



Last Days

By John Roskelley

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In *Last Days*, Roskelley documents two alpine-style expeditions to the Himalayas: the difficult and risky first ascent in winter of the Northeast Face of Tawoche in Nepal with Jeff Lowe; and a four-man attempt on the East Ridge on Menlungtse in Tibet with Jim Wickwire, Greg Child, and Jeff Duenwald. A highlight in the book is Roskelley's First Climber's Dictionary, where he defines terms as they really should be defined.

After an aborted attempt in 1984 by Roskelley, Jim Bridwell, and Naoe Sakishita in the pre-monsoon because of rockfall of suicidal intensity down their intended route, Roskelley was still determined to climb Tawoche's Northeast Face. His solution - climb it in winter. Four years later, he recruited Jeff Lowe, one of the best alpine climbers in the world, to join him. Together they pushed alpine climbing to a new level, spending nine days on the frozen wall dodging falling missiles of rock and ice and bivouacking in minus zero temperatures. This is their journey up one of the most insane-looking mountain walls in the world.

Menlungtse was first explored by Eric Shipton and his party in 1951 when they unknowingly and illegally entering Tibet. Forty years later, Roskelley and his group of experienced Himalayan mountaineers traveled to Tibet and into the Menlung Valley to attempt the unclimbed Southeast Ridge, an arrow straight, mile long ridge complicated by a long stretch of double cornices. Roskelley's narrative covers the history of the peak; earlier attempts by other expeditions; the approach and reconnaissance; and the final attempt by him and Greg Child.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Roskelley, one of mountain climbing's more prominent figures, describes two of his Himalayan climbs: Tawoche's East Face in Nepal (summitted 1984) and Menlungste's Southeast Ridge in Tibet (attempted 1990). In addition to detailing the climbs, Roskelley offers his climbing ethics: a quick alpine-style climb is preferable to porter-supported battering of the route by teams of climbers; depend on skill and experience; opt out when luck is given too big a part in the climb. His point of view is that of a family man approaching middle age, yet his language is that of latter-day climbers. Recommended where there is a climbing clientele.
- Paula M. Strain, *MLS, Rockville, Md.*

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From the Author

Last Days is the only detailed account of one of the most important alpine-style ascents in Himalayan climbing - the Northeast Face of Tawoche in winter. The climb on Tawoche inched the bar a grade higher for future climbers to shoot for.

From the Back Cover

"Very emotional and moving... a tale of the day-to-day toil of high altitude mountaineering... Recommended." *Library Journal*

"The book's strength is Roskelley's straightforward and concise style... his words have the ring of authenticity." Rock & Ice

"Here is clearly a man with a lot to say about adventure and the human spirit." Backpacker Magazine

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Solomon Pepper:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book allowed Last Days? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

Lillian Owensby:

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Cornell Warren:

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Julio Yates:

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