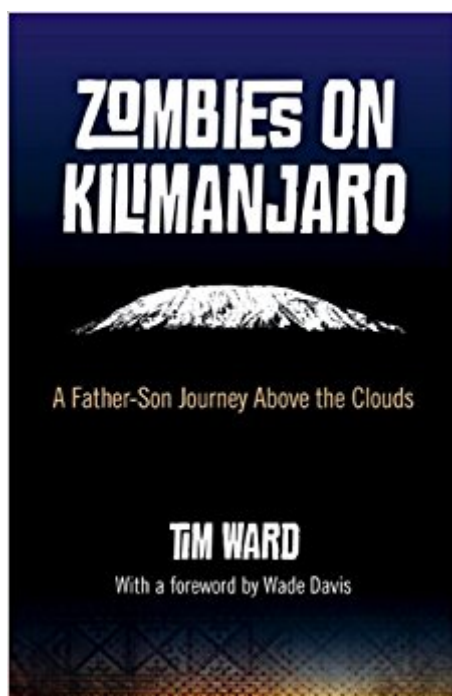


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# Zombies On Kilimanjaro: A Father/Son Journey Above The Clouds



## Synopsis

A father and son climb Mount Kilimanjaro. On the journey to the roof of Africa they traverse the treacherous terrain of fatherhood, divorce, dark secrets and old grudges, and forge an authentic adult relationship. The high-altitude trek takes them through some of the weirdest landscapes on the planet, and the final all-night climb to the frozen summit tests their endurance. On the way to the top father and son explore how our stories about ourselves can imprison us in the past, and the importance of letting go. The mountain too has a story to tell, a story about Climate Change and the future of humankind - a future etched all too clearly on Kilimanjaro's retreating glaciers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tim Ward walks up the mountain with his 20-year-old son, and together they explore the power of stories. Amid hallucinogenic walks, bizarre gastronomy, and sing song Tanzanian guides, they illuminate the power and the delusion of the stories we often tell ourselves, and how in letting old stories go, we can find the key to transforming our world. (Carter Roberts, President, World Wildlife Fund US) As with all of Ward's books, it's challenging, exhilarating, brave and profoundly human - I came away from it feeling stimulated, enriched, and also genuinely honoured that an author would take me on such an intensely personal journey. The father-son relationship comes leaping off the page, and the intellectual dimension sizzles and crackles (Ian Weir, author of Daniel O'Thunder)

Tim Ward doesn't just think ideas -- he LIVES ideas. He anatomizes ideas; he makes them part of his anatomy. This is why I loved *Savage Breast*, and why I love his new *Zombies on Kilimanjaro*.

Kilimanjaro is gorgeous and uncanny and profound and impossible; and its glaciers are melting. Climbing it is also a metaphor for the death-defying, life-transforming trips we all have to take to discover our truths and the big-T Truth . . . whatever that may be. I couldn't put *Zombies on Kilimanjaro* down because I had no clue how it was going to end (except that Ward survives to write the book); there were so many ways this trek with his son could go bad. I was also thrilled by what I saw as Ward's theme: personal change and its relation to climate change. The local/the global. While Ward and his son hiked and talked, a ton of ideas were zap, zap, zapping in my head. I argued with Ward and agreed with Ward, and occasionally wanted to kick him for his obsession with memes. But there was always the mountain, and the wrenching personal revelations, that fill *Zombies on Kilimanjaro* with both beauty and pain.

I chose to read it to learn more about hiking Mt Kilimanjaro. I did learn a lot about that, but would have preferred to learn a little more about the experience.

Tim Ward's most recent book is an artful blend of many topics, all stemming from a shared climb of the world's tallest free standing mountain. The straightforward narrative of the physical aspects of the climb itself serves as the framework, with two interwoven father-son conversations between Tim and his father, and between Tim and his son Josh, and a fascinating presentation of memes along for the journey. Relationships formed with the porters, cooks and other support staff as the expedition winds around the mountain at ever-increasing altitudes are a part of the story, as is the very real impact of climate change on the mountain and surrounding area. The result is an outstanding read: an intimate portrait of a triumphant physical achievement together with enriched and deepening relationships, and some valuable knowledge that serves to enhance the experience.

The book was okay. The language used in the book is going to turn off the basic reader. I was looking for more of the experiences on Mt. Kilimanjaro and not the dialogue with his son. I really dislike the whole "meme" talk throughout the book. I was a bit confusing and had no point to the overall story. I understand that the author was a philosophy major but come on! Overall I would not recommend it but it was an okay read.

I read this on the plan flight over to Tanzania during a trip I took with some friends from college to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Coincidentally we were taking the same route the author took. It was an enjoyable read, but I was expecting it to be more about the climb than anecdotal tales about the

author's life experiences and his relationship with his son. Nonetheless, I enjoyed it.

The father-son discussions, which took up a majority of the book, were terribly uninteresting. The limited discussions of the actual climb were useful, but probably not worth the price of the book.

The book is ok. The author should have this book proofed. There are many typos and grammatical errors.

I think most of the reviews for this book are from friends of the author. No offense, but this rating is way too high. Writing about walking up Kilimanjaro is cool enough, but a little banal, because so many people do it and it's really not the most amazing feat. An in depth look at melting glaciers, the history of glaciers, the effects of lower glacial cover, etc. would have been pretty cool. I think a lot of people are going to be affected by the disappearance of glaciers (and their year round meltwater) in the next 15-20 years. Instead, it's a kind of drawn out story that forces the 'meme' theme into the text at random. It's great that the author was able to see Kili, spend time with his semi-estranged son, and write about it. I'm sure the book will make for good memories, but for someone looking for a good book about East Africa, Kilimanjaro, Climate Change, etc., this book will not fulfill you in any way.

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