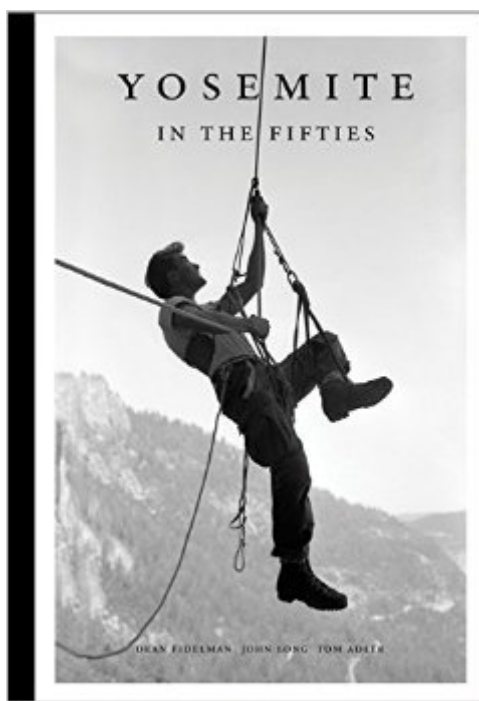


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Yosemite In The Fifties: The Iron Age



Synopsis

Companion to the classic Yosemite in the Sixties, this book uses the words of the climbers of the time and artfully restored photographs to chronicle the historic first ascents of Yosemite's 14,000-foot-high granite walls, the legendary personalities who risked their lives to climb them, and how their endeavors initiated the birth of adventure sports. Better than half a century after the first ascent of El Capitan, the deeds of Yosemite's 1950s-era Iron Age are no longer viewed as climbs or mere adventures. Rather, they are assaults on the human barrier, pushing that much higher. Yosemite in the Fifties gives the stage almost entirely over to the original source material, the first-person narratives, archive photos (artfully restored), and memorabilia particular to the seminal ascents of the era. These words, images, and design, when cast from critical angles, all reach across generations to resurrect vanished worlds. Yosemite in The Fifties is fashioned not so much as a book but as a wormhole back to an enchanted time in the history of exploration, and a classic era of Americana now lost in time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I can't get enough of these big vintage climbing coffee table books. This one is of course, great, and I got it for a steal. There is a bit of overlap with the book "California surfing and climbing" just FYI.

This is, without a doubt, one of the most exquisitely put together rock-climbing masterpieces that I have been asked to review in a long time. Indeed, the sunrise of adventure sports in the United

States was birthed in Yosemite, and this book provides the devoted climber as well as the non-climber with an impressive portfolio of beautifully chronicled first ascents and artful images that are the heart of this creation. The climbers of the era depicted were pioneers in so many ways and it is critical that today's generation of climbers, as well as the climbers and boulderers of generations to come, acquaint themselves with this tome. We are whisked off to a world that was the very foundation of big-wall climbing as we now know it, a time when sponsorships, modern climbing gear and safety devices were unheard of. The well documented first ascents and the climbs of legends such as Warren Harding, Wayne Merry, George Whitmore, Royal Robbins, Bob Swift, Allen Steck, Mark Powell, Bill Feuerer, Nancy Brickford Miller, Tom Frost, Rich Calderwood, John Salathe, Yvon Chouinard still echo in the Valley, as the climbers of today scale the same epic granite walls that consumed the earlier climbers with an enduring passion. Immerse yourself in a world where we are allowed to witness the initial vision, the tools, the difficulties, risks and perfect triumphs that give American rock-climbing's rich history a perennial aura of power and personal achievement. This is truly marvelous work by Dean Fidelman, John Long and Tom Alder. Yosemite in the Fifties: The Iron Age is highly recommended, as is the companion book, Yosemite in the Sixties by Glen Denny and Yvon Chouinard.

A terrific book on the roots of rock climbing in Yosemite. The stories are excellent as are the pictures. I have given this book as a gift to non climbers, people who just love the outdoors and they were fascinated by it.

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