



THE EDGE OF NEVER

EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FATHER AND SON

In the opening acknowledgments of "The Edge of Never" (Stone Creek Publications), William Kerig states, "If writing a book about real events and real people requires an ironclad adherence to detached objectivity, then I am a failure." This couldn't be more accurate, as the sense of family and connectedness within the ski community is evident in each chapter. And readers shouldn't want it any other way.

"The Edge of Never" tells the true story of then-15-year-old Kye Petersen, one of skiing's brightest young stars, and his journey three years ago to memorialize his father, the great Trevor Petersen. Originally conceptualized as a full-length feature film on extreme skiing, Kye's journey was developed almost entirely by Kerig. During the making of the movie, however, the plot was changed after the filmmaker's key sponsor, Peter Jennings, died. With a new direction for the film, Kerig was subsequently removed from the project. The new producers replaced the original idea with what would become the big-mountain documentary *Steep*.

Though Kerig was disappointed, it left him the opportunity to write the story he envisioned in the first place: Kye's struggle as a teenager and a skier to reconcile his father's death, and his journey to the accident site—the Exit Couloir on Chamonix's Glacier Rond.

Transcending the boundaries of sport, the book tells a deeply interpersonal and moving human story. Yet Kerig, a former professional mogul skier and publisher/editor of *Wasatch Journal*, stays true to the roots and core values that define the culture of skiing. Family and

friends are all key aspects of his work, and these come to light through the intricate network of support that is set up around Kye. One of the most touching moments is the encounter between ski mountaineering pioneer Anselme Baud and Kye. Besides showing Kye how to ski Chamonix (and even throwing his own style 3), Baud delves into a personal account of the death of his own son in the Gervasutti Couloir (see page 64). The tragic connection between the two skiers is eerie, and Kye seems to gain a respect and admiration for Chamonix that was absent beforehand.

For all its skiing bravado, the book does not overwhelm the reader as it sheds this skin and delves deeper—becoming a story about a son connecting with his father the only way he knows how. Fans of Kye will appreciate the book and come to respect his abilities as a skier that much more.

In some ways, Kerig envisions Kye in light of his own family. As a skier and father, Kerig's own paternal instincts force him to look at his life and ultimately bring him closer to skiing and his family. —**Corey Hennegan**