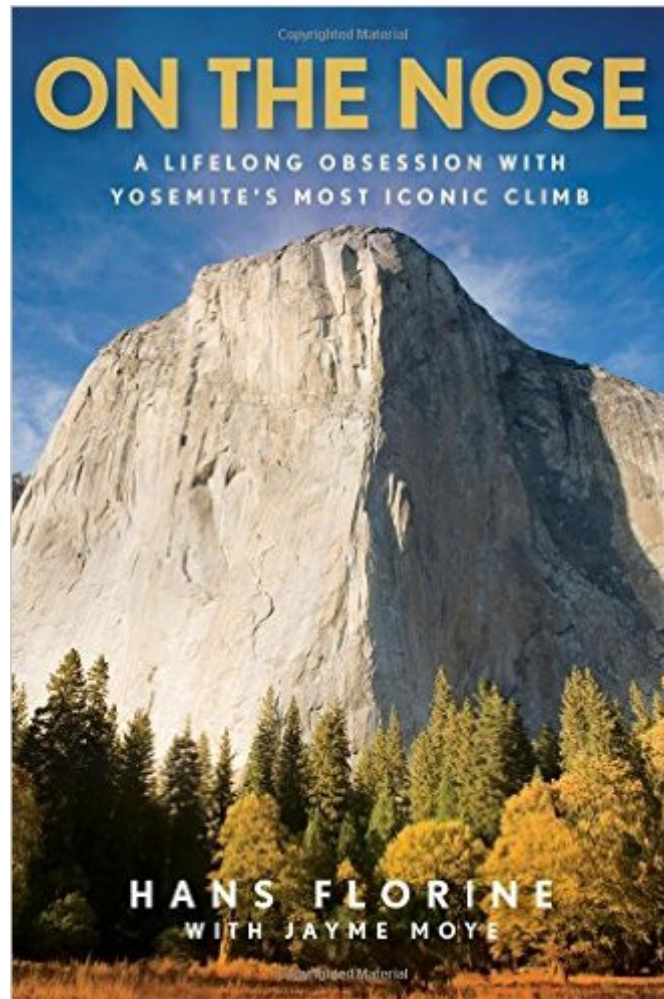


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On The Nose: A Lifelong Obsession With Yosemite's Most Iconic Climb



Synopsis

Hans Florine is a big-wall climbing legend in his own time. He holds the speed record on the Nose route of El Capitan, a 3,000-foot granite cliff in Yosemite Valley that's considered the Everest of the rock-climbing world. Ascending the Nose takes most climbers anywhere from 12 to 96 hours. Florine, along with climbing partner Alex Honnold, does it in an astounding 2.5 hours. But Florine's story is not one of super-human athletic prowess; it's one of persistence and dogged determination. In 30 years of climbing, he's ascended the Nose a mind-blowing, death-defying 100 times, more than anyone else ever has, and most likely ever will. In *On the Nose*, Florine describes the most dangerous, pivotal, and inspirational of those climbs, providing a rare look inside the adrenaline-charged world of competitive climbing in Yosemite Valley. He tells of his very first attempt on the Nose, which ended in failure after 14 hours, his friendships (and rivalries) with climbing's most colorful personalities, and his battle with Dean Potter to secure the definitive speed record on the Nose—an endeavor that's been called the wildest competition known to man. Perhaps most interestingly, Florine attempts to answer the question why. Why would anyone undertake one of the greatest adventure epics on earth 100 times? His answers provide unique insights on how to live a satisfying life, how to achieve big goals, and how an otherwise ordinary guy can become a rock star.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hans is both a legend in the climbing community and a genuinely great guy who is always as excited about the goals and achievements of others as much as his own. I have done the NIAD 4

times myself--about a hundred less times than he has! Early one morning, he passed me and my partner on pitch 3, and gave us a very helpful little tip about a delicate, tricky sequence just above us. My first thought was: he really does have this entire 3000 foot cliff memorized! Having done this climb myself more than once, I have to say that I find it almost inconceivable that anyone has climbed this iconic and beautiful wall as many times as Hans Florine. I was excited to get this book and have found it absolutely gripping reading. Most adventure climbing is of interest only to practitioners of the activity depicted, but this wonderful book is almost like a novel in the way it develops a plot filled with engaging characters and fine detail. The main character is, of course, El Capitan, that stunning wall of flawless granite at the entrance to Yosemite Valley. The other main character is Hans--but this is a love story, not a tale of conflict. Hans and the wall are not enemies; they're more like very close friends. Climbers will love it, but non-climbers will also be thrilled by the great storytelling which strikes the perfect balance between clarifying technical terms for non-experts and not talking down to experienced climbers. From the very revealing narrative of Florine's first attempt on the Nose--which did not go at all as planned--to detailed accounts of his blistering speed records (he climbs the Nose faster than all but Olympians run the marathon!), the story will not let you put it down.

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