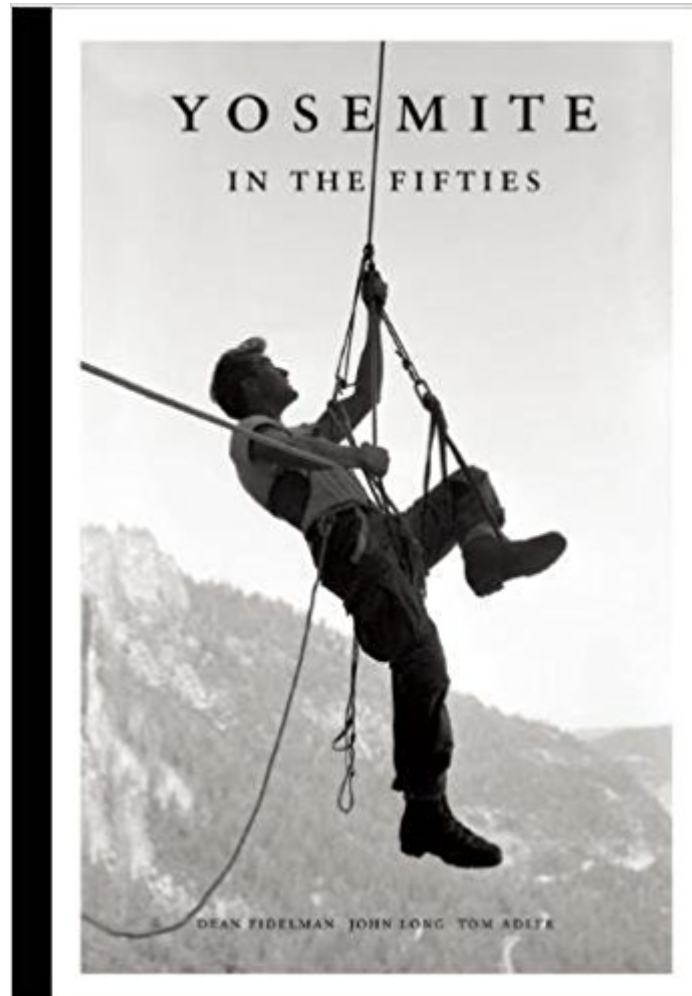


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Yosemite In The Fifties: The Iron Age



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, 147-mile-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

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. Climbski bouldermagazine

For decades past, into current times, a certain kind of person has been drawn to the daunting challenges presented by the sheer granite walls of Yosemite. The allure of scaling these precipices

has been as much a challenge to cultural norms and technical limitations as it has to physical prowess or ability. Known as Yosemite's Iron Age, climbing in the fifties was that critical span of years found in any adventure or exploratory pursuit, from ocean navigation to moon shots, when prevailing technology is a limiting factor. New gear and techniques are invented as needed, leaving pioneers to build the boat as they sail it. Because the process is shaped by trial and error, dangerous mistakes and lucky developments, a creative renaissance can feel like a bunch of maniacs just winging it. Physical and psychological barriers, remote as the dome of space, must also be surpassed by vision, willpower, courage, even recklessness. But the barriers are broken, and at this crossroads of desire and technology bursts a geyser of narrative that since the days of Homer have shaped history and inspired humankind. 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 merely climbs or adventures. Rather, they are assaults on the human barrier, pushing that much higher toward the moon, where Neil Armstrong took his giant leap for mankind eleven years after fellow explorer Warren Harding crawled onto the summit of El Capitan. In Yosemite in the Fifties, climbers Dean Fiderman and John Long turn to original source material -- first-person narratives, artfully restored archive photos, and memorabilia particular to the seminal ascents of the era; to capture the footprint unique to this time and place. Like light from a dead star still visible today, word, image, and design, when cast from critical angles, can reach across generations and resurrect vanished worlds. Put differently, 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.

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.

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.

Superb collection of some of the most historic climb pics that didn't always get out to print from the golden era of Yosemite.

Amazing photos! Perfect gift for rock climbers, campers, and national park enthusiasts.

One great book. Interested in climbing to any extent? This is a wonderful book. History. Great photographs. Interesting events.

wonderful book thank you

Satisfied

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.

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