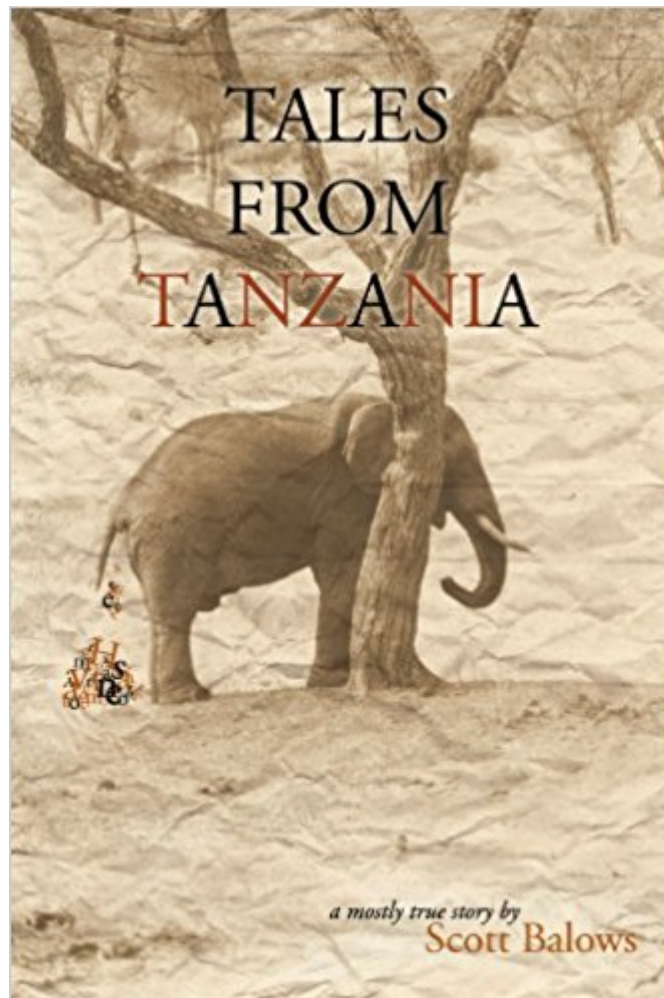




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Tales From Tanzania: A Mostly True Story



Synopsis

Tales from Tanzania might be one of the funniest books ever written about an African safari. It chronicles a vacation gone awry as the author dodges hippos and crocodiles, suffers intestinal distress of an epic nature and is repeatedly mocked by British people. The fun begins when an American copywriter drives across Tanzania in a big truck with a bunch of English tourists; the fun ends when one guest accidentally poisons the group with tainted drinking water. No bodily function goes undocumented in this comical account of wildlife encounters and Maasai earlobes. From a tent perched on the edge of Ngorongoro Crater to the skies above the Serengeti, this anecdotal tale captures a safari in hilarious detail.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I'm very taken by Scott's tales. What I find so amazing about his writing are the easy turns from low-brow realities of a budget safari, to actual majestic moments. It's a bit like David Sedaris meets Isak Dinesen. It takes its own gentle swipe at the Abercrombie and Fitch crowd sipping their cocktails at sunset without getting mud on their shoes. And it reminds us that the best part of travel is adapting, laughing, surviving, and replacing our storybook images of exotic places with the real guy next to us on the bus, and, yes, even the full on digestive distress. I can't think of another writer who manages to deliver such unique characters and adventures (these people are real!) - but also maintain just enough of a sense of wonder to make us want to go. I laughed a lot - but also felt very moved seeing the country through his eyes.

I've read several books of this type and absolutely loved them. In this book, the humor is forced. I felt like he had a book of adjectives next to him to help him write. I had trouble getting through the book. He is truly "the Ugly American". I've travelled many times to all of the places in this book and was so disappointed in how he describes the places and mostly the people. I've traveled with Brits and had to go through the "America Bashing" which is nothing like his "British Bashing--after the fact". The only positive thing in the book was he spelled "Maasai" correctly. I won't buy another book about humorous trips in Africa, because I'd be afraid they would write like him. Instead, read "Whatever You Do, Don't Run". You'll love it. And--it's funny.

I would give this book a 5 star if the title was "Chronicle of The People and Events of My Trip in Tanzania". The book is 70% about the author's conversation with his camp mates, about what goes on amongst them, about puking, and, last but not least, his imaginations. The amazing animals and habitats of Tanzania probably only takes up about 30%. Then again, the title didn't say anything about wildlife, I should have known. Some readers find him hilarious, but I find his jokes bordering on lameness and immaturity. If you're into the incredible wildlife of Africa, I highly recommend Peter Allison's "Whatever You Do, Don't Run".

This book had me in hysterics - I was literally convulsing in my chair as I was reading it. I have done a lot of traveling and I just returned from the areas in Africa that the author visited so that also made it a fun read for me. What the other reviewer said was correct in that there was not much emphasis on the wildlife -- the main subject was traveling misadventures. However this did not perturb me. I would suggest Peter Allison's books for humorous stories that also focus on the animals, but Tales of Tanzania was a nice complement to such books. The author really made me feel that I was back in Africa, and again, his delivery was hysterically funny.

Very funny! I'm right back from Tanzania, and the described landscapes are realistic ! Situations may happen to you too ! I would suggest to read it after your trip: adding your own images and experience really adds a lot to the story. Very well written, pleasant, I definitely recommend it !

Most of this book is about the effects of drinking bad water. Little is about the amazing habitats and animals the author experienced. There are some good points to the book, but they come mostly at the end when he finally uses his language skills to describe the wonders he's seeing, and gives his fellow traveling companions a break from being used to make himself appear clever.

I loved the book, great story.

I was disappointed by this book. Not a lot here that grabbed me. I was looking for a story and depth relating to this beautiful African country not segments.

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