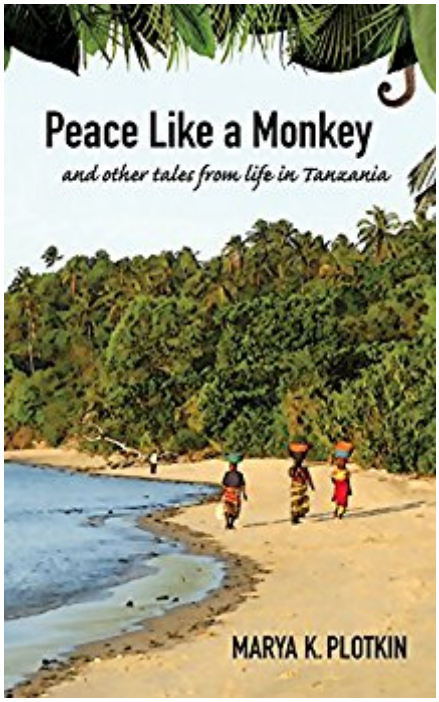
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Peace Like A Monkey: And Other Tales Of Life In Tanzania



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Synopsis

In her collection of essays, Peace Like a Monkey, Marya Plotkin brings her experience living and working in Tanzania home to the U.S. Her humor, empathy, tenderness, and insight bring East Africa to life for readers. Her visit to a nail salon turns into a lesson in the challenges of delivering health care in an impoverished country then into a story about the importance of personal connection. She and colleagues disregard the cynical wisdom that the person who appears to be injured by the side of the road may be a robber waiting for a sympathetic passer-by, and prove that the urge to be kind should prevail. She loses a valued book, only to find it months later, far from the place it went missing, and spins a tale of its travels that illustrates the flow of things and people in a world that values connection above all else. And then there is the monkey. Readers will come away from this book wiser and with their better angels nurtured.

Book Information

File Size: 4120 KB

Print Length: 124 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0997448474

Publisher: Lystra Books & Literary Services (May 31, 2017)

Publication Date: May 31, 2017

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B071ZQ8578

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #266,147 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Tanzania #23 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Africa > East #296 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > General

Customer Reviews

I loved Peace Like a Monkey. By page 5, I knew that this was the kind of book that I would be sad to finish.I lived in Dar es Salaam for a few years in the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢00s, though not nearly as long

as Marya. She perfectly captures my own nostalgia for a country and culture that is warm, hospitable, quick to laugh and full of heart.MaryaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s writing is empathetic, insightful and real, without an ounce of self-indulgence. She sees the positive in every situation without sugar-coating. She is funny, but never irreverent.Chapters 8 (Got Placentas?) and 10 (Blood Samples on Filter Paper) should be required reading for any student of global public health. And if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re thinking about living in a developing country, read pages 4-5 about paying the electric bill in Tanzania, and think long and hard about whether this scenario sounds like fun or torture.Generosity is at the heart of MaryaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s writing, and of her soul. I hope that she will generously continue to share her tales of Tanzania, home and human connection.

Marya K Plotkin's Peace like a Monkey is a wonderful reminder of home is where the heart lives be it America or Africa. Plotkin writes, lives and parents like her observation of her son Janusz at age 7 climbing to untangle their pet monkey, with fearlessness and compassion.Read this tale and remember there are times we must stop the car and make a difference. Marya surely has and you can too. Begin your tales.Thank you Marya K Plotkin for choosing me,Milton D Toro

Mariya has a knack for the autobiographic tradition and sprinkled with a lot of wit and humor. Interspersed with valuable advice like how to rephrase questions in a culture where 'no' is not an answer, her book is a must read for Dar es Salaam residents. It is one of those books you can't put down and read in a day.

Read it, loved it, laughed and cried. This book has a texture for life and a society like no other. It is hard to capture the enigmatic mix of tropical beauty with rugged underdevelopment which characterizes Tanzania. Marya Plotkin does so with grace and a deep reverence for the immense richness of Tanzanian culture and society.

Great story of a brave woman with a heart filled with compassion and determination.

This is an amazing and heartwarming book - highly recommended.

Marya has put together an amazing, touching, and wonderful book about her life. Getting to know Marya and her family, over the years since my daughter met and married Marya's brother, has been an amazingly enriching and horizon-widening experience, and this book adds so much. Marya's life

is one I could not even imagine before I met her, and is an inspiration. I have enjoyed reading this book so much, the words make me feel as if I were there in some of the stories. Thank you for writing this book.

A great juxtaposition of understanding Tanzanian culture from the American perspective and vice versa. Plotkin obviously cares deeply about her adopted homeland, her family, and about people the world over. After reading this book, it made me want to go out and do something good! Also, having lived in Tanzania as well, it brought back many wonderful memories. Well written and engaging, Peace Like a Monkey will take you on an amusing and eye-opening trip to Tanzania and other African countries.

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