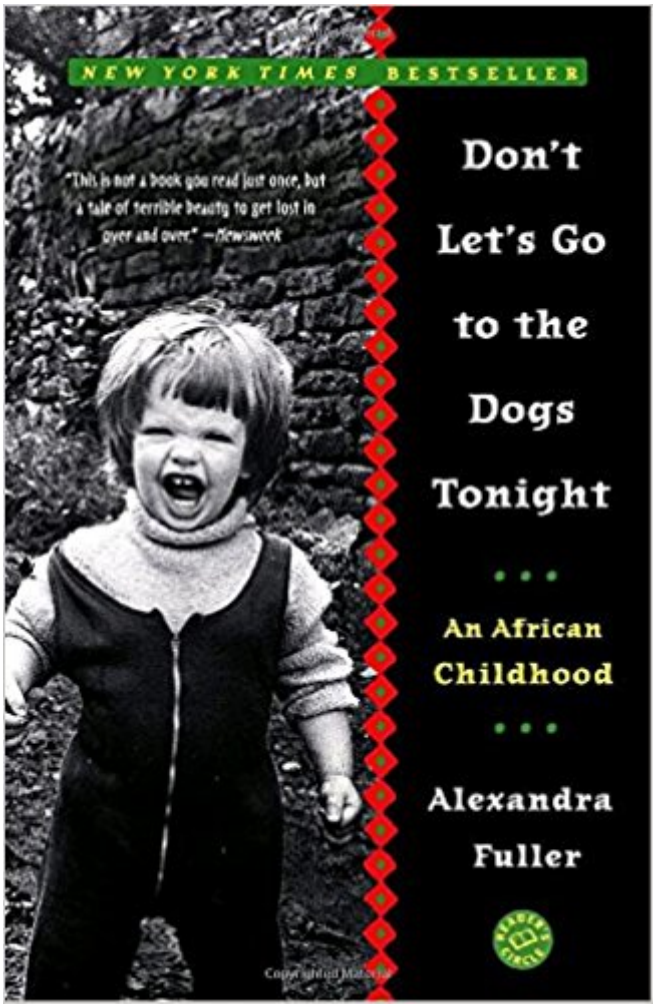
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Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood



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Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Ã¢â ¬Â¢ ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLYÃ¢â ¬â„¢S #1 NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR Ã¢â ¬Â¢Ã Â A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK Ã¢â ¬Â¢ FINALIST, GUARDIAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE Ã Â Look for special features inside. Join the Random House ReaderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Circle for author chats and more.Ã¢â ¬Å“This is not a book you read just once, but a tale of terrible beauty to get lost in over and over.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Newsweek Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“By turns mischievous and openhearted, earthy and soaring . . . hair-raising, horrific, and thrilling.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The New Yorker In DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t LetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Go to the Dogs Tonight, Alexandra Fuller remembers her African childhood with visceral authenticity. Though it is a diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it is suffused with FullerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s endearing ability to find laughter, even when there is little to celebrate. FullerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s debut is unsentimental and unflinching but always captivating. In wry and sometimes hilarious prose, she stares down disaster and looks back with rage and love at the life of an extraordinary family in an extraordinary time. From 1972 to 1990, Alexandra FullerÃ¢â ¬â •known to friends and family as BoboÃ¢â ¬â •grew up on several farms in southern and central Africa. Her father joined up on the side of the white government in the Rhodesian civil war, and was often away fighting against the powerful black guerilla factions. Her mother, in turn, flung herself at their African life and its rugged farm work with the same passion and maniacal energy she brought to everything else. Though she loved her children, she was no hand-holder and had little tolerance for neediness. She nurtured her daughters in other ways: She taught them, by example, to be resilient and self-sufficient, to have strong wills and strong opinions, and to embrace life wholeheartedly, despite and because of difficult circumstances. And she instilled in Bobo, particularly, a love of reading and of storytelling that proved to be her salvation. A worthy heir to Isak Dinesen and Beryl Markham, Alexandra Fuller writes poignantly about a girl becoming a woman and a writer against a backdrop of unrest, not just in her country but in her home. But DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t LetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Go to the Dogs Tonight is more than a survivorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story. It is the story of one womanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unbreakable bond with a continent and the people who inhabit it, a portrait lovingly realized and deeply felt.Praise for DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t LetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Go to the Dogs Tonight Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The Africa of this beautiful book is not easy to forget. Despite, or maybe even because of, the snakes, the leopards, the malaria and the sheer craziness of its human inhabitants, often violent but pulsing with life, it seems like a fine place to grow up, at least if you are as strong, passionate, sharp and gifted as Alexandra Fuller.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Chicago Tribune Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Owning a great story doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t guarantee being able to tell it well. ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s

the individual mystery of talent, a gift with which Alexandra Fuller is richly blessed, and with which she illuminates her extraordinary memoir. . . . ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s flavor, aroma, humor, patience . . . and pinpoint observational acuity.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Entertainment Weekly Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This is a joyously telling memoir that evokes Mary KarrÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The LiarsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Club as much as it does Isak DinesenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Out of Africa.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •New York Daily News Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Riveting . . . [full of] humor and compassion.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •O: The Oprah Magazine Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The incredible story of an incredible childhood.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Providence Journal

