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LIFE AND DEATH ON HIGH

Adventure book explores world of extreme skiing

Milford, NJ—It’s tempting to write off extreme skiers as a bunch of adrenaline junkies who get their kicks soaring off cliffs and dodging avalanches in terrain where one slip means certain death. But author, filmmaker, and former pro skier William A. Kerig paints a very different picture. His new book, *The Edge of Never*, is not only a ripping adventure tale about a young skier coming of age but a frank and subtle portrait of the highly skilled and courageous adventurers who “live big” in the face of death and risk everything to experience the fullness of life in the mountains.

The story is centered on Kye Petersen, a young professional skier whose father, Trevor Petersen—one of the most famous skiers of his day—was killed in an avalanche in the French Alps in 1996. Nearly a decade later, fifteen-year-old Kye travels to France to ski the run that took his father’s life and, with the aid of some of the world’s greatest ski mountaineers, to become a member of skiing’s big-mountain tribe.

There to chronicle Kye’s story is William A. Kerig, a filmmaker with a dream of his own—to create a documentary about the soul of big-mountain skiing and the band of mountaineers who ski the steepest, wildest, most dangerous terrain in the world. Kerig sells the film idea to a production company owned by the late television newsman Peter Jennings and must balance his ambitions as a filmmaker against the safety of his crew and the skiers, especially young Kye. The results are both triumphant and tragic.

This “raging good read [is] as thrilling as anything [Alfred] Lansing or [Jon] Krakauer has written,” reports Betsy Burton, owner of The King’s English bookstore in Salt Lake City, Utah. “In the end, *The Edge of Never* takes us beyond mountains, beyond snow and ice and danger and into the heart of family.”

The film *The Edge of Never* is presently in postproduction. It is expected to be released in fall 2009.

The Edge of Never

By William A. Kerig

November • paperback • 256 pages • \$15.95 • ISBN -13: 978-0-9656338-4-0

Available wherever fine books are sold

Stone Creek Publications • 908-995-0016 • www.stonecreekpublications.com

Distributed to the book trade by IPG (800-888-4741)

About the author:

William A. Kerig is the co-producer of *Steep*, a feature documentary about big-mountain skiing produced by PJ Productions, owned by the late ABC anchorman Peter Jennings. A professional skier for ten years, Kerig is editorial director of the *Wasatch Journal* and a former contributing editor to *Skiing* magazine. His work has appeared in such magazines as *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal*, *Fast Company*, *Ski* and *Powder*. He lives in Salt Lake City with his wife and two children.