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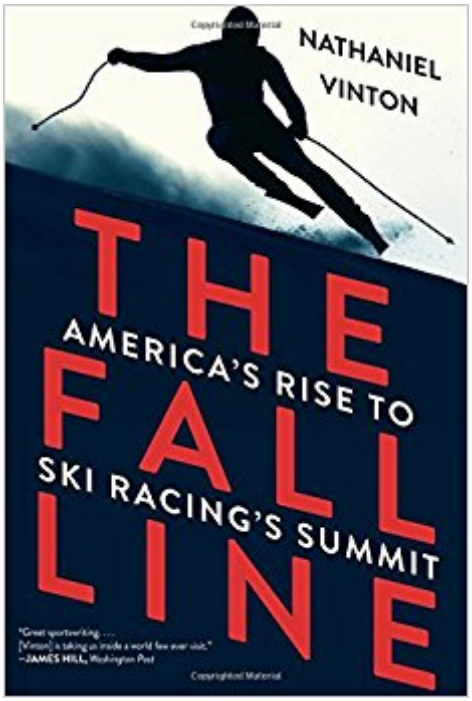
The Fall Line: America's Rise To Ski Racing's Summit



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Synopsis

â œGreat sports writing. . . . [Vinton] is taking us inside a world few ever visit.â •â •James Hill, Washington PostHarnessing natureâ ™s most powerful forces, elite downhillers descend icy, rugged slopes at speeds cresting 90 miles per hour. For decades, American skiers struggled to match their European counterparts, and until this century the US Ski Team could not claim a lasting foothold on the roof of the Alps, where the sportâ ™s legends are born.Then came a fledgling class of American racers that disrupted the Alpine racing world order. Led by Bode Miller and Lindsey Vonn, Julia Mancuso and Ted Ligety, this band of iconoclasts made a place for their country on some of the worldâ ™s most prestigious race courses. Even as new technology amplified the sportâ ™s inherent danger, the US Ski Team learned how to win, and they changed downhill racing forever.The Fall Line is the story of how it all came together, a deeply reported reconstruction of ski racingâ ™s most dramatic season. Drawing on more than a decade of research and candid interviews with some of the sportâ ™s most elusive figures, award-winning journalist Nathaniel Vinton reveals the untold story of how skiers like Vonn and Miller, and their peers and rivals, fought for supremacy at the Olympic Winter Games.Here is an authoritative portrait of a group of men and women taking mortal risks in a bid for sporting glory. A white-knuckled tour through skiingâ ™s deep traditions and least-accessible locales, The Fall Line opens up the sexy, high-stakes world of downhill skiingâ •its career-ending crashes, million-dollar sponsorship deals, international intrigue, and showdowns with nature itself.With views from the starting gate, the finish line, and treacherous turns in between, The Fall Line delivers the adrenaline of one of the worldâ ™s most beautiful and perilous sports alongside a panoramic view of skiingâ ™s past, present, and future. 16 pages of illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book kicks off with a detailed description of legendary Austrian skier Franz Klammer's wild gold medal run down the most famous downhill, the Hahnenkam in Kitzbuhel, Austria, at the 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics (just go YouTube it and be amazed). This intro on paper alone gives you such chills and makes you feel as if you are there barreling down the mountain alongside Klammer. Yes, author Nathaniel Vinton is THAT good a writer.Simply put, this is one bodacious thrill ride of a read through the world of ski racing. Although the emphasis is on the two main American stars in the sports these days, Bode Miller and Lindsey Vonn, Vinton covers much of the World Cup tours from the years leading up to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics to a bit beyond to Sochi 2014. Don't be fooled by these two big events because Vinton has his pulse on really what makes ski racing tick--that traveling ski race roadshow known as the World Cup.I found all the stuff that revolves around ski racing even more fascinating than the actual races (and they're pretty good on their own). The training and rehab these top-class athletes go through is mindblowing and will give you a greater appreciation for the sport. I'm just a casual ski racing fan who got into it in the '70s and '80s thanks to the Crazy Canucks and only now just got back into it again so you don't have to be a diehard ski race fan at all to get into this. The casual sports fan period will appreciate all the inside scoops we learn like how Americans (and Norwegians, Swedes, Canadians) compete with that inner Alps circle (Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Germany) that tended to dominant ski racing from its start.

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