

## Kenya Annotated Bibliography

Deng, Rebecca with Ginger Kolbaba. *What They Meant for Evil: How a Lost Girl of Sudan Found Healing, Peace, and Purpose in the Midst of Suffering*. New York: Hachette Book Group, 2019.

This is the true story of one of the 89 Lost Girls that made it to the USA. This Sudanese Refugee details her life fleeing from war in southern Sudan, her time in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya, the circumstances that brought her to the US, and how God's hand of provision carried her through all the pain, suffering, and loss she endured. It is an encouraging book, as well as a quick and easy read.

Dinesen, Isak. *Out of Africa* and *Shadows on the Grass*. New York: Random House, 1985.

The book details Karen Blixen's memoirs of different adventures at her farm near the Ngong Hills in Kenya during the colonial period. The book is more comprehensive, and different than the movie. It is a worthwhile read.

Eggers, Dave. *What is the What*. New York: Vintage Books, 2006.

A novelized version of the true account of Achak Deng, one of the Lost Boys from southern Sudan. This book takes the reader on a heart-rending journey from Marial Bai to Ethiopia to Kakuma in Kenya, and finally to Atlanta, Georgia. This is an important book to understand what African refugees go through, and the history of the Sudanese civil war. Of note, it has a substantial section devoted to life in Kakuma in northern Kenya.

Gallmann, Kuki. *I Dreamed of Africa*. New York: Viking, 1991.

Made into a movie starring Kim Basinger, this book is the true story of a woman making a new life in the Kenyan highlands.

Huxley, Elspeth. *The Flame Trees of Thika: Memories of an African Childhood*. New York: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1987, c1959.

Similar memoirs as Karen Blixen's *Out of Africa*. Considered classic, it is worth the read to get a glimpse of early colonial Kenyan life near the town of Thika (north of Nairobi, and famous for pineapples).

Huxley, Elspeth. *On the Edge of the Rift: Memories of Kenya*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1962.

This is the sequel to *The Flame Trees of Thika*. It continues the story of Huxley's youth as her family moves from Thika to Njoro in the Rift Valley. It is a good read, and

gives insight into the early colonial lifestyle in Kenya. The book was published in the UK under the title *The Mottled Lizard*.

Inc. Berlitz International. *Swahili Phrase Book (Berlitz)*. Oxford: Berlitz Publishing Company, 1986.

Krapf, Johann Ludwig. *Travels, Researches, and Missionary labors, during an eighteen years' residence in Eastern Africa. Together with journeys to Jagga, Usambara, Ukambani, Shoa, Abessinia and Khartum; and a coasting voyage from Mombaz to Cape Delgado*. London: Trubner & Co., 1860.

These are the detailed first-hand accounts of the first Protestant Missionary to Kenya. It includes great travel notes on Abyssinia (Ethiopia), Kenya, and Tanzania. It also records the first European sightings of Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya. Although the book is long and tedious at points, the historical information is extremely valuable. East African Christians owe a lot to Dr. Krapf, especially for his voluminous works on the languages of the region. Many of the modern translations of the Bible into Swahili are descended from his initial work.

Leslie-Melville, Jock & Betty. *Raising Daisy Rothschild*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1977.

The account of a couple in Kenya attempting to save the endangered sub-species of Rothschild Giraffes. The account also details their starting of Giraffe Manor and the Giraffe Center outside of Nairobi.

Markham, Beryl. *West with the Night*. San Francisco: North Point Press, c1983.

A contemporary of Karen Blixen, this account starts with Markham's adolescent years growing up in Kenya, and finishes with her extraordinary flight across the Pacific Ocean to America.

Matthiessen, Peter, and Eliot Porter. *The Tree Where Man Was Born / The African Experience*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1972.

The chronicles of Peter Matthiessen's journey through East Africa including Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The book primarily focuses on the Serengeti region of Tanzania, and on African wildlife. However, there are great historical and cultural notes about the countries and people of East Africa. This is a must-read book for anyone interested in Kenya, Tanzania, or African wildlife in general. The book is accompanied by fantastic photographs from Eliot Porter.

Mojola, Aloo Osotsi. "The Swahili Bible in East Africa from 1844 to 1996: A Brief Survey with Special Reference to Tanzania." *The Bible in Africa*. eds. Gerald O. West and Musa W. Dube. Leiden; Boston; Koln: Brill, 2000. 511-523.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. *In the House of the Interpreter: A Memoir*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2012.

The second book in the memoirs of this Kikuyu author details his formative years at Alliance High School. With the backdrop of the Mau Mau revolution, Ngũgĩ delves with depth into the period between the colonial era and Kenyan independence, and the intersection of the revolution with Kenyans. His writing is straightforward, but laced with power and insight. The first book in the series deals with his childhood and is called *Dreams in a Time of War*. The third book *Birth of a Dream Weaver* continues the memoirs. Other notable books he has written are *A Grain of Wheat* and *Petals of Blood*.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. *Wizard of the Crow*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2006.

A fictional allegory of an invented African country and its despotic ruler. The story is told in traditional African style by the Kenyan author (who is Kikuyu), and centers around an unlikely and unwilling character. The novel is long (in fact, it is the longest novel written in a sub-Saharan African language), but moves quickly because the characters are engaging. This is a must-read, especially for those interested in African politics, and the rise of corruption.

Ohrt, Wallace. *The Accidental Missionaries: How a Vacation Turned into a Vocation*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1990.

