



## Last Days

By John Roskelley

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In *Last Days*, Roskelley documents two alpine-style expeditions to the Himalayas: the difficult and risky first ascent in winter of the Northeast Face of Tawoche in Nepal with Jeff Lowe; and a four-man attempt on the East Ridge on Menlungtse in Tibet with Jim Wickwire, Greg Child, and Jeff Duenwald. A highlight in the book is Roskelley's First Climber's Dictionary, where he defines terms as they really should be defined.

After an aborted attempt in 1984 by Roskelley, Jim Bridwell, and Naoe Sakishita in the pre-monsoon because of rockfall of suicidal intensity down their intended route, Roskelley was still determined to climb Tawoche's Northeast Face. His solution - climb it in winter. Four years later, he recruited Jeff Lowe, one of the best alpine climbers in the world, to join him. Together they pushed alpine climbing to a new level, spending nine days on the frozen wall dodging falling missiles of rock and ice and bivouacking in minus zero temperatures. This is their journey up one of the most insane-looking mountain walls in the world.

Menlungtse was first explored by Eric Shipton and his party in 1951 when they unknowingly and illegally entering Tibet. Forty years later, Roskelley and his group of experienced Himalayan mountaineers traveled to Tibet and into the Menlung Valley to attempt the unclimbed Southeast Ridge, an arrow straight, mile long ridge complicated by a long stretch of double cornices. Roskelley's narrative covers the history of the peak; earlier attempts by other expeditions; the approach and reconnaissance; and the final attempt by him and Greg Child.

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## Last Days By John Roskelley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1716691 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Stackpole Books
- Published on: 1991-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .95" h x 6.21" w x 9.48" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 2 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Roskelley, one of mountain climbing's more prominent figures, describes two of his Himalayan climbs: Tawoche's East Face in Nepal (summitted 1984) and Menlungste's Southeast Ridge in Tibet (attempted 1990). In addition to detailing the climbs, Roskelley offers his climbing ethics: a quick alpine-style climb is preferable to porter-supported battering of the route by teams of climbers; depend on skill and experience; opt out when luck is given too big a part in the climb. His point of view is that of a family man approaching middle age, yet his language is that of latter-day climbers. Recommended where there is a climbing clientele.  
- Paula M. Strain, *MLS, Rockville, Md.*

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From the Author

*Last Days* is the only detailed account of one of the most important alpine-style ascents in Himalayan climbing - the Northeast Face of Tawoche in winter. The climb on Tawoche inched the bar a grade higher for future climbers to shoot for.

From the Back Cover

"Very emotional and moving... a tale of the day-to-day toil of high altitude mountaineering... Recommended." *Library Journal*

"The book's strength is Roskelley's straightforward and concise style... his words have the ring of authenticity." *Rock & Ice*

"Here is clearly a man with a lot to say about adventure and the human spirit." *Backpacker Magazine*

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**Angela Hampton:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what you problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question simply because just their can do this. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on pre-school until university need that Last Days to read.

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