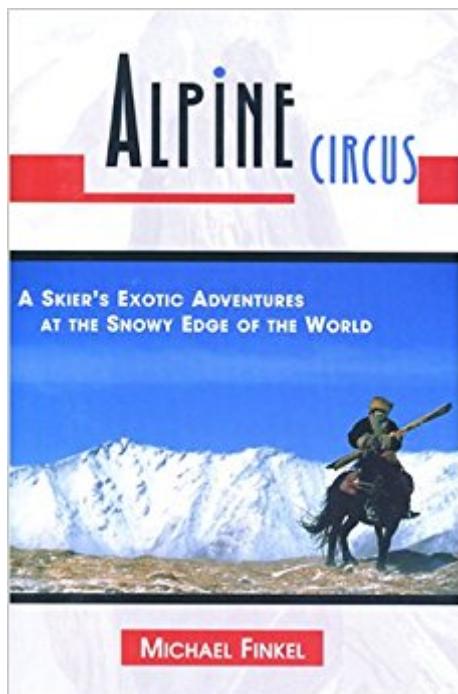


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Alpine Circus: A Skier's Exotic Adventures At The Snowy Edge Of The World



Synopsis

From the underside of an avalanche to the summit of Kilimanjaro, this collection of seventeen mesmerizing, often uproarious tales capture the wonders of the world's snowy regions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA—"Skiing ruined my life." This simple, forthright statement will hook readers. This book is a collection of 17 of Finkel's skiing adventures, many of which were previously published in Skiing magazine. The author skied on the slopes of Iran where women ski on separate slopes and only if they wear a black skirt over their ski pants and not a wisp of hair is visible. He skied with Mongolian herdsmen who taught themselves the sport when the government sent them used equipment. He jumped out of helicopters to snowboard on Alaska's Chugach Mountain. He even skied "The Toothbrush," a plastic surface of white PVC bristles, when he entered the British Dry Ski Slopes Championship. He finds adventure, humor, and insight at every turn. Give this book to any ski buff or armchair traveler. They'll get a great lesson in geography, world cultures, and human nature. Jane S. Drabkin, Potomac Community Library, Woodbridge, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Finkel has been a contributing editor to Skiing magazine (as well as other sports and general publications) for the last ten years and an avid skier since the age of five. For this book, he has compiled stories about his adventures. Ranging from humorous to exciting to death-defying, these stories span five continents and 12 winters. Finkel takes the reader places not normally associated

with skiing, like Iran (where even women ski), Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Mount Kilimanjaro, Greenland, New York City, and even an interstate truck ramp. His stories are filled with the varied, fascinating people he meets along the way; and he shows insight into the different cultures, histories, geologies, and geographies of the places he visits. Lots of fun for the armchair traveler and world adventurer alike. AMelinda Stivers Leach, Precision Editorial Svcs., Wondervu, CO

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There are probably many people like me that read Michael Finkel's *Stranger In The Woods* and that's how we became acquainted with him. I liked the book and I liked his style of writing. So when I went to see what else he's written I was excited to learn he wrote a book about skiing many places. You see, skiing is a major passion of mine. This book is not only about skiing but it is an education about geography. Who knew there was skiing in Iran? I didn't begin skiing at a young age and I am convinced the best skiers as Michael did, begin at a very young age. The fact is, after reading and enjoying every story if I could ski with anyone for a day it would be Michael Finkel. Five stars are warranted!

Most ski writers are middle-aged-plus travel hacks more interested in the hotel than the hill. Not Finkel. Almost uniquely among widely-published ski journalists, he's more interested in descents than dinner, and it's fun to travel vicariously through his work. *Alpine Circus* is essentially a compendium of columns originally published in *SKIING* magazine. All are interesting. Most are funny. One -- the piece on Sarajevo -- is intensely moving. Four stars out of five. While very enjoyable, the book doesn't fully display Finkel's remarkable talent as a writer. Hopefully, future collections will. You'll see a lot more of his work... he's still a mere sprat.

If you enjoy skiing, this is a must read. I love to ski, and this is the best book about skiing out there. It's been a while since I read this book, but it's still on my shelves. An essay I particularly liked was the story about a visit to an Iranian ski area where the religious police segregate the slopes into his and her sides of the mountain. Another great story was of a hike up Kilamanjaro and the ski back down. Great stuff.

Three thumbs up. Now I don't have to launch myself off a 40 meter ski jump or attempt a 60-degree couloir . . . Mr. Finkel has done it for me. But skiing is just the thread that weaves this collection of diverse stories together as the book touches on Iranian politics, ski development in China (or lack

thereof), the war in Sarajevo, pre-Salt Lake City Olympic bribery, and countless others. Having said that, there's also enough enjoyable virgin pistes and well-carved turns (on skis, telemarks, and snowboards) to satisfy the most selfish powder pig.

I'm only halfway through, and already this book is a favorite. Finkel expertly interweaves breathtaking ski adventures with fascinating glimpses into the local cultures these incredible journeys have taken him to. Highlights include his groundbreaking trek to Iran, a thrilling run in northern China, and a poignant discussion in the western U.S. involving a man with no arms and no legs. Highly recommended.

If you have a passion for skiing and traveling, this is the book for you! It's an easy read - several short stories about the author's ski adventures in the U.S. and abroad. A very enjoyable book that's hard to put down...you just want to keep reading on to his next adventure.

My wife got me this book for Christmas. I finished it the next morning! Wonderful stories about skiing in Iran, China, Bolivia etc. all told with verve and tremendous skill. I love skiing, but anyone who enjoys reading about adventure will love these stories. **BUY THIS BOOK!**

A great collection of unforgettable skiing stories that takes you around the globe to some of the most remote areas of the world. After reading every authors stop, you feel as if you've been there also. Easy to read, funny, and worth reading again and again...

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