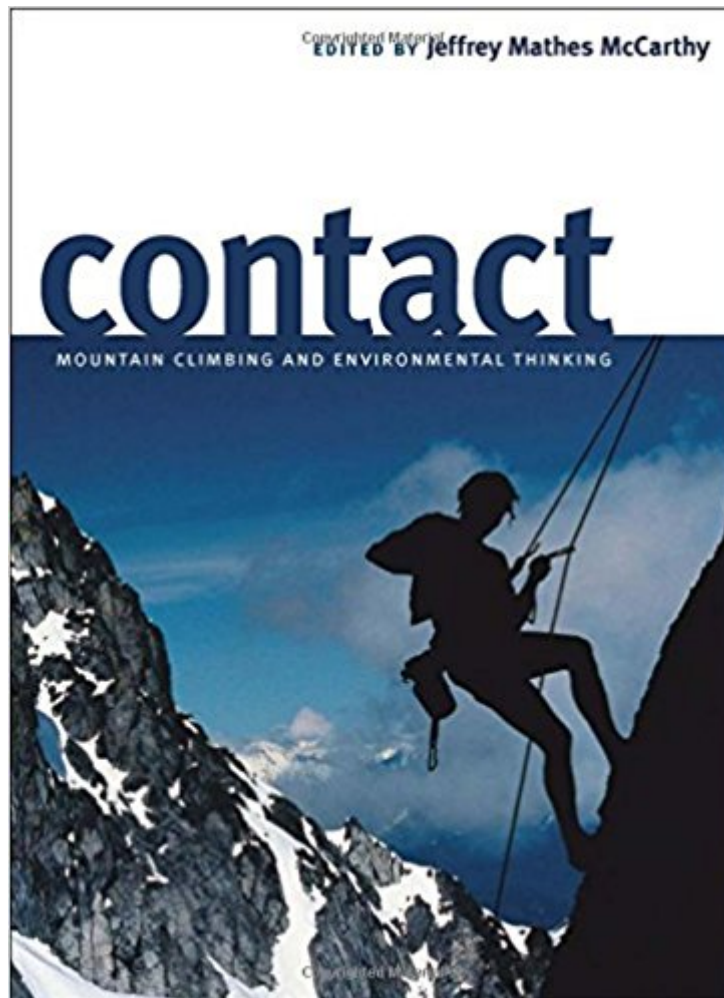




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# Contact: Mountain Climbing And Environmental Thinking



## Synopsis

Contact collects new and classic first-person climbing stories from North America's best-known climbers and writers. Mountain climbers are important but overlooked commentators on the environment, and this collection of alpine adventures demonstrates the relationship between climbers and nature both for a popular audience and for academics working in the field of environmental literature. Contributors include Gary Snyder, John Daniel, Chris McNamara, and Greg Child.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: University of Nevada Press; 1 edition (March 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874177464

ISBN-13: 978-0874177466

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,106,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Rural Life #832 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Environmentalists & Naturalists #1287 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Mountaineering > Mountain Climbing

## Customer Reviews

“What McCarthy does here is not only bring together great stories; he contextualizes them in such a way as to create a paradigm for examining the impact humans have in even the most remote corners of the globe.” —Mikel Vause, author of *Peering Over the Edge: The Philosophy of Mountaineering*.

Jeffrey Mathes McCarthy is chair of environmental studies and associate professor of English at Westminster College. He has climbed mountains in Asia, Africa, and Europe, and his work has been published in academic journals and climbing magazines.

A fascinating and insightful book, that shows how climbing and mountaineering writing has evolved. The earliest style of mountaineering writing is of "conquest" which ties into idea of manifest destiny

and exploration of a wild frontier. Then McCarthy goes on to show how this changed to the idea of, as he says, "caretaking," the idea of protecting these same mountains and rocks--but still regarding them as "other." Then, in a finale, comes another shift in thinking, to the concept of "connecting," the idea that we and the rocks we climb on are really connected on a deeper level, and we can work with the rock itself--an essay by Lynn Hill illustrates this well. In fact the entire arc of the book is amply illustrated by careful choices of essays. As such, the book shows how climbing rocks can be more than mere sport, but a way to reconnect with a part of ourselves that is often forgotten.

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