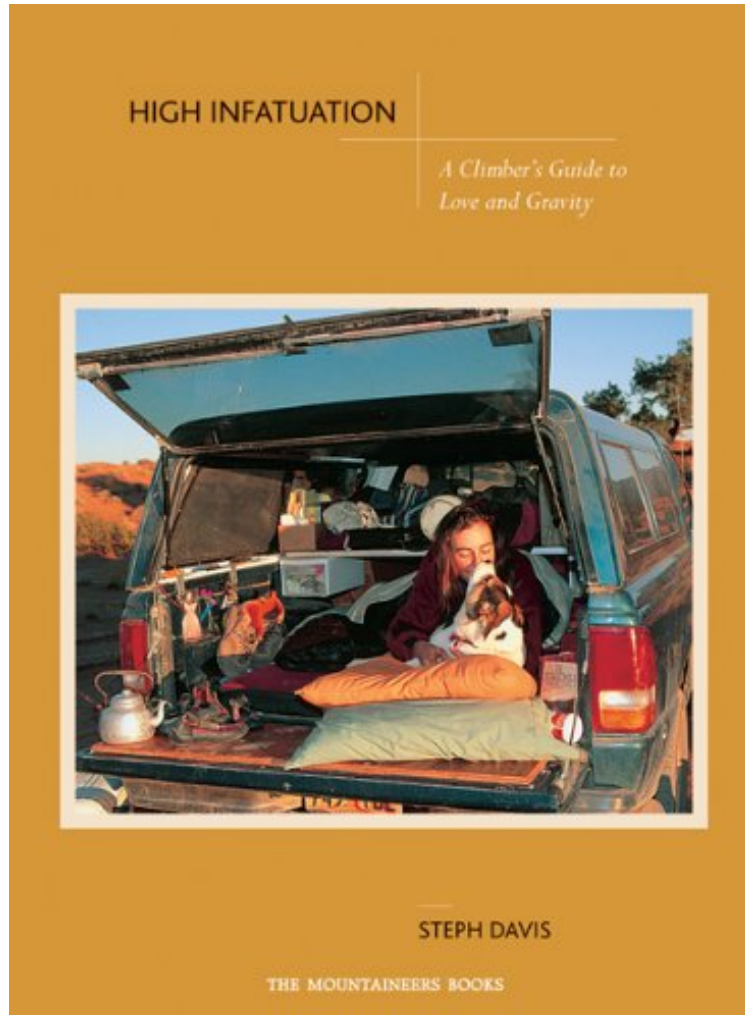


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## High Infatuation: A Climber's Guide to Love and Gravity

*Steph Davis*

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**Steph Davis : High Infatuation: A Climber's Guide to Love and Gravity** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised High Infatuation: A Climber's Guide to Love and Gravity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ready for the sequel By Rudi Garmisch I ordered this book last week and received it just in time for prime rainy weekend reading. First off great book. Steph describes climbs in Pakistan, Patagonia, Kyrgyzstan and across the United States in great detail and with a different lens (read female) than most climbing books. I was so pleased to see that she included information not just about the rock and routes, but about the cultures she visited and the people she met. I like reading about climbing, but for me climbing has always been a vehicle, or a reason to travel and keep moving, to lead a healthy life, to be a good person. I think Steph captured this notion in her book. There are short essays included on a variety of topics that seemed like they were journal entries at one time. She has such a unique view of things sometimes so different than myself, but other times just the same. I

gave the book 5 stars but I wish it was longer. Her description of her trip to Pakistan could have been a decent length book by itself. Great work Steph! I hope I can convince my sister to read it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful inspiration for climbers

By Rebecca Adler I read *High Infatuation* as a way to gain some inspiration to keep me rock climbing and also to get some insight into the sport. Steph Davis is one of the top female climbers in the world and has accomplished several firsts for women in the sport so I was excited to get her book and read about her experiences. When I bought the book I had expected it to be more of a memoir, but I have to say I was really pleased with the essay format. *High Infatuation* is a collection of journal entries, photos and published articles by Davis as she finished difficult climbs through the years. While I probably would have preferred the essays to be in chronological order, or at least given more background so we understood where she was at the time and where she was coming from, I don't think it was necessary. Once I got to the end of the book I could see why she ordered it the way she did. If I had to read six essays about Patagonia in a row, I may have ended up getting bored with the book. Each of her quests was amazing to read about, with the last one (the Salathe wall in Yosemite) being my favorite. Her attempt of the Salathe in Yosemite was a difficult climb for her and it made me realize that even the pros still have challenges when it comes to climbing (that's why they're still climbing, right?). The photos in the book really helped me to understand better what she was talking about. They also made me want to get out and climb right away. Unfortunately my climbing partner has a bruised rib so we haven't been out in a few weeks, but hopefully we'll get out there before the weather gets too much warmer (it was 103 here yesterday!). This book definitely inspired me as much as I hoped it would ... but it also made me realize how much I still have to learn about rock climbing. There are about ten techniques I have written down that I have to go look up now and beg someone to teach me about. But then I just have to remind myself that Steph Davis has been climbing for more than 15 years and I feel a little better about my novice climbing skills. In the book I also loved the short clips she included. There was one about running that was only about two paragraphs long, but it was a beautiful image of running and why it feels so great. If you're a climber and want some inspiration (and tons of words you may not have heard before), then I'd recommend checking out this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. an absorbing read for any outdoors adventurer

