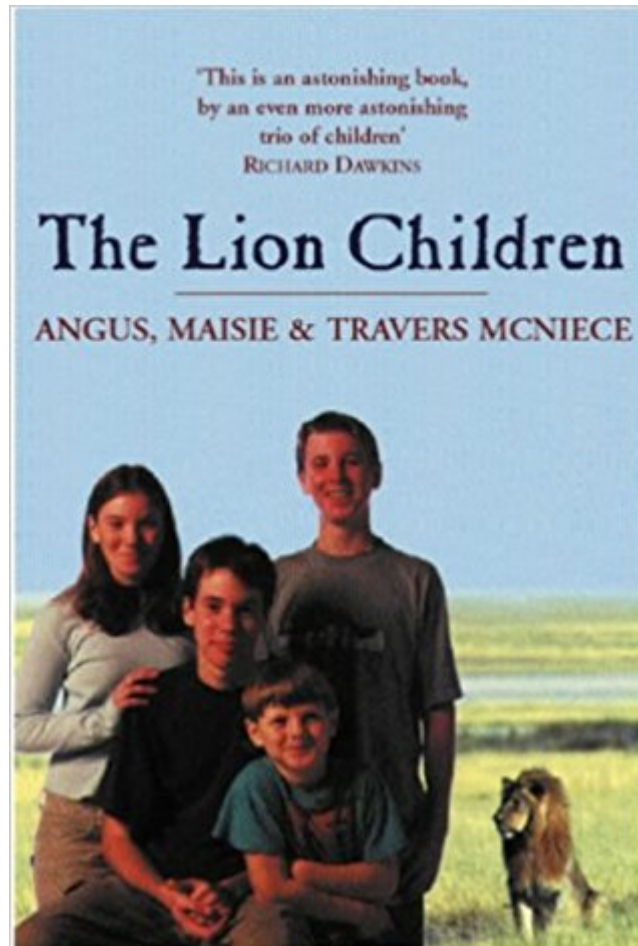




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# The Lion Children



## Synopsis

Emily (16), Travers (10), Angus (9), Maisie (7) and Oakley (1) lived in an idyllic 300-year-old cottage in the Cotswolds. They attended the local school, watched TV and did all the things English middle-class children do. Then, in 1995, their biologist mother seized the opportunity to study lions in Botswana and, in the space of 3 months, changed the family's lives forever. Within 24 hours of landing in Gaborone they were travelling to their new home at Maun in the Okavango Delta, one of the most beautiful wildernesses on earth. Weeks after arriving, the children had made home in an old mission house full of stray dogs and were learning to fetch fresh water, dig a toilet and which creepy crawlies could kill you and which couldn't. Their classroom was an open hut and free days were spent in a Land Rover tracking prides of lions across hundreds of miles of bush. The Lion Children is an extraordinary life-enhancing story about the joy of childhood and living in an environment as different as it can be. But above all it is about the lions, who we get to know through the eyes of the children themselves. This story will capture the public's heart and imagination. It is illustrated with the children's own drawings and photographs taken over the 5 years.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 216 pages

Publisher: Orion (September 28, 2001)

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Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"A fascinating read, the book, also contains a marvellous set of colour photographs of the family and some of the lions they met." *Animal Antics* "a different and delightful take on living in Africa."

*Traveller Magazine*, 1 April 2003 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The children's father is TV and film actor Ian McNeice, whose films include *Ace Ventura*, *When Nature Calls*, *A Life Less Ordinary* and *Funny Bones* and many TV series including *Longitude*, *Dune*, *David Copperfield* and *Hornblower*. Their mother Kate is one of the world's leading researchers in lion behaviour. The children's Father is Ian McNeice the TV and film actor. He has appeared in major Hollywood films including *Ace Ventura*, *When Nature Calls*, *A Life Less Ordinary* and *Funny Bones* and many TV series including *Longitude*, *Dune*, *David Copperfield* and *Hornblower*. Their mother Kate is an ex actress who is now one of the world's leading researchers in lion behaviour.

This book caught my eye because it's written by the children of a loved English actor, Ian McNeice. It's an account they wrote describing their life in Africa with their mother and step-father, who were studying and photographing lions. The book is simply and beautifully written, and many of the illustrations were drawn by the children. A part of the book is devoted to information about lions and how they live, accompanied by photographs. Interesting subject matter, and very interesting to have the children's point of view. It's not a children's book.

This is a timeless book. If you want to know what it's like to live in the African bush, what better way than through the eyes of three very smart young people for whom seeing lions is a normal everyday activity. You will learn a lot about the lives of African animals and something about evolutionary theory as well. And perhaps best, you will learn how a family of step-siblings and step-parents can work even under the most stressful conditions. This book is out of print but used copies are readily available. It deserves another printing. And you should also get and read "*The Lions of Moremi*," by Pieter Kat (and photographer Chris Harvey), a book of stunning pictures and incisive text. Both are highly recommended particularly for those interested in the conservation of the lives and habitat of wild animals. The book includes recommendations for how you can help. Check out the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust ([bpctrust.org](http://bpctrust.org))

A beautiful, illustrated book of children and their family living in the African bush with lions, written for children, but reaches all ages with its wonder. You are left with the envy of wanting to live like this. Read it aloud to your children, read it aloud to yourself.

Wish it would be reprinted in hardcover. A sequel would be fantastic.

This incredible book was recommended by the evolutionary biologist, Richard Dawkins, as a must

read. This book is written entirely by 3 teenage children who have been raised in Africa studying lions and educated by their amazing mother. Highly recommended.

This is a terrific book, and perfect for the family who has always wondered what it would be like to uproot themselves and move to an underdeveloped and primitive culture. That is exactly what the McNeice children did when their mother decided to leave England and relocate in Botswana. Their experiences are told with honesty, sensitivity and intelligence, as well as much humor. I found this book to be delightful and inspiring....a perfect read for the young and old alike. My family and I had the opportunity to meet and have dinner with the lion children's mother and stepfather, Pieter Kat, a well known researcher of lions, while on Safari in the Okavango Delta in 2002. The book had just been published and I purchased two copies, one for myself and one to donate to our school library. I highly recommend you do the same. You won't be sorry, and when you are finished reading their stories, you will have gained a greater appreciation of children's insights and adaptabilities, as well as lions.

This amazing story recounts the upbringing of three children who leave the comfort of England for the wilds of Africa. Not only is it incredibly written and exceptionally interesting, it's all told first hand by the children themselves after the fact. Very touching at parts and always engaging. A must read for anyone interested in Africa or wildlife or even just interested in a great story.

This book changed my life forever, I love it so much. It has inspired me in so many ways. My favorite book ever :)

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