THE ULTIMATE CLIMB

How Alex Honnold scaled El Capitan without ropes—and lived to tell about it

“There is no adrenaline rush. If I get an adrenaline rush, it means that something has gone horribly wrong.”
CONTENTS

On the Cover
Since 2007 Alex Honnold had made “free-solo” ascents—alone, without a rope—of other daunting routes in Yosemite. But none compared to his June 2017 climb up El Capitan.

JIMMY CHIN

PROOF

EXPLORER

EMBARK

17

THE BIG IDEA
How Ketchup Made Food Safer
Henry Heinz’s view of wholesome food and preservatives still resonates today.
BY DEBORAH BLUM

Genius
Memories Remade
This neuroscientist is working on suppressing bad memories.
BY RACHEL HARTIGAN SHEA

10

South Africa’s Majorettes
For girls and young women in South Africa, being a “drummy” requires dedication—and pays dividends in confidence and pride.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALICE MANN

36

Through the Lens
The Shots That Almost Got Away
His camera captured polar bear close-ups—and then it sank. But the photographer refused to give up.
BY AUDUN RIKARDSEN

Basic Instincts
Puffed-Up Appeal
Frigatebirds woo mates by inflating a body part and drumming on it. What’s not to love?
BY PATRICIA EDMONDS

Also
Beetle Jaws
Zoo Mothers’ Milk
Immigrant Economy

Also
Vegetation Threats
Beekeeper’s Tools