The true story of Denny and Jeanne Grindall and their Christian community development adventures among the Maasai in Kenya during the 1970s and 1980s. The book is an inspiring read, and gives a good, although brief, introduction to Maasai culture through its narrative.

Oliver, Roland Anthony. *The Missionary Factor in East Africa*. London, New York: Longmans, Green, 1952.

Omulokoli, Watson A.O. "Pioneer Converts in East Africa, 1848-1862." *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology* 19 no 2 (2000): 131-143.

Patterson, John H. *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo*. New York: St. Martin's Press, c1986.

The journal memoirs of a British soldier in Kenya during the building of the Ugandan railway bridge across the Tsavo River. This account details the attacks of two lions which ate hundreds of workers before they were finally killed. A 1990s movie called *The Ghost and the Darkness* tells the same tale, but with some fictional items thrown in. This book is a must-read for those interested in Kenyan history.

Perrott, D.V. *Swahili Dictionary (Teach Yourself)*. Chicago: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., 1965.

Pike, Jeffrey, Ed. *Kenya Insight Guide (Insight Guides)*. Singapore: APA Publications

GmbH & Co., 2007.

A well-done travel guide with plenty of full-color maps and pictures. The Insight Guides seem to be one of the better guidebook series on the market. However, there were plenty of mistakes in the Swahili section, as well as some of their recommendations (i.e. drinking water out of the taps in Nairobi is safe). As with all guidebooks, there is a lot of information covered, so take it with a grain of salt. If you are dealing with items that could compromise your health or safety, get a second and third opinion. Update: they have released a new addition with many of the mistakes corrected.

Pirouet, M. Louise. "The Legacy of Johann Ludwig Krapf." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 23 no 2 (April 1999): 69-74.

A great article about the first European missionary to East Africa. Most Kenyan Christians know about this man.

Rawlence, Ben. *City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp*. New York: Picador, 2016.

Dadaab in northeastern Kenya is the world's largest refugee camp, populated by Somalis fleeing Al-Shabaab. Rawlence follows the lives of nine refugees as they navigate this 600,000 strong 'city' in the desert, and charts the difficult and almost hopeless plight of refugees fleeing violent homes. A must-read!

Ridgeway, Rick. *The Shadow of Kilimanjaro: On Foot Across East Africa*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1999.

The details of one man's trek from Kilimanjaro to Mombasa on foot through Tsavo National Park. This book is entertaining and gives plenty of history on Kilimanjaro and Tsavo National Park.

Russell, Joan. *Swahili (Teach Yourself)*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1996.

A great introduction to the Swahili language. This book is a great preparation for entry into East Africa. However it teaches Swahili sanifu (proper) which is spoken mainly in Tanzania and on the Kenyan coast. Inland Kenya speaks a more broken dialect of Swahili that at times can be a real mixture of English and Swahili (known as Sheng). Pay attention wherever you are to how things are said in that locale.

Sahlberg, Carl-Erik. "J.L. Krapf: A Personal Portrait in Memory of His Entry to East Africa in 1844." *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology* 16 no 1 (1997): 51-58.

Shaffer, Ruth T. *Road to Kilimanjaro: An American Family in Maasailand*. Grand Rapids: the Four Corners Press, 1985.

The account and adventures of African Inland Missionaries among the Maasai in the early 1900s. This book has several excellent chapters on Maasai customs.

Stafford, Tim. *The Friendship Gap: Reaching Out Across Cultures*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Not primarily a book about Africa, this text deals with cross-cultural relationships from the perspective of the author who has lived and interacted extensively in Kenya. Most of the examples and stories are from Kenya. Therefore, this book is a key read for anyone wanting to get to know Kenyan culture better.

Thomson, Joseph. *Through Masai Land: A Journey of Exploration Among the Snowclad Volcanic Mountains and Strange Tribes of Eastern Equatorial Africa*. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington, 1887.

This is the first-hand account from one of the earliest explorers (ala Thomson's Gazelle and Thomson's Falls fame – renamed to Nyahururu Falls) to modern-day Kenya, northern Tanzania, and eastern Uganda. It details travel notes to Kilimanjaro, the Great Rift Valley, Mount Kenya, and Lake Victoria (Victoria Nyanza). It also provides excellent cultural notes on the Maasai people, winsome tales of hunting escapades, and interesting geological notes. All in all, it is a very historical read for those interested in East Africa.

Tucker, Alfred R. *Eighteen Years in Uganda and East Africa (Volume 1)*. London: Edward Arnold, 1911.

The account of the Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa in the Church Missionary Society. This book is a great history lesson for African missions, and describes in details travels through Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. It also gives good insight into what missionary life looked like at the time, as well as the political and geographical challenges encountered. I was very encouraged by the tenor and tone of the book, especially when the author described his affinity with indigenous ministry, and his insights into Christian missionary service. This is a good read for anyone interested in African missions and history.

Zimmerman, Dale A., Donald A. Turner, David J. Pearson. *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*. London: Christopher Helm, 1999.

The definitive guide to birds in Kenya. A must-own fieldbook for any serious birder to that region. The book also covers about 95% of birds in Tanzania and 85% of birds in Uganda. The only other book that covers a greater percentage is a *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi* by Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe.

Zweig, Stefanie. *Nowhere in Africa*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

This translation from the German *Nirgendwo in Afrika* is the autobiographical novel of a Jewish family that emigrates from Nazi Germany to Kenya. Set mostly in Ol' Joro Orok near Nyahururu, it chronicles the family's plight of being immigrants in a foreign country during World War II. There is a sequel about their return to Germany called *Somewhere in Germany*.