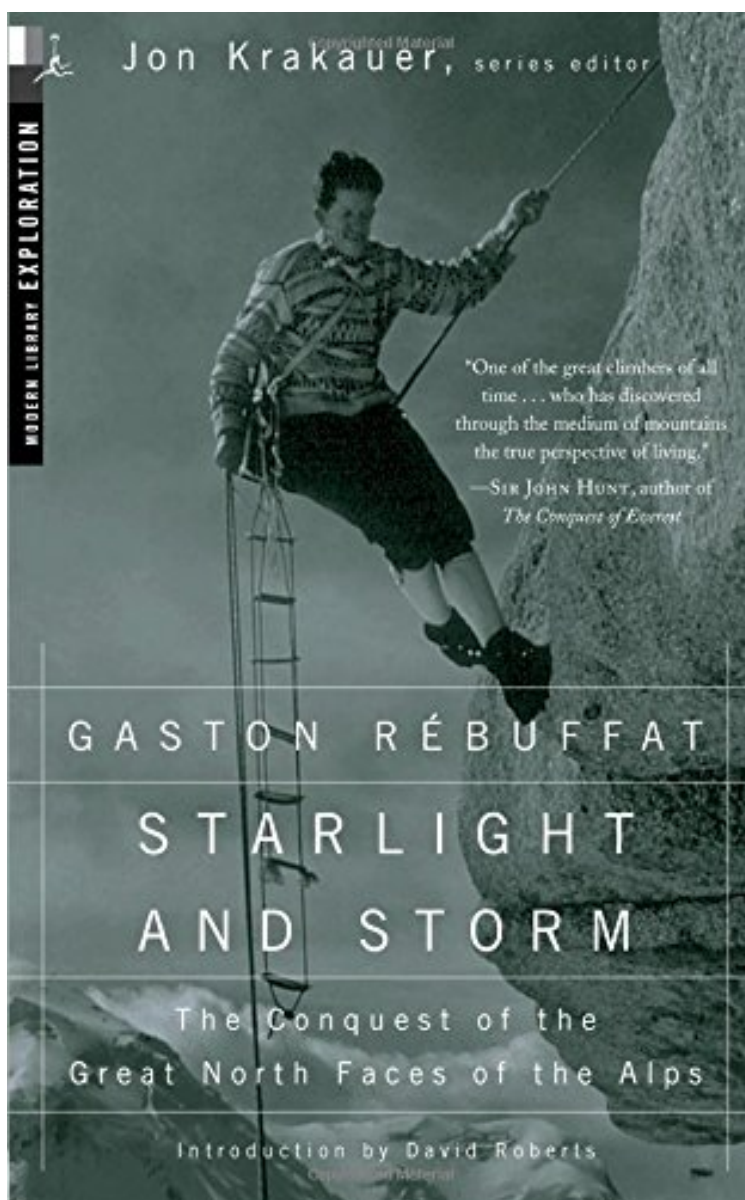


[Download pdf ebook] Starlight and Storm: The Conquest of the Great North Faces of the Alps (Modern Library Exploration)

Starlight and Storm: The Conquest of the Great North Faces of the Alps (Modern Library Exploration)

Gaston Rebuffat, Jon Krakauer
ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



#480600 in Books Modern Library 1999-09-07 1999-09-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.41 x .61 x 5.50l, .50 #File Name: 0375755063272 pagesGreat product! | File size: 19.Mb

Gaston Rebuffat, Jon Krakauer : Starlight and Storm: The Conquest of the Great North Faces of the Alps (Modern Library Exploration) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Starlight and Storm: The Conquest of the Great North Faces of the Alps (Modern Library Exploration):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Was a little water stained, but the vendor had ...By JakeSnakeWas a little water stained, but the vendor had already identified that, so I knew this before I ordered it. This book is worth the read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great adventureBy Layne T. OliverGaston tells a great mountain tale in an inspirational and poetic way! I found this book to be very inspirational! 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. One of the classicsBy A CustomerThis is a great book, one of the classics. However, I do agree with the reviewer who complains that there isn't enough stuff about the actual climbing. Not only did Rebuffat do many famous ascents, but he also climbed with the greatest French climbers of his generation, most notably fellow Annapurna expedition members Louis Lachenal and Lionel Terray -- and he basically never mentions them. It is as if Gaston was too humble, and thought no one would be interested -- but we are, we are! Anyone who enjoys this book needs to run not walk to find Lionel Terray's "Conquistadors of the Useless" which is very sadly out of print in English (although still a mainstay of French climbing literature). Not only do you get great stories of Gaston himself from Terray (including their ill-starred and hysterically funny attempt to run a farm together), but you also get all the blow by blow descriptions you could ever want of the big climbs -- the Walker, the Eiger, etc, -- as done by the legendary Lachenal-Terray rope. Also, look out for "True Summit" by David Roberts, a new history of the Annapurna expedition which is due to be released later this Spring. And if you read French, try the two hot books in French climbing circles these days: Rebuffat's recently published biography and Louis Lachenal's memoirs ("Carnets du Vertige")... not to mention Rebuffat's several other books and, yes, even movies!

