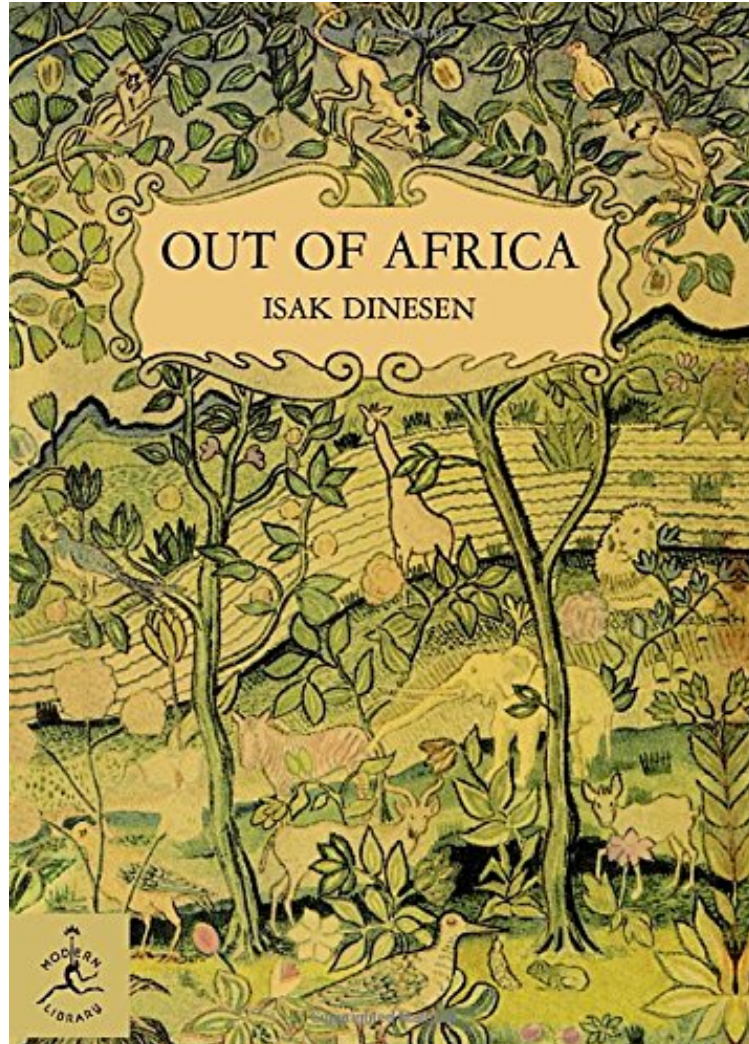


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Out of Africa (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books)

Isak Dinesen

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Isak Dinesen : Out of Africa (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out of Africa (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book that allows the reader to see the inside an African TribeBy Rebecca StewartAfter obtaining the decade old movie, "Out of Africa" and watching it at least three times, I simply had to read something that this author had written and was delighted to discover that she had written a book with the same title as the movie. While the only mention of her marriage to Baron Bror Blixen was on the very last page of this book, written in a simple paragraph. I have yet to read a book, then see the film based on the same,

and be able to say the movie is better than the book. The book gives more personal details and always provides more information. I enjoyed both but must once again declare that the book is better!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. beautifully told.By CustomerThis book was an eye-opening retrospective of life in Africa during the colonial period. As a memoir, it depicted the relationships between native cultures and British aristocracy, as experienced by a Danish woman and farm owner. There are many detailed descriptions of the people and landscapes of British East Africa, now Kenya, as well as personal relationships with other residents there. This is a fascinating story, beautifully told.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good book. Would like larger typeBy Thomas WollbrinckVery good book. Would like larger type.

