes experiences that no climber had previously endured. Close up and personal, it is a gripping account of day-to-day life on expedition and of the struggle to live at high altitude. Joe Tasker was one of Britain's best mountaineers. He was a pioneer of lightweight, alpine-style climbing in the Greater Ranges and had a special talent for writing. He died, along with his friend Peter Boardman, high on Everest in 1982 while attempting a new and unclimbed line. Both men were superb mountaineers and talented writers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joe Tasker was one of Britain's foremost mountaineers. He was a pioneer of lightweight, 'Alpine-style' climbing in the Greater Ranges and had a special talent for writing. He died, with his friend Peter Boardman, high on Everest in 1982 while attempting the previously unclimbed North East Ridge. Their deaths marked the end of a remarkable era in British mountaineering. Born in Hull in 1948, Joe began rock climbing in his teens. Drawn to mountaineering, he made many remarkable ascents in the Alps, including the first British winter ascent of the North Face of the Eiger, before

moving to the Greater Ranges. Here, Joe pioneered routes of extreme technical difficulty in a bold, Alpine-style - at a time when huge expeditions and siege tactics were still the mountaineering norm. Peter and Joe left two legacies. One was their great endeavour, their climbs on high peaks with bold, lightweight innovative methods; the second is the books they wrote and left behind. Both had developed a special talent for writing. Joe's first book *Everest the Cruel Way* is an exciting account of his winter attempt on Everest and his second book, *Savage Arena*, was finished just before he left for Everest in 1982. Both have become mountaineering classics. The Boardman Tasker Prize for Mountain Literature was established in Pete and Joes' honour, and is presented annually to the author or co-authors of an original work which has made an outstanding contribution to mountain literature. For more information about the Boardman Tasker Prize, visit: www.boardmantasker.com

How dull the lives of those of us who have never found our full capacity. The author takes us to a place few others have ever been, and even then we cannot fully understand the price these men paid to achieve what they did. It is awe inspiring to see such courage among our species.

Joe Tasker and Peter Boardman were two of the most extraordinary climbers of their time...being they would have been my age now, I find it compelling but sad to read the expedition books of Joe Tasker, Peter Boardman, Alan Rouse, etc. Great pioneers in climbing....they have all left a legacy to be proud of...

A wonderful book for anyone fascinated by the history of climbing. This story of an attempt to climb Everest in winter is totally absorbing, especially given the fact that author Joe Tasker was to die on the mountain a few years later. It's a great insight into what it's like to be a part of a small expedition. The tensions and closeness between the climbers, their relations with other teams, and problems with support staff are all issues along with the hardships (understatement!) of the climbing.

Somewhat interesting to read about the harsh conditions facing anyone who might consider climbing Everest in the winter. The story itself wasn't overly compelling - it seemed clear to me from very early in the book that the team wasn't going to summit Everest; therefore, the suspense of the story was lost early on.

I love Joe Tasker's unique voice. A very talented writer who is able to place the reader at the center of the action using very few words. A deep thinker who draws the reader sharing into a profound

inner and outer experience yet with lightness and humour.

Loved this book. Climbers made a huge effort to climb Everest West Ridge in winter. Wonderful details of the climb with the terrible winds and snows, snow caves to try to survive in, and various illnesses plagued the expedition. After 3 months, they had to make a decision as to whether to continue trying to summit. Read the book to see if they were successful or not!

Excellent encounter well related. Gives the armchair mountaineer a vicarious insight into the true hardships of an over-commercialised sport. Poor editing and publishing leave the final product littered with inexcusable punctuation errors on almost every page...makes for frustrating reading.

I really enjoyed this adventure from the comfort of my living room. A great read for a non-climber like myself.

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