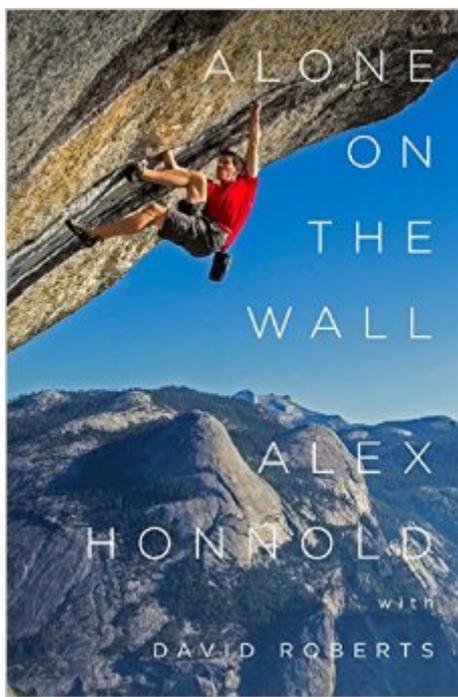


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Alone On The Wall



Synopsis

The life and death-defying feats of Alex Honnold, a visionary climber of the sort that comes along only once in a generation. Only a few years ago, Alex Honnold was little known beyond a small circle of hardcore climbers. Today, at the age of thirty, he is probably the most famous adventure athlete in the world. In that short time, he has proven his expertise in many styles of climbing and has shattered speed records, pioneered routes, and won awards within each discipline. More spectacularly still, he has pushed the most extreme and dangerous form of climbing far beyond the limits of what anyone thought was possible. Free soloing, Honnold's specialty, is a type of climbing performed without a rope, a partner, or hardware—such as pitons, nuts, or cams—for aid or protection. The results of climbing this way are breathtaking, but the stakes are ultimate: if you fall, you die. In *Alone on the Wall*, Honnold recounts the seven most astonishing climbing achievements so far in his meteoric and still-evolving career. He narrates the drama of each climb, along with reflective passages that illuminate the inner workings of his highly perceptive and discerning mind. We share in the jitters and excitements he feels waking in his van (where he lives full time) before a climb; we see him self-criticize in his climbing journal (a veritable bible for students of the sport); and we learn his secrets to managing fear—his most enviable talent. Veteran climber and award-winning author David Roberts writes part of each chapter in his own voice, and he calls on other climbers and the sport's storied past to put Alex's tremendous accomplishments in perspective. Whenever Honnold speaks in public, he is asked the same two questions: "Aren't you afraid you're going to die?" and "Why do you do this?" *Alone on the Wall* takes us around the world and through the highs and lows in the life of a climbing superstar to answer those fascinating questions. Honnold's extraordinary life, and his idiosyncratic worldview, have much to teach us about risk, reward, and the ability to maintain a singular focus, even in the face of extreme danger. 16 pages of color photographs

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Customer Reviews

Alex Honnold is probably the most famous adventure athlete in the world. He's a world class free solo climber, known for climbing without the help of ropes, equipment, or a partner. He's been known to scale 2,000 feet with only shoes and a chalk bag for "equipment". He doesn't always solo, but when he does it's truly breathtaking. This is a sport with a history, but Alex's new generation has brought a new edge to it. He climbs up a vertical wall with his fingers finding tiny cracks and spots to hang onto, and just-barely toe holds. Weaving his way like a spider man, he's setting not just solo climbing records, but also speed records. I don't know anything about the skills or requirements for soloing, mountain climbing, bouldering, or alpinism. I'm just a regular hiker. Yet this book is so well written I was fascinated throughout, and learned so much about the sport. The book's design is well done, with the narrative decidedly split between Alex Honnold's stream of conscious thought about the climbs he's describing, and the narrative by the co-author David Roberts. A veteran mountaineer who's written 30 books himself, David Roberts was the one behind Alex's book project. Alex's primary interest in the book is that he hopes it will push readers in their own climbing ambitions. The included color photos of spectacular climbs are incredible, interspersed with photos of Alex's van life and his growing up. The book recounts seven incredible climbing achievements, starting out immediately on page one with the climb that began his fame, free soloing Moonlight Buttress, which is a 1,200 foot high, nearly vertical sandstone cliff in Utah's Zion National Park.

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