Stilton Literary Agency



The North Pole. On nature, myth making and melting ice

Original title: Nordpolen.Om eventyrlyst, natur, myter og smeltende is Publisher: Kagge Forlag 2024 Non-Fiction / History, Memoir, Nature writing 100000 Words Complete English manuscript avail. end of year 2023

The North Pole is a fragmentary and personal biography about a unique set of coordinates on top of the world that has been claimed and re-claimed by egocentric, curious people from all over the world, much like Erling Kagge himself. The geographic North Pole is so much more than its common definition; The northernmost point of the world. This "so much more" is what Kagge writes about, where the combined forces of honor, beauty, pain, fraud, illusions, greed and nationalism are stronger than anywhere else -- even to this day, as 2,7 million years' worth of pack ice is melting. So much of what has been written about the North Pole has not been based on reality, but on illusions. More than 2,000 years ago, people in Egypt, India, Iran, China tried to imagine the climate, the people, the topography of the top of the world. Eventually, most people have imagined what the North Pole might be like -- and until about a century ago, they where mostly wrong. Countless people have lost their lives to hypothermia, starvation, hunger and scurvy, trying to reach the Pole themselves. Erling Kagge knows what it costs -- he has walked there himself. Those who are not Polar explorers, might wonder why the history of the North Pole should matter. There are three reasons: The History of the North Pole is an account of who we are. The North Pole is a barometer of sorts, measuring our values -- and those of our forefathers. Furthermore, The North Pole points ahead to what awaits the rest of the planet.

Foreign rights

Viking, Penguin, UK & BCW rights Einaudi, Italy Insel Suhrkamp, Germany Locus, Taiwan Kolektif, Turkey Harper One, Harper Collins, USA Penguin Random House, World Spanish

Erling Kagge

Erling Kagge has become something of a Renaissance man. A lawyer by training, he studied philosophy after exploring the world, starting his own publishing house, becoming a renowned collector of contemporary art, and latterly an author of slim but thought-provoking tomes. He has written books on exploration, philosophy and art collecting, all international best sellers and widely acclaimed by critics. His books are translated to 41 languages.

The New York Times described Kagge as "... a philosophical adventurer or perhaps an adventurous philosopher". Alain de Botton describes him as follows: "An author for our noisy times, full of a rare and deeply redemptive languor and perspective".

Other titles

The Philosophy of an Explorer (2019) Walking. One step at a time (2018) Silence in the Age of Noise (2016)



Bertrand, Portugal