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The Last Safari: A Season Of Discovery In Zimbabwe



BRUCE VANBUSKIRK



Synopsis

n the tradition of Peter Hathaway Capstick, this is the true story of an American hunter who spent the 2001 season living a dream, working on safari in Zimbabwe. Filled with fascinating characters, adventure and excitement, it also deals truthfully with the hard lessons learned about the future of hunting in Africa. This is a day by day description of the events, places and people who make the safari industry work in Zimbabwe. If you're tired of reading the same old books from the professional hunting writers, stories filled with technical details but no passion for the hunt or for Africa, then this is a book for you. If you want to know what really happens behind the scenes in order for a safari to occur, then this is a book for you. You'll travel the bush with the author, getting to know the professional hunters and clients, company employees, local villagers, and learn just how much work it takes to run a safari operation in a third world country. Fuel shortages, poaching, war vets seizing property, broken rifles, snakes, charging elephants, and wounded buffalo were all in a day's work. This is a rare look at the behind the scenes efforts to make a client's dreams come true. this deluxe paperback features over 350 pages of non stop action, observations on the current political situation in Zimbabwe, as well as the stories of citizens forced to deal with the realities of life in Africa. Illustrated with over 70 images

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed the style of writing that Bruce uses to describe what life is like in the safari business. Even though I have been on several safaris in South Africa and most recently in Zimbabwe, I never appreciated the amount of work that goes into making a safari successful. Each page brought me back to Africa and I could easily and quickly relate to the life enjoyed while on a safari. I pictured what each day was like and the descriptions of the events and the sunrises and sunsets was so vivid that I felt like I was right there enjoying the experience with Bruce. I hunted Zimbabwe last August, 2013 and can say that the hunting was excellent but I also got to experience the political and governmental "It's Africa, Baby" that Bruce describes and thought I would not be leaving Zimbabwe as scheduled. Thankfully with the help of a local attorney and my safari Boss, everything was worked out. I hope to return to Africa again and again!

For those who have traveled to Africa, especially safari hunters, and have an interest in African culture, hunting, the safari business, and, in this case, Zimbabwean politics, this is a great read. I have read plenty of classic safari writers published by Safari Press and others, and this is one of the most interesting books I have read on Africa and hunting. Very well written, albeit with a few spelling/edit errors (which do not take away from the story), this is the story of an American who hired out to a safari company in Zimbabwe to work as a camp assistant for a season. There are great descriptions of the country, camps, people and animals and how things work in this part of Africa. The author also provides unique insight into the abilities and conduct of the client hunters on safari and the lengths that PHs and the safari companies go to ensure success, safety and comfort for them. When I finished I hoped that the author had returned for another season to provide more material for a sequel, and perhaps shed light on how the country has fared under Mugabe's ongoing "reform" program, but no such luck.

Not being a hunter of large game ever, I will say that I have enjoyed all the fact put forward in the book. All the places mentioned in the book, I have been there in person though not to hunt however in other evens. There are item that I did not enjoy but that is because I am not a hunter of large game and though I do understand that there has to be a reduction of the herds and this is one way

of doing it. The records of the political aspects of the book are very true to fact and any person in the world that thinks that what went on in Zimbabwe was untrue, wake up and smell the roses because what was mentioned ion the book was a very small tip of the iceberg of exactly what took place. Overall, an intresting account of life in Zimbabwe and the difficulties that are encounted. I recommend this book at anyone who is intedrested in the outdoors as well as places.

I simply loved this book. It reminded me of my own trip to South Africa. The author has a simple direct way of writing in the present tense as if you are right there with him. He made me cry when he wrote at the end while back in the States that he would give everything he owned to be back in Africa. I know I would have liked the author had I met him. His account touched me deeply and his humanity was always present. I highly recommend this book to anyone thinking about hunting in Africa or anyone who has been there.. There is more useful information in this book about present day safaris than any other book I have read. I wish the author the best and maybe someday will have the privilege to meet him.

Like reading a diary. Lots of repetitive descriptions of daily occurrences. Some really interesting stuff and some just ok. I read the whole book, but I kept putting it down for days at a time.

I was completely engrosed in this book and read it at every chance I had until finished. It made me feel as though I was there for part of the hunts and I now have a much better insight into what the outfitter goes through to make sure we have a great time on our safaris. I recommend this book for anyone interested in African hunting.

Husband liked it

Excellent modern day safari book and a real education on the tremendous effort behind the Sean's to satisfy the client and at the same time help the impoverished native peoples

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