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## The Making of an Alpinist

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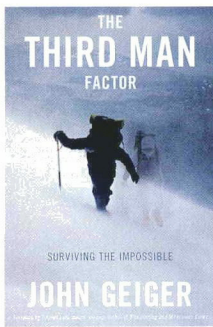
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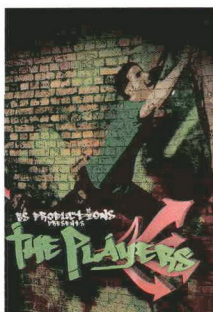
## REVIEWS



### The Shadow Person

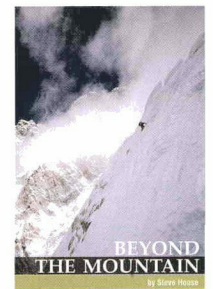
In 1916, while the marooned Sir Ernest Shackleton and two crew members fought fiercely for survival on South Georgia, they had the sensation that another, providential person accompanied them—that they “were four, not three,” as Shackleton wrote. This phenomenon—of sensing a beneficiary presence during extreme tribulation—became known as the Third Man Factor, and everyone from Reinhold Messner and Joe Simpson, to Charles Lindbergh and Aron Ralston, to astronauts and 9/11 survivors has reported it. In *The Third Man Factor* (\$24.95, [weinsteinbooks.com](http://weinsteinbooks.com)), John Geiger expertly blends harrowing accounts with scientific inquiry into the physical, neurological, and psychological elements common to these events. People have suggested myriad causes, from a guardian angel, to lack of oxygen, to an evolved coping mechanism. Whatever the case, Geiger offers a thorough, insightful examination.

—Joe Ferguson



### Play Time

“A player in the rock-climbing world is someone who’s there every single day,” says Dave Graham early in Brian Solano’s new DVD, *The Players* (\$19.99, [theplayersmovie.com](http://theplayersmovie.com)). “And they’re obsessed with climbing on an infinite level.” To be atop the rock game, like the film’s cast—Graham, Emily Harrington, Joe Kinder, Chris Lindner, Ethan Pringle, Alex Puccio, Lisa Rands, Chris Sharma, and Daniel Woods—you must put climbing before all other masters. Moving from locales as diverse as Moe’s Valley, Utah, to Yangshuo, China, to the Red, to Rifle, to Rocklands, Solano fills his hour-plus film with tight, solid, high-end (5.14+/V10+) eye candy. For me, the highlight came with Lindner and Joe Brooks deep-water soloing in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. Lindner is so psyched that he dons custom gloves to grab oozing, typhoon-slimed stalactites, showing just how far obsession can carry us. —Matt Samet



### The Making of an Alpinist

Want to know how a kid from Pullman, Washington, became who Reinhold Messner has called today’s best high-altitude climber? Then read *Beyond the Mountain* (\$29.95, [patagonia.com](http://patagonia.com)), wherein Steve House recounts his rugged path to the pinnacle of modern alpinism. Chock-full of spellbinding adventures, this autobiographical gem reveals as much about the author’s personality and motivations as his FAs. A nonstop 62-hour blitzkrieg on Denali’s South Face, epic winter ascents in the Canadian Rockies, solo FAs of 20,000-foot Karakoram peaks, a six-day, alpine-style ascent of the 14,000-foot Rupal Face of Nanga Parbat—House is the real deal, his book destined for the climbing-literature pantheon. —Fred Bryant

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• Doubling the first edition’s route count, *Tuolumne Free Climbs, Second Edition* (\$26.95, [supertopo.com](http://supertopo.com)) is a great color guide to 275 golden-granite trad and sport routes, mostly between 5.6 and 5.10.

• Wild Welsh sea cliffs, crashing waves, and cracks, slabs, and walls—all unlocked in the top-notch *Pembroke* (£20.95, [rockfax.com](http://rockfax.com)), the new guidebook to this UK trad mega-destination.