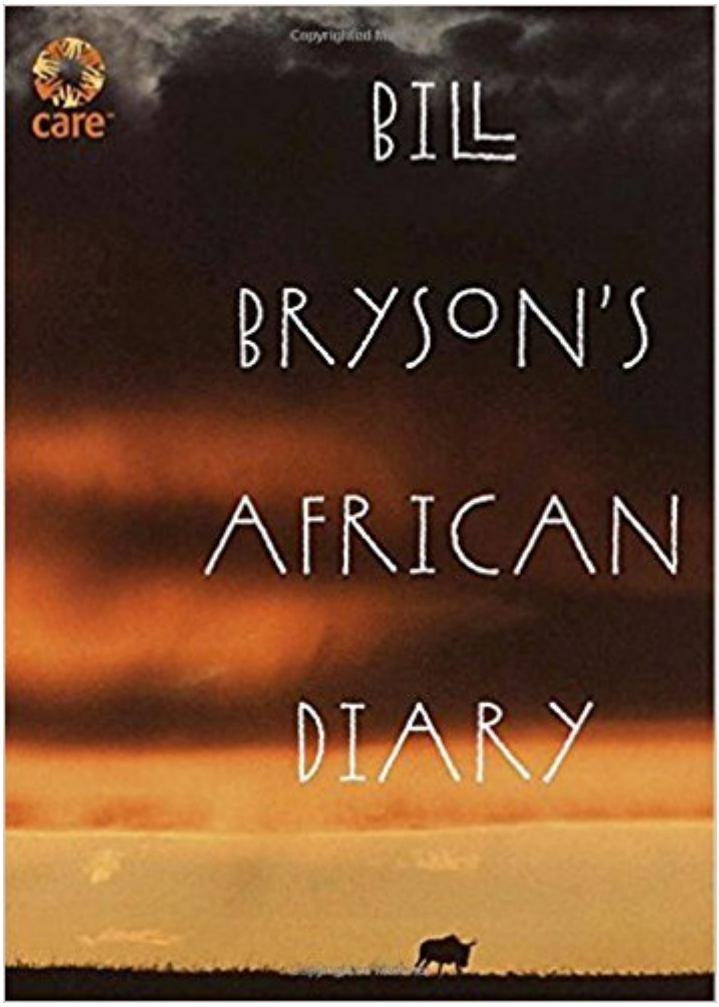
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Bill Bryson's African Diary



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Here is a man who suffers so his readers can laugh.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Daily TelegraphBill Bryson travels to Kenya in support of CARE International. All royalties and profits go to CARE International.Bryson visits Kenya at the invitation of CARE International, the charity dedicated to eradicating poverty. Kenya is a land of contrasts, with famous game reserves and a vibrant culture. It also provides plenty to worry a traveller like Bill Bryson, fixated as he is on the dangers posed by snakes, insects and large predators. It is also a country with many serious problems: refugees, AIDS, drought, and grinding poverty. The resultant diary, though short in length, contains the trademark Bryson stamp of wry observation and curious insight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Bryson is one of the funniest travel writers in the business.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- The Globe and MailÃ¢â ¬Å“Bryson has become an enormously popular travel writer by coming off as the most literate tour guide youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve ever had.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- The New York TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Bryson is a terrific stylist. You canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t help but enjoy his writing, for its cheer and buoyancy, and for the frequent demonstration of his peculiar, engaging turn of mind.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- Ottawa CitizenÃ¢â ¬Å“Bryson is first and foremost a storyteller -- and a supremely comic and original one at that.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- Winnipeg Free Press

"Here is a man who suffers so his readers can laugh." -- "Daily Telegraph Bill Bryson travels to

Kenya in support of CARE International. All royalties and profits go to CARE International. Bryson visits Kenya at the invitation of CARE International, the charity dedicated to eradicating poverty. Kenya is a land of contrasts, with famous game reserves and a vibrant culture. It also provides plenty to worry a traveller like Bill Bryson, fixated as he is on the dangers posed by snakes, insects and large predators. It is also a country with many serious problems: refugees, AIDS, drought, and grinding poverty. The resultant diary, though short in length, contains the trademark Bryson stamp of wry observation and curious insight.

