

“Saturdays at the Sculley’s” – “North Face” starring German actors, 2008, NR, 121 minutes

Major themes:

- Courage
- Perseverance
- Teamwork
- Sacrifice
- Encouragement

Background info:

- Eiger, whose name means Ogre, is appropriately named for the severity of its towering north face. This mountain is the farthest east on the same crest that holds Jungfrau and Mönch in the Swiss Alps. Of the three mountains, Eiger is the most spectacular.
- This movie is based on a famous 1936 attempt to climb the Eiger north face.
- Berchtesgaden is now widely known as the location of Hitler's home throughout the 1930s.
- Two years prior to the period depicted in this movie, Hinterstoisser and Kurz established a route together on the mountain called Berchtesgadener Hochthron.
- The Anschluss (German for “*link-up*”, referring to occupation and annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in 1938) had substantial public support in Austria.
- The movie was filmed in Austria and Switzerland.

- The first ascent of the Eiger was made by two Swiss guides and an Irishman, who climbed the west flank in 1858. The *Nordwand*, the north face, at 1,800 m (5,900 ft), is one of the six great north faces of the Alps. Since 1935, at least sixty-four climbers have died attempting the north face, earning it the German nickname *Mordwand*, literally "murder wall." An editor for the Alpine Journal in the 1930s called the face "*an obsession for the mentally deranged*" and "*the most imbecile variant since mountaineering first began.*"
- The first successful ascent of the North Face more than 70 years ago took 3 days. The most recent record for climbing the Eiger North Face was set on April 20th, 2011, when Daniel Arnold (Switzerland) soloed the face in 2 hours 28 minutes, using the fixed ropes on the Hinterstoisser Traverse.

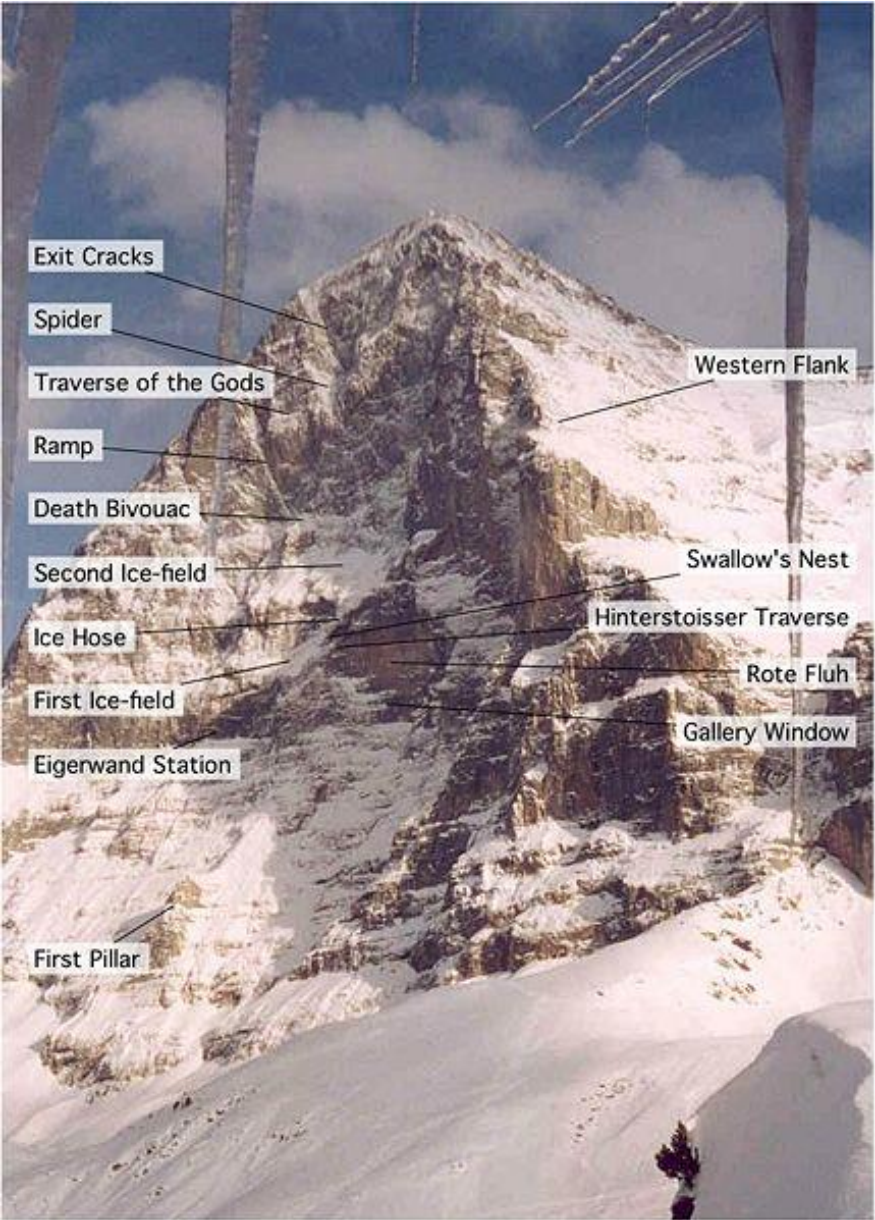
Map of Switzerland



Map of Germany showing Berchtesgaden on the border of Austria



The North Face of the Eiger



Scriptures:

Matthew 14:27 (NLT) – *“Jesus spoke to them at once. ‘Don't be afraid,’ he said. ‘Take courage. I am here!’”*

Hebrews 3:6 (NLT) – *“Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.”*

Luke 18:1 (NIV) – *“Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8 (The Message) – *“There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:*

*A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,
A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,
A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 – 10 (NLT) – *“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”*

John 15:11 – 14 (The Message) – *“I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) – *“Encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”*

Major characters:

- Toni Kurz
- Anders (Andi) Hinterstoisser
- Luise Fellner
- Henry Arau

Discussion points:

1. What parallels do you see between rock climbing and our journey through life?
2. What would you do if you knew that helping someone else meant putting your own life in danger?
3. Who are the courageous ones in need of encouragement in your life?
4. When you are tempted to give up, what helps you the most?
5. Luise says, *“When you're at the bottom - Toni once told me - at the foot of the wall, and you look up, you ask yourself: How can anyone climb that? Why would anyone even want to? But hours later when you're at the top looking down, you've forgotten everything. Except the one person you promised you would come back to.”* Discuss the importance of putting our hope in God versus someone or something else.
6. Do you agree or disagree with Luise's conclusion, *“One has lived if one has loved.”* Why or why not?