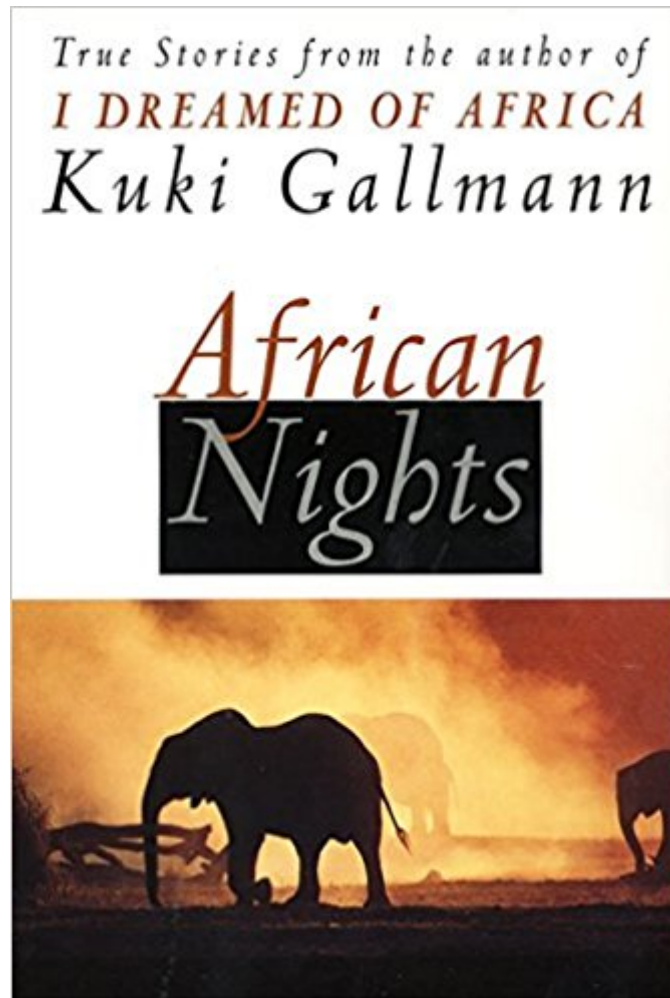




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African Nights: True Stories From The Author Of I Dreamed Of Africa



Synopsis

Lyrical, beautifully written tales of life in AfricaAfrica evokes a deep sense of mystery. It is a place that retains what most of the world has lost: space, roots, traditions, awesome beauty, true wilderness, rare animals, and extraordinary people. In this wonderful and haunting collection of stories, Kuki Gallmann writes of her life in Africa, where every day brings challenge and adventure. African Nights is a treasury of memories, in which fascinating people and places are brought to life. The healing powers Africa can have on those who embrace the land as a place of mystery, superstition, danger, and beauty.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gallmann's collection of true stories of her life in the Kenyan Highlands reads like a novel. One story flows into the next as Gallmann writes of her interactions with the Kenyan people, other European farmers, and African animals. Central to the stories are the customs and rituals of the Kenyan tribes: the offering of cattle for courtship of a daughter, rain dances, sacrifices to gods and spirits, and female circumcision. Gallmann, an Italian, fell in love with Africa 30 years ago and has since made Kenya her home. These stories examine what Africa has given her, but the author also writes of what the land has taken away: her husband, Paolo, died in a car accident and her son, Emanuele, died of a snakebite. The triumphs and hardships of a passionate life are in these stories, set against the spiritual and mysterious African culture. By publishing these stories and selling her first novel to Hollywood, she hopes to bring the environmental issues so crucial to Africa's future to the world's attention. This is wonderful adventure reading. Michelle Kaske

"Captures perfectly the magic of Kenya, creating an almost overwhelming picture of beauty and drama, pain and joy, death and resurrection....Her discovery of African culture, with its mystery and danger, is recounted in spare, lyrical prose."-- "New York Times Book Review" on "I Dreamed of Africa" "The triumphs and hardships of a passionate life are in these stories, set against the spiritual and mysterious African culture. This is wonderful adventure reading."-- "Booklist Previews

If you are one who often dreams of Africa, then you've probably heard of Kuki Gallman, a brave woman who begins her 2nd memoir with those very words: "I was born in Italy, and from earliest childhood I dreamed of Africa." *African Nights*, the sequel to *I Dreamed of Africa* (now a movie in which Kim Basinger stars), is a reverent anthology about the author's experiences in Kenya. In her first book, readers learned of her life tragedies--her husband's fatal plane crash and her son's death from a poisonous pet snake's bite. The stories in *African Nights* take place afterwards and illustrate a venerable woman's courage in the face of the wild and beautiful East Africa. Stories such as "Elephant Ballad," "Night of the Lions," and "The Brigadier's Cheetah" pay tribute to the glory of African animals and homage to the humans they encounter. But these are more than stereotypical animal tales set in beautiful Kenya. "A Maasai Woman," one of the most original stories in the book, recreates an afternoon Ms. Gallman spends with the woman in her boma (compound). In less than six pages the author authentically presents a wealth of obscure tribal custom. Sure, most of us never give Africa a second imaginative thought beyond the hackneyed portrayal of the lone warrior with his spear or herds of zebras running from lions. What makes Ms. Gallman's writing unique in the nature writing genre is her deeply religious connection to our African heritage and a poetic ease for sharing it. After reading this book, you may feel that you have breathed the perfume of tropical herbs while hearing the bass vibrations of elephants in a deep green distance. Or you may end up going to Africa to know the Garden of Eden for yourself. If not, this book offers pleasure and wisdom for loving Africa and Africans as the author surely does.

I did volunteer work at Kuki's Ol Ari Nyrio in 11/07 and it was the most amazing experience of my life. I also had dinner with Kuki and she is an artist- attentive, creative, intelligent, and misses nothing. Africa is a place like no other-you cannot expect the norm - truth is always more interesting & stranger than fiction, remember. Kuki is an amazing person and the work she has done for the people & animals in the area, without spoiling the natural habitat or trying to change the people's ways, is well told. The death of her son and husband, so tragic, has led her to different levels in life,

where so much work has been done for the good of generations to come. Read her books-they are wonderful!

couldn't put it down. Kuki is an excellent writer who puts the reader almost into her story!! love it!! now I want to go visit the Gallmann Conservatory!!

Wonderful and informative story.

So, "I Dreamed of Africa" was panned, but it awakened my soul so I purchased "African Nights". Disregarding the typos, etc., the abilities to read "sound bites" of the Africa that Kuki knew gave me a greater insight into life there. Each story provided images of fun events and sad memories. Pick up the book, each chapter provoke thoughts and concerns. I found the "A Masaai Woman" hilarious - how do you rate yourself? The book contains short vignettes that appeal to the interests of many. If you don't like it all, you will definitely like many of the stories. Well worth the price of the book.

Excellent.

It is a wonderful reading! Kuki writes about Africa with love. And she's good at it. It's moving and takes us to special places within our souls. Loved it

This collection of short stories is exquisitely written, accurately and magically depicting the sounds, smells, sights, and feelings of life and all its struggles and joys in Kenya. Her stories and descriptions brought me back physically, emotionally, and spiritually to the land and people I love. I savoured each chapter and bought my ticket back to Kenya mid-book. I tell my friends if they want to understand why I am drawn to Kenya, to read this book. It is profound and delightful!

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