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Born Free: A Lioness Of Two Worlds



Synopsis

There have been many accounts of the return to the wild of tame animals, but since its original publication in 1960, when the New York Times hailed it as a "fascinating and remarkable book," *Born Free* has stood alone in its power to move us. Joy Adamson's story of a lion cub in transition between the captivity in which she is raised and the fearsome wild to which she is returned captures the abilities of both humans and animals to cross the seemingly unbridgeable gap between their radically different worlds. Especially now, at a time when the sanctity of the wild and its inhabitants is increasingly threatened by human development and natural disaster, Adamson's remarkable tale is an idyll, and a model, to return to again and again. Illustrated with the same beautiful, evocative photographs that first enchanted the world forty years ago and updated with a new introduction by George Page, former host and executive editor of the PBS series *Nature* and author of *Inside the Animal Mind*, this anniversary edition introduces to a new generation one of the most heartwarming associations between man and animal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First published in 1960 and closely followed by a hit movie of the same name, Joy Adamson's now classic memoir *Born Free* continues to introduce countless young people to the wildlife of Africa. Adamson recounts her adventures as the surrogate mother of an orphaned lion cub named Elsa (with parenting duties shared by her husband George and by a delightfully imperturbable rock hyrax named Pati), whom she raised as a welcome member of her human and animal family while painstakingly teaching Elsa the skills she would need to survive in the wild. Her teaching, against all

odds, was effective: three years later, the Adamsons took Elsa to a place near that of her birth and set her loose, hoping that she would find her "real pride" among other lions of the Kenya grasslands--as she soon did. Long targeted to preteen readers, *Born Free* is in fact a sophisticated work of environmental consciousness-raising, for Joy Adamson believed that any relationship between humans and wild animals had to be conditioned by an attitude "of absolute equality quite different from that between a dog and his master." Although Elsa's story had an ultimately tragic ending--the young lioness died of disease and, in separate incidents, Joy and George Adamson were both murdered--Joy Adamson's book continues to instruct and entertain readers of all ages.

--Gregory McNamee

"Moving and incredible, [with] some of the most extraordinary photographs ever seen." --The New York Times
"Elsa and the Adamsons are ideal figures in a peaceable kingdom." --The New Yorker

I read this book as a child over and over. I have always remembered reading this and probably always will. I have 2 young daughters now and when one was looking for a good book to read, I thought of this and how much I loved it all those years ago. I decided to go ahead and buy a copy to own for the first time. My daughters enjoyed it and I read it again as well. I haven't read this for 20 years and it still makes me feel just as good today as it did when I was young. I'm not going to give you a synopsis of the book since there are already so many available. This really kind of turned the world on it's head though as far as the misconceptions and ideas people had about animal behavior in the day. This is such a well written book, and it's so enjoyable to read. It's one of those rare things in life that just plain make you feel good. If you have never read it or have children that love to read and could appreciate it, then this is one you really need to have in your personal library.

I know people get hung up on the movie -- which I have never seen. However, it is so much more to read the book written by Joy Adamson and to see the pictures she and George took. The pictures are truly marvelous and I would think it was worth the cost of the book just to see the pictures. Elsa, the lioness of two worlds, got to the point that she did not like the camera (a black shiny box always pointed at her) and one day she got it and ran off with it over the rocks. She proceeded to chew on it and shook it in every way possible while her "parents" attempted to get it back. When they did recover it, they found she had not done a great deal of damage to the thing which she disliked so much. You won't get that from the movie. ENJOY!!!!

I remembered the movie from when I was a kid. Great story, I think this would be good for young readers who like animal stories.

If you love lions, read this book. This book truly makes you understand that animals understand and appreciate us as humans.

My favorite book when I was growing up. I gave this one to my 12 year old granddaughter for Christmas. She read it in 2 days and loved it, too

Joy Adamson achieved something that until that time no-one else had been able to do - she raised an orphaned lioness and successfully released her into the wild to raise her own wild family. A heart-warming story that takes one to the heart of Africa. A must read!!

I loved reading this book!! I just could not stop reading it once i started.. Kudos to Adamsons for their efforts in successfully rehabilitaing captive lion into the wild!

I purchased this for the ladies in the Leath Literary Guild, a program I started at a state correctional facility for women in my state. Several readers had asked for "animal stories," and I thought this would be a good addition. I was right. This book does not stay on the shelf.I read this book to my children many years ago and we all cried, laughed, growled, and sang with Elsa.

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