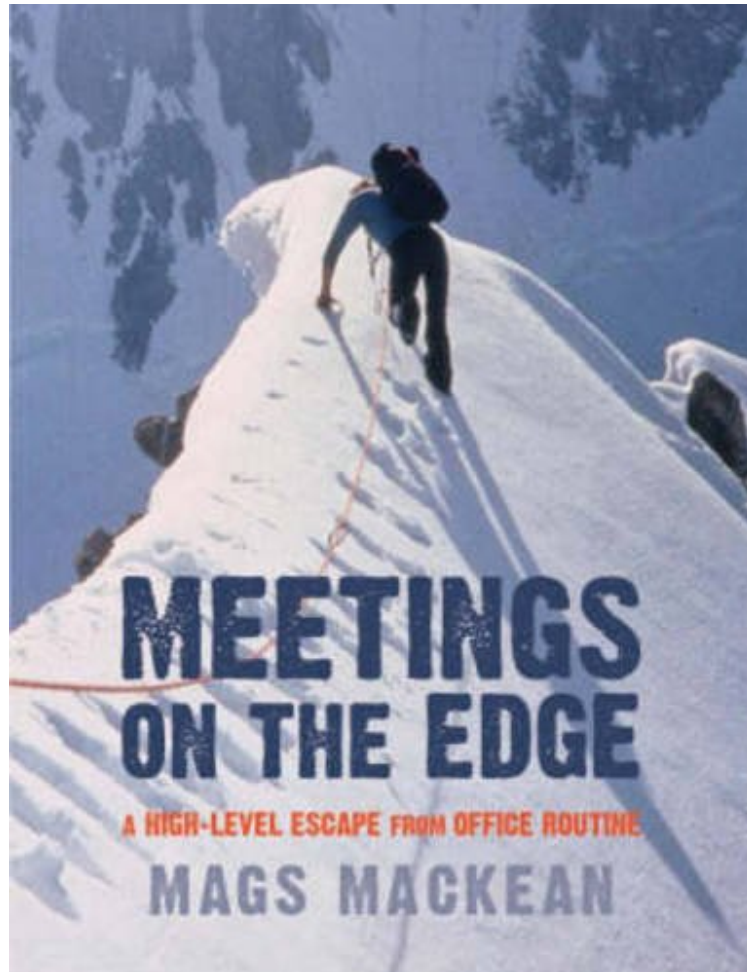


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Meetings on the Edge: A High-level Escape from Office Routine

Mags MacKean

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Mags MacKean : Meetings on the Edge: A High-level Escape from Office Routine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Meetings on the Edge: A High-level Escape from Office Routine:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. SA Spellbinding Travel MemoirBy HorsemarineFrom the first sentence to the last, this book captured my attention. I found it very hard to put down.Mags McKean did what many of us dream of doing, but few of us do. She gave up a promising 10-year career with the BBC to become a mountaineer. She tells us about her adventures and her thoughts and feelings, letting us very much into her mind and heart. It is told as a series of tales within a tale. The backbone of the book is he story of he solo expedition along the Pyrenees, from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean; a considerable tale in itself. During this story, she breaks off to tell us about other expeditions in Alaska, New Zealand and Nepal. For all the exotic settings, the stars of the show are the people the author meets, ranging from a "flasher" in the Pyrenees to Nepal's greatest film idol, and a host of others. The title is

an apt one. This is really what the book is about. It is well written, in good English (not so common, nowadays) and eminently readable. Read it!

"Meetings On The Edge" is a travel memoir by a once-frustrated journalist for the BBC, who took the plunge and abandoned a ten year career to follow her dream to become a mountaineer. This book explores the impact of a solitary journey as well as unexpected encounters with fascinating people along the way. The different natural environments mirror the demands of an evolving quest. The many lessons of nature's classroom are against a background of adventure, discovery and considerable personal risk. Like all quests, the incidental insights and surprising events challenge the romantic idea of adventure. Stories from Alaska, the Pacific North West, the Himalaya and New Zealand's Southern Alps are interwoven into the central adventure of traversing the French and Spanish Pyrenees alone. Tales to highlight include encountering a naked and all too aroused flasher far off the beaten track, a colourful relationship with Nepal's most famous civilian, a film star, two weeks after the royal massacre, and summiting Denali, North America's highest peak, while the expedition dwindled from 9 to just 4 due to life-threatening illness and mishap. But it was after a chance meeting with a wise Maori man and a solitary encounter with a 2000 year old Kauri tree in an ancient forest, that the author experiences an epiphany: that a restless, goal-driven life is not the most fulfilling. This book ends in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where the freedom she has experienced is in marked contrast to the security-conscious existence of those living there. The electric gates, fencing and hedgerows project a community in fear of those very open spaces which had broadened her horizons.

About the Author Mags MacKean was born and raised at sea level, the youngest of four daughters. A love of mountains struck some years later. Her spartan schooling near the wild Scottish Highlands exposed her to the freedom of the outdoors, not so much to scale its heights, but for the cover it provided for illicit smoking and swilling a heady mix of rum and irn-bru. A chance trip to Kilimanjaro changed everything. As a radio and TV news reporter, Mags uprooted from London and moved to Glasgow for the mountains. After three generously sanctioned career breaks, she finally obeyed her restless calling and quit her job in 2005. She has since roamed in some of the world's remotest mountain areas, often alone and needing all her resources during some surprise adventures. Mags spent much of last year working with Tibetan refugees in north India while researching for her next book, a novel about their life in exile. She has attended the prestigious Banff Mountain Writing Programme.