



Above the Clouds: The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer

By Anatoli Boukreev

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When Anatoli Boukreev died on the slopes of Annapurna on Christmas day, 1997, the world lost one of the greatest adventurers of our time.

In *Above the Clouds*, both the man and his incredible climbs on Mt. McKinley, K2, Makalu, Manaslu, and Everest—including his diary entries on the infamous 1996 disaster, written shortly after his return—are immortalized. There also are minute technical details about the skill of mountain climbing, as well as personal reflections on what life means to someone who risks it every day. Fully illustrated with gorgeous color photos, *Above the Clouds* is a unique and breathtaking look at the world from its most remote peaks.

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Above the Clouds: The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer By Anatoli Boukreev Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Born in Mayak, Russia, in 1958, Boukreev became one of the world's greatest mountain climbers. But while his accomplishments included 21 ascents of 11 of the world's 14 highest mountains, Boukreev became known to the general public only after his work as a guide on a disastrous Mt. Everest climb was described in less than glowing terms in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. Boukreev's coauthored bestselling account of the tragedy, *The Climb*, was an attempt to set the record straight. This new posthumous collection is a series of narratives Boukreev wrote between 1987 and his death climbing Annapurna in 1997; it stands as an excellent addition to *The Climb* and as one of the most revealing and tough-minded descriptions of the life of a mountain climber. Three themes dominate the essays: the spiritual beauty and power of the mountains, the increasing commercialization of mountain climbing and the necessity for rigorous training by people (pros and newcomers alike) who want to climb the big mountains. The accounts collected and edited by his companion Linda Wylie capture Boukreev's thoughts during an often troubled period: by 1989, at the height of his powers, Boukreev had received the highest sports honors in Soviet history, but when the Soviet Union collapsed, Boukreev was forced to move to America, where he made his living as a guide for wealthy patrons on private climbing adventures including the terrible Mt. Everest trip, which haunted him until he died. 32 pages of photos not seen by PW. (Nov. 16) Forecast: The bestselling status of Boukreev's first book as well as continuing interest in the 1996 attempt to climb Mt. Everest should promise sizable, serious readership.

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From Library Journal

Readers familiar with the 1996 Everest disaster will likely remember Boukreev as the Russian climber vilified by Jon Krakauer in *Into Thin Air* (LJ 4/1/97). Boukreev responded later that year with his version of the accident in his best-selling *The Climb* (LJ 11/1/97), coauthored by G. Weston DeWalt. Although somewhat hindered by his lack of English skills, Boukreev managed to create a large and dedicated circle of friends in the United States and elsewhere. In December 1997, he was killed in an avalanche while attempting a winter ascent of Annapurna. These narratives, originally written in Russian and collected and edited by his partner Linda Wylie, offer a look into the exclusive and dangerous world of high-altitude mountaineering and the unique training methods formerly practiced in the Soviet Union. One recurring theme is Boukreev's near-constant struggle to raise the large funds needed for expeditions when government funding dried up virtually overnight after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This work makes a nice companion piece to *The Climb* and contains a thoughtful, well-written foreword by climbing photographer Galen Rowell. Recommended for all mountaineering and larger public collections. Tim Markus, Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, WA

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From [Booklist](#)

Boukreev's climbing career paralleled the transition in mountaineering from a domain of experts to a sport accessible to those with less skill but with plenty of ambition and money. Although ambivalent about the commercialization of the sport, as expressed in his private writings collected here, Boukreev became a professional guide, achieving unsought fame as a result of the sensational publicity surrounding the deaths on Everest in 1996. Yet his soul remained that of a "sportsman," as he liked to call himself, and he was

drawn to 8,000-meter peaks for the usual ineffable reasons, which he makes touching attempts to explain here. His specialty was the fast ascent, and before he disappeared in a Himalayan avalanche in 1997, he set numerous speed records. Since the image of Boukreev depicted by Jon Krakauer in *Into Thin Air* was condemnatory, readers here can partake of Boukreev's taciturn explanation of events and better understand the man from his accompanying accounts of climbers and their deaths on K2 and other exceedingly lethal locales. Alpinists, both actual and armchair, absolutely will ask for this valediction from Boukreev. *Gilbert Taylor*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Smith:

This book untitled Above the Clouds: The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer to be one of several books that best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

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Vincenza Nagel:

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James Henderson:

Above the Clouds: The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Above the Clouds:

The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial contemplating.

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