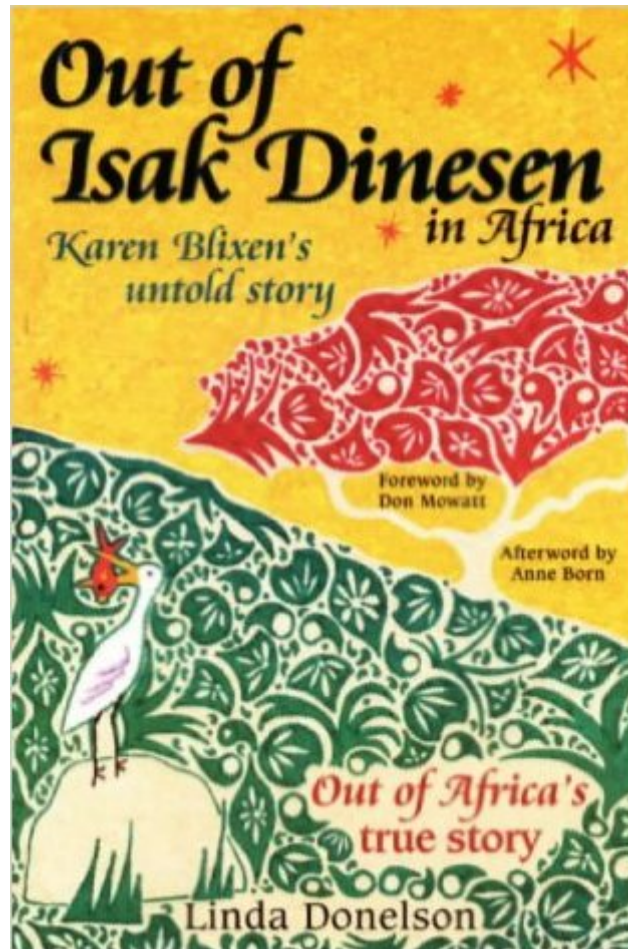


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Out Of Isak Dinesen In Africa: Karen Blixen's Untold Story



Synopsis

This new analysis of "Out of Africa" describes the young Baroness Blixen's struggles with a difficult marriage, a pioneer coffee farm, and a complicated love affair in Kenya.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many reviewers have focused on the medical aspects of this biography, and while these digressions are interesting, I think it trivializes Karen Blixen's life and this book to say her medical history is the focal point. The facet of this biography that most interested me, and is fully explored by Donelson, was Baroness Blixen's genuine love of the African natives. As a social scientist, with major interests in international migration, the foreign born, and various ethnic and tribal groups in the United States, I am fascinated by the depiction of the various tribes in Karen Blixen's writing. Having read a number of books by and about Africans, including ethnographies, I find the descriptions of the Kikuyu, Masai, and Somali people extraordinary. Persons of African descent might enjoy this book (in spite of the English colonizers) simply because Karen Blixen was an ethnographer of sorts and Donelson distills a great deal of information from her written observations. Baroness Blixen acted as employer, physician, friend, and mediator for the people who lived on her farm. She developed medicinal skills to deal with the ailments and injuries likely to occur in daily living. While some of the European practices were bizarre, it is also true that some of the native remedies were equally bizarre. Baroness Blixen was Scandinavian, and seen as sympathetic to the Germans in WWI, a view that caused her enormous hardship in this English colony. As a result, to some extent she

remained an outsider to the English community, which probably facilitated her acceptance of and by the native community. The second major aspect of this book that I actually found quite troubling was the wanton destruction in the years the book covers.

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