

New: A book about the female pioneers of mountaineering, for whom getting out of the house was more difficult than reaching the summit.

Ingrid Runggaldier

Women on the Ascent

On a quest through Alpine history



“Women on the Ascent” refers as much to an ascent in life as to an ascent up a mountain. Motifs, motivations, and evolution are the focal points, here more than achievements in mountaineering. Out of a mosaic of life stories featuring women mountain climbers, scientists, writers, innkeepers, and porters, a tale of female mountaineering history emerges in which women who live their lives in the mountains are given the same degree of attention as those doing the actual climbing.

This book shows that women have clambered up mountains, reached summits, and blazed new trails just as men have. For women, though, a step up was, first and foremost, a step out: a tentative and increasingly intentional step out of rigid, imposed roles.

This book tells the story of that ascent. It is a quest: a search for the footprints of the women who made mountaineering history and a history of the footprints that women left behind not only in mountain climbing.

Ingrid Runggaldier, born in 1963 in Bolzano, grew up in Ortisei, in Italy's Val Gardena. She studied German and English language and literature. Runggaldier is a translator, journalist, and filmmaker: she made the documentary film *Frauen im Aufstieg* (2002), is the editor of *gana*, a Ladin women's magazine, serves as a cultural officer for the South Tyrol Alpine Club, and is a member of the organisational committee of the *Trento Film Festival*.



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