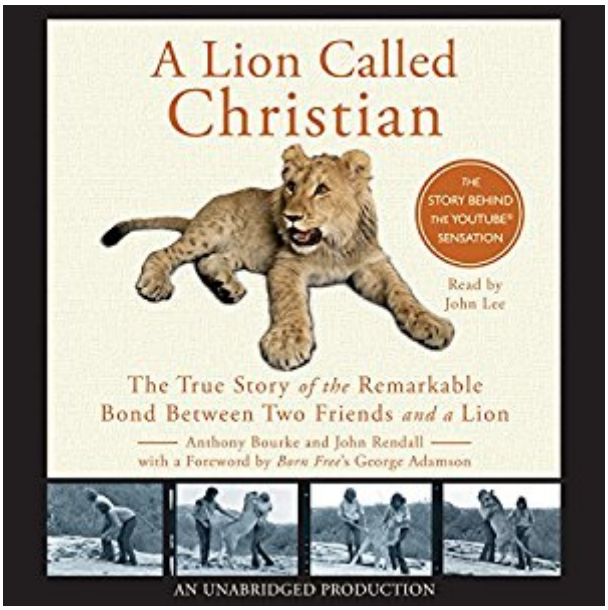
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# A Lion Called Christian




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## Synopsis

In 2008 an extraordinary two-minute film clip appeared on YouTube and immediately became an international phenomenon. It captures the moving reunion of two young men and their pet lion Christian, after they had left him in Africa with Born FreeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s George Adamson to introduce him into his rightful home in the wild.A Lion Called Christian tells the remarkable story of how Anthony Ã¢â ¬Å“AceÃ¢â ¬Â• Bourke and John Rendall, visitors to London from Australia in 1969, bought the boisterous lion cub in the pet department of Harrods. For several months, the three of them shared a flat above a furniture shop on LondonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Road, where the charismatic and intelligent Christian quickly became a local celebrity, cruising the streets in the back of a Bentley, popping in for lunch at a local restaurant, even posing for a fashion advertisement. But the lion cub was growing upÃ¢â ¬â •fastÃ¢â ¬â •and soon even the walled church garden where he went for exercise wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t large enough for him. How could Ace and John avoid having to send Christian to a zoo for the rest of his life? A coincidental meeting with English actors Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers, stars of the hit film Born Free, led to Christian being flown to Kenya and placed under the expert care of Ã¢â ¬Å“the father of lionsÃ¢â ¬Â• George Adamson. Incredibly, when Ace and John returned to Kenya to see Christian a year later, they received a loving welcome from their lion, who was by then fully integrated into Africa and a life with other lions. Originally published in 1971, and now fully revised and updated with more than 50 photographs of Christian from cuddly cub in London to magnificent lion in Africa, A Lion Called Christian is a touching and uplifting true story of an indelible human-animal bond. It is is destined to become one of the great classics of animal literature. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
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inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Essays

## Customer Reviews

I'll write this from a slightly different perspective. Everyone who has seen and enjoyed the video (but didn't cry or weep or have some other strange reaction) is probably wondering: ok, but is the book any good?The answer is yes. It is well organized, fun, interesting and wonderfully written. Rendall and Rourke are also surprisingly self-aware. They admit numerous times that owning a lion was a dangerous, one-in-a-lifetime decision that they were lucky to escape positively.Their story is one that is so strangely fascinating that it's shocking to think it happened as recently as the 1970s. They were selling lions in department stores back then? It feels like a different world. This is probably why the book is so fun to read - it is a rare mix of exotic animals, nostalgia, British and Hollywood glamour and a love story.Again, for the skeptical or the curious, this book is worth reading and will be enjoyed. Just keep the anticipation to the minimum as A Lion Called Christian is a short read that you'll burn through quickly.It's better if you can appreciate that moment than be disappointed by its brevity.

An amazing, heartwarming and heartbreaking account of the rescue of a lion cub from a probable future life in a circus or zoo. Christian, the lion cub, purchased from Harrods and raised for the first several months of his life in a home with friends, Ace Bourke and John Rendall, quickly outgrew his home,and a satisfactory solution had to be found. Fortunately, the two friends were able to take Christian to George Adamson (of Born Free fame) in Kenya, where George introduced Christian into the natural habitat where he belonged. The two friends left Christian in George's care and returned to London, but flew back to Kenya one year later to try and reunite with their former lion friend. The reunion was amazing as Christian remembered the two men and seemed as excited as they were to be able to hug and play again. After a few days of visiting, the men returned to London for another year. The second reunion turned out to be the last time the friends ever saw Christian. This is a story of a love and a bond between humans and a lion that is almost unbelievable. That they would go to the lengths that they did to be sure that Christian would have a chance at the life he was born to live was quite emotional. But more amazing than that to me was the obvious love and affection that this huge lion had for his two human friends. You won't be able to put this book down. A true story that you will never forget.

Received this book yesterday and read it cover to cover in about 4 hours, i could not put it down! It

gives you a fantastic idea of what living with Christian was like and you realize just how cute, sweet and silly he really was. The part where they have to decide what to do with him is heartbreaking however. I wish the book ended happily but honestly it made me feel even more sad for Christian. The best thing we can do now is to never forget him as he was for many decades. This is def a must read for Christian fans!SPOILER!At the end of the book Christian wanders off alone and lonely since all the lions he made friends with were either killed or ran off with other wild lions. By the end of the book i really questioned that taking him to a country he was not a part of was such a good idea.My thinking is that while yes he is a lion, he was not an african lion. He was hand reared and loved being around people, you will see in the book how he loved eating treats and sleeping in a bed and other things he does. I think maybe if he had been able to have more time with Boy before he was killed Christian would have been ok. Since Boy was sadly shot im afraid it hurt Christian badly both because he lost his oldest and most valuable friend in such a hostile country.My hope is that he did have a happy life and did not feel abandoned cause he was truly loved by everyone. Maybe someday we will learn what happened to Christian, the most friendly and amazing lion ever!REMEMBER CHRISTIAN!!

After seeing the video about Christian (several times), I had to read the book, see the photos, etc.Christian has left his mark in this world, but I, personally, would not have forced Christian to becomewild. He was a loving, unique creature as evidenced in how he greeted the men who raised him afteran absence of a year. I would have found some way to keep him as he was and let him be free as well.Christian was smart to make the best of what was done to him in Africa and survive, but for me it wassad.

Love true stories about animals and this is one of best we have ever read. We especially love a book that has lots of pictures of the subjects - this book had many pictures (though we could always see many more!. Christian’s story is about the remarkable relationship between a wild animal and the men who bought him. Though we do not condone the selling/buying of ANY wild, exotic animals, the story took place in a time when most people hardly gave it a second thought. The love between Christian and his owners is touching and heartwarming. These three were definitely true friends and there was a bond between them that is beyond words. Loved the book. Will read it over and over again. Bought the video about Christian to view after reading the book and it was a double joy for us. Highly recommend this book for animal lovers (heck - anyone). It was a joy to read and we couldn’t wait to get to the end.

Sweet story of the love between two men and a lion. Thank goodness that Herod's can no longer sell exotic animals as a novelty to wealthy patrons. This is fortunately a happy ending for Christian as far as we know. Maybe not so happy for other animals that likely ended up in zoos or worse.The love and commitment that the two men had for Christian was admirable. They did right by him. I loved Christian's personality and the way that he learned so quickly what was acceptable behavior and what wasn't. A heartwarming story that will stay with me for a long time.

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