

**Author Tour:**  
Colorado, Connecticut  
New York, Utah, Vermont

**Contact:** Allison McGeehon  
allison.mcgeehon@abc.com  
212-456-0173

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# NEWS FROM



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## HYPERION

**For immediate release:**

“Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kodas finds avarice, theft and worse on the slopes of Mount Everest. . . . **A clear-eyed, riveting narrative.**”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“**A strongly written, passionate plea for sanity before it’s too late.**”

—*Booklist*

“**A thrilling read . . . a literary adventure that even people who can’t tell a crampon from a carabiner will find hard to put down.**”

—Rajiv Chandrasekaran, National Book Award Finalist  
for *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq’s Green Zone*

# HIGH CRIMES

## The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed

By Michael Kudas

As the highest point on Earth, the summit of Mount Everest has long attracted extreme adventurers who risk death to reach it “because it’s there.” But as technology advances put this ultimate accomplishment within reach of even amateur climbers, the big money and media attention surrounding Everest have become magnets for corruption and violent crime. In **HIGH CRIMES** (Hyperion; February 5, 2008; Hardcover; \$24.95), seasoned climber and journalist Michael Kudas offers a shocking exposé of Everest’s dark side: drugs and prostitution in Base Camp; con men who sell faulty oxygen tanks to climbers whose lives depend on them; climbers who steal rather than buy their supplies; guides, Sherpas, and mountaineers alike who step over dying climbers to reach the summit and reap its riches.

Kodas's firsthand experience of these dire conditions prompted him to investigate the underworld that preys on unsuspecting climbers on major peaks around the world. As a member of the 2004 Connecticut Everest Expedition, Kodas anticipated an exhilarating and arduous adventure. But the squabbles that began when the team reached Nepal soon turned treacherous. Vital food and equipment were stolen from their supplies, one climbing partner beat another unconscious, and when a teammate threatened his life, Kodas made the decision to abort his summit bid. He learned later that on the same spring day he turned back from the summit, Baltimore doctor Nils Antezana perished on Everest when his guide abandoned him. In **HIGH CRIMES**, Kodas uses Antezana's story and his own to illustrate how drastically Everest has changed even since the 1996 climbing season chronicled in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*.

Kodas broadens his narrative to give compelling looks at the economic, environmental, and moral implications of the lawless conditions that prevail on Everest today. His report illuminates how greed affects human rights abuses in the developing nations where many high peaks are located. Vividly illustrated with color photographs and paced like a thriller, **HIGH CRIMES** is a gripping account of an important story.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Michael Kodas is a member of the Pulitzer Prize-winning team of journalists at the *Hartford Courant*, where he has worked since 1987 as a reporter and photographer. His work has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Newsweek*. He is an avid climber and lives in Hartford, Connecticut with his wife, Carolyn Moreau.

**High Crimes:  
The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed**  
By Michael Kodas  
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**To request a review copy or an interview with Michael Kodas, please contact:**  
Allison McGeehon, Senior Publicist, Hyperion  
212-456-0173 / [allison.mcgeehon@abc.com](mailto:allison.mcgeehon@abc.com)  
77 West 66 Street, New York, NY 10023

For more information, please visit [HyperionBooks.com](http://HyperionBooks.com) and [MichaelKodas.com](http://MichaelKodas.com)

### **A Book Sense Pick for February 2008**

“Kodas does an excellent job exposing the ways in which money and ego have corrupted the traditional cultures of both mountaineers and their Sherpa guides. He also brings a painful focus to the delusions, misunderstandings,

and indifference that allow climbers to literally step over the bodies of dying  
people on their way to the top”  
—*Publishers Weekly*