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The Best of His Kind?

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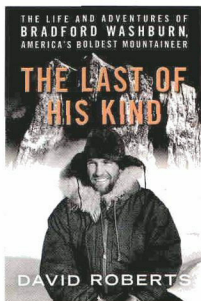
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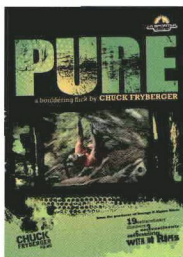
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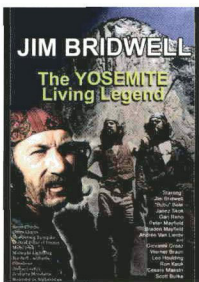
The Best of His Kind?

Alex Lowe once said the best climber was the one having the most fun. Bradford Washburn vied for that prize, his life newly explored in David Roberts' *The Last of His Kind: the Life and Adventures of Bradford Washburn, America's Boldest Mountaineer* (\$25.99, barpercollins.com). Washburn—who by 17 had already published books on his Alps adventures—made visionary FAs in Alaska and the Yukon, including Denali's West Buttress. Director of the Boston Museum of Science, he became legendary for his stunning aerial mountain photos and detailed maps of Denali, Everest, and the Grand Canyon. Over time, Washburn accrued a haulbag of medals and shaped a generation of American climbers. In this illuminating book, Roberts pulls no punches, dissecting both Washburn's brightest triumphs and darkest tragedies. —Fred Bryant



Pure Gold

No ropes. No gear. No problem. In Chuck Fryberger's latest bouldering flick, *Pure* (\$29.95, chuckfryberger.com), the filmmaker has stripped climbing to its essence, leaving nothing but crushingly hard moves on chunks of stone worldwide. Along with mind-blowing ticks from the grip-masters Kilian Fischhuber, Nalle Hukkataival, Kevin Jorgeson, Fred Nicole, Cody Roth, and Anna Stöhr, *Pure* also beautifully conveys the aesthetics of each destination—six countries total—with a pumpin' soundtrack to match. Whether it's Hukkataival floating Sky (V14), in Rocklands, South Africa, or V13s in the snows of Austria, this flick leaves you awestruck, pure and simple. —Tucker Tyler



A Bird's Life

The fascinating film *Jim Bridwell: the Yosemite Living Legend* (\$29.95, michelradici.com/wordpress/?page_id=52) seeks to settle the question "Who is Jim Bridwell?". Over the next hour, we learn he's: the archetype of the Yosemite climber, with a 20-year Valley reign; standard pusher, with the first Nose in a day and FAs of the *Aquarian Wall*, *Sea of Dreams*, and *Pacific Ocean Wall*; gear inventor; YOSAR lion; and ground-up purist. ("This lack of commitment isn't right. It's like painting a mustache on the Mona Lisa," Bridwell laments.) One treat is 1981 footage from *Zodiac* (VI 5.11 A3+), in which Bridwell, aiding a naked corner, takes a 40-foot ripper after realizing he needs his copperheads. His response: "Shit!" and then, calmly, "I'll need the chisel, too." The movie also captures Bridwell's comedic side and Camp 4 culture, detailing, for instance, the electricity-siphoning "Operation Edison" and the iconic pic of Bridwell, Largo, and Billy Westbay in front of El Cap after their 1975 sprint up the Nose. —Kristin Bjornsen

ALSO OUT (for more, visit climbing.com/print/reviews)

■ Bring on the blue stuff! Two new ice guides—*San Juan Ice Climbs* (\$19.95, mountainworldmedia.com) and *Alpine Ice: the 600 best ice falls in the Alps* (€31.50, versantesud.it)—show the way.

■ For more of a *how* to ice-climb than a *where*, check out the comprehensive, color-photo-filled *Winter Climbing: the positive approach to improving your climbing* (£19.95, rockfax.com).