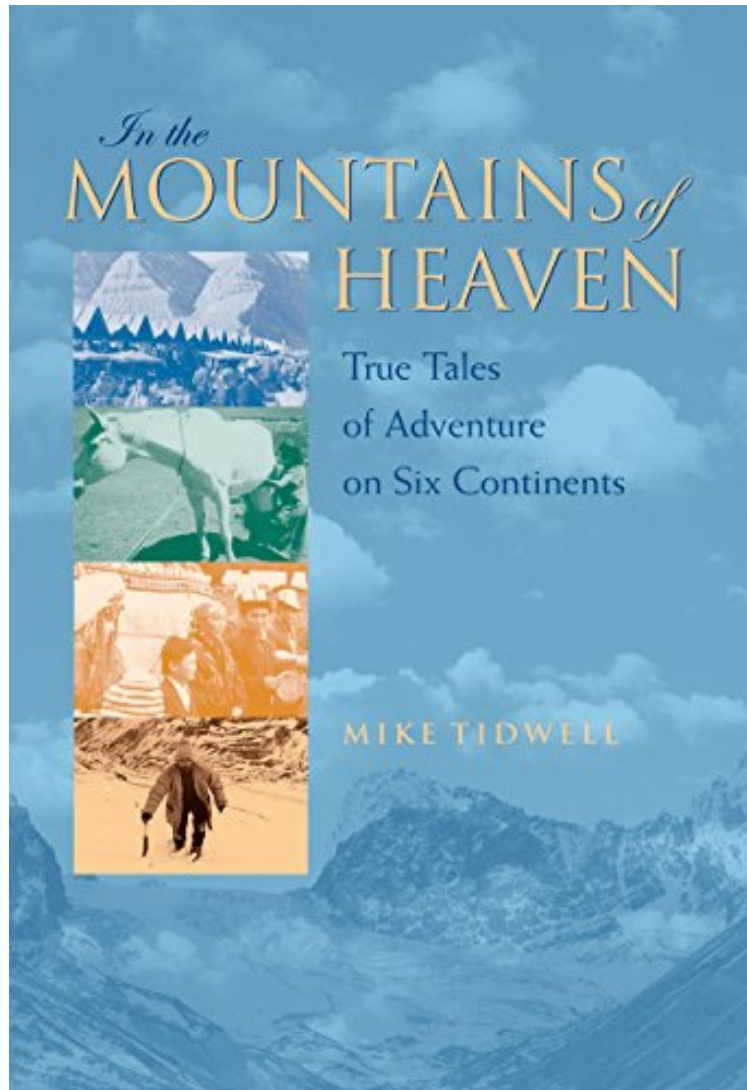


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In the Mountains of Heaven: True Tales of Adventure on Six Continents

Mike Tidwell

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Mike Tidwell : In the Mountains of Heaven: True Tales of Adventure on Six Continents before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Mountains of Heaven: True Tales of Adventure on Six Continents:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heavenly writing ... and people. By John the Reader Mike Tidwell seems to believe in ghosts and magic. He certainly writes magically about his adventures; fishing the inner-city parks and ponds of DC or camping in the Congo, his `voice' resonates with his pleasure, respect and love for the peoples he

encounters. Tidwell, a journalist and former Peace Corps volunteer, has earned the praise of fellow travel writers, including Paul Theroux and Bob Shacochis, but he has a unique prose, light, humorous, self-effacing and very, very engaging. Recalling a hunting trip he and his wife make while visiting the Mbuti pygmy in the Ituri forest he contrasts his present life in globally warmed DC with those of this "... perfect society. We have witnessed the best that humans can be." On first entering the Mbuti clearing they find the entire twenty members in uncontrollable laughter, so infectious and gleeful that, without any idea of what is so funny, they both join in with the giggling and chuckling, "... instantly amused with by the sheer, contagious joy of these stone-age comics." In these glorious travels Tidwell is still amused when marooned on a tiny desert island in the Caribe with, as its own travel blog says, no amenities at all. Or when continually challenged by Kyrgyzstani shepherds, in the Mountains of Heaven as to what it is he wants - "Gold, wives or horses?" If you are a reader or collector of travelogues, an armchair voyager or one who has already seen it all and now finds it enough just to recall memories and enjoy another's trips, do read this glorious book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Humorous Adventures on Many Continents By K. Johnson This is a very enjoyable read because all of the chapters focus on a different experience in a different part of the world. Tidwell can write in a way that is short, sweet, and humorous, for he has a sense of fun. He starts out with a visit to his Uncle. He then writes about things that most others wouldn't concern themselves to put on paper, like the missing man-hole covers in Kyrgyzstan. He leads us on his curious adventure as to why. Why are they missing? What takes them? What's the logic behind this phenomenon. And it's interesting and fun to find out. He also organizes a group of folks to save someone's life from half the world away. The fishing expedition in the District of Columbia was fun and he knows more about D.C. than most life-long residents ever will know. That's he writes for a lot of rags about his experiences. He wrote about riding on the Metro with his tackle-box and poles with the drained, weary eyed commuters. This is comedy at its best, and it's non-fiction. So was his ride with John T. Love on the roller coaster ride through the thunder storm. And yes, one can learn and gain wisdom from barbers and hair dressers abroad. We can learn more from chatting with them than most of the other people we come across on our treks. Check this book out. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Heavenly By MTB At times gripping, at times funny, this is a wonderful collection of essays about the author's adventures in the United States and abroad. Didn't know you could fish in Washington, D.C. -- even within sight of the Washington Monument? (Tidwell shows why the nation's capital is a fishermen's paradise.) Ever had a "flight from hell"? (It probably wasn't as hellish as the flight Tidwell describes.) Ever had a haircut in another country? (Tidwell gets his hair cut in Vietnam by a former member of the Viet Cong who...uh oh...admits to having killed Americans during the war.) Tidwell's writing is lively, engaging, and personal. Thanks to his energetic prose, you feel as if you're right beside him, whether he's flying halfway around the world or driving through Maryland.

