



## Alpine Glow

*The frigid, mountain air is stunningly silent; with no footprints in the loose, powdery snow, except for mine, I am the only human in this world. Katahdin is ablaze, towering over a fog shrouded valley to the east. A lone crow hurriedly flies in front of the mountain. Although this striking light show lasts a brief 10 minutes, the anticipation of nature's stillness and splendor rewarded me with expected exhilaration, which provided me the motivation to persevere a torturous, one-hour climb.*

*With the morning photographic opportunity ending, I stand alone, mesmerized by Katahdin, and engrossed by its majesty, eating my breakfast of peanut butter and crackers, washed down with icy-cold water. As only nature's grandeur can do, it transforms this mundane meal into a gourmet breakfast and provides me the thrust I need to overcome my exhaustion, and overlook the extensive perspiration I developed from my climb that dampened my clothes and chilled my bones. Nature's power to fuel my spirit will allow me to endure for the next eleven hours of today's journey.*

*Thomas Mark Szelog*

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