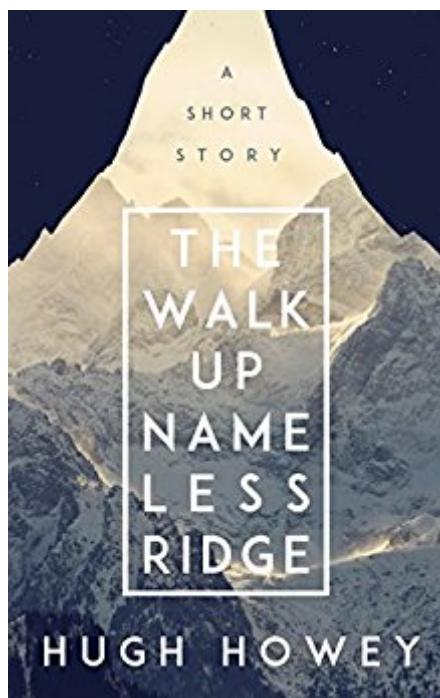


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# The Walk Up Nameless Ridge (Kindle Single)



## **Synopsis**

On planet Eno, there stands a mountain that has never been summited. Many have tried. All have failed. This climbing season finds three teams making their bid up this murderous peak. And one man among them will discover these ugly truths: There are fates worse than death. There are fates worse than obscurity. To be remembered forever can be its own curse.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I'm a sucker for man vs mountain stories, and Hugh's story rang true in that regard. There was a bit of Jon Krakauer's "Into Thin Air" to the tale. The elements of technology needed to make the universal ascent of a lifetime were related quickly and concisely, not overdone (thank goodness!) The story is a quickly and tightly told tale that checks all the boxes...however, at the end, I felt as though I missed something vital. That there was something I was meant to understand. I reread the last few pages, hoping I'd catch that nebulous tidbit that would give me the a-ha! moment, but I didn't. I hope that, somewhere in my dreams tonight, the missing piece of the story will fall into place for me and I'll wake up satisfied that I completely understand what Hugh wanted me to

take away from this story. (Keep reading!....)\*~\*~\*~\*~\*Edited to add: Hugh shared with me/us what I clearly missed in my first reading of his story and, given that, I amended my review to five stars, as the fault really lies with me, the reader, rather than the author. Now that I understand the story I'm gobsmacked at how good it really is. If you want to read Hugh's thoughtful explanation, it's in the comments section. Be warned, though, it might be considered a spoiler! I definitely would recommend reading it after you've experienced the story yourself, though.

The tallest mountain in the universe. Who could resist? Hugh Howey squeezed a lot of story into very few pages. All told, this release took me about 20 minutes to read. The upside, it was fun to read it again the next day. You might ask, "Is a book this spare worth \$.99?". I can only say I would damn near pay a dollar to read Hugh Howey's grocery list. He is that good.

The story takes place in a future where interstellar travel is an everyday activity. The narrator and his climbing partner, Hanson, have journeyed to far-off planet Eno to attempt to summit Mt. Mallory, the highest unclimbed mountain in the known universe. It's more than twice as high as Earth's Mt. Everest. The stakes were very high - the first person to make the summit would be famous, but many had already died in the attempt. It's a fast-paced, suspenseful story that reminded me of the disastrous 1996 climbing season on Mt. Everest. Would the narrator succeed in being first to the summit of Mt. Mallory, and if he did, was the fame worth the terrible price he might have to pay? It's another winning story by author Hugh Howey.

Can be interesting read about climbing mountains in a science fiction context? yes! I discovered it with this book. I liked the struggle to win over ourselves in this kind of mad competition. I think we select the universe according to our desires so in this universe there is a richness in worlds with mountains and mountains.

Originally posted at Fantasy Literature. The Walk up Nameless Ridge is a short story (18 pages, 39 minutes on audio) written by indie writer Hugh Howey of recent WOOL fame. You can order it for less than \$2 at Audible or purchase it for 99c as a Kindle Single and then add the professional narration (Jonathan Davis!!!) for 99c more. The story is about a mountain climber who hopes to be the first person to summit the famous 60,000 foot peak on the planet Eno, even if it kills him. What he wants more than anything is to leave a legacy, even if it means he has to leave other people, including his family, behind. There are others on the mountain who, presumably, have the same

goal. What price are these climbers willing to pay in order to be remembered? After all, nobody cares who got there second. Our climber must grapple with these ethical issues and must live (or die) with the choices he makes. I was completely engrossed by The Walk up Nameless Ridge. With only 18 pages, Hugh Howey makes the mountain and the climber come alive. I was surprised at the range of emotion I felt toward the climber. At first it was admiration, then it was wariness, then... well, I don't want to spoil the plot. I'll just say that the ending surprised me with its emotional impact. This is the second time (two for two) that Hugh Howey has pleasantly surprised me with his self-published books, so I've ordered several more. In most cases the Kindle/Audible pairing is very reasonably priced. Jonathan Davis is one of my very favorite (top three, probably) audiobook narrators. If you're not an audio reader and want to see how engrossing audio can be, give this one a try. You'll get to hear one of the best narrators in the business and if you don't like it, you're only out \$2 and 39 minutes of your time.

I enjoyed the story, and since this is a short story, I was expecting a bit of a punch at the end, which we kind of got, but since the horrible deeds he seems to be regretting aren't mentioned in the story itself, it doesn't pack as much punch as it could. I went back and reread it, and couldn't find where the nameless narrator (a nice touch) hinted at doing anything wrong other than just hoping other people failed. If that's his only regret, I don't think it deserves to be harped on like he does at the end. I prefer to believe he committed murder and simply chose to not mention that in his telling of the story. A bit out there, but when you have a 1st person narrator in a science fiction story, reliability isn't always what you get, so I think it's possible that's Howey is getting at, and the sort of nuanced ending kind of adds to the story for me, even if it does leave me slightly frustrated.

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