

PARALLEL DREAMS - MT RUNDLE

Parallel Dreams

In the midst of all the squawk about *True Grit* in 1990, a couple of lads from Calgary immediately began building what was to become *Parallel Dreams*. Their quick follow-up was presumably intended to entrench the contentious top-down method deeper in the local consciousness, before counter-revolutionaries could mobilize the climbing population in opposition to the idea. Motivations aside, the effort resulted in a route that is worthwhile in its own right, taking a steep and continuous line on flawless rock just left of *TG*. Hard to dispute, *Parallel Dreams* employs as many as 15 fewer bolts to climb the same distance as *TG*, at a level of difficulty that is consistently several letter-grades harder. This rig is safe enough if your head can handle it, but expect the level of intimidation to be a step up from conventional sport climbs of similar grade.

Take

...at least 10 quickdraws. Most belay stances are simply twin hangers at minimalist ledges. Don't expect chains, and go with enough extra slings and 'biners to tie everyone and everything to the anchors. You might want to carry a knife for removing the retreat tat left clogging key clips at some of the scarier bits. One 50m rope will do it (60m recommended), but better to bring a second rope for rappelling. Though little is loose and likely to drop on you, anticipate that a long fall on the prickly rock, while not life-threatening, could leave you at least temporarily unrecognizable to even your own mother – wear a helmet.

The Route

Get your stuff together at the trees on the last flat spot below and to the left of the route. Scramble up and traverse over right on some broken ledges to find twin belay bolts just left of a dirty break.

1) 10b/c 6 bolts 26m.

Take a few nervous steps up the gully before reaching for the first clip over right. Swing up nice ramps and flakes. The moves get more committing, hiking your skirts and underclinging right around the small roof (crux). Above this, climb more typically to a semi-hanging stance.

2) 10b 8 bolts 40m.

Work vague corners up and right, 'round an overhang. There will seem to be a number of stupid little cruxes following on top of each other as you hesi-

tantly cast about. Belay at bolts set in the big flake several metres back from the edge.

When your party is together, shift your belay further right, the *True Grit* anchors, before embarking on the next pitch.

3) 10a 7 bolts 28m.

Pull up the short, nervy corner directly above the belay and hand-traverse right, around the roof. Yes, this is *True Grit*, but since you're stretching left to the darker hangers for the first two clips, it's technically an independent line. However, this strategy is soon exhausted, and the line of protection will pull you through fun sidepulls on the face proper, rising left to the slab. Up the arête to the left. Another semi-hanging belay.

4) 10b 7 bolts 32m.

Up steeper ground, but on better holds. Mostly. Weave up nondescript face to a sling stance at a ledge break below a prominent roof.

5) 11a 9 bolts 50m.

The business. Crux of the climb. This could feel a little intimidating – finding, then clipping, then flipping up to stand above the 2nd bolt, hidden from sight a few inches past the lip of the overhang. And it isn't like you get great holds once you're up and over, either. Warm down with some neat swinging back and forth up big plates. Easier and easier to the galley chains on the walkabout top.

Photo: Roger Chayer/TALUS photographic



30 min 180m

 ☆☆☆

 5.10d+

 Jon Jones

TIP Don't try saving time by traversing to the TG anchor on pitch 2 before bringing up the 2nd, you'll only waista it trying to communicate and pull rope.

Consider bringing extra slings to aid the crux on the 5th pitch (it'll still be hard).

Don't try to haul a pack on this spiny rock - it will stick like Velcro and come to the stances shredded like coleslaw. Better to either go light enough to hang everything from your harness, or saddle the second with group gear tell him it will help his feet stick better