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all timeIn this book, the author of *Seven Gothic Tales* gives a true account of her life on her plantation in Kenya. She tells with classic simplicity of the ways of the country and the natives: of the beauty of the Ngong Hills and coffee trees in blossom: of her guests, from the Prince of Wales to Knudsen, the old charcoal burner, who visited her: of primitive festivals: of big game that were her near neighbors--lions, rhinos, elephants, zebras, buffaloes--and of Lulu, the little gazelle who came to live with her, unbelievably ladylike and beautiful. The Random House colophon made its debut in February 1927 on the cover of a little pamphlet called "Announcement Number One." Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the company's founders, had acquired the Modern Library from publishers Boni and Liveright two years earlier. One day, their friend the illustrator Rockwell Kent stopped by their office. Cerf later recalled, "Rockwell was sitting at my desk facing Donald, and we were talking about doing a few books on the side, when suddenly I got an inspiration and said, 'I've got the name for our publishing house. We just said we were go-ing to publish a few books on the side at random. Let's call it Random House.' Donald liked the idea, and Rockwell Kent said, 'That's a great name. I'll draw your trademark.' So, sitting at my desk, he took a piece of paper and in five minutes drew Random House, which has been our colophon ever since." Throughout the years, the mission of Random House has remained consistent: to publish books of the highest quality, at random. We are proud to continue this tradition today. This edition is set from the first American edition of 1937 and commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of Random House.

From 1914 to 1931, Danish aristocrat Baroness Karen Blixen owned and operated a coffee plantation in Kenya. After the plantation failed, she returned to Europe and began to write under the pen name Isak Dinesen. *Out of Africa* reads like a collection of stories in which she adheres to no strict chronology, gives no explanation of the facts of her life, and apologizes for nothing. First published in 1937, *Out of Africa* is not free of the colonial or racist attitudes of its time; yet, within that context, Isak Dinesen is an enlightened observer and participant as she describes the experience of British East Africa before World War II. She portrays in rich detail the vast land around her, alive with strange and wonderful human populations; the thrilling terror of a nocturnal lion hunt; a shooting accident among the Africans on her farm and its repercussions; raising and freeing an orphaned antelope fawn; getting to know the Africans and the colonial adventurers who found their way into her life. "If I know a song of Africa," she writes, "of the Giraffe, and the African new moon lying on her back, of the ploughs in the fields, and the sweaty faces of the coffee-pickers, does Africa know a song of me?" *Out of Africa* is that song. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. -- From *500 Great Books by Women*; review by Lynne AuldFrom the Inside FlapIn this book, the author of "Seven Gothic Tales" gives a true account of her life on her plantation in Kenya. She tells with classic simplicity of the ways of the country and the natives: of the beauty of the Ngong Hills and coffee trees in blossom: of her guests, from the Prince of Wales to Knudsen, the old charcoal burner, who visited her: of primitive festivals: of big game that were her near neighbors--lions, rhinos, elephants, zebras, buffaloes--and of Lulu, the little gazelle who came to live with her, unbelievably ladylike and beautiful. The Random House colophon made its debut in February 1927 on the cover of a little pamphlet called "Announcement Number One." Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the company's founders, had acquired the Modern Library from publishers Boni and Liveright two years earlier. One day, their friend the illustrator Rockwell Kent stopped by their office. Cerf later recalled, "Rockwell was sitting at my desk facing Donald, and we were talking about doing a few books on the side, when suddenly I got an inspiration and said, 'I've got the name for our publishing house. We just said we were go-ing to publish a few books on the side at random. Let's call it Random House.' Donald liked the idea, and Rockwell Kent said, 'That's a great name. I'll draw your trademark.' So, sitting at my desk, he took a piece of paper and in five minutes drew Random House, which has been our colophon ever since." Throughout the years, the mission of Random House has remained consistent: to publish books of the highest quality, at random. We are proud to continue this tradition today. This edition is set from the first American edition of 1937 and commemorates theseventy-fifth anniversary of Random House.About the AuthorIsak Dinesen is the pseudonym of Karen Blixen, born in Denmark in 1885. After her marriage in 1914 to Baren Bror Blixen, she and her husband lived in British East Africa, where they owned a coffee plantation. She divorced from her husband in 1921 but continued to manage the plantation for another ten years, until the collapse of the coffee market forced her to sell the property and return to Denmark in 1931. There she began to write in English under the nom de plume Isak Dinesen. Her first book, and literary success, was *Seven Gothic Tales*. It was followed

by *Out of Africa*, *The Angelic Avengers* (written under the pseudonym Pierre Andrézel), *Winter's Tales*, *Last Tales*, *Anecdotes of Destiny*, *Shadows on the Grass*, and *Ehregard*. She died in 1962.