

Thanksgiving Gunks w/ Yunting '22 Nov. 25/26

I arrived Friday night in NY near New Paltz and my friends had already spent all day cooking thanksgiving dinner (my second thanksgiving dinner!). It was a beautiful time. Gotta love friends.



FIRST MISTAKE was forgetting my headlamp. Although the first 2 multi pitches of the day were chill.

First was Limelight 5.7. There was a major loose block on Limelight though.



Then Arrow 5.8 also 2 pitches. The exit for Arrow was weird. Apparently there are 2 ways—left where there is some key crimp and right where you do this pretty hard side pull move. IDK I didn't find the crimp, so the left felt really, really hard and the sidepull on the right felt like a 5.10a/b move! But still an awesome pitch! Yunting even brought me my clothes up even though I left them below on purpose haha. It was so nice out though!



Then we went for Face to Face 5.10B, 1 pitch of 5.7 and 2 of 5.10B! 1:30pm Started off with some spicy 5.7 of which there was a small loose flake I believe and some big runouts at the start. Definitely wouldn't recommend unless you're solid leading on 5.9+ trad routes. after midway up the pitch the holds get better and there is way more protection! Yay! At this point I sewed it up with gear. Then we got to the GT ledge and there was 1 party in front of us on Face to Face—which was actually nice so we could see the line. However time was ticking away...

I start up with a bit of a runout start, but not too bad and then went out on the hand traverse plugging in some pieces with long extensions as I went. Pulling the lip was awesome with some cool exposure. Nothing too crazy though, but I wanted to make sure I didn't fall here. By the time I get to the spot for the p3 belay I decide I'm just going to link both pitches and keep moving. Unknowingly I get to the crux. I back out because it feels sketchy so I down climb 5ft and place a second cam in the horizontal crack. I then go up for crux move, but I take too long fumbling and then try to bring my feet up while holding on to two crimps. But my body starts shaking and I lose focus and for a second I almost reel it in, but I give up and blam I'm off the wall. I fall back far and then suddenly I'm whipping back into the wall **FAST**.

I have just enough to realize that my head/upper body is about to slam into the first overhang and I put my legs up and absorb the impact just in time. I take a sec to just recompose and I feel my right ankle

ringing from the impact. Yunting asks “are you ok?” I respond “I think so.” It’s not getting any earlier though so I start pulling back up on the rope until I’m below the crux again. Fuck here we go. This time I manage to find a .2 yellow z4 cam placement, a bit higher than my previous pieces and not extended.



So I’m feeling a lot more comfortable falling on this crux move now. It seems the .2 will hold. I have a different plan for beta when I start the crux, but it all goes out the window and fight or flight kicks in and I’m hanging on for dear life on two crimps and I pull my feet up and try to quickly move to better holds. I soon have good holds, but my feet aren’t great and now I’m pretty far above my last piece so I balance and try to put something in. I’m able to sink a cam in and then I’m moving. The rest of the climb goes quickly, but I make poor choices and don’t extend my pieces in an effort to conserve strength (**but this was a bad idea and the rope drag I ended up having to fight SUCKED!!!!!!**). Especially for belaying.

Anyways I get to the top and anchor into a tree and yell down to Yunting to take me off belay. I chill for a bit but then realize she hasn’t responded. I then yell 10 more times at the top of my lungs “Yunting can you hear me? Yunting are you ok?” Nothing. At first I think oh shit is she hurt, but then common sense kicks in and I realize she probably can’t hear me over the cliffside and I’m up 2 pitches because I linked the two 10b pitches together. So I tie a clove hitch with the rope and anchor myself in with that and extend myself 15ft so I can walk to the cliff edge and then I start yelling. I can only barely hear Yunting. I try calling her, but no answer and eventually she hears me and starts climbing up. The rope drag is really bad though. I hear her say “**TAKE!**”. I pull in as much as I can, but she falls and I hear her say “I’m dangling in free space, I’m going to try to ascend the rope.” I’m trying to communicate, but I can’t get anything across. I try calling her cell phone, but Yunting doesn’t answer.

So I just chill for 10/20 minutes and then suddenly I realize oh shit my phone is on Do Not Disturb. I turn that off and realize I missed calls from Yunting and that my other friends in the groupchat are on the verge of starting search party/rescue efforts. I quickly text. “I think we are ok!” I also see via the groupchat that Yunting called the group and **Nico taught her how to ascend over the phone!** Friends are awesome! Then I continue to wait for Yunting to ascend the rope. It takes almost an hour for her to move up 40ft to a little above the 2nd crux (where I had fallen over an hour ago). At this point we can communicate by yelling and since it is now dark I decide maybe I should just lower Yunting and then

rappel and clean the rest of the gear. I communicate the plan and she agrees and I lower Yunting down 60ft on her prusiks. At this point it is **5pm, pitch dark and I have no headlamp**. I can kind of see with my night vision, but occasionally I use my phone flashlight to double check everything I'm doing. I haul up all the rope I can and Yunting stays tied in (so I'm sure I can't fall off of that end). I then put the rope around the tree, tie a stopper knot and put the rope in a saddle bag. Final check and then I start rappelling down. I pick up the gear on the way down, although it's hard to swing in to get the gear due to the overhang.

I keep lowering and then all of a sudden I've reached the end of the rope (WTF!). Oh shit I realize that Yunting was not tied at the end of the rope, but rather near the middle because that's how far she got ascending. **FUCK**. SO now I'm dangling below the roof. My first thought is dear god, do I now have to ascend the rope like Yunting did? But Yunting gives the idea that maybe I can shimmy the rope on the longer end and lower that way. It's painstaking, but by feeding out slack through my prusik and then pulling on the same strand above the ATC, I'm able to shimmy the rope and slowly move down (My shoulders were feeling it! And I'm sure my rope and the tree above etc. etc. didn't appreciate the friction).

But I manage to lower to the ledge and we're both feeling a lot better. One more rappel! We belay each other 40ft over to the rappel station and then both rig ourselves up for rappel and I start down. **SHIT. I hit the end of the rope 30ft off the ground. What the heck!** Oh shoot it turns out that we had two rappels not one! And with near 0 visibility I didn't spot the intermediate anchor. I decide to pull myself up hand over hand and then pull the lack out and my ATC and prusik back up. I repeat this 4 times and I finally see the anchors. I anchor in. Yunting comes down, we setup another rappel, and lower. Finally we're off! What a day!!!! On the wall for most of the day from 8:30am-7pm! Nearly 12 hrs, 7 total trad pitches including 2x 5.10b pitches! A pretty sick day I would say!