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A Hunter's Wanderings In Africa: Being A Narrative Of Nine Years Spent Amongst The Game Of The Far Interior Of South Africa, Containing Accounts Of Explorations Beyond The Zambesi, On The River Chobe



FREDERICK COURTENAY SELOUS



**A HUNTER'S
WANDERINGS
IN AFRICA**



Synopsis

Frederick Courteney Selous 1851 – 1917 was a British explorer, officer, hunter, and conservationist, famous for his exploits in Southeast Africa. His real-life adventures inspired Sir H. Rider Haggard to create the fictional Allan Quatermain character. Selous was also a friend of Theodore Roosevelt, Cecil Rhodes and Frederick Russell Burnham. He was pre-eminent within a select group of big game hunters that included Abel Chapman and Arthur Henry Neumann. Going to South Africa when he was 19, he travelled from the Cape of Good Hope to Matabeleland, which he reached early in 1872, and where (according to his own account) he was granted permission by Lobengula, King of the Ndebele, to shoot game anywhere in his dominions. From then until 1890, with a few brief intervals spent in England, Selous hunted and explored over the then little-known regions north of the Transvaal and south of the Congo Basin, shooting elephants and collecting specimens of all kinds for museums and private collections. His travels added greatly to the knowledge of the country now known as Zimbabwe. He made valuable ethnological investigations, and throughout his wanderings – often among people who had never previously seen a white man – he maintained cordial relations with the chiefs and tribes, winning their confidence and esteem, notably so in the case of Lobengula. In 1890, Selous entered the service of the British South Africa Company, at the request of magnate Cecil Rhodes, acting as guide to the pioneer expedition to Mashonaland. Over 400 miles of road were constructed through a country of forest, mountain and swamp, and in two and a half months Selous took the column safely to its destination. He then went east to Manica, concluding arrangements which brought the country there under British control. Coming to England in December 1892, he was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of his extensive explorations and surveys.

Chapter I.- Land at Algoa Bay- Diamond Fields- Trading Trip through Griqualand- The Chief Manchuran- Batlapin Village- Bushman's Lair- Klas Lucas, the Koranna Chief- Bechuanas at Lange

Chapter II.- Seventy-eight Elephants shot- Chief, Montsua- Secheli- Bamangwato First Giraffe-hunt- Lost in the Veldt- Tati Gold Fields- Mashuna Diggings

Chapter III.- Massacre of a Tribe Lobengula, King of the Matabele- Umziligazi- Slaughter of the "Headmen"- Battle of Zwang Indaba- Terrible Adventure with a Lion- Mashunas

Chapter IV.- Eland shot- Abundance of Game- Rain- Hardship- "Bill" and the Crocodile

Chapter V.- "Inxwala" Dance- Matabele War Dress- Black Rhinoceros- Bull Elephants- Linqwasi Valley- Hunting in the "Fly- Varieties of Fauna- Sable Antelope- A "Skerm"- A Grand Elephant-hunt- Narrow Escape of a Kafir...continues with... Chapter VI - Chapter XXIX

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Customer Reviews

The book started slow for me but in short order I realized the author was a man of incredible vigor as well as honesty. His observations given in his day to day style of the journal will give you an astonishingly informative account of Africa's big game animals as well as many of its tribes. Mr. Selous frequently goes against statements made by people who obviously either did not have his experience or were attempting to be dramatic to the point that their credibility suffers. He dispels many myths about some of Africa's big game animals. He lays out in a very matter of fact manner the hardships faced by people in this area in both finding water as well as securing food. He had a very unbigoted view of the people for his time and felt sorry for the amount of slavery that went on during his years hunting in Africa. I found him to be obviously a wirey framed man as tough as leather. He frequently hunted on foot, especially for elephant and would walk days and days as well as running frequently to cut them off. He was hunting with black powder rifles for most of his experiences which any hunter knows makes for an even more challenging hunt against the size and speed of the animals he hunted. He cuts out portions of his notes which he felt were of no interest

but his factual account is an understated journal of a real man hunting big game in the 1870's and early 80's in Africa. I highly recommend the book to anyone who enjoys hunting and would like to understand the Africa of the 1870's its beauty, dangers, and challenges.

Excellent book! (Except that the print scans to digital editing is very poor.) A must read for those who enjoy hunting and getting out in the wilderness. I thoroughly enjoyed Mr.

Selous's writing style and the recounting of his many excellent hunting experiences in savage Africa with now antiquated firearms. Also, he reveals the true nature of the indigenous peoples (natives, savages, heathens, kaffirs, etc.); the requirements needed to gain and keep their respect, and avert mutinies within his camps. Those natives who became "unsociable" required a "firm hand" (i.e. a thumping with a whip made from rhino hide strips), without which the natives lost all respect for the Bwana and continued their mischief until the proper punishment was applied. Usually, the punished native would become much more dedicated to his duties and dispense with further mischief. Mr. Selous's detailed descriptions of life "in the bush" such as the: sadistic and murderous savage tribes, severe weather, "true meaning" of thirst, terrain, fauna/flora, faunal foraging methods, and flavors of the faunal meat, preferred environments and defense mechanisms of each species was quite revealing and riveting. I will read it over and over.

Mr. Selous was a remarkable man in many respects and to read his own accounts of his journeys in South Africa is an additional treat. It was incredible how he survived his many adventures as a hunter in the wilds of Africa in the late 1870's; lions, buffalo, elephant, days without food or water, malaria, tribal conflicts, days/nights alone in the wilderness with wild creatures, etc. Mr. Selous also takes time to identify the different animals in Africa and describe their identifying features. What saddens me is that even he describes various animals becoming more and more extinct due to hunting in various locations of Africa and this is back in 1874. Descriptions of killing entire herds of elephants just for their tusks is also hard to comprehend though that is how he made his adventurous living. I read his biography first but also enjoyed his own personal accounts of the life of an African hunter in the late 1800's.

Not only enjoy hunting stories like history as well. this book is very readable. makes me laugh at how easy it is to travel around these days and how people complain about little delays. imagine if

their cart got stuck in the mud every hundred yards and they had unhook the oxen and dig it out. alot of the places that he talked about have different names now so some of them were hard to find on google maps as i was reading the book. a few of the rivers also. I like to try and follow the hunter around on the maps as he talks about going different places. But anyway if you enjoy hunting and history stories i believe you will like this book. not quit the same style hunting stories as say jim corbetts awesome books because this guys main goal was ivory and animals with nice horns for museums and of course dinner. but very good.

Excellent. This is the real thing hunting in the wild. Be aware that Selous (the author) wrote this personal adventures 100 and 120 years ago. Concerning hunting and safari, here you have the instructions to get the job done. As Peter Capstick said....quite different than another day at the office....

I'm writing this review on behalf of my husband, who I bought the book for. We had just returned from a safari to South Africa, and my husband re-read Horn of the Hunter for the upteenth time. I bought the book because it had received excellent reviews on .com. I trust those reviews. Well, he loved the book! He couldn't put it down, and would often read excerpts to me. I'm sure this is another book he will re-read...perhaps on our next trip to Africa!

As this is an old book, one would expect archaic words and syntax; however it is a surprisingly easy read. It is an autobiographical account of one of Africa's top hunters at the turn of the 19th century. Selous presents honestly and sometimes self effacing, as he leads the reader along his journey. The book is great background material for anyone interested in the Golden Age of Hunting.

A lot of history of the early days of African big game hunting. Interesting, first hand accounts of encounters with all of the major big game species. Some may find the killing of game excessive, but this was a different era, and the hunting depicted was for food and commerce, not for sport.

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