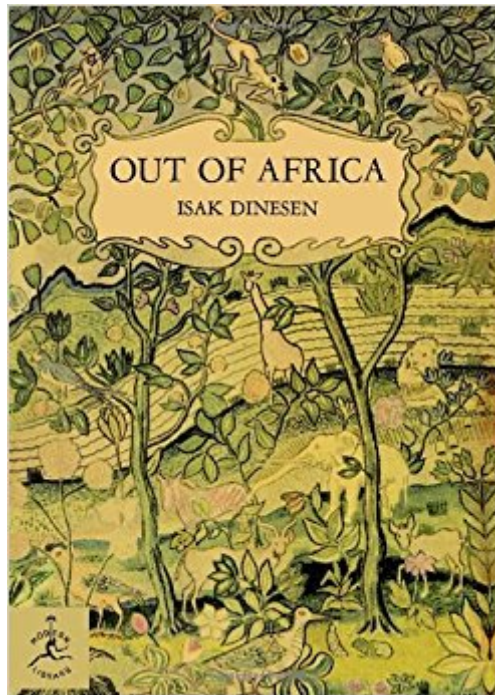




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Out Of Africa (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books)



Synopsis

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time! In this book, the author of *Seven Gothic Tales* gives a true account of her life on her plantation in Kenya. She tells with classic simplicity of the ways of the country and the natives: of the beauty of the Ngong Hills and coffee trees in blossom: of her guests, from the Prince of Wales to Knudsen, the old charcoal burner, who visited her: of primitive festivals: of big game that were her near neighbors--lions, rhinos, elephants, zebras, buffaloes--and of Lulu, the little gazelle who came to live with her, unbelievably ladylike and beautiful. The Random House colophon made its debut in February 1927 on the cover of a little pamphlet called "Announcement Number One." Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the company's founders, had acquired the Modern Library from publishers Boni and Liveright two years earlier. One day, their friend the illustrator Rockwell Kent stopped by their office. Cerf later recalled, "Rockwell was sitting at my desk facing Donald, and we were talking about doing a few books on the side, when suddenly I got an inspiration and said, 'I've got the name for our publishing house. We just said we were going to publish a few books on the side at random. Let's call it Random House.' Donald liked the idea, and Rockwell Kent said, 'That's a great name. I'll draw your trademark.' So, sitting at my desk, he took a piece of paper and in five minutes drew Random House, which has been our colophon ever since." Throughout the years, the mission of Random House has remained consistent: to publish books of the highest quality, at random. We are proud to continue this tradition today. This edition is set from the first American edition of 1937 and commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of Random House.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From 1914 to 1931, Danish aristocrat Baroness Karen Blixen owned and operated a coffee plantation in Kenya. After the plantation failed, she returned to Europe and began to write under the pen name Isak Dinesen. *Out of Africa* reads like a collection of stories in which she adheres to no strict chronology, gives no explanation of the facts of her life, and apologizes for nothing. First published in 1937, *Out of Africa* is not free of the colonial or racist attitudes of its time; yet, within that context, Isak Dinesen is an enlightened observer and participant as she describes the experience of British East Africa before World War II. She portrays in rich detail the vast land around her, alive with strange and wonderful human populations; the thrilling terror of a nocturnal lion hunt; a shooting accident among the Africans on her farm and its repercussions; raising and freeing an orphaned antelope fawn; getting to know the Africans and the colonial adventurers who found their way into her life. "If I know a song of Africa," she writes, "of the Giraffe, and the African new moon lying on her back, of the ploughs in the fields, and the sweaty faces of the coffee-pickers, does Africa know a song of me?" *Out of Africa* is that song. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. -- From *500 Great Books by Women*; review by Lynne Auld

In this book, the author of *Seven Gothic Tales* gives a true account of her life on her plantation in Kenya. She tells with classic simplicity of the ways of the country and the natives: of the beauty of the Ngong Hills and coffee trees in blossom: of her guests, from the Prince of Wales to Knudsen, the old charcoal burner, who visited her: of primitive festivals: of big game that were her near neighbors--lions, rhinos, elephants, zebras, buffaloes--and of Lulu, the little gazelle who came to live with her, unbelievably ladylike and beautiful. The Random House colophon made its debut in February 1927 on the cover of a little pamphlet called "Announcement Number One." Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the company's founders, had acquired the Modern Library from publishers Boni and Liveright two years earlier. One day, their friend the illustrator Rockwell Kent stopped by their office. Cerf later recalled, "Rockwell was sitting at my desk facing Donald, and we were talking about doing a few books on the side, when suddenly I got an inspiration and said, 'I've got the name for our publishing house. We just said we were go-ing to publish a few books on the side at random. Let's call it Random House.' Donald liked the idea, and Rockwell Kent said, 'That's a great name. I'll draw your trademark.' So, sitting at my desk, he took a piece of paper and in five minutes drew

Random House, which has been our colophon ever since." Throughout the years, the mission of Random House has remained consistent: to publish books of the highest quality, at random. We are proud to continue this tradition today. This edition is set from the first American edition of 1937 and commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of Random House.

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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