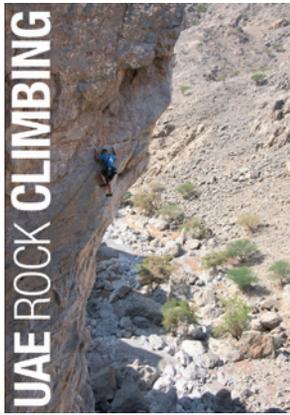


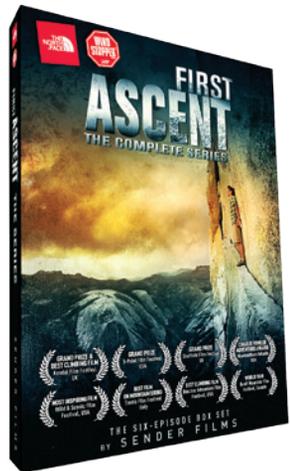
To his credit, the author makes extensive reference to more specialized source materials or those only briefly covered in this book (e.g. first aid, mental training, and avalanche safety). Having established their own methods, an experienced alpinist might disagree with aspects of the book and the hard-core sport climber may not find it grounded in the latest in sports science, but the all-round climber seeking to make the transition from recreational to serious can certainly use it as a resource.—Tom Valis



UAE Rock Climbing
Toby Foord-Kelcey
Red Armada Publishing, 2009

How's this for a route description? Find 34th street, an anonymous street parallel to 32nd street and take it to a small public beach. Avoid the container traffic and kayak across the channel to find a cluster of boulders made of soft, largely unusable, sandy material capped by a brittle layer of limestone biscuit. Or how about: charter a dhow to take you up the coast, swim to cliff, and surmount the ubiquitous undercut to be found in low-mid tide to get on the route. Most of the climbing in the UAE is not quite so adventurous, requiring only a 4WD vehicle, phrasebook knowledge of Arabic, and a willingness to head out into

unmarked border territory in neighbouring Oman. Stepping off an A380 in Dubai, forsaking the shopping, and heading out into the Gulf mountains is not without its rewards: truck-side sport climbing aplenty, multi-pitch chossaneering with little chance of rescue, the opportunity to explore remote areas without encountering another party for days, or alternatively, sharing a campfire with climbers from Egypt or Palestine. This is a well produced, glossy guidebook to an area off the register for most North American climbers, and serves to remind how cosmopolitan the quest to pursue rock has become. As the author writes, it's not the premier climbing destination in the Middle East. That accolade he reserves for the Wadi Rum in Jordan.—Tom Valis



First Ascent: The Complete Series
Sender Films

Climbing DVDs can show you great footage of great climbers on great routes. But for a deeper understanding and admiration of the locales, routes and climbers, a complete story is required.

First Ascent: The Series box set released by Sender Films fills in the gaps and reveals a full image of what revolves around some of climbing's greatest routes and characters. The box set contains six episodes with spectacular footage of incredibly talented climbers in some of the world's best climbing areas. The production quality is incredible and raises the bar for how climbing films should look. However, it's the candid segments of the climbers away from the rock that are in some ways most compelling.

These moments help build an understanding about their lives, their thoughts, wishes and struggles. The fourth episode, *Point of No Return*, exemplifies the insights viewers will have watching this film, as it's composed primarily of clips from the late Jonny Copp, Micah Dash and Wade Johnson. Chilling footage leading up to their fateful expedition allows the viewer to learn more about who they were and why they were so admired in the climbing community. This box set won't fall in line with the typical climbing DVD showing constant climbing footage and little more. *First Ascent: The Complete Series* paints the whole picture.—Tom Balkos

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