One of the great climbers of all time . . . who has discovered through the medium of mountains the true perspective of living. Sir John Hunt, author of *The Conquest of Everest* Known for his lyrical writing and his ability to convey not only the dangers of mountaineering but the pure exaltation of the climb, Gaston Rbuffat is among the most well-known and revered Alpinists of all time. He rose to international prominence in 1950 as one of the four principal stalwarts in the first ascent of Annapurna, the highest mountain climbed at that time. Yet his finest feat as a mountaineer was to be the first man to climb all six of the legendary great north faces of the Alps: the Grandes Jorasses, the Piz Badile, the Dru, the Matterhorn, the Cima Grande di Lava-redo, and the Eiger. With this elegant book, first published in 1954, Gaston Rbuffat transformed mountain writing. His insistence on seeing a climb as an act of harmonious communion with the mountain, not a battle waged against it, seemed radical at the time, though Rbuffat's aesthetic has since won the day. Through storms, avalanches, rock fall, unplanned bivouacs, and even the deaths of companions, we follow the Chamonix guide to the altar of his communion, on dark, icy walls that struck terror into the hearts of Europe's finest mountaineers. Nor are these deft narratives mere recitations of dangers faced and obstacles overcome, for Rbuffat pays as keen attention to the joys of comradeship won on these faces as he does to the climbs themselves. In our own day of corporate sponsorships, online expeditions, and eco-vacations, the purity of Rbuffat's vision of the Alps as (in the epithet of the title of another of his books) an enchanted garden shines forth in prose as fresh and stylish as any ever lavished on mountaineering.

.com From the 1920s to the 1950s, the race was on in Europe to score first ascents of the most formidable routes in the Alps and Dolomites. Buoyed by the advent of artificial climbing techniques (primarily the use of pitons), teams from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Poland scaled the north faces of the Eiger, the Drus, the Matterhorn, the Grandes Jorasses, and other hallowed peaks, often pooling resources to obtain previously unimaginable success (and often tragedy), while the world below was ravaged by two brutal world wars. Noted French climbing guide Gaston Rbuffat lived at the center of this crucial era in mountaineering history. *Starlight and Storm*, first published in French in 1954 as *toiles et Temptes*, is his personal account of a rugged and glorious time before Gore-Tex, when men, soaked and chilled to the bone, sang to keep each other from falling asleep (forever) during exposed bivouacs in sub-zero degree snowstorms. Rbuffat's love of the climber's life is evident with each turn of the page. Where contemporary authors like Jon Krakauer, who provides this reissue's foreword, describe climbing in terms of nightmares and inner struggles, Rbuffat moves from one harrowing ascent to the next with uncommon gaiety and charm. "We have the instinct for it, the love of rocks and the necessary skill," he writes of time spent on the Drus, "so that we can climb without being worried by technical problems. Thus the whole climb was pure joy, for, while superficially watching over the actual ascent, the spirit had leisure to wander happily." The mysterious joy and lure of traversing earth's high places are expressed with a boyish innocence lost on much of today's climbing culture, making *Starlight and Storm* an enjoyable read, probably unlike any mountaineering journal you have ever encountered. -- Kristopher Kaiyala
From *Library Journal* The Modern Library is going straight to the top to launch its new "Exploration" series with this volume by R?buffat, a legendary mountaineering guide. Published in the 1950s, this recounts his numerous adventures scaling nature's greatest heights of ice and rock. Though you could get a nosebleed just reading this book, R?buffat allows the reader to experience adventures they otherwise could only dream about. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. Known for his lyrical writing and his ability to convey not only the dangers of mountaineering but the pure exaltation of the climb, Gaston Rbuffat is among the most well-known and revered Alpinists of all time. He rose to international prominence in 1950 as one of the four principal stalwarts in the

first ascent of Annapurna, the highest mountain climbed at that time. Yet his finest feat as a mountaineer was to be the first man to climb all six of the legendary great north faces of the Alps--the Grandes Jorasses, the Piz Badile, the Dru, the Matterhorn, the Cima Grande di Lava-redo, and the Eiger. With this elegant book, first published in 1954, Rbuffat transformed mountain writing. His insistence on seeing a climb as an act of harmonious communion with the mountain, not a battle waged against it, seemed radical at the time, though Rbuffat's aesthetic has since won the day. Through storms, avalanches, rock fall, unplanned bivouacs, and even the deaths of companions, we follow the Chamonix guide to the altar of his communion, on dark, icy walls that struck terror into the hearts of Europe's finest mountaineers. Nor are these deft narratives mere recitations of dangers faced and obstacles overcome, for Rbuffat pays as keen attention to the joys of comradeship won on these faces as he does to the climbs themselves. In our own day of corporate sponsorships, online expeditions, and eco-vacations, the purity of Rbuffat's vision of the Alps as (in the epithet of the title of another of his books) an "enchanted garden" shines forth in prose as fresh and stylish as any ever lavished on mountaineering. Gaston Rbuffat was born on May 7, 1921, in Marseilles, France. He was a recipient of France's prestigious Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. He died in Paris on May 31, 1985. Jon Krakauer is the author of *Into Thin Air*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Into the Wild*. His work has appeared in many magazines, including *Outside*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Geographic*. He chose the books in the Modern Library Exploration series for their literary merit and historical significance--and because he found them such a pleasure to read.