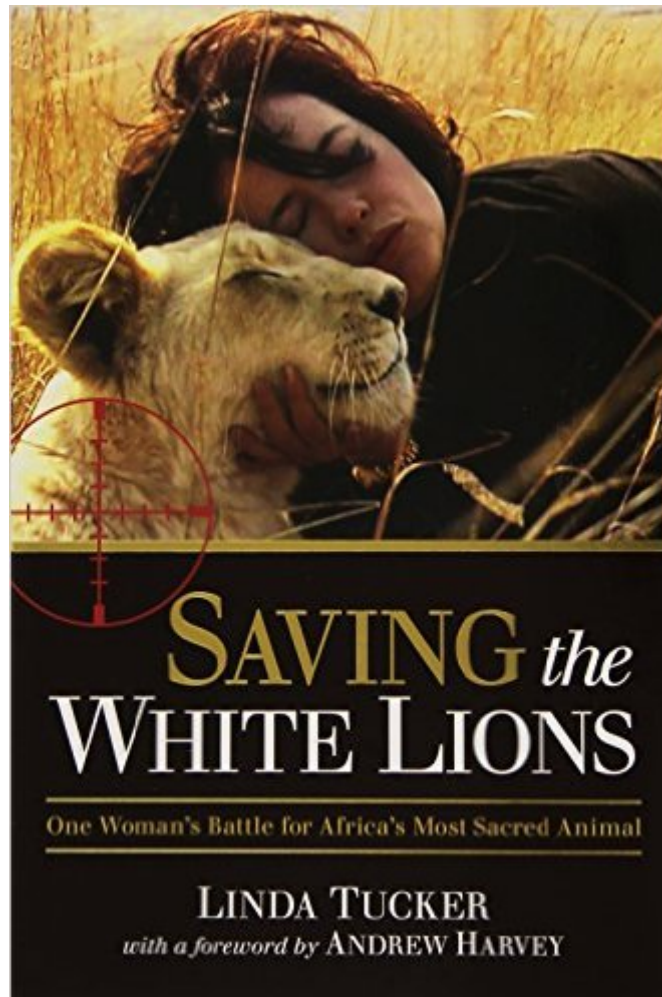


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Saving The White Lions: One Woman's Battle For Africa's Most Sacred Animal



Synopsis

In this captivating, suspenseful memoir, white lion conservationist Linda Tucker describes her perilous struggle to protect the sacred white lion from the merciless and mafia-like trophy-hunting industry, armed only with her indomitable spirit and total devotion. Her story begins in 1991 with a heart-stopping misadventure in the Timbavati Reserve of South Africa. Tucker then a successful advertising executive and a group of fellow travelers found themselves surrounded by a pride of angry lions. There was no way out, night had fallen, and the battery in their only flashlight was beginning to flicker. Miraculously, a local medicine woman, with two youngsters in tow, passed, trancelike and fearless, through the lions and escorted them all to safety. For Tucker, that life-threatening experience became a life-changing one. She abandoned her career, left Europe, and returned to Timbavati to track down the medicine woman who had saved her: Maria Khosa. Upon seeing Tucker again, Khosa only smiled and said, "What took you so long?" She had been expecting her, and there was so much to do. Under Khosa's shamanic tutelage, Tucker learned of her sacred destiny: to be the "keeper of the white lions," believed to be angelic beings sent to Earth to save humanity at a time of crisis. Khosa also prophesized that the queen of the white lions "the embodiment of the mother of Ra, the sun god" would soon be born, on a day and in a place considered holy by Westerners. On December 25, 2000, in the little South Africa town of Bethlehem, a snowy white lion cub, Marah, was born. From the moment of her first meeting with Marah, Tucker's story immediately takes off into battle, as she dedicates her every waking moment to prying Marah and her siblings from the grips of the trophy-hunting industry. Compellingly written in the intimate style of a journal, Tucker describes with unflinching honesty her fears, doubts, hopes, and dreams, all the while unfolding for us an unforgettable tale of adventure, romance, spirituality, and most of all, justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Saving the White Lions" is an epic adventure. Linda Tucker, the author, grew up in South Africa and was educated at both the University of Cape Town and Cambridge. Her passion for returning the White Lions to their original home is only matched by Lawrence Anthony's passion to save the elephants (AKA the Elephant Whisperer). Linda's courage and faith is something to aspire to. She had several incredible mentors, Maria Khosa, the Lion Queen of Timbavati (Timbavati literally translated means, the place the lions came down from the heavens) and Credo Mutwa (a Zulu Lion Shaman). She studied under both and became known as the Warrior Lion Queen. Ingwavuma was her original spirit guide who died at the hands of trophy hunters. Having been raised in a non-native form of spirituality, many of the experiences and coincidences that Linda experienced are almost like reading fiction. Mireille Vince is just one of those incidents that make you really stop and think. Linda had desperately needed money to save Marah (white Lioness and her three cubs). At the eleventh hour Mireille, an older British lady called and said she had the money to save the lions. She had read about Linda's and the lion's plight in Britain's Daily Mail Newspaper. She flew out to Africa the next day. This will not be the last time Mireille saves the day. There is a lot of politics in saving and preserving the natural habitats and the animals in Africa. There is a practice known as "Canned Hunting" and "Trophy Hunting" which targets large animals and unique species. The white lions are high on the list of both hunting practices. Canned Hunting is the worse. The animals are kept in very small cages and are then shot (while in their cage) by the great white hunter. Some sport!

In 1991, Linda Tucker was on a safari vacation with family and friends to get a glimpse of a white lion. When their Land Rover broke down, they were stranded in the African Bush, surrounded by a pack of agitated lions. Without a radio or other means of communication with the outside world, they were stranded until the group was saved by Maria Khosa, the Lion Queen of Timbavati, a local medicine woman. Khosa slowly walked through the pride of lions, with an infant on her back and accompanied by two small children. The lions became calm. Her book, *Saving the White Lions*, is Linda Tucker's account of what happened after this life changing event. Tucker eventually left her

job as a high-power advertising executive to apprentice with Khosa for three years. Khosa names Tucker the Keeper of White Lions, and Tucker--against all odds--goes on to fulfill this destiny. The book is both riveting and fascinating on many levels. Tucker not only reworks her entire life, but also has to scale insurmountable obstacles in order to achieve her goal of saving a pride of white lions. With the encouragement and spiritual guidance of Khosa and other traditional healers, Tucker exerts every ounce of her existence to transform herself from a complete unknown to a major figure in South African and world conservation. In order to do this, Tucker, a white South African, has to gain the respect of the native tribes, she has to overcome the byzantine South African bureaucracy, combat the entire industry of canned hunting, raise funds, and garner support from worldwide conservation groups (who have no idea who Linda Tucker is). Moreover, while she is devoting every shred of her personal resources to the protection of the white lions, the clock is ticking.

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