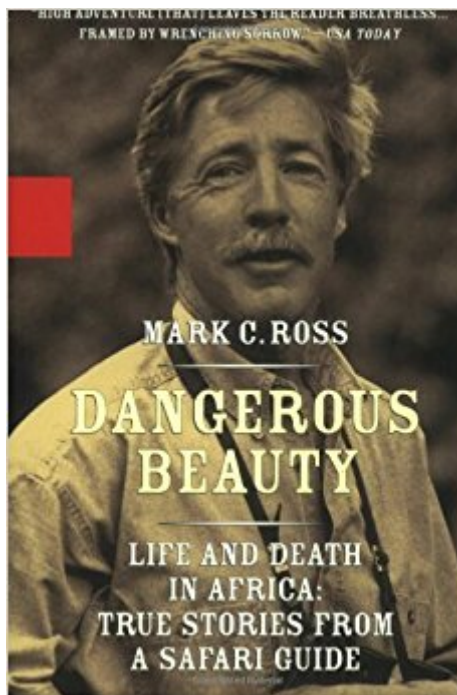




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# Dangerous Beauty - Life And Death In Africa: Life And Death In Africa: True Stories From A Safari Guide



## Synopsis

On March 1, 1999, American safari guide Mark Ross was camping with four clients in Uganda searching for endangered mountain gorillas. By day's end, two of these clients and six other tourists were dead at the hands of Rwandan rebels. As a man who loves East Africa, Ross felt betrayed by this horror, which made headlines around the world. He writes, 'The continent has always been the love of my life. Now there is trouble between us.' *Dangerous Beauty* is the story of that love and trouble. Ross writes here about his close-up encounters with danger and natural beauty in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. He describes his walks in the bush and the way he teaches his clients to read unearthly silences and stillnesses in the wind that signify trouble. He writes about deadly charges by elephants and the electric excitement of witnessing the mass migrations of wildebeest and zebras. He writes, too, in detail about the terrible events of 1999. Imbued with Ross's passion for East Africa, this is an unforgettable account of a life of remarkable adventures, and a memorable vision of a beautiful, deadly, and fragile world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I picked up *Dangerous Beauty* as an antidote to my post-safari blues upon returning home from my first trip to East Africa. By chapter one, I was so impressed by Mr. Ross' approach to safari and his passion for wildlife, especially the predators, that I just knew I had to weasel my way onto one of his future safaris, which I was lucky enough to do in the Summer of 2004. If you've been to Africa, and already know you love the place, this book will give you a closer glimpse into this special world through the eyes of a man who has made it his life's passion, and loves it, despite its troubles. If

you've yet to go, well, this book may very well push you in that direction, or at least give you a very tangible feeling of what a transformative experience safari can be when it's just a small group of clients and a guide who is simply the best there is. Mark Ross truly has a wonderful spirit, an infectious sense of humor and a flair for sharing this elusive place that few others possess. I'm already planning my next Ross Safari... wanna join me? Seriously! My e-mail address is included in my Reviewer Profile, so please contact me. I'd love to hear from you!

Most of this book is about true encounters with amazing animals in East Africa. The stories took me back to my own safari experiences in another part of Africa. If you've never been on safari and are thinking about going, this book will give you a good idea of what to expect. As implied in the title, beauty is also sometimes dangerous. The last part of the book is about an awful incident in which he and two of his clients were taken hostage by rebels who crossed the border from a nearby country. The area they were in should have been safe. Mark did all he could to take care of his clients, but in such a chaotic situation, no one can control what happens. Sadly, the couple who had been on safari with him several times was killed. It may have only been chance that he survived himself. I admire how he has honestly shared his feelings of loss and helplessness and also how he is trying to reconcile his love of Africa with what happened. Reading this book scared me but it also made me want to return to Africa to see more of this amazing continent.

I found the book thrilling and chilling. The author provides clear and engaging description of the beauty of diverse and numerous beasts found in the game parks of East Africa. The thrill and chill of observing millions of migrating wildebeests and associated species of antelopes on plains of Masai Mara and Serengeti, and their predation by lions, crocodiles, hyenas, cheetahs, and leopards provide captivating reading. Several times, the author and accompanying tourists had frightening and memorable narrow escapes from charging elephants, rhinoceroses, and buffalos. Unfortunately, after some 15 years of relatively happy life in Africa, a most foul catastrophe visited the author. On March 1, 1999, while observing gorillas in the Impenetrable Forest in southwestern Uganda, a band of Rwandan rebels attacked the tourist camp, temporarily kidnapped the author and 30 tourists, and killed 10 persons. This cruel and murderous act through the hand of man, not "beast," left a devastating experience on the life of Mark Ross and many others. As the title of the book indicates, Mark Ross described things that are beautiful and dangerous in Africa, or in any adventures on life's wild side. The narration is informative, sometimes humorous, and always captivating. Reading the book caused me to relive my own remarkable experiences as a safari guide to a team of

international students when I studied at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in the early 1980s.

Probably a 4.5 for it is a great book and the author can surely write. He tells the story of a safari guide and does the job with plenty of style and charisma. His world is unlike most other ones for the qualifications of the job is to know the land and the creatures that abound in that land. Life and death is a daily struggle and the author is in tune with the land and seems to love every minute of it. Tragedy strike in the form of the social unrest taking place in those far regions of the world and one can not help but to feel deep sympathy for the author. This guy is the real deal and I am willing to bet among the very few that can truly say they did all these things. This is not particularly about hunting but it certainly is a tale about the immense wild expanses and wild life that exists in our world. His knowledge of the animals, of the terrain, of the weather, all these bits and pieces make for a great tale, highly enjoyable and not a negative thing to say about it. Not a perfect 5 Stars but very darn close. Takes a certain kind of individual to perform this job and the author exceeds the requirements: from a charge of a crazed elephant, to the exotic rhinos, to the prides, the huge masses of livestock and the description of each day, it is truly a great book specially for those that never been any other place than in front of their television sets watching animal planet. The Serengeti is a thing of wonder and this Safari Guide is the right person to tell anyone all about it. Great book and certainly worth 4.5 Stars.

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