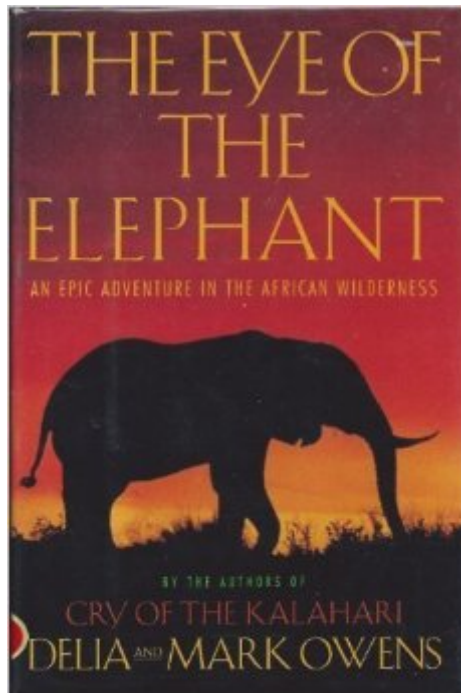


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The Eye Of The Elephant: An Epic Adventure In The African Wilderness



Synopsis

Two naturalists describe how a battle to save the elephants of Africa turned into a fight for their lives when commercial poachers heard of their work. By the authors of Cry of the Kalahari. 60,000 first printing. National ad/promo. Tour.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A second story of the Owens's exceptional experiences in the wildlife habitats of Africa. (The first book is Cry of the Kalahari.) The Eye of the Elephant is a warm and personal story of saving the endangered elephants of Zambia. The reader becomes as anxious for the survival of the Owens's as for the survival of the elephants, and the people of Africa. Eye opening to the problems encountered in doing something so noble and obviously necessary.

The Eye of the Elephant is a wonderful, adventurous journey into the heart and soul of Africa seen through Mark and Delia's eyes. From the very first page you are caught up in their heroic quests to protect the animals they are there to observe. In spite of the unbelievable odds against them, they persevered and put the safety and security of the highly endangered animals FIRST. The elephants in the Luanga Valley are very fortunate to have had Mark and Delia watch over them and be their heroes. I have loved Africa and the African elephant my entire life and I am so grateful for these two selfless, dedicated people who have become the protectors of our most precious wildlife. This is one of my most treasured African stories.

Wildlife researchers and conservationists Delia and Mark Owens have spent much of their lives since 1974 in the African bush, first in the Kalahari Desert from which came their best seller "Cry of the Kalahari" and then in the North Luangwa Valley in Zambia, the setting of this 1992 book. The Owens' passion leads them to risk their lives routinely. In searching for a suitable camp in North Luangwa they set out in an ancient truck with no radio and inadequate gear. After a grueling trek that would have sent sane mortals packing for home they separate so Mark can fly his Cessna to a site that "would make Cessna's insurance company shudder" while Delia makes the two-day trip alone with the old truck and a trailer over trackless hilly, bushy, gully-filled flood-plain terrain. Tracking animals they are constantly walking smack into a startled lion or buffalo or cornered elephant. But the real danger comes from people. "The Eye of the Elephant," while filled with wildlife anecdotes and tidbits of information about elephants and lions, is really about the poaching war the Owens conducted on behalf of the besieged North Luangwa elephants. The poachers are villagers, many armed with AK47s, backed by the local government and assisted by the corrupt and underequipped local game guards. The Owens' weapons are education, cottage industry projects financed by the Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation and the Cessna. The battle starts genially with children exclaiming over magazine pictures and their parents joining sewing circles and carpentry workshops. But it quickly escalates until Mark drives Delia from him with his obsession for highly dangerous and only modestly effective night flights, and the poachers organize an assassination squad to rid themselves of the Owens once and for all. The book is organized in alternating first-person chapters between Delia and Mark. The tone is brutally honest, touching when one admits to mistakes which endanger the other, disturbing when their frank discussion of anti-poaching tactics veers from the politically correct. The Owens' care more for the animals and the landscape than the people. But since the people are there, their needs must be faced. Their singlemindedness will outrage some, but their strong personalities and sheer stamina will awe almost everyone. York County Coast Star

You will immediately be drawn into their story! I was so involved reading this book that I missed my train station stop...you'll feel like you're there with them!

Amazing sequel to Cries of the Kalahari. Lessons in perseverance and endurance. Recommend to anyone concerned about preserving our endangered species and opposing the poaching cartels. Had me near tears on several occasions, but an uplifting message of hope in the end.

Very emotional journey of two people observing & trying to save the animals in Africa. They fight against people who are benefiting by slaughtering the animals & their habitats & their ability to migrate. Beautiful writing, heartfelt motivation, hopeful outcome. The stories in this book show some ways in which we humans take our power too lightly and inadvertently destroy our environment & our future. This book is best enjoyed after reading the prequel book, "Cry of the Kalahari".

This book was a gift to a friend who had spent some time in Africa. She absolutely raved about it so I take that as a glowing review. I got it for her after loaning her my copy of Cry of the Kalahari by Mark and Delia Owens, a book that I have only ever loaned twice for fear of not getting it back. Now have two copies so I can share. I am looking forward to borrowing Eye of the Elephant as it promises to equal Owens other book.

I bought this to read on a trip to South Luangwa National Park in Zambia for safari. The elephants and other animals were wonderful, and I am so thankful the government is protecting them. But it was not always so, and this story about the struggle in North Luangwa is amazing.

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