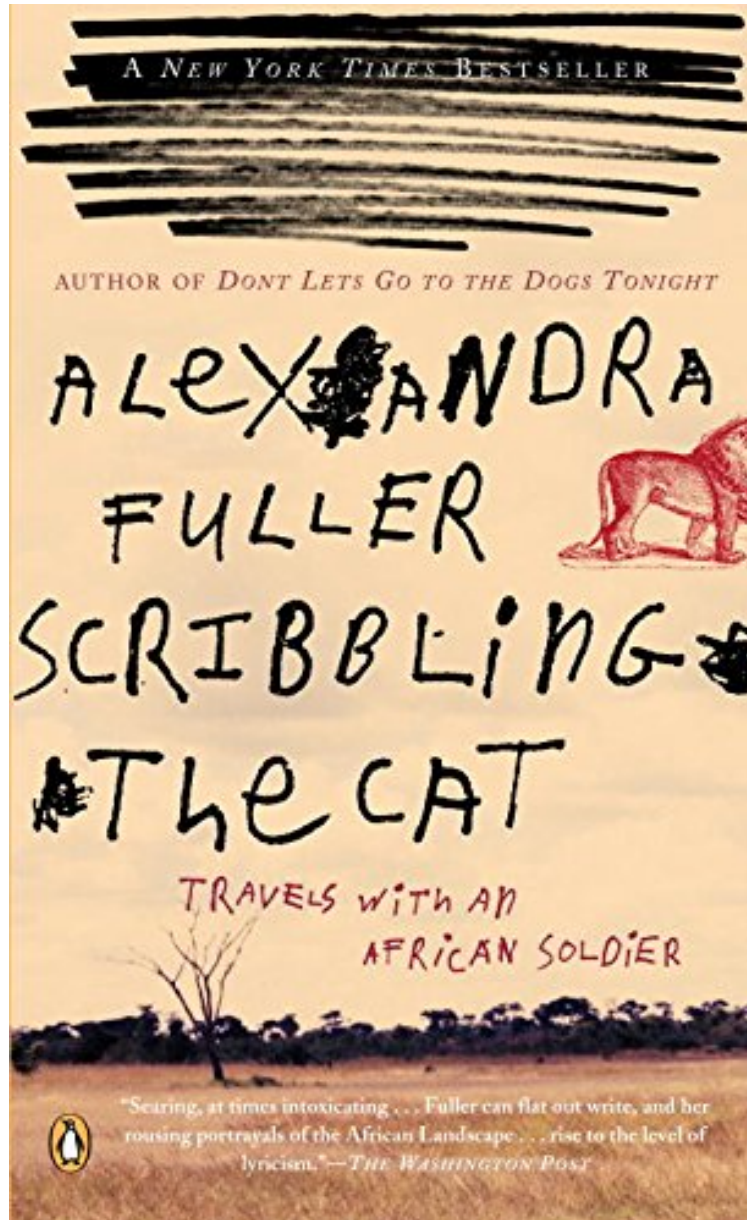


[Ebook free] Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier

## Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier

Alexandra Fuller

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#505783 in Books Fuller, Alexandra 2005-04-26 2005-04-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .60 x 5.00l, .45 #File Name: 0143035010272 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Alexandra Fuller : Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I've read many of the stories that originated in the ...By Denzill've read many of the stories that originated in the Rhodesian Bush War including the "The Selous Scouts" written by their

original CO Col Ron Daly- Lewis, which was earth Shattering, as far as I was concerned but this tale by Alexandra Fuller was written on such a human level that it gave a totally different angle to a similar war story but with so much humour and empathy. Totally worth reading if historically true stories are your forte. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... read all of Alexandra Fuller's books so far and love them This one. By Nona Bressler I have read all of Alexandra Fuller's books so far and love them This one, due to more unusual wording, was a little harder to understand so it was good that the definitions were listed in the back of the book. It gives a very vivid picture of what life in the time of war was like - so sad in such a beautiful country. I was also sad to learn of the ending of Alexander's marriage - just hope she finds the happiness she is searching for and her children grow up to be as talented as she is. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting true life story, beautifully read! By Suzanne Bennett I ordered this audiobook because I like the reader, Lisette LeCat. She does a wonderful job reading the No.1 Ladies' Detective novels, and I wanted to get more of her work to listen to. She does a lovely job with this novel as well. The story line of the novel is a bit harsh as compared with the Ladies' Detective novels, but this is a true story and that's life! :D

