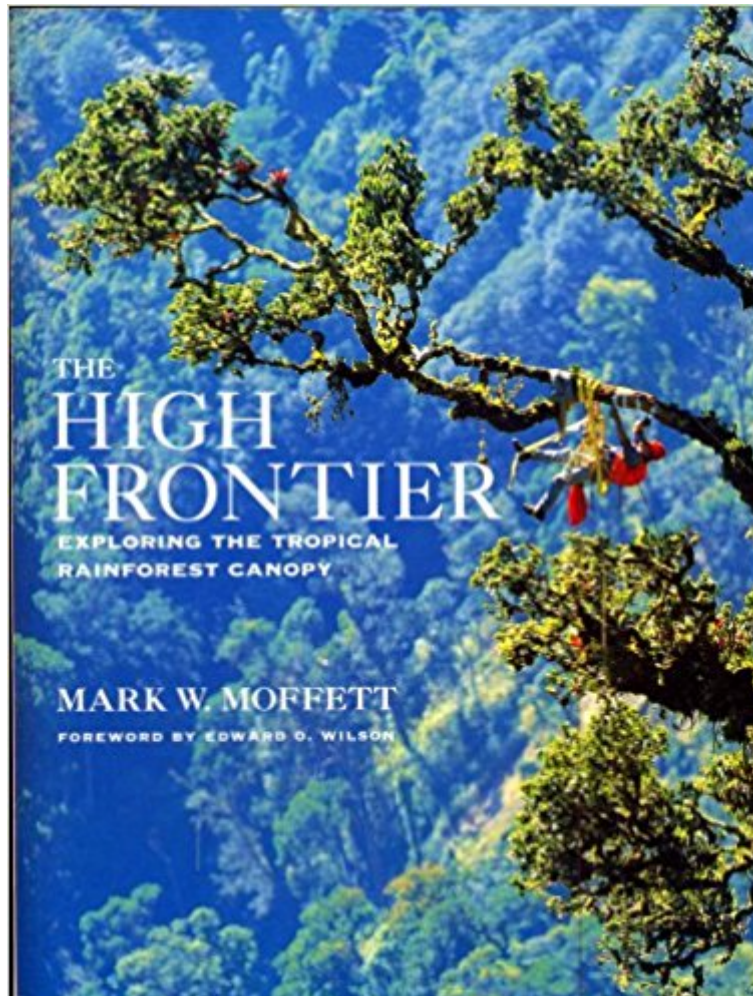




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# The High Frontier: Exploring The Tropical Rainforest Canopy



## Synopsis

Loaded with aerial plants and the millions of creatures dependent upon them, tropical tree crowns are the last and greatest ecological frontier. Hundreds of species - earthworms, frogs, lichens, flowers - never descend to earth during their lifetimes. Eight out of ten remain unnamed and unclassified by science. Donning rock-climbing gear to join researchers working 150 feet and more above the ground, Mark Moffett photographed strangler trees in Borneo, giant squirrels in India, and canopy bears in Colombia. He also entered the terrifying world of arboreal spiders and ants, photographing them under extreme magnification. Described as a "world-roving zoologist" by "National Geographic" magazine, Moffett has documented virtually every major active canopy research site. The immediacy of his writing and the intelligence of his photography make the canopy's fantastic architecture and unearthly inhabitants accessible to the general reader. In the tradition of the great 19th-century explorers, he captures the struggles of the individual scientists and the passions that enable them to brave perilous situations in pursuit of their work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A tree-climber when young, Moffett has combined his early agility with his doctoral rain forest research to write a fascinating account of the fauna of the rain forest canopy. It has been only in the last 20 years that biologists have been able, through a variety of techniques, to get up into the canopy, often 100 to 200 feet above the forest floor, and study the teeming animal life there. Moffett visited most of the researchers now active in this very special field. He mixes the science in an

interesting way, offering glimpses into the life and research methods of these biological specialists. Illustrated with many spectacular photographs taken by the author and written in a very readable style, this book will be of interest to both the biologist and general reader.- Eleanor Maass, Maass Assocs., New Milford, Pa. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Scientists have only just begun to explore the biology of the tropical rainforest canopy. In *The High Frontier*, Mark W. Moffett provides an elegantly written account of the ecology of this aerial continent. The book is packed full with his stunning--and often unusual--photographs of canopy architecture, animals and plants, taken while accompanying tree-climbing researchers working at study sites worldwide. (Nature)Mark Moffett's book is a magnificent exploration of the most biodiverse environment known--the rainforest canopy--supported by the finest colour photographs I have ever seen. Almost a decade has passed since I wrote *The Enchanted Canopy*...Moffett charts the explosion of new discoveries since then and the emergence of a new breed of arboreal naturalists...*The High Frontier* comprises a series of insightful encounters with scientists working in a wide range of disciplines to uncover the secrets of the canopy...The book really comes to life in the examples of how many animals and plants interact. Good journalistic narrative is at all times underpinned with first-hand knowledge and the authority of excellent research...Moffett's book is a visual feast. Some of his photographs are breathtaking...This remarkable book will be another stepping stone on the way to taking canopy science seriously. As Cousteau once predicted research stations under the sea, so I envisage, in the not-too-distant future, permanent research stations in the canopy to study the ocean of life a mere 100 feet above our heads. (Andrew Mitchell Times Higher Education Supplement)Moffett presents his personal vision of tropical rain-forest canopy biology, a science in its infancy; it is a product of Moffett's trips to five continents, where he interviewed and worked alongside scores of the tree-climbing biologists who are exploring this unique and rapidly vanishing terrain. The result is a stunning mixture of adventure, nature photography and hard scientific inquiry that ranks with the best work of Jacques Cousteau. (Robert Crawford Boston Globe)Moffett's own research has often been financed by The National Geographic, and a single glance at this beautiful, large-format book shows why. He is a superb photographer, able to capture, while dangling from a rope or balanced on a branch, vignettes of life at the top...[Moffett] says that he hopes people will see, from his book, that these environments are so rich, so valuable, that they will be moved to protect them. I only hope that this is true. (Jonathan Beard New Scientist)

The High Frontier: Exploring the Tropical Rainforest CanopyBy: Mark MoffettAnyone who is planning a vacation to a Tropical Rainforest should read this book. It would help your understanding of the book if you had some background in ecology. If you do not and you are willing to use the WEB to gain an understanding of theories and definitions the book should be thoroughly interesting. It has wonderful pictures. Having read this book the Tropical Rainforest will be more than just movement and colors when you see it, you will have an actual understanding of the interrelationships between the plants and the animals. I highly recommend the book for your trip.

Very good book! I gave it as a gift and I received very high compliments! The service was excellent, I received the book almost immediately after purchase.

This is a great popular science book, written by an adventurer/explorer who also has a Harvard PhD in biology. He travels all over the world for National Geographic, taking nature photos as well as reporting on cutting-edge discoveries in the rainforests. As such, he succeeds at mixing art and science in this book, which is somewhat technical, but explained in clear language that laymen can understand. This book changed the way I saw rainforests: fully 9/10s of their biota are in the canopy, in the leaves high above, which you would never imagine from the ground. And Moffet went up there with camera to photograph it with some of the world's best scientists. The result is absolutely masterful. It is truly a pity that this book is out of print. I wrote a review of it for the Boston Globe when it came out and later met the author, Moffet. He was as interesting and colorful as the book, full of hilarious stories of his adventures.

I have read the whole book and it is very interestingly written for nonspecialists. Everyone can read it and dream about tropical adventures. It inspired me for my career...

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