



Great routes, great writing. It was a special time, this Golden Age of Yosemite climbing. Virgin walls soared 3,000 feet. Immense pinnacles had golden eagles atop them, but no cairns. The phrase “kids in a candy store” springs to mind. Excited by such possibilities, climbers who barely knew what they were up against swarmed up new routes, and then, as if to further savor their adventures, put pen to paper.

Steve Roper presents fifty-four selections that represent the most interesting and significant literary output about Yosemite climbing from its beginnings, in 1933, until 1974. Sixty-seven photographs and illustrations.

Front cover, The Great Chimney,  
Washington Column Direct Route, 1957.  
Photo by Henry Kendall. Back cover,  
The Valley, photo by Glen Denny.

Published by the Stanford University Libraries.  
Printed and bound in the United States.  
Please contact the publisher for orders:  
rawlings@stanford.edu



Steve Roper

ORDEAL BY PITON

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

# ORDEAL BY PITON

*Writings from the  
Golden Age of  
Yosemite Climbing*

Edited by Steve Roper

