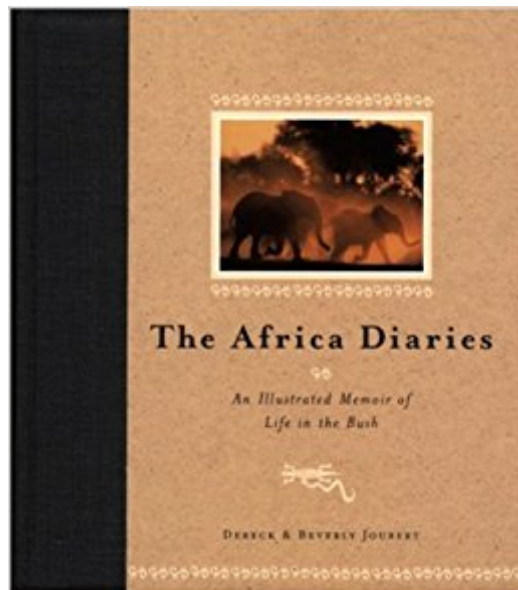


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# The Africa Diaries: An Illustrated Memoir Of Life In The Bush



## Synopsis

Photographs of zebras, lions, hyenas, and elephants, supplement diary entries of a couple who journeyed to Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1978 to run a tourist lodge and have spent their lives living on the African savannah.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Famed cinematographers Dereck and Beverly Joubert have spent more than 20 years in Botswana studying wildlife and making award-winning films (*Eternal Enemies: Lions and Hyenas*). In this new memoir, Dereck gives the reader an intimate look at what it takes to spend months in the field. After managing game lodges in South Africa for a few years, in 1981 the couple was given a chance to join a study of lions in Botswana, and they have never looked back. The text is interspersed with excerpts from their field journals, lending an air of immediacy to the remembrances, such as this observation about what to do when an overly heavy research vehicle keeps bogging down: "Today I cut the doors and roof off this truck with a cutting torch." The text is filled with the hardships and beauty of living in the bush; with the wonder of witnessing the birth of a baby elephant and the horror of the poaching of black rhinos; and with the insights into animal behavior that come from years of observation. This beautifully illustrated book is as close as most of us will ever get to living in the African wilds. Nancy Bent Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Derek and Beverly Joubert are probably best known for their National Geographic videotapes on

African wildlife, such as "Africa's Stolen River," on the drying of the Savuti river over the course of several years and the resultant effects on the local animal populations, and "Eternal Enemies," on the enmity between lions and hyenas. The text of this book is comprised of excerpts from the Jouberts' personal journals during the period when those videos were made, interspersed with explanatory material. There are also plenty of excellent photographs - both of wildlife and of the Jouberts themselves and their equipment. For those familiar with their videos, this book provides a more personal look at the Jouberts and what their life was like in the Savuti, as well as providing some tidbits about what happened to some of the subjects of the videos after they were made. For those not familiar with the videos, it may still be an interesting look at what life can be like for dedicated naturalists in the parts of Africa that are not yet completely tamed. Note that unlike their videos, which focus exclusively on wildlife, this book includes quite a bit of discussion of people - not only the Jouberts and their filmmaking, but also of hunters and of the human political issues that determine the fate of the animals. If you would prefer a book focused more exclusively on wildlife, you might try the Jouberts' earlier book, "Hunting With the Moon."

After so many outstanding Joubert wildlife films, we finally get to know more about the great people behind the lenses! The Joubert's second book is a classic African wildlife-book and a must for any fan of this great continent. Two books came to my mind while I devoured this wonderful book: "Serengeti shall not die" and "Cry of the Kalahari" - all three have the following in common: an honest, down-to-earth description of life among Africa's spectacular wildlife; a long-term conservation-approach; a unique way of putting the reader right in the middle of the bush-action with wonderful words and stunning photographs. The African Diaries are must-reading for any traveller to the great dark continent. Having experienced the mentioned locations many times myself this book brings back fond memories of Africa's last true wilderness area. My recommendation is to first see one of the Joubert's classic wildlife films and then to enjoy the "read behind the scenes". One will not be disappointed!

Since the publication of this book the Jouberts have produced several films (DVD's) about their lives in the bush. But film cannot express everything that can be expressed in words. Very fascinating reading about very close encounters with the wild and the feeling of being part of something bigger. See their web-site [www.wildlifefilms.co](http://www.wildlifefilms.co) (add the dots) or their presentation at [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) .

Dereck Joubert is such a great writer, and has important things to say about our environment and

what we are doing with it (or not). Read the first few pages and you'll be hooked.

We just stayed in a African camp (Selinda) managed and owned by the Joubert's. I wish I had read their account of the region before I went to Africa. It was a great synopsis of the highlights of their life in the bush. The pictures they captured illustrate the stories they portray. I recommend it highly.

Much loved "through their eyes" account and much treasured

The natural history filmmaker authors have lived in the African bush for over twenty years: their lifestyle and work with wildlife is profiled in a diary of their world documenting their work. Any with an interest in African life will find The Africa Diaries an absorbing read packed with details and a 'you are there' atmosphere. Color photos complete the effect.

I LOVED this book. Anyone that likes animals, Africa or adventures will like this book. This book does a great job of expressing what it would be like to live in the wilds of Africa. It also has great photos!

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