By Tia The book is gripping! Full of intense stories of summit conquests, climbing adventures, and even deeper life questions that probably we all have pondered from time to time. I liked Steph's approach to life -- simple focus on nature, a very non-materialistic existence, and obsession of climbing projects. It gives a very true depiction of how grueling, hard and demanding climbing actually is. It takes a special type of person to continuously engage in something so painful and demanding but also rewarding. Inspirational book and a very fast read.

\* A collection of vivid, intimate essays and prose poetry on the universal themes of life, love, friendship, personal empowerment, and more, told through a career in climbing\* 40 percent of these pieces debut here for the first time\*

Davis has been profiled in publications including *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *W Magazine*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Throughout her life, Steph Davis has chosen to take risks, to trust her impulses, to make decisions based on what feels right inside -- and never look back. Studying to be a concert pianist, she quit music the day she was introduced to rock climbing. Later, she abandoned the respectability of university life and pursuit of a law degree to become a "dirtbag climber," living out of her grandmother's hand-me-down Oldsmobile sedan with Fletcher, a heeler mix dog. Today, through courage and perseverance, Davis is a high-profile athlete whose sponsors have included Patagonia, Mammut, Clif Bar, Five Ten and Cascade Designs. In *High Infatuation*, Davis writes on the universal themes of life, love, friendship, personal empowerment, and more, told through a career in climbing. We wait with her in the tent through weeks of rain, wind, snow, and sleet, hoping for the weather to improve in the mountains of Patagonia, then race with her up a towering rock wall of Yosemite's El Capitan in a single day. More than adventure stories, these pieces reveal Davis' soul. They draw us into her struggles with safety, independence, ambition, and compassion. By following the journey of this remarkable woman, we learn what it means to live a truly adventurous life.

"The ultimate focus of the book is not climbing but the conflict Davis feels between the radical solitude of her chosen obsession and being a member of society." (San Luis Obispo Tribune)"Interesting, well written, humble and sincere" (Climb Nashville)"Davis uses a conversational voice with just enough climbing lingo to tie together a lifetime of lessons learned in the almighty name of Going Higher. In fact, she's put together a hell of an infatuating story. It's four cups sweat and adrenaline adventure tales, two cups fresh personal essay, a tablespoon of poetry and a handful of international and cultural travel writing." (Francisco Tharp Mountain Gazette)"*High Infatuation: A Climbers Guide to Love and Gravity* is a collection of soul-searching essays by a female climber who has experienced enough adventure to last several 'normal' lifetimes." (The Bulletin (Bend, OR))"[Davis's] writings reveal a woman given to impulses, seeking outlandish challenges and daring to be different." (Klamath Falls HeraldNews)"Steph Davis's stories and anecdotes are truly inspiring; her writing, thoughtful and poignant. She has led an uncompromising life. And her heartfelt insight into the struggles and decisions that have informed that life is a gift to any reader." (Jimmy Chin, Photographer and climber)"*High Infatuation* chronicles her stripped-down, up-the-wall life [and] the book is about

more than gear and climbing routes." (The Modesto Bee)"Davis's clean, fresh prose and honest and open examination of herself make *High Infatuation* an enjoyable, quick read, and the book has some gems, like 'Falling,' in which she explores the death of two sisters in Freemont Canyon. This book will be a nice addition to the annals of mountaineering literature." (Rock and Ice Magazine)About the Author STEPH DAVIS is on record with first ascents in Pakistan, Patagonia, Baffin Island, and Kyrgyzstan. Her writing has appeared in *Climbing and Rock Ice*, among other publications. She makes her home in Moab, Utah. She was the first U.S. woman to summit 11,073-foot Fitz Roy Peak in Patagonia-a success realized after spending five seasons, a total of ten months, in Patagonia. Follow along on all of her adventures and even ask her questions about her life as a climber on her website, *High Infatuation*.