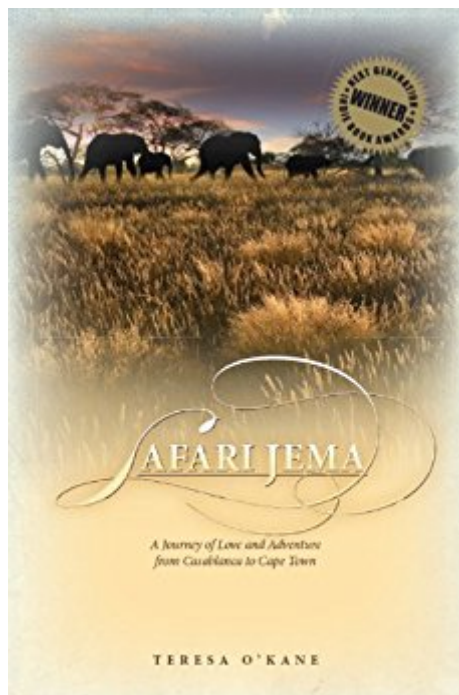


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Safari Jema: A Journey Of Love And Adventure From Casablanca To Cape Town



Synopsis

Teresa O'Kane had always longed to see the world. She owned scads of travel books and maps and was about to buy yet another bookcase to hold the many Lonely Planet guides and travel essays that she had accumulated over the years when she turned to her husband and said, "I'm tired of storing our dreams. Let's live them!" Within a month, they bought one-way tickets to Morocco, leased out their home, and set out on a journey of the African Continent top to bottom, from Casablanca to Cape Town. Transiting seventeen countries in 10 months, mostly by public transport, they explored wild, exotic, and historic locations they had only dreamed of and some they had never heard of. From sandy Timbuktu, to a tiny lemur populated island in Madagascar, the author embraces Africa. She contracts malaria, flies a micro light over Victoria Falls, earns a level one certification as a South African safari guide, discovers that an insect has turned her foot into a nursery for hundreds of eggs, grapples with the negative effects of foreign aid, and rubs elbows with European royalty deep within the Dogon in Mali. O'Kane offers an entertaining and enlightening look into overland travel on the African continent. Filled with helpful budget minded travel tips, this inspiring book may find you yearning to take a career break of your own.

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Customer Reviews

Safari Jema is more than just a travel memoir. While it's true that Teresa O'Kane's recount of her adventurous overland journey of the African Continent "from top to bottom" contains the kinds of tips that will benefit anyone considering travelling there (or anywhere, actually), the book is perhaps even more valuable to readers as a vivid illustration that fabulous wealth is not a necessary prerequisite to extended travel and as an excellent reminder that "experiences are more valuable than things." Following a loose (and ultimately, almost non-existent) itinerary that allowed them the utmost flexibility in their day-to-day travel decisions, Teresa and her husband took the good and the bad from their trip with equal aplomb. To them, experiencing, enduring, and overcoming the inevitable discomforts, setbacks, and mishaps that occur over the course of a 10-month trek are a significant part of its appeal, and makes life's luxuries (like an occasional tall Gin and Tonic at sundown) even more treasured. An added bonus to Safari Jema is the first-time author's remarkably skillful writing. Whether detailing up close and personal encounters with lions, baboons, elephants and a terrifyingly territorial hippo or marveling at the majestic beauty of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Victoria Falls, and the countless rivers and lakes upon which shores she and her husband pitched a tent, Ms. O'Kane describes a spectacular continent not always conforming to the Africa in most of our imaginations. But perhaps most enjoyable to the reader is the humor and warmth Tris conveys in her writing. Page after page and chapter after chapter, her keen wit and self-deprecating style (which, incidentally, mirrors the "lack of pretense" she finds so appealing about the African people) leaves one chuckling out loud. Meanwhile, through her empathetic conversations with locals and fellow travelers, her expressed admiration of Africa's men and women who feel "blessed by life despite how hard it (is)" (and the corollary realization that "hardship needn't always displace contentment") and most certainly through her frequent interactions with the largely happy and joyful African children Tris reveals an underlying kind-heartedness at her core that makes it easy for the reader to share not just her experiences, but also her emotions. As awesome as its flora, fauna and geography are, Tris makes clear that the joy of Africa lies largely in her people.

Teresa O'Kane and her husband Scott, on this trip to Africa, plan to go from Casablanca to Cape Town. In the beginning they sign up with an Australian mechanic who was building an overland truck in England Intending to drive it from England to Cape Town South Africa, and was looking for adventurous people, to share the experience and cost of the trip. They flew into Casablanca , and the following day with local transportation met the truck in the port city of Cueta, on the Northernmost tip of Africa, where the truck was to disembark. This is where their many adventures begin. I loved this book as it was a bit different in the style in which the author portrays Africa, you do get your usual Safari's etc, but they seem to do a lot of it, in a different way from other books I have read on African travel. The way the author talks about the small things that bring them joy on this continent, the people and their ways, the transportation, food etc. It was a very refreshing, and very personal story. We follow them as they have for the most part, some wonderful and unique experiences. In the beginning and at the end they talk about some of their previous trips, and of how anyone can make these trips possible. I look forward to more of their travels.

Although Africa isn't even on my bucket list, I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of "Safari Jema." Teresa's wonderful adventures are written about with heartfelt and descriptive details and I now find myself thinking I may need to consider a visit to Timbukto. I truly admire the couple's foresight and planning of such an adventure and I am in awe of the strength, courage, patience and sensitivity they continually show throughout their travels. I like to read books with short chapters, that I can pick up when I have a few minutes to spare, but I continually found myself wanting to read just one more chapter and learn of their next adventure, instead of moving onto my next task! I also enjoyed the extremely informative "How Can I Do This And, What Was That You Said About Dual Citizenship" at the end of the book. I already have my Irish Dual Citizenship and I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Teresa and I both have roots in the Aran Islands. Small World!

If this book doesn't make you want to drop everything and go on an adventure, I don't know what would. But even if you are more of an armchair enthusiast than an adventurer, this book cannot help but make you want to live life to the fullest. I had the great pleasure of meeting and spending the time with the author and her charming husband on a recent trip around the Indian Ocean. They are two of the most delightful and engaging people I have ever met and it was a privilege to hear their stories about Africa firsthand. Upon returning home, I promptly purchased Teresa's book and was delighted to find that reading her witty prose was like having another one of our great

conversations. Safari Jema is funny, inspiring, thought provoking, and heart warming. It is a window into what life is like if you are open to new ideas and you approach each new experience with excitement and wonder rather than the cynicism that often creeps in with adulthood. This is a book that enriches your mind and your soul. I hope that there will be a follow-up to this book before too long. In the meantime, I will enjoy reading her fantastic blog and living vicariously through the great adventures of Scott and Teresa.

Loved it! As I progressed through the book I texted a friend three times to say the same thing, "I love this book!" Tris has a great sense of humor and made me laugh out loud often. Of course I couldn't help but feel envy at the bravery of the overland journey through, what I know from reading, are some pretty dangerous places. I want to raft the Zambezi too the next time I go, but I'll surely be afraid like she was. Thank you Tris and Scott for sharing your life and your adventure!

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