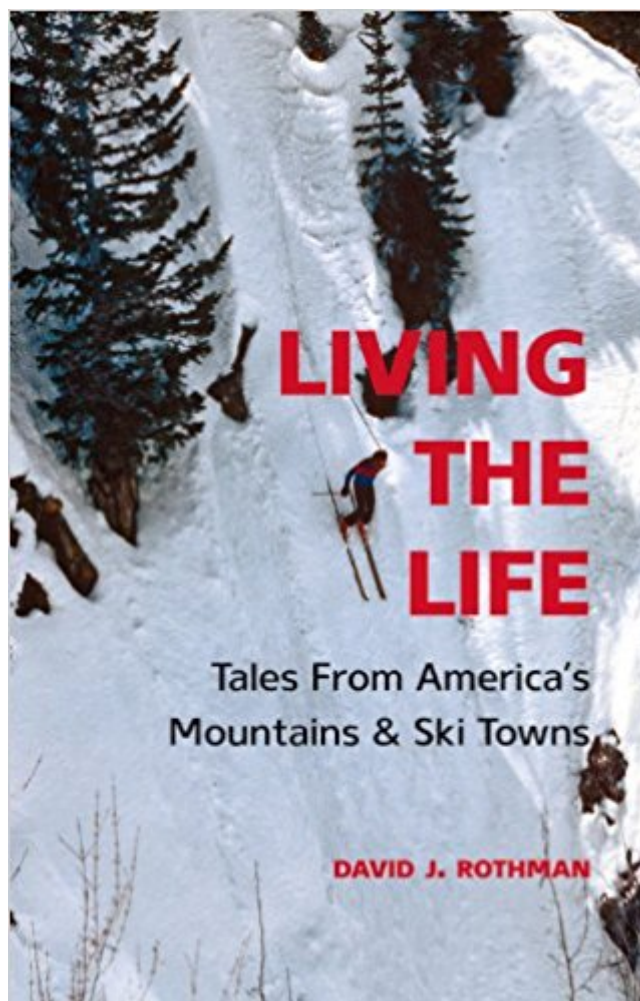


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# Living The Life: Tales From America's Mountains & Ski Towns



## Synopsis

Skiing--like surfing, fishing, sailing, mountaineering and climbing--is an environment sport. It doesn't come to us--we must go to the places where it happens. The ones who are most committed to these places, who fall deeply in love with mountains and the alpine life, are not only athletes, but rather people who have chosen to live their lives in a particular way. This is a book for all those people--for the skiers, the climbers, the alpinists and the people who love mountains and live in them, for all those who have ever lived that life or who dream of living it. In thirty-eight tales of adventure and self-discovery, adrenaline and honesty, Rothman reveals the soul skier's *raison d'être*: to find exhilaration, faith, grief, laughter, love, and everything else that truly matters in the heart of the mountains.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is a select few who let their passion dictate their lifestyle. Doing so requires the sacrifice of a certain sense of normalcy, but the payback is tenfold in experiences that are extraordinary.

Rothman is one of those few, and he articulates the highs, and lows, of that life choice perfectly in these pages. *Living the Life* is about one man's relationship with the mountains, but the stories are applicable to anyone who lets his passion lead the way. Derek Taylor, editor, *mtnadvisor.com*, and former editor, *Poet*, powderhound, musician, ex-racer, teacher, philosopher all sides of Renaissance man David Rothman are on display in this collection, which ranges from satire to whimsy to the profoundly grateful and the essential questioning. Emerson? Check. Thoreau? Check. Petrarch? Only David Rothman would put Petrarch in a story about skiing's earthly

enjoyment.' In a voice that sparkles with intelligence, he is capable, in the end, of deep sincerity . . . David Rothman is a writer who skis and a skier who writes, very well. Peter Shelton, author,

David J. Rothman is a former NCAA Div. I alpine ski racer, mountain sports journalist, and ski-and-snowboard-academy headmaster who currently teaches creative writing and composition at the university level. He is cofounder of the Crested Butte Music Festival and poet-in-residence for Colorado Public Radio. He lives in Boulder,Â Colorado.

Beautifully written, a collection of essays and the occasional poem about a sport - sort of - but more, about a way of life. These little stories transport us to mountains in New England, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, Utah - I can't remember them all. The skiing is phenomenal, but there is so much more here. These are stories of living in community, raising self-reliant children, having grand adventures, and discovering deeper meaning in life. I didn't love every one of these stories, but as a whole I loved this book. How wonderful to be transported for a few hours into the high peaks out west, to imagine the view, to feel the speed, to meet the people who give meaning to David Rothman's life.

