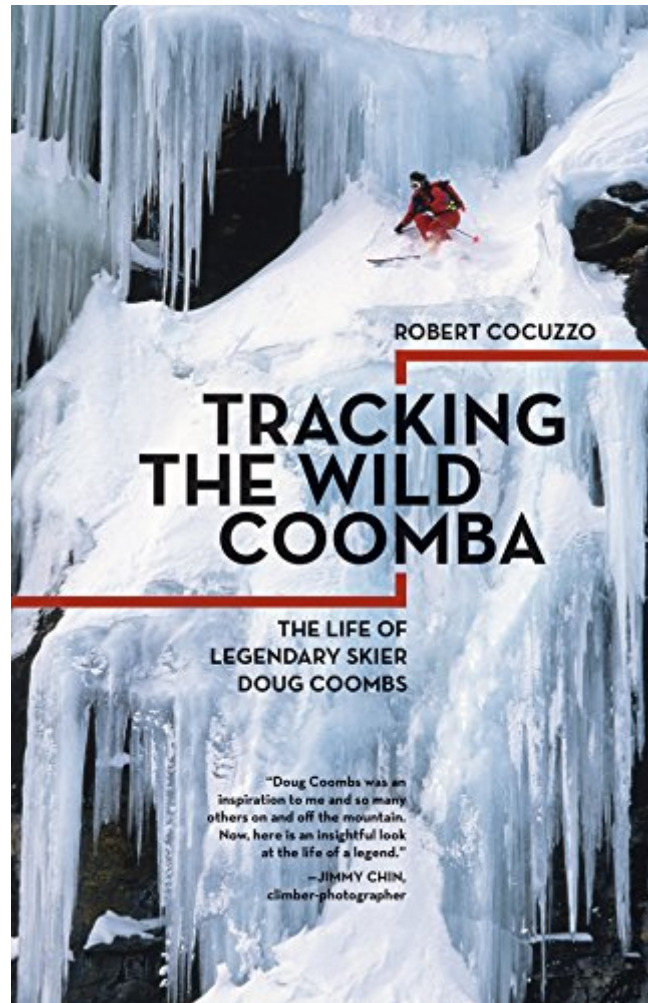


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# Tracking The Wild Coomba: The Life Of Legendary Skier Doug Coombs



## Synopsis

"Doug Coombs had a huge impact on my life; much of my overall approach to mountains comes from his example. I am so grateful that, thanks to author Rob Cocuzzo, I now have the complete story of what influenced one of my biggest heroes." — Jeremy Jones, snowboarding legend

In the 1980s, I was lucky enough to be part of the Bozeman gang of ex-ski racers in one of the crucibles of the American steep skiing scene. Robert Cocuzzo accurately captures the amazing Doug and Emily Coombs that I knew then and the myriad of Coombs ski stories.

— Bruce Tremper, avalanche expert and author of *Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain*

"Doug Coombs was an inspiration to me and so many others on and off the mountain. Now, here is an insightful look at the life of a legend." Jimmy Chin, climber-photographer

A thrilling biography of renowned extreme skiing pioneer Doug Coombs. Arguably the greatest extreme skier to ever live, Doug Coombs pioneered hundreds of first descents down the biggest, steepest, most dangerous mountains in the world — from the Grand Teton to Otter Body in Jackson Hole, to Mount Vinson, the highest point in Antarctica, to far-flung drops such as Wyatt Peak in Kyrgyzstan. He graced magazine covers, wowed moviegoers, became the face of top ski companies, and ascended as the king of big mountain extreme skiing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So glad Doug Coombs story got told. I've skied Mt. Hood and the Cascades for 66 yrs. and challenge the deep and the steep. Coombs had that quintessential character of the mountain people we all love to be with. If you love the mountains in winter, knowing Doug Coombs and his skiing cannot be missed. "Extreme skiing = If you fall you die." When I put my ancient legs on a steep, I think of his fluid life, his fluid ski turns on these impossible steeps, his love of ski, and his David. Cocuzzo did good!

Loved this book! An adventure seekers perfect read, the author brings you along with him as he travels to all the incredible mountains that skiing pioneer legend Doug Coombs descended on a regular basis. Unbelievable, and you can go along from the safety of your couch. I highly recommend this book for all skiers, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Reading Tracking the Wild Coomba is like eavesdropping on the cool kids. Cocuzzo takes you to the heart of Doug Coombs' life, where you can unabashedly marvel at what made this man (and his inner circle) so extraordinary. To read this book is to know the pleasures and perils of a life lived at the top, and on the edge.

Cocuzzo beautifully portrays the larger than life personality of Coombs, and by the end, you feel as if you yourself skied the steep with the Wild Coomba. Cocuzzo's unique use of time by interweaving the story of Coombs' life with his own personal account of skiing the very same mountains made it an enjoyable page-turner that you can't put down.

I lived in Teton Village Wyoming in the late 90's and Wilson for ten years. Doug Coombs was an event within himself. Big mountain skiing is filled huge egos, and even bigger personalities. Doug would have them all eating out his hands with his amazing vision of the possibilities in the mountains. He was able to envision the boundless potentials, but also inspire other adventurers that they were a part of his world. This book was able to evoke some serious emotions from me. The skiing community is a pretty tight as well as sensitive to outsiders. Rob has done a fantastic job of being respectful to this underpinning of the ski culture. This book is more than an account of a tragic accident, but a celebration of an inspiring individual. Doug was my hero. The day he died truly broke my heart. This book made me smile with the energy of the community, the love of his wife, and the respectful tribute to his son "David". You really have covered all the bases with this book. It's pretty funny how in his absence Doug Coombs was able to inspire from the great unknown and take

someone else on a life changing adventure.

Cocuzzo takes a book which could easily have been "man skis various exotic locations, confirms hypothesis that hero was a swell guy" and makes it so much more. The book is a fascinating look at a person most avid skiers admire, and provides a great view into the life and mentality of big mountain skiing pioneers who forged lives and livings doing what they love. It's very hard to tell a story that already has an ending, and Cocuzzo makes a compelling and emotional read out of his own travels, his well-researched vignettes and observations and illuminating conversations with Coombs' family and friends.

As a skier who grew-up skiing a small bump in the Midwest with a poster of Doug Coombs on my wall, I could completely understand the author's fascination with Coombs - probably the greatest big mountain skier in history. We are taken not only on a journey through Coomb's life, but the life of a writer, and more importantly a skier, as he follows Coombs' life in the mountains, skiing where he skied. It was a very enjoyable book in a genre of ski literature which is far too small. Skiing is a sport with endless tales to tell - most are told orally on the chairlifts and bars of the mountain world. I'm thankful that Cocuzzo put these stories on paper for all of us to enjoy.

I loved the way he wrote this book, switching back and forth between Doug's story and Robert's. The first chapter has a number of editorial mistakes that need to be corrected, which almost made me not read the book. However, starting with the second chapter, those errors were gone and the book flowed smoothly. It's full of interesting information that was well-researched. Robert unfolds the story gradually so that the reader stays interested and excited as the book progresses. I'm buying several more copies to give to my skiing buddies with the instructions to "read and pass on!" Loved the book! Thank you, Robert.

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