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Customer Reviews

A classic is born in this tender, intensely moving and even delightful journey through a white African girl’s childhood. Born in England and now living in Wyoming, Fuller was conceived and bred on African soil during the Rhodesian civil war (1971-1979), a world where children over five "learn[ed] how to load an FN rifle magazine, strip and clean all the guns in the house, and ultimately, shoot-to-kill." With a unique and subtle sensitivity to racial issues, Fuller describes her parents’ racism and the wartime relationships between blacks and whites through a child’s watchful eyes. Curfews and war, mosquitoes, land mines, ambushes and "an abundance of leopards" are the stuff of this childhood. "Dad has to go out into the bush... and find terrorists and fight them

Adult/High School-Pining for Africa, Fuller’s parents departed England in the early ’70s while she was still a toddler. They knew well that their life as white farmers living in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia at the time) would be anything but glamorous. Living a crude, rural life, the author and her older sister

contended with "itchy bums and worms and bites up their arms from fleas" and losing three siblings. Mum and Dad were freewheeling, free-drinking, and often careless. Yet they were made of tough stuff and there is little doubt of the affection among family members. On top of attempting to make a living, they faced natives who were trying to free themselves of British rule, and who were understandably not thrilled to see more white bwanas settling in. Fuller portrays bigotry (her own included), segregation, and deprivation. But judging by her vivid and effortless imagery, it is clear that the rich, pungent flora and fauna of Africa have settled deeply in her bones. Snapshots scattered throughout the book enhance the feeling of intimacy and adventure. A photo of the author's first day of boarding school seems ordinary enough- she's standing in front of the family's Land Rover, smiling with her mother and sister. Then the realization strikes that young Alexandra is holding an Uzi (which she had been trained to use) and the family car had been mine-proofed. This was no ordinary childhood, and it makes a riveting story thanks to an extraordinary telling.Sheila Shoup, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Can you imagine a little girl growing up on a scrappy farm in Rhodesia,near the border of Mozambique during their wars for independence? It's hard to believe that this family survived. They move from country to country but family life goes on. Despite the convulsions of war, the ever-present uncertainty of farming on marginal land, the uneven state of mother's mental health, the flies and poisonous snakes - it is not a horror story. The book is a paean to the author's family and to the Africa she loves.

I loved this book so much; the prose, the story. Very unusual and different from anything I've ever read. Such a fascinating upbringing and oddball family. Stunning descriptions and a great sense of place. I'd recommend this memoir to anyone. So glad it was a pick for my book club as I may not have thought of reading it otherwise.

Please read it for the context in which it was experienced. Funny, sad, other worldly (unless you grew up in war torn Rhodesia). Beautifully written, interesting and intense story with immense detail worth sharing. I could not put it down. A true eye opener.

Ms. Fuller's story unfolds bringing South Africa alive to point you can almost smell their food, dry hot air and here the animals and birds. Her hard but incredible childhood she cherishes is an amazing

journey portrayed through the different family and hired help relationships and the places they lived. Her life was filled with assisting in the family to survive the civil wars, droughts effecting their tobacco farm, Mom's depression, and father's strong desire to be self-sustaining farmer in Africa. She provides historical events of the times to enlighten the reader so they true.y understand the hardships.This is an excellent read for anyone that wants to understand life in Africa. For me it kept my own trip recently to Tanzania alive and fulfilled my desire to learn more about Africa, the life and the people.

This was required reading for one of my literature classes and by far my favorite book of that semester. Fuller's book is a quick, but very interesting, read and contains so much history among pages of hilarity and had me hooked from page one. I loved reading her descriptions about Africa's flora and fauna, and I can see myself reading this book again in future years.Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight is about a child who grew up on the wrong side of the Rhodesian civil war, and who is nicknamed Bobo after the baboons that live there. It's a memoir told through the eyes of Bobo as she grows up, and the older she becomes the more aware she becomes about the issues surrounding her. Fuller does not write her memoir with the perspectives that she has now, but includes enough detail that the reader can pick up on the issues that influenced her childhood.Fuller's book is a great choice for anyone who enjoys history, travel, culture, or memoirs. It is also a fantastic choice for book clubs - my class spent 4 days talking about different things in this book and we barely scratched the surface. As someone who doesn't normally read memoirs, I really enjoyed this book and it has earned a permanent spot on my bookshelf.

Fascinating and dramatic. Read it and learn about contemporary politics in Africa. Interesting situation; well-drawn, multifaceted characters; I would read it again. The only reason I don't give it five stars is that sometimes I lost the sense of where I was and sometimes events didn't quite link up. But 'real life' is like that. The narrator takes us from her early childhood moving from England to Africa with her pioneer-minded parents, through life in a series of farms, a series of wars, a series of failures and her voice is clear and true and sometimes confused as the voice of a child witnessing grown ups acting in inexplicable ways would be. The family is dysfunctional to say the least, but the narrator just reports what she sees and hears and, considering the drama and emotion of her parents' lives, doesn't whine. I would like to know her (but not her mum).

Growing up in America, we have little to no knowledge of Africa and the numerous civil wars and

quests for independence from European colonialism. Many of us forget, or are ignorant of, the fact that many white people of European descent lived in the African colonies before these countries gained independence. This was a very eye-opening story of what life was like in these countries during the 1970's and 1980's, when Africans pushed for their independence but had no real leaders to lead these new nations as independent countries. Not something I would normally read, but I found it quite educational and very raw and matter-of-fact.

This is the fascinating story a British family's trials & tribulations of farming in several nations in Africa, mostly Zambia, Mozambique & Rhodesia. They did not have an easy life, but it was mostly happy. An excellent portrait of life in Africa, both ex-pats & natives.

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