Bill Bryson could write anything at all and I would read it. I bought this on sale and I was completely informed that he wrote the book as a PR piece for CARE, the charity organization. The first chapter/sample was typical wry witty Bryson writing, but the resulting chapters were not so much a travelogue for Africa, but examples of the good that CARE has done in the region and soft-pedaled pleas for donations. Evidently even the proceeds of the purchase of this book go directly to CARE. Seems admirable and the it does seem a worthy charity. About a third? of the book is an excerpt of Bryson's next book, describing the history of early English architects which I found dry and not that interesting until the final pages on the history of English furniture and the various woods used in ancient times.

Once again, Brill Bryson has brought to life an area most of us will never see. And in this case, heartbreakingly brought to life. This is a small book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ too small ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ I would have liked it to be at the very least twice the size it is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ but itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s large enough to give the reader an idea of what life is like for our fellow earthlings in a part of the country much in need of help, of people just like you and me who are hopeful and love life even though it might be a life most of us would consider harsh and unreal. The proceeds from this book go directly to Care International, not to a government agency inhabited by people with empty pockets who are more than willing to fill them with money meant to help others live a better life, money meant to help people work toward making their village and their lives work better for them. Buy this book. Read this book and then buy more copies. Give them away or put them away and advise others to buy copies. To think every cent from this book goes to help an actual, honest organization dedicated to helping people make their own lives better is beyond admirable. Just think, you can be entertained, educated and helpful all in one fell swoop.

Let me start by telling you that I am a huge Bryson fan. This book is a brief diary of some travels in

Africa where he was working along with some representatives of CARE. Like all of his travel books, it is informative, funny, and poignant. His description of a nearly ill-fated trip in a light plane is hilarious and terrifying at the same time. Reading this book will give you an accurate sense of the problems encountered by Africans in their efforts to improve their lives. There is an added benefit to this book: the royalties are donated to CARE for sensible development programs in Africa. Buy this book and read it.Kurt E. Johnson, PhDWashington DC

I love Bryson’s books; that’s why I was so disappointed with this slender volume.On a Kindle, the actual diary takes up only 50%; the rest of the book is taken up with an excerpt from one of his other books, a book I had already read.I am glad I got this book for only $1.99; I don’t mind the proceeds going to CARE. I celebrate that, and that’s the only reason I’m not returning it.Now, how could it have been better?? He traveled with a photographer. Why were there no photos in this book? Include some photos of his travels through Africa with the CARE organization. Now THAT would’ve made this book even better. A chronological journey of words and photos through Africa.Last of all, it ended so abruptly, with a, "Well, that’s the end of this diary..." Very disappointing.So, if you can get it at the reduced price, go for it, or if you don’t mind making a larger contribution to CARE, buy it at the full price.Hmmm....I wonder if I can write this off as a tax deduction as a charitable contribution.LOL and JK, everyone.

Bill Bryson never lets the reader down. This small book was packed with information, great humor, and a window on a partof the world few actually see. I recommend this for a quick read and lasting thoughts regarding Bill’s philosophy.

as usual, Bill has an innate capacity to read his surroundings and convey them to his readers in his inimitable jocular style. His descriptions of African transport left me reeling with mirth especially the local attitude towards the inevitability of death by fast movement. Even his account of flying in small planes in bad weather reveals how Africa adapts well qualified pilots to the state of play in such a vibrant continent. What a pity it couldn’t have been longer and included some other nearby countries; but Bill would have been well aware of the brevity of this account leaving his readers hungry for more.

The first few pages were hilarious--the dry wit you expect from Bill Bryson. Then the quality dropped off and when it wrapped up very quickly I realized this was not a true book at all, but more of a

report of his charity work. Fortunately the price was low or I really would have felt cheated.

Bill Bryson telling a short travel story. Good. Learning the facts of poverty in Africa and what is being successful in helping. Better. Making a contribution and possibly getting you interested in more. Best.

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