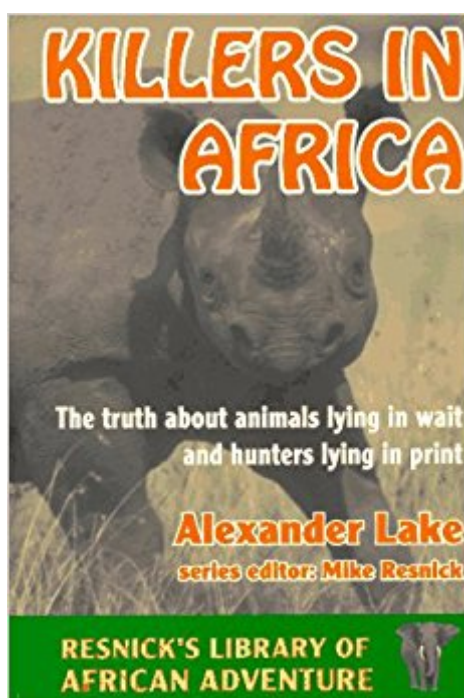


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Killers In Africa: The Truth About Animals Lying In Wait And Hunters Lying In Print (Resnick's Library Of African Adventure)



Synopsis

Book by Lake, Alexander

Book Information

Series: Resnick's Library of African Adventure

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Customer Reviews

Book by Lake, Alexander

My all time favorite hunting book! I enjoy reading this book a lot. It takes me on an adventure that is like every boy's dream. I want to go to Africa because of this book. Obviously, It's a 5 star from me.

This is the book I remember from earlier days. The Africa that existed in a true wild state. Gone now forever. The book brought back "How It Was" in vivid and understanding detail.

This guy did very little hunting. His books are fully of fantasies. He has no idea about firearms and ballistics. It is one of the worst examples of african hunting literature i have come across.

I first read this book while in grade school during the late fifties . I was captivated by it and continued to borrow it from my local library until it became so shabby that the library discarded it (much to my chagrin) without replacing it . I have since found a replacement . I have enjoyed the read as much now as then. While Lake will never go down in literary history as an immortal bard , he has an easy to read style that makes one feel like one is sitting with him by a campfire after a long day's trek ,

listening to the tales of a man who spent much time in the African bush hunting the animals there in a time long past . Each chapter focuses on a different species (or two) . Lake then proceeds to give his memoirs on each species and tells of their habits and of his encounters with them. I don't really care that some of his stories are a bit far fetched or that they may be proved wrong by contemporary research (a mamba that can run down a horse ???) I just simply enjoyed this book for what it is. It is a fun and very entertaining read . So pull up a rock by the campfire while Mr. Lake cleans his Lee Enfield .303 and drift away to a time never to return and enjoy a few well spun yarns about big and small game hunting in Africa when it really was the Dark Continent .

Lake's writing style is simple and direct. Do the stories sound punched up a bit? I'm really not sure, since the nature of big game hunting was over the top it naturally follows his stories of those adventures would sound that way to the reader, tucked safely in his home . He is as candid about his mistakes as he is about his wins. I read another reviewer taking cause with Lake's knowledge of firearms. As someone who personally knows about firearms I have to conclude that reviewer knows next to nothing about them. The book is a reprint done in 1995. There is an interesting story behind Mike Resnick deciding to have this book put back into print. I highly recommend it and also reading about Lake's father, who was an interesting fellow himself. After finishing the book I was loaned I knew I had to see if I could find a copy for my personal library. I can tell it's a grand book to pull out on a lazy Sunday to savor with a glass of Jameson. I'm going to see if his daughter will have it released as an ebook. Really, I can't recommend this book enough to any reader with a fascination for the period of the Great White Hunter.

Certainly one of the best books on African hunting I have ever come across (and I have read many). His stories are always interesting, often exciting, with a good sense of humour, occasionally touching or thought-provoking, in any case good, solid entertainment. Lake was a humble writer (perhaps in line with J.A. Hunter and T. Murray-Smith), which adds credence to his words. With the experience of more than 20 hunting trips to Africa: I believe everything he wrote. Lake may not be the greatest gun writer, but he, as the vast majority of his contemporaries in Africa, had no means to afford an artillery-calibre big bore double rifle, and he simply did not need it.

I first read this book as a young boy in the late 1960's or early 1970's. It was actually first printed circa 1953, but for some reason this information isn't available on the website (at least I couldn't find it). IF you are looking for a modern book, this isn't one. Having said that, the book itself is quite

entertaining, and gives a realistic look at big game hunting in the first half of the 20th century. Politically correct readers will be upset at the descriptions of the native Africans, but how many of them (PCs) are likely to read a book about African hunting adventures? Lake is probably typical of his era, and shouldn't be judged by today's standards. Having said THAT though, some of the characters Lake takes on safari are surely racist boors who deserved a few lashes from a sjambok. Less literary than Hemingway, and aimed at more of a general (non-hunting) audience than Ruark, this is a pleasant read about a man who loved Africa.

I've read a number of African hunting and adventure classics including titles by F.C. Selous, Carl Akley and others. Alexander Lake was a comparative late-comer to Africa (early 20th century) but his respect and love for the people and wildlife he writes about are evident. His writing style is authentic, without varnish or too much introspection. The sense you get from this book is that Lake was a man of action who started out as a pragmatist wanting to make some money out of his adventure, but ended up being fundamentally and unexpectedly changed by Africa. The book is filled with fascinating anecdotes of a wild African world which no longer exists. Those of you who enjoyed Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa* will find this book equally authentic and personal but less sophisticated in tone. This is a great read that will leave you with a vivid sense of place and time, and a feeling for what Alexander Lake and the Africa of his day were like. If you are an African hunting/adventure buff, you will enjoy this read a great deal.

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