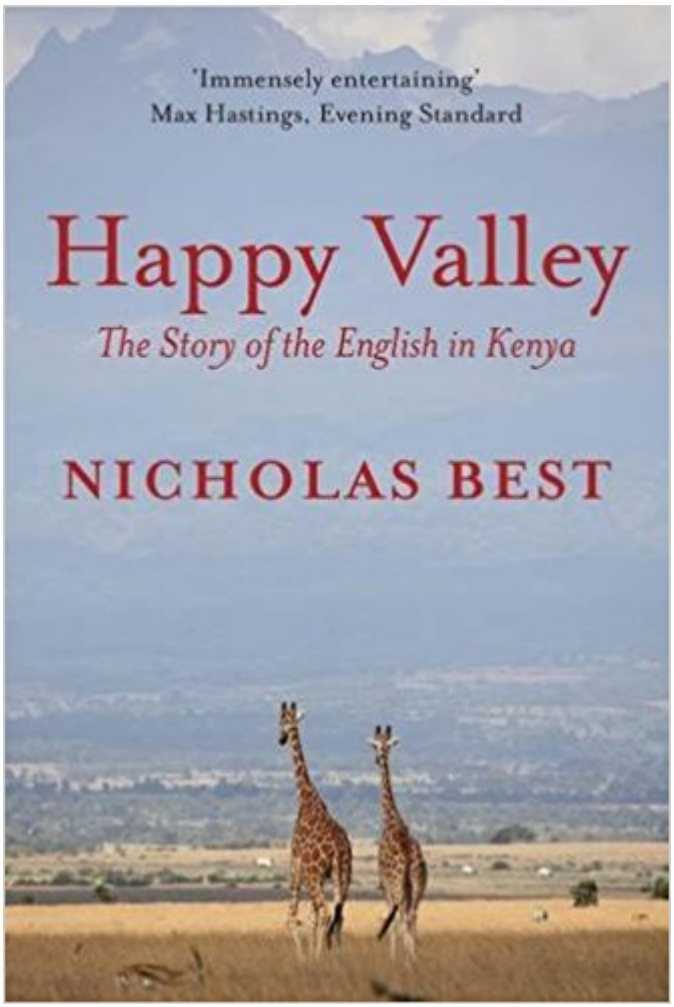
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Happy Valley



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Synopsis

The definitive story of the British in Kenya, from the explorer Joseph Thomson, whose exploits inspired King SolomonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Mines, to the decadent Happy Valley set of the 1930s, the murder of Lord Erroll, and the Mau Mau revolt of the 1950s. "Nicholas Best tells an immensely entertaining tale" - Max Hastings, Evening Standard "Erudite, amusing and, even, gossipy" - Nigel Dempster, Punch "First class... quite hilariously funny!'" - Melbourne Herald "Anyone with experience of Kenya, past or present, resident or tourist, will enjoy reading Happy Valley" - Country Life

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #679,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #188 inÃ Â Books > History > Africa > East Africa

Customer Reviews

Nicholas BestÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books have been translated into many languages. He was the Financial TimesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ fiction critic for ten years and was long-listed in 2010 for the Sunday Times-EFG Bank Ã Â£25,000 award, the biggest short story prize in the world. For more details, see www.nicholasbest.co.uk

This book may be a bit "gossipy" as other reviewers comment, but it is a thoroughly good read. What is most refreshing is the fact that is not cloaked in the latest fashion of political correctness at all cost. It is a gutsy book that I found objective, unbiased and at times almost brutally honest. I learned a lot of Kenya history that I had not known. Certainly some parts are amusingly written, while others stirred up feelings of sadness, nostalgia and loss. Perhaps the title is aimed at better book sales rather than at describing the true content of the book, which is about far more than the "Happy Valley Set" . For anyone interested in Kenya history from the time of the early Pioneers to Independence, I thoroughly recommend this book.

Knowing Kenya well, as I have done, I felt this was a balanced account, which might surprise some people. Slightly misleading title, though!

nicely researched and dryly humorous. Perhaps a bit biased for these times, but an enjoyable book.

Beautifully written providing real insight into the personalities of key players, both famous and infamous, in the development of East Africa . A map would be very helpful to better understand relative location of geographic points of interest.

I lived in Kenya for two years and have read quite a bit about its history. This book spells it out in more detail. Well written.

Excellent book, this is more about the history of Happy Valley and it will keep you turning the pages. It takes you from it’s beginning of Happy Valley and the trials and tribulations it has gone through to where it is now.

This book is easy to read and enjoy. It has a tremendous amount of historical/geographical/anthropological tidbits, interspersed with amusing and appalling stories. I have never been to Kenya and don’t know much about it, so I found myself repeatedly googling things mentioned in the book to learn more. Really an excellent light read!

Interesting history of Kenya. "Happy Valley", refers to the loose morals of the early settlers of the 1900 to 1920’s. The effect of WWI on the area with its battle with neighboring German East Africa.

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