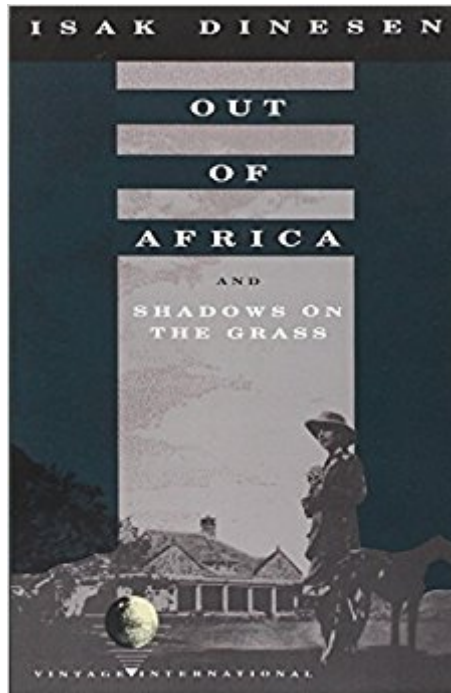


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Out Of Africa: And Shadows On The Grass



Synopsis

With classic simplicity and a painter's feeling for atmosphere and detail, Isak Dinesen tells of the years she spent from 1914 to 1931 managing a coffee plantation in Kenya.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Out of Africa is Karin Blixen's love letter to the country she called home for nearly 20 years. Arriving in British East Africa (now Kenya) from Denmark in 1914, Blixen--Isak Dinesen was her pen name--was immediately seduced by the landscape of the Ngong hill country, not to mention the animals and people who inhabited it. Her descriptions bring this wonderland alive for readers: out on safari, she recalls the movements of a group of giraffes, "in their queer, inimitable, vegetative gracefulness, as if it were not a herd of animals but a family of rare, long-stemmed, speckled gigantic flowers slowly advancing." Blixen laces into her reverie the account of her coffee plantation--which ultimately succumbed to high altitude, droughts, and tumbling international coffee prices--and tales of her friendships with other colonials in Nairobi. But one should read her memoir for the stories she tells of cooking with her Kikuyu chef (who almost never ate any of the European delicacies he so expertly created), adopting an abandoned infant antelope, flying over the countryside in her lover's plane--"the greatest, most transporting pleasure of my life on the farm"--and watching the children of her tenant farmers collect at her house each day at noon for the spectacle of her cuckoo clock. Though some of her references to native Africans will likely make today's readers uncomfortable, Blixen can also be perceptive, particularly in her articulation of the differences between European and African culture and her excitement over what she learns from

"her" Africans. It is not long before she is attuned to the rhythms of nature: she can foresee when the rains will come, can spot the new moon before anyone else on the farm, and knows exactly what the silence of night should sound like. Though her sorrow is almost unbearably palpable when at last--after the collapse of the farm, the loss of her lover, and the war looming--Blixen leaves Africa, the reader will close the book richer for her sojourn. --Jordana Moskowitz

With classic simplicity and a painter's feeling for atmosphere and detail, Isak Dinesen tells of the years she spent from 1914 to 1931 managing a coffee plantation in Kenya.

After obtaining the decade old movie, "Out of Africa" and watching it at least three times, I simply had to read something that this author had written and was delighted to discover that she had written a book with the same title as the movie. While the only mention of her marriage to Baron Bror Blixen was on the very last page of this book, written in a simple paragraph. I have yet to read a book, then see the film based on the same, and be able to say the movie is better than the book. The book gives more personal details and always provides more information. I enjoyed both but must once again declare that the book is better!

I am updating this review as the digital book does not have these editorial errors. It was the sample that needed editing but I loved the story enough to order the kindle book anyway. I went back to the beginning and it is fine...so far. I no longer see the sample in my collection so it may be in edit process as I write. When I finish the book (1,100+ pages) I will probably give it 5 stars...but will wait. I read the sample and was immediately captivated by the descriptive language. I could visualize the scenery and see the people. Then, my heart broke. As I turned pages on the kindle edition, the next page began with with the last sentence or half of the last sentence from the previous page. Shame on you Random House. My spell was of course immediately broken. Either correct and resend this kindle edition or give me a credit which I will apply to the cumbersome but surely edited original translation in book form. I gave it 2 stars to say "don't judge a book by its unedited kindle edition".

A touching account written with some depth about others, but superficially when she was discussing her own life. Most authors wrote that way in her day so it's to be expected. (Thanks be to God that someone made it into a movie and John Barry wrote the theme music.)

Very good book. Would like larger type.

Fabulous book

One of my all-time favorites. If you live African adventures, you'll love Dinesen's real-life account of life on a coffee farm. Beautiful.

Bought this to have a copy in print that I can use to refer to specific examples of exceptional writing. Opening and ending 'narratives' are the most poetic prose I've ever read.

I read this for book club. Interesting, but it's not my usual genre, so I can't really recommend it.

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