

(Download) Last of His Kind: The Life and Adventures of Bradford Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer

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Von David Roberts

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Von David Roberts : Last of His Kind: The Life and Adventures of Bradford Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Last of His Kind: The Life and Adventures of Bradford Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A

Driven Mountaineer Von Martin A Hogan Author David Roberts gives a thorough and fascinating examination of mountaineer Bradford Washburn from his childhood in Massachusetts to his travels around the globe. Washburn was born into a life of plenty never wanting even through the Great Depression. He was properly schooled and initially not much of an athlete, but his love of mountaineering overtook his life. Beginning in the Presidential Range of new Hampshire and countless climbs of Mt. Washington, Washburn is shown to have a natural affinity to the mountains, be it summer or winter. At an early age he was exploring the Alps, outpacing even he most experienced of climbers. Roberts describes some of the harrowing experiences Washburn and his companions endeavored, most notably in Alaska, where gigantic glaciers, changing moraines, raging rivers and relentless weather tested their abilities. Throughout the book, stories of friendship bonded and tested by accomplishments and setbacks set the motif. Indeed, Washburn was an individualist, but rallied many famous fellow mountain climbers to set record (or 'bag' peaks). He was among the first of many to climb McKinley (twice; his second wife being the first woman), K2, Everest and many others. Washburn was also an expert photographer, often balancing heavy photography equipment at the open door of a small airplane to photograph the highest and wildest of peaks in Alaska, noting various routes that would make climbing safer and faster. He was one of the first to use planes to drop food and supplies along a climbing route to ensure the best of gear was available. Also an expert cartographer, Washburn was able to map many areas, including the then unknown St. Elias area in Alaska and large portions of the Grand Canyon. Much of his climbing was financed through the National Geographic Society which was always a tumultuous marriage. However, it was the NGS that received the greater of the goods. After many years we read that Washburn also became director of the prestigious Museum of Science in Boston. The book also includes many harrowing stories of being stranded in week-long snowstorms, treacherous climbing attempts and the tragedy of many lives lost or ruined on mountain climbs. Washburn lost many friends in accidents, including his first wife in a sad plane incident. Sometimes the reader wonders what drives the obsession of this mountain climber. There is no great search for the inner workings of Washburn here nor much examination of his personality. The author did meet Washburn, but much of the biography is told from other writings and accounts. In the end, Washburn would have accumulated eleven honorary doctorates along with his own degree from Harvard, a great contributor to the National Geographic Society and his own Museum of Science. Washburn led a fascinating long life and the stories are breathtaking. But there is a lost feeling about his character, as you feel like with all you read about this amazing mountaineer, you never really got to know him. If anything, however, you do get a overpowering sense of the drive Robert Washburn held for exploration and mountain climbing.

Kurzbeschreibung Stunning and stirring. Boston Globe In *The Last of His Kind*, renowned adventure writer David Roberts gives readers a spellbinding history of mountain climbing in the twentieth century as told through the biography of Brad Washburn, legendary mountaineering pioneer and photographer. Jon Krakauer, author of *Into Thin Air*, has praised David Roberts, saying, Nobody alive writes better about mountaineering and nowhere is that truth more evident than in this breathtaking account of the life and exploits of America's greatest mountain climber.

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Buchrückseite American Brad Washburn's impact on his protégés and imitators was as profound as that of any other adventurer in the twentieth century. Unquestionably regarded as the greatest mountaineer in Alaskan history and as one of the finest mountain photographers of all time, Washburn transformed American attitudes toward wilderness and revolutionized the art of mountaineering and exploration in the great ranges. In *The Last of His Kind*, National Geographic Adventure contributing editor David Roberts goes beyond conventional biography to reveal the essence of this man through the prism of his extraordinary exploits from New England to Chamonix, and from the Himalayas to the Yukon. An exciting narrative of mountain climbing in the twentieth century, *The Last of His Kind* brings into focus Washburn's deeds in the context of the history of mountaineering, and provides a fascinating look at an amazing culture and the influential icon who shaped it.