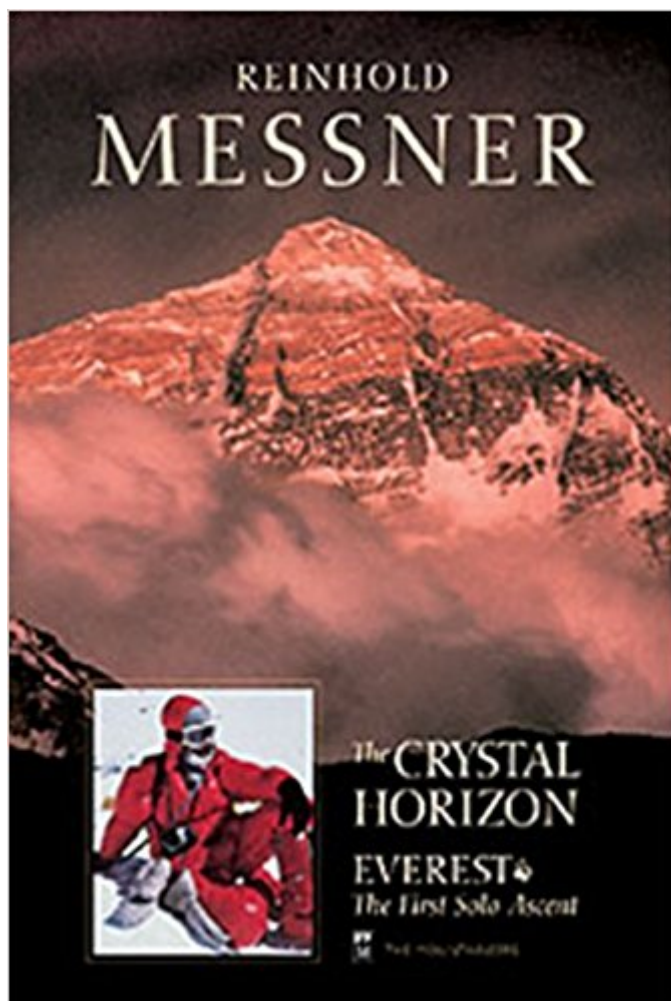


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The Crystal Horizon: Everest-The First Solo Ascent



Synopsis

* More than an adventure, this captures Messner's reflections on Tibet and the climbers who have gone before him* Messner ranks among the most accomplished mountaineers in history* This edition brings a mountaineering classic back into print On August 20, 1980, Reinhold Messner, the world-renowned master of alpine-style climbing, became the first person to reach the summit of Everest solo and without supplemental oxygen. A vivid account of Messner's expedition, *The Crystal Horizon* also reflects on how he explored his innermost thoughts while facing the most extreme physical challenge he had ever encountered. The furthest point for mind and body he calls his crystal horizon. Inspired by the legendary mountaineers George Mallory and Maurice Wilson, Messner embarked on a year-long journey through Tibet to the glittering light and rarified air at the roof of the world. More than an adventure story, this is Messner's profound reflection on his emotional reactions to Tibet, the challenges he faced, and the explorations of self—inspired by this amazing journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The controversial Messner, revered by some as the spiritual leader of mountaineering and denounced by others as a macho peak-bagger, chronicles his extraordinary 1980 solo climb of the world's tallest mountain. Messner's philosophy dictates that he climb without the aid of oxygen and unencumbered by the people and equipment of large-scale expeditions; he carries only a tent, camera, some climbing equipment, and food. Climbing from the Tibetan side, Messner provides intriguing observations of that mysterious region. He also includes fascinating stories of the climbers

who preceded him. Messner presents selections from the diary of his American girlfriend, who accompanied him to base camp. Messner's reflections, coupled with those entries, show Messner to be egotistical and self-centered, perhaps the very characteristics that make him such a determined, ambitious, and great climber. Highly recommended for adult as well as YA collections.- Melinda Stivers Leach, Precision Editorial Svces., Boulder, Col. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Makes for extraordinary reading. (Adirondack magazine) His descriptions are first-rate. One can almost hear the crunch of the ice beneath his crampons and the roar of the high atmosphere wind. Even knowing the outcome, the reader will find the step-by-step suspense of the endeavor riveting... An instant classic in mountaineering literature. (The Washington Times)

Everest is a household name and has been for a long time all over the world. I was very impressed with this book. I learned more about Tibet, its people, religion and history than you will ever be taught in a western school. This book is full of fantastic photos of this region and its people. The logistics of this feat and politics of dealing with the Chinese as well as the cost amazed me. His trip was difficult before he ever began the trek to the mountain itself. This mountain is constantly assaulted by huge (and well financed) expeditions mostly from the southern (easier) route. This book follows Messner on the north side of the mountain which is a more difficult route. It takes more than freakish genetics, an insane no quit attitude, and the mental toughness to deal with doing this totally alone. You have to luck into good weather. Messner left a female companion at a camp of 6500 meters (enough to kill most mortals in itself) and took his all his provisions on his back. Carrying a mere 10 lbs at this altitude would be the equivalent of hiking 15 miles over unstable terrain with a fat girl on your back breathing through a straw. No ropes, no Sherpa support, no radio, no crevasse ladders, and no help if he got into trouble. And he pulled this off. Messner is one of the toughest human beings I have ever seen.

Delivered in a timely manner, as described.

Best book I have ever read without doubt. Takes you completely into the journey and makes you feel very much part of the achievement. His writing style can be stilted but just a must have for any armchair or real adventurer's bookshelf.

One of the best books that I have ever read. A wonderful story about love, mountains, a people and a life philosophy.

Awesome book

This ought to be a great book. The first man to climb Everest without oxygen from the North at the height of the monsoon season. Messner was about to do solo, without any form of support whatsoever beyond advanced base camp. But it's not as exciting as it sounds. If you want to finish this book without falling asleep or giving up halfway, you'd need to do a lot of skipping. Messner bores us with too many details, quoting chunks from publications, his mother and his girlfriends. It's really very badly edited and there are way too many "subplots" that only serve to disrupt the reader's flow of thoughts. Skip through all the boring stuff, concentrate on his actual description of the climb, how he arrived at the conclusion that Mallory never reached the summit while climbing between the First and Second Step and how he finally struggled his way to the misty summit. It's actually quite a good read, but leave the rest of the story out.

I read it in Spanish for 30 years, belonged to a friend and buy it to share it with my 24 year old son

My son is fascinated by anything climbing - this is his next read.

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