"Living the Life" is the best book about skiing and life I've ever read. David Rothman has seemingly organized his entire life around skiing and lived it with enthusiasm, curiosity, and humor. The book consists of 35 short essays and is both a memoir and a meditation about skiing as a way of life that touches "far more than mountains and snow--it comes in contact," as Rothman says, "with friendship ...grief, ambition, faith ...remorse... and regret, which is to say: everything that matters." Rothman grew up and learned to ski on the east coast. Like many others, he graduated from alpine skiing to alpine racing and then from area skiing to backcountry skiing. His metamorphosis paralleled a geographic shift that brought him west: to Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado, a migration brought on by a chance year off devoted to skiing and racing. His deepest ties are to, and some of the very best stories are about, Crested Butte and Boulder, Colorado and all the many skiable peaks in between. This is not a book like Chris Davenport's account of skiing all the 14,000 foot peaks in Colorado in a year, an epic adventure by an extraordinarily skilled climber, skier, and winter mountaineer. What makes this book work is not Rothman's exploits so much (although his account and the accompanying photos of him dropping into "Spit" for Brains at Snowbird is scary enough) as Rothman's skill as a writer. He writes with clarity, grace, and with a poet's awareness of the tenuousness of life, the fragility of relationships,

and the importance of asking why skiing matters, where the mountains end, when do turns stop, and how we will ski if we completely destroy the alpine environment? What makes this book work is not Rothman's exploits so much (although his account and the accompanying photos of him dropping into "Spit" for Brains at Snowbird is scary enough) as Rothman's skill as a writer. He writes with clarity, and grace and with a poet's awareness of the tenuousness of life, the fragility of relationships, and the importance of asking: why skiing matters, where the mountains end, when do turns stop, and how we will ski if we destroy the environmental conditions it requires? Rothman is a storyteller and the many stories in "Living the Life" range from those that describe a particular skiing adventure (and the friends who were also there) to those that describe the small town life of Crested Butte or simply a memory from his past, for example, of skateboarding outside his father's "dusty office where he went to document the unheralded alienation of the elites." I'm a telemark skier so was partial to Rothman's stories of telemarking or trying to, but there are stories enough here for all who inhabit the winter world outdoors armed only with planks and poles and persistence. If you are a skier (alpine, telemark or backcountry) you'll want someone to give this to you for your birthday, Christmas, or Hanukkah. If you know a skier, you'll make her happy if you put "Living the Life" in her stocking. And if you are not a skier but just want to understand what makes skiers (and snowboarders) tick, why we live for cold, steep mountains and the people in them, buy it for yourself. No other book has ever explained or explored the skiing life so well.

Rothman's essays read like hero bumps on tele skis, like running effortlessly from one bump to another, eagerly anticipating the next rise and shift of legs. I enjoyed each chapter and wanted to linger there even though I couldn't wait to get to the next one. But then it was over, too quickly, with no way back up for another run. At least not until the next book comes out. -Mark Heller, Crested Butte expat to the Front Range

I read this book in one great gulp, not because I'm a skier but because I'm a devourer of David Rothman's writing. But as I read, a miracle happened: by the end of Living the Life I had become a skier. What Rothman does so skillfully is first to grab you with the power of his story-telling, and then he hauls you up into the mountains with him, and cuts you loose on the steepest slopes. Believe me, the book's a rush!

A truly delightful way to enjoy skiing even when you can't be on the slopes. Rothman's stories "some hilarious, some poignant" add up to more than a memoir. With

eloquence, humor, erudition, and a mountain of insider Å™s experience, he leads us on a captivating tour of skiing, skiers, ski towns, and the magnificent outdoors where it all happens.

huge disappointment. not really about skiing. A chapter "On going to bed" describing amazing places where he's had sex just to conclude that "it is better to sleep in bed". Another chapter "a few lists for telemark skiers" including one "top 10 reasons telemark skiing is better than sex". Another chapter where he describes his neighbors: the owner of the flower shop, the owner of the bar with all kinds of domestic details, people you don't know and don't care about what they wear or their accents. Another chapter with the names and menu of fast food places he likes to eat at after skiing. Only a couple of good stories about skiing or life in a mountain town. The rest is just ridiculous.

Hmmm well pretty boring. The stories are like 1 page little tidbits. No real "story" about ski life towns. Eh, don't really recommend.

This book spoke to my inner ski bum. I recommend it to anyone who is Å™ or is considering Å™ living the mountain life.

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