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Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight



Synopsis

How you see a country depends on whether you are driving through it, or live in it. How you see a country depends on whether or not you can leave it, if you have to. As the daughter of white settlers in war-torn 1970s Rhodesia, Alexandra Fuller remembers a time when a schoolgirl was as likely to carry a shotgun as a satchel. This is her story - of a civil war, of a quixotic battle with nature and loss, and of a family's unbreakable bond with the continent that came to define, scar and heal them. Shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award in 2002, Alexandra Fuller's classic memoir of an African childhood is suffused with laughter and warmth even amid disaster. Unsentimental and unflinching, but always enchanting, it is the story of an extraordinary family in an extraordinary time.

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Customer Reviews

Can you imagine a little girl growing up on a scrappy farm in Rhodesia, near the border of Mozambique during their wars for independence? It's hard to believe that this family survived. They move from country to country but family life goes on. Despite the convulsions of war, the ever-present uncertainty of farming on marginal land, the uneven state of mother's mental health, the flies and poisonous snakes - it is not a horror story. The book is a paean to the author's family and to the Africa she loves.

I loved this book so much; the prose, the story. Very unusual and different from anything I've ever read. Such a fascinating upbringing and oddball family. Stunning descriptions and a great sense of place. I'd recommend this memoir to anyone. So glad it was a pick for my book club as I may not have thought of reading it otherwise.

Please read it for the context in which it was experienced. Funny, sad, other worldly (unless you grew up in war torn Rhodesia). Beautifully written, interesting and intense story with immense detail worth sharing. I could not put it down. A true eye opener.

Ms. Fuller's story unfolds bringing South Africa alive to point you can almost smell their food, dry hot air and here the animals and birds. Her hard but incredible childhood she cherishes is an amazing journey portrayed through the different family and hired help relationships and the places they lived. Her life was filled with assisting in the family to survive the civil wars, droughts effecting their tobacco farm, Mom's depression, and father's strong desire to be self-sustaining farmer in Africa. She provides historical events of the times to enlighten the reader so they truly understand the hardships. This is an excellent read for anyone that wants to understand life in Africa. For me it kept my own trip recently to Tanzania alive and fulfilled my desire to learn more about Africa, the life and the people.

This was required reading for one of my literature classes and by far my favorite book of that semester. Fuller's book is a quick, but very interesting, read and contains so much history among pages of hilarity and had me hooked from page one. I loved reading her descriptions about Africa's flora and fauna, and I can see myself reading this book again in future years. *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* is about a child who grew up on the wrong side of the Rhodesian civil war, and who is nicknamed Bobo after the baboons that live there. It's a memoir told through the eyes of Bobo as she grows up, and the older she becomes the more aware she becomes about the issues surrounding her. Fuller does not write her memoir with the perspectives that she has now, but includes enough detail that the reader can pick up on the issues that influenced her childhood. Fuller's book is a great choice for anyone who enjoys history, travel, culture, or memoirs. It is also a fantastic choice for book clubs - my class spent 4 days talking about different things in this book and we barely scratched the surface. As someone who doesn't normally read memoirs, I really enjoyed this book and it has earned a permanent spot on my bookshelf.

Fascinating and dramatic. Read it and learn about contemporary politics in Africa. Interesting situation; well-drawn, multifaceted characters; I would read it again. The only reason I don't give it five stars is that sometimes I lost the sense of where I was and sometimes events didn't quite link up. But 'real life' is like that. The narrator takes us from her early childhood moving from England to Africa with her pioneer-minded parents, through life in a series of farms, a series of wars, a series of failures and her voice is clear and true and sometimes confused as the voice of a child witnessing grown ups acting in inexplicable ways would be. The family is dysfunctional to say the least, but the narrator just reports what she sees and hears and, considering the drama and emotion of her parents' lives, doesn't whine. I would like to know her (but not her mum).

Growing up in America, we have little to no knowledge of Africa and the numerous civil wars and quests for independence from European colonialism. Many of us forget, or are ignorant of, the fact that many white people of European descent lived in the African colonies before these countries gained independence. This was a very eye-opening story of what life was like in these countries during the 1970's and 1980's, when Africans pushed for their independence but had no real leaders to lead these new nations as independent countries. Not something I would normally read, but I found it quite educational and very raw and matter-of-fact.

This is the fascinating story a British family's trials & tribulations of farming in several nations in Africa, mostly Zambia, Mozambique & Rhodesia. They did not have an easy life, but it was mostly happy. An excellent portrait of life in Africa, both ex-pats & natives.

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