When Alexandra ("Bo") Fuller was home in Zambia a few years ago, visiting her parents for Christmas, she asked her father about a nearby banana farmer who was known for being a "tough bugger." Her father's response was a warning to steer clear of him; he told Bo: "Curiosity scribbled the cat." Nonetheless, Fuller began her strange friendship with the man she calls K, a white African and veteran of the Rhodesian war. With the same fiercely beautiful prose that won her acclaim for *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, Fuller here recounts her friendship with K. K is, seemingly, a man of contradictions: tattooed, battle scarred, and weathered by farm work, he is a lion of a man, feral and bulletproof. Yet he is also a born-again Christian, given to weeping when he recollects his failed romantic life, and more than anything else welling up inside with memories of battle. For his war, like all wars, was a brutal one, marked by racial strife, jungle battles, unimaginable tortures, and the murdering of innocent civilians and K, like all the veterans of the war, has blood on his hands. Driven by K's memories, Fuller and K decide to enter the heart of darkness in the most literal way by traveling from Zambia through Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) and Mozambique to visit the scenes of the war and to meet other veterans. It is a strange journey into the past, one marked at once by somber reflections and odd humor and featuring characters such as Mapenga, a fellow veteran who lives with his pet lion on a little island in the middle of a lake and is known to cope with his personal demons by refusing to speak for days on end. What results from Fuller's journey is a remarkably unbiased and unsentimental glimpse of men who have killed, mutilated, tortured, and scrambled to survive during wartime and who now must attempt to live with their past and live past their sins. In these men, too, we get a glimpse of life in Africa, a land that besets its creatures with pests, plagues, and natural disasters, making the people there at once more hardened and more vulnerable than elsewhere. *Scribbling the Cat* is an engrossing and haunting look at war, Africa, and the lines of sanity.

.com Thomas Wolfe's trusted axiom about not being able to go home again gets a compelling spin through the African veldt in Alexandra Fuller's *Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier*. Fuller (*Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*) journeys through modern Zambia, to battlefields in Zimbabwe and Mozambique with the scarred veteran of the Rhodesian Wars she identifies only as "K." Intrigued by the mysterious neighbor of her parent's Zambian fish farm and further enticed by her father's warning that "curiosity scribbled the cat" ("scribbling" is Afrikaans slang for "killing"), Fuller embarks on a journey that covers as much cratered psychic landscape as it does African bush country. Though she and "K" are both African by family roots rather than blood, she quickly discovers that 30 years of civil war have scarred them--and the indigenous peoples they encounter--in markedly different ways. "K" is a figure of monumental tragedy, a decent man torn by war-fueled rage, a failed marriage, and painful memories of an only son lost to tropical disease. His adopted Christianity offers him only partial absolution, and Fuller details his gut-wrenching confessions of quarter-century old atrocities with compassion and rare insight. Her prose liberally salted with a rich, melange of Afrikaans and local Shona slang, Fuller nonetheless struggles with a narrative whose turns are often unexpected, yet driven by humanity. There's a clear sense that the author's fitful journey into the past with "K" has opened as many wounds as it has healed, and spawned more questions than it has answered. It's that discomfort and frustration that often reinforces the honesty of her prose--and reinforces Thomas Wolfe's adage yet again. --Jerry McCulley From Publishers Weekly *Memoirist* Fuller (*Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*) describes this book, about her friendship with a Rhodesian war veteran, as "a slither of a slither of a much greater story." This disclaimer doesn't excuse the book's thinness, as it traces Fuller's journey with the white ex-soldier, K, from his farm in Zambia through Zimbabwe and into Mozambique, to the battlefields of more than two decades ago. Fuller evokes place and character with the vivid prose that distinguished her unflinching memoir of growing up in Africa, but here she handles subject matter that warrants more than artful word painting and soul-searching. Writing about war "its scarred participants, victims and territory" Fuller skimps on the history and politics that have shaped her and her subjects. Her personal enmeshment with K is the story's core. She's enamored of his physical beauty and power, and transfixed by his contradictions: K's capacity for both violence and emotional vulnerability, his anger and generosity,

the blood on his hands and the faith he relies on (he's a born-again Christian) to cope with his demons. Fuller becomes K's confessor, and the journey turns into a kind of penance for her complicity, as a white girl in the 1970s, in a war of white supremacy. When K recounts how he tortured an African girl, Fuller swallows nausea and thinks, "I am every bit that woman's murderer." Fuller and K embark on their road trip ostensibly for the shell-shocked man to get beyond his "spooks" and for Fuller to write about it, but this motivation makes for a rather static journey. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Author of the highly acclaimed memoir *Dont Lets Go To the Dogs Tonight*, Fuller has developed a masterful prose style; the *Kansas City Star* calls her powerful as a lion on the move. But lions aren't known for their self-reflection, and this is where *Scribbling the Cat* runs into trouble. Fuller willingly accepts her share of K's guilt. However, she doesn't truly change her view of herself, her people, or her homeland. And she leaves the reader with some troubling questions why, for instance, did she leave her family to travel with the unpredictable K? Some critics praise Fuller for her refusal to offer pat conclusions. However, many find this refusal maddening, even irresponsible. For a hair-raising tour of Africa, there's no better guide than Fuller. Just don't expect many answers. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.