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# the WOLVERINE WAY



NEED COPY... IS A WORLD-RENOWNED CLIMBER, mountain guide and Patagonia ambassador, widely regarded for his clean, light-and-fast style. He has published articles in a number of periodicals including: *Alpinist*, *Rock and Ice*, *Climbing*, *The American Alpine Journal*, *Gripped*, *Canadian Alpine Journal*, *Climb*, *Vertical*, *Montagnes*, *Risk*, *Alp +*, *Campo Base*, *Desnivel*, and *Stile Alpin*. His essays have been published in several books including: *Contact: Mountain Climbing and Environmental Thinking*; *Solitari*, a collection of essays about solo climbing published in Italian; *Berg*, a German book about climbing in the Himalaya; and an upcoming book about Nanga Parbat edited by Reinhold Messner. He has worked as a Patagonia alpine ambassador since 1999.

“I admire Steve House for his approach to the mountains. Step by step he has become the best alpinist he can become. In my view he is at the top of mountaineering. He climbs the right routes on the right mountains in a time when everyone is climbing Everest. He is also a great storyteller: he tells about doing, not about morals or lessons. Steve says, ‘My most rewarding days were days when I cut away everything.’ And with these few words he holds the same line as Mummery, Bonatti, and Robbins. It’s the style that makes the difference.” - FROM THE FOREWORD BY REINHOLD MESSNER

“Steve House writes a gripping tale in the great alpine tradition. The only limits he honors – they’re all the right ones – he places on himself. And what he’s learned in the high mountains, and coming home from them, is both profound and worth our while. A new alpine classic.” - YVON CHOUINARD, FOUNDER CHADWICK EQUIPMENT AND PATAGONIA, INC.

“Steve House is a once-in-a-generation visionary who has changed the way we think about alpine climbing on the world’s most challenging peaks. House digs well below the surface and lays bare not only his highest aspirations but also his darkest days, the setbacks and uncertainties that plague even the best of climbers. In *Beyond the Mountain* he gives us a rare and profoundly personal glimpse of the drive, dedication and focus behind today’s light-and-fast ascents.” - MICHAEL KENNEDY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ALPINIST

“On the face of it, climbing mountains looks like a useless endeavor. But if the climber is keenly self-aware, the view from the summit offers insights that end up molding his sea-level life, and if he is also a good writer, then those lessons make a good read for the rest of us. Steve House is that climber. Enjoy *Beyond the Mountain*.” - RICK RIDGEWAY, ADVENTURER, AUTHOR, FILMMAKER

Cover Photo: Steve House at 22,000 feet on the British-Sherpa route, Nuptse, Himalayas, Nepal. MARKO PREZELJ  
Back Photo: Steve House on the summit of Nanga Parbat, Karakoram, Pakistan. JEFF ANDERSON  
Portrait Photo: STEVE HOUSE COLLECTION

the WOLVERINE WAY by Douglas H. Chadwick

NEED COPY... IT TAKE TO BE ONE of the world’s best high-altitude mountain climbers? A lot of fundraising; traveling in some of the world’s most dangerous countries; enduring cold bivouacs, searing lungs, and a cloudy mind when you can least afford one. It means learning the hard lessons the mountains teach.

Reinhold Messner calls Steve House the best high-altitude climber in the world today, an honor he declines. “Being called the ‘best,’” says Steve, “makes me very uncomfortable. My intention is to be as good as I can be. Mountaineering is too complex to be squeezed into a competition. It is simply not something that lends itself to comparison. Climbing is about process, not achievement. The moment your mind wanders away from the task of the climbing-at-hand will be the moment you fail.”

Steve House built his reputation on ascents throughout the Alps, Canada, Alaska, the Karakoram and the Himalaya that have expanded the possibilities of style, speed and difficulty. In 2005, Steve and alpinist Vince Anderson pioneered a direct new route on the Rupal Face of 26,660-foot Nanga Parbat, which had never before been climbed in alpine style. It was the third ascent of the face and the achievement earned Steve and Vince the first Piolet d’Or (Golden Ice Axe) awarded to North Americans.

Steve is an accomplished and spellbinding storyteller in the tradition of Maurice Herzog and Lionel Terray. *Beyond the Mountain* is a gripping read destined to be a mountain classic. And it addresses many issues common to nonclimbing life – mentorship, trust, failure, success, goal setting, heroes, partnership – as well as the mountaineer’s heightened experience of risk and the deaths of friends. *Beyond the Mountain* is a window into the process of a man working to be the best he can be.

by Douglas H. Chadwick

