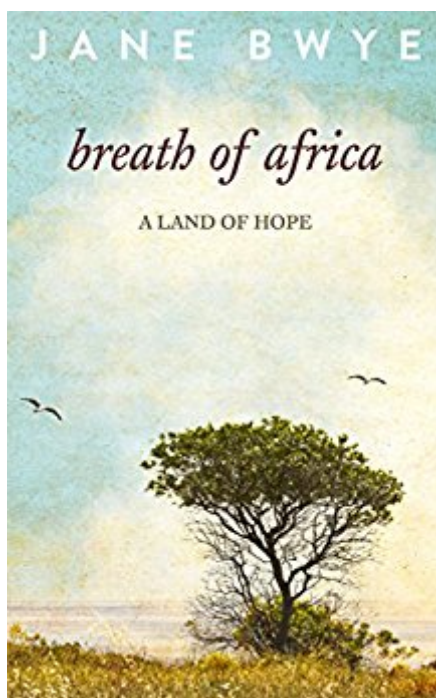


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Breath Of Africa: A Tale Of Love And Life In A Fascinating Country



Synopsis

Thirty years of Kenya's recent history unfold through the lives of Caroline, a privileged woman from the fertile highlands, and Charles Ondiek, a farm labourer with dreams of an Oxford education. Charles's love for Teresa, daughter of a hated settler farmer, leads to a drama of psychological terror fuelled by Mau Mau oath administrator, Mwangi, who is held in detention for six years. On his release, Mwangi forces Charles and Teresa apart, then turns his attention to Caroline. But she has inner resources, and joins with Charles to seek out a mysterious ancestral cave. Against the backdrop of Kenya's beautiful but hostile desert, the curse is finally broken. But when Caroline discovers the hidden reason for Mwangi's hatred, she wonders if she'll ever, really, belong in the country she loves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is rare to read a novel set in the heart of an important world even, written by someone who was an eye-witness This novel contains several threads set against the background of an awakening African

independence. The new order is mirrored in personal relationships. Who will accept it and who will be swept away by it? The old ways will prevail, they will not lie down and die but will they succeed? This is also a very moral tale by someone who obviously loves the country and her descriptive powers made me feel that I was there. I have never been to Africa but now feel I know it better.

A thoroughly enjoyable read. Like the author, I was raised in Kenya and can relate to many of the characters and incidents in this book. The story, for the most part, deals with Africa in the post-colonial era and shows the complexities of life and relationships in a developing nation. Here, the star-crossed lovers have to try and overcome a racial and cultural divide as deep and wide as the Rift Valley itself, and how they go about this is the very heart of the book. Those who have lived in Kenya, or visited it, will find joy as I did in reliving the sites and scents and sounds of that wondrous country. Those who have never been there will find themselves transported by the felicity of Jane Bwye's evocation to the wide, game-filled plains and great mountains and deep forests and lovely seacoast that make Kenya such a special place. Along the way you will meet valiant Caroline and ambitious Charles, doomed Brian and tragic Teresa, kind Boney and malevolent Mwangi and all the other characters that bring *Breath of Africa* to life. *A Garden in Africa*

Way too much emphasis on the "tale of love" and not nearly enough on the political situation. Characters seemed to just "drift along" rather than being developed. How three very different people reconnected as adults was strained. Sometimes just a travelogue in obviously beautiful areas of the country. I found "the climb" really unbelievable. No one does that without significant training beyond walking one's own land.

As an ex-Kenyan who lived there around the time this book was set I loved its honesty and authenticity. Better than that it was impossible to put down. The descriptions were rich and evocative and the characters complex yet it is very easy reading. I can't wait for the author's next book.

A captivating novel about the last days of British dominance in Kenya and the early years of Kenya's independence. I was captivated from the first page to the last with this story. Caroline and Teresa, two friends finding themselves caught up in romance, intrigue, adventure and violence as the life they have known unravels around them. Most frightening of all is the Kikuyu man Mwangi,

who has put curses on people they love.

This book has taught me a lot about Kenyan history while I enjoyed the life and romance of the main character. The most interesting part of the story was the Mau Mau's curse and the secret cave.

Having grown up in Kenya and amongst the various cultures, I found Jane Bwye's story telling to be accurate, fascinating and engaging. The issue of identity continues to be one that challenges all colours of Africans.

I lived in Kenya during the period covered in the first half of the book, so it brought back memories. The differing points of view are well covered. I am lending it to my daughters so that they can understand my background.

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