In this collection of twenty-five essays, award-winning travel writer Mike Tidwell shatters the mold of the travel genre. His writing is more than just adventurous tales about getting from here to there. There's plenty of that, of course, whether it's getting marooned on a desert island or traveling the Silk Road with nomadic shepherds or hitchhiking on Cajun shrimp boats through Louisiana's bayou country. But what makes Tidwell's writing different-- what makes it deeper-- is his uncanny ability to draw out those he meets-- a Bombay prostitute, a Hanoi barber, a real-life Tarzan in the Amazon rain forest. *IN THE MOUNTAINS OF HEAVEN* is a powerful and fascinating book of travel, a volume sure to earn Tidwell a place alongside Tim Cahill and Randy Wayne White in the pantheon of adventure writers.

From Publishers Weekly Tidwell has long been a treasure for readers of the Washington Post's Sunday travel section where more than half of these 19 essays were originally published (and whose readers will snatch it off bookstore shelves). While his previous book, *The Ponds of Kalambayi*, brought Tidwell a wider readership, this collection of his essays may find a smaller one. Still, it is a delight to have them, since in many ways they best capture his unique stylistic combination of awe and delight. Tidwell often uses a small incident to illuminate the special qualities of a culture, aiming, he explains, "to get at what's most important and intimate about a place, to find out what things large or small make it unique, make a place home, for the people who live there." A meeting with a surprising Vietnamese barber, for example, allows him to remark on Hanoi's favorite hairstyle and the pleasure of good conversation. "You're the first American whose hair I've cut," the barber tells Tidwell while snipping his hair. "I shot at many Americans, but never this." Other epiphanies are provoked by the author's experiences serving as the youngest honorary grand marshal in Linz, Germany, negotiating the wilds of Lake Superior and carrying more than 250 pounds of peccary meat through the . The collection's shorter essays (each only a few pages long) are bookended by two longer pieces: a closing description of time spent among the Mbuti Pygmies of Africa and an introductory tribute to Tidwell's uncle Barry, whose love of travel in the face of great physical pain strikes a poignant note that echoes throughout Tidwell's wry observations. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal If you read the Washington Post, many of the 19 essays in Tidwell's pastiche of travel experiences will be familiar. One or two will also be familiar from his previous travel books (*Stranger* and *The Ponds of Kalambayi*) and magazine articles. However, this recycling should not deter one from globe hopping with the spirited and spiritual Tidwell. His

latest book is salted with moments of electrifying insight, bizarre humor, and delightful discovery. Tidwell takes us fishing in Washington, DC, within sight of our nation's monuments; he also takes us for an outdoor haircut in Hanoi; and this intrepid traveler even investigates the mystery of the missing manholes in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and possibly solves it. Moreover, he hunts with natives in the Congo, takes us to the Andes and Australia, and brings us along on an overnight train trip with his small son. And, at one point, Tidwell even (almost) overcomes his fear of flying. Highly recommended for all public libraries. DJanet Ross, Sparks Branch Lib., NV Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This collection of essays by the Washington, D.C., travel writer is among the best of its kind: lively, colorful, full of interesting people and exciting, far-flung places. Fans of Tidwell's work will already have read most of these pieces--all of them were previously published in an assortment of publications including the Washington Post and National Geographic Traveler--but it's nice to have them all together in this handy volume. Tidwell, like the best travel writers, can take the simplest of things and make them thoroughly fascinating: getting a haircut in Vietnam, for example, or attending a major-league baseball game. He also looks into subjects other, more traditional travel writers never explore: Why, for instance, are all the manhole covers in a certain Russian city vanishing, and who's taking them? The only possible complaint about this wonderful book is its length: there isn't nearly enough of it. Readers who like Bill Bryson will fall in love with this book and crave more of Tidwell. Word of mouth could create considerable demand. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved