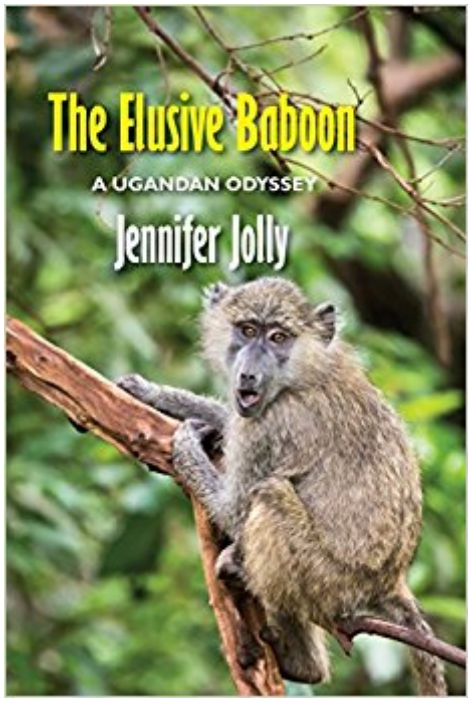
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The Elusive Baboon: A Ugandan Odyssey



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Synopsis

Jennifer Jolly was a naive young woman when she, her primatologist husband, and her small daughter traveled to newly independent Uganda. This book is about how she adapted to an expatriate lifestyle. It reveals the problems and pleasures of conducting ground-breaking fieldwork on wild baboons while camping out close (sometimes too close) to elephants, buffalo, and hippos. She encounters unfamiliar cultures, and the joy of exotic vegetation and spectacular scenery, while she faces a difficult pregnancy. When civil war erupts, she survives a complicated delivery in a hospital under siege. Returning to Uganda five years later, the family lives in a spectacularly situated but decaying rest house overlooking the Budongo Forest and witnesses the descent of the country into the murderous years of Idi Amin. Braving the unfamiliar, sometimes terrified of being shot, but never bored, she comes through with her sense of humor intact.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Elusive Baboon is a stellar memoir about Uganda in the mid-1960s, when the author, as well as the country, was in transition. Jolly paints a story of discovery, new beginnings, and overcoming adversity. Written with humor, insight, and honesty, the book is an enlightening read." --John McCaffrey, author of The Book of Ash and Two Syllable Men"Whether they remember Uganda in the 1960s or not, readers will resonate to Jennifer Jolly’s charming memoir of life in a beautiful, exotic country in turbulent times. Writing with disarming frankness and an eye for the telling detail, she weaves together a fascinating portrait of a nation about to disintegrate, and of a new science--primatology--being born." --Ian Tattersall, author of The Strange Case of the Rickety

Cossack and Other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution"With formidable wit and vivid powers of observation, Jennifer Jolly's style is a cross between Monty Python and Michael Palin. She writes about the perils of travel in up-country Uganda in the 1960s against a background of ever-increasing political unrest and a chronic shortage of money. Family life takes place in a tent in the wilds of nowhere. Pregnancy makes no difference. By day, her husband Cliff abandons her to go in search of baboons. By night, elephants and buffaloes come visiting. A must-read for those who love travel and adventure." --Vernon Reynolds, author of The Chimpanzees of the Budongo Forest: Ecology, Behavior and Conservation

Engrossing tale about ex-pat life. It brought back memories of a past. Jennifer Jolly's crisp prose is perfect. I highly recommend this peek into another world.

Lived it's terrifying and unanticipated moments. A moving and well written true story

I could not put it down. For women of a certain age, the depiction of gender roles and expectations are just as interesting as the details of locale, ex-pat life, politics and primatology.

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