

OTHER BOOKS BY DAVE AMES

*True Love and the Woolly Bugger*

*A Good Life Wasted, or Twenty Years as a Fishing Guide*



Dave Ames writes every day and lives in Montana one mile from the Continental Divide, where he runs a bed-and-breakfast in a county that has three hundred miles of trout streams and only one stop light. Dave figures that's at least 60,000 trout for every major intersection, but he's still trying to improve the odds.



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Cover illustration by Biff Karlyn

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Few experiences can compare to a shark attack while casting to world record bonefish to help put a diagnosis of cancer in perspective. Fly-fishing winds like an interactive time machine through the pages of this book, taking you on a 340 million year journey from Carboniferous mayflies the size of canaries to contemporary Mexico where the direct descendents of Mayan Jaguar Priests learn to be flats fishing guides. These short stories in the classic tradition are funny, informative, poignant, and filled with enough action to keep you up reading late into the night.

What other people are saying about Dave Ames' books:

"Thought provoking, moving, sometimes powerful, and always entertaining, a welcome and necessary addition to the literary side of the angler's world."  
—*Library Journal*

"A perversely informative look at fly-fishing in several of its most mutant forms."  
—Tom McGuane, author of *The Longest Silence*

"I can tell you straight up, without flinching, that one reason I like to read Dave Ames is because he makes me feel young again. And I am not a young man."  
—Lamar Underwood, former Editor of *Sports Afield*

"There's never been anything this powerful in the fly-fishing literature."  
—Gary LaFontaine, author of *Caddisflies*

"Humorous and down to Earth, whets the appetite for wild rivers."  
—*Hooked on the Outdoors Magazine*

"Dave Ames writes from a soul that, like Gaul, may be in three parts. Blended with Zane Grey and O. Henry is a deep vein of the guy who wrote *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*."  
—Rev. Fred Bannerot, New York Anglers Club

"Although Ames calls himself a fishing guide, it is his capacity as a guru that keeps his lines tight, his stories untangled."  
—*Big Sky Journal*

AMES

DANCES WITH SHARKS



# DANCES WITH SHARKS



STORIES BY DAVE AMES

*The stories in Dances with Sharks take you on three very different journeys, and your first stop is...*

XIAN KAA—That the sun would rise each morning was not a given for the Mayan Indians, so their Jaguar Priests helped it along with blood sacrifice. For five-hundred years while Europe was mired in the Dark Ages the Mayans ruled over one of history's most dominant and innovative civilizations, now they work for \$5 a day. Explore the dual nature of the Mexican character as the heirs to those Jaguar Priests study to become fishing guides in the "Land Where the Sky is Born."

ARMAGEDDON—Experience first hand the end of over 300 million years of the Earth's history along with Duke and the Mayor as they wake up covered with radioactive ash in a remote river canyon. The sky is falling and on the off chance they're headed for heaven, the boys figure it's best if they don't show up with any beer; in the yellow twilight of nuclear winter the hatches have never been better.

RED COAT KEY—This desert island is where the British loyalists hid out after the American Revolution. It's still full of pirates; it's also where Ames, a man now trapped in a woman's body following initial hormone therapy, flees to ponder the next step in his battle against cancer.

"Of all the glands," he says, "Why did it have to be my prostate?"

With cancer, you pick your own treatment. Doctors recommend but don't decide, and this practical journey down the path to an informed decision trails from dorado on the high seas and bonefish on the grass flats to the effect of testosterone deprivation in the face of Asp and Viper, the dancing snake women.