



Letters from Africa, 1914-1931

Isak Dinesen , Karen Blixen , Frans Lasson (Editor) , Anne Born (Translator)

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Here is a rich new biographical perspective on the brilliant storyteller whose sophisticated romantic fiction...made her an international success and a perpetual candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature..._these letters+ contain the raw material that was later transformed into her classic memoir Out Of Africa.

Letters from Africa, 1914-1931 Details

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From Reader Review Letters from Africa, 1914-1931 for online ebook

Inga Riber Kristiansen says

Bogen består af 530 sider (Del 1 280 sider, del 2 250 sider).

Caulyne B says

These are the letters that Out of Africa was based upon. A bit dense at times, but also surprisingly engaging if you're in the right mood.

Regina Hart says

Although I expected and would have greatly appreciated more details of the author's life in Africa (à la Out of Africa), it was nonetheless wonderful to read her personal philosophies of life and to better understand her as a person.

Bert Johnston says

I gave up less than half way through. The narrative on life in Africa was interesting to a point, then repetitive.

Amberle Husbands says

For a collection of letters, this was really entertaining. I bought it as a gift for my grandmother -- one of her favorite authors -- and ended up guilty of reading-before-wrapping. The story behind Karen Blixen's stories was actually very inspiring, and kept me moving from one segment to the next when I thought I should have lost interest, wrapped the book up, and sent it away. The thing that struck me most was her descriptions and emotional responses to lion hunting. While I'm not myself a hunter, seeing the feat through her eyes was certainly mind-opening. Definitely worth reading, but especially if you already have an interest in the author.

Nyange Nyange says

i like this book i want to learn things about inside

Velvetink says

I've actually read this twice before years ago, and on the third time around this time I was looking for something specific in it (so still have it marked as to-read mainly to remind me) - but I seem to keep getting waylaid with other books..

Avary says

This is a reread for me. It's one I keep by the bed and read parts from time to time. Her letters cover much more than her life in Africa (which is my favorite part to read!) -- her philosophies of many aspects of life, some more interesting to me than others.

Cherop says

I very much enjoyed these letters from Karen Blixen to various of her family members during the years she lived in Kenya whilst trying to make a success of her marriage and running the family coffee business. The letters give great insight into the relentless financial pressures and strains she was under, her isolation from the arts which she loved so much and her conflicted feelings/views of the "natives" as she liked to call the black people of the different tribal groups in Kenya. In her book "Out of Africa", you do not get a full sense of what she really thought of the natives. Her letters give a better glimpse of her true feelings though perhaps still not in the fullest sense. Despite her sometimes blunt views of things, she seemed to have an unexplainable love and affection for the people of Kenya.

The Dinesen letters were of great interest to me because I too am very much interested in Kenya and have a lot for it's people. The letters give me a glimpse into an outsiders view of life and people in the former colony and of what life was like for the people at that time. The letters no doubt are also of great interest to anyone interested in the early development of Kenya as a British colony. Ms. Blixen seemed to be ahead of her time in her thoughts about feminism, marriage and sexuality so her letters and life will also be valuable to anyone interested in these subjects.

Ash says

if you want to know some of the back story behind "out of africa" this is a really enlightening read. some of her philosophizing gets irritating, but that's one of the dangers of reading the letters of a writer.

Lisa says

Goodreads has many benefits, and one certainly is to remind us of the books we read and loved a long time ago. Today Karen Blixen's Out of Africa showed up in my news feed, and I was catapulted back in time, about ten years, I would say (estimating where I lived and how old my children were, the only system I rely on to keep chronological order).

I actually haven't read *Out of Africa* itself, but remember spending months with this thick collection of letters between Blixen family members, reading every single one of them carefully. After a visit to Karen Blixen's house and museum in Denmark, I was spellbound by her for a while, and read most of her short stories, as well as quite a lot of literature on her experience both in Europe and Africa. I read museum catalogues as well and was captivated by the photographs that showed her frail body and strong mind. And on display in the museum was my favourite cartoon that showed Hemingway bowing to her, insisting that she should have had his Nobel Prize!

"After you, baroness..."

Oh, that stirs up quite a lot of bitterness in me, as I think they should both have had it, along with Clarice Lispector, Virginia Woolf and plenty of other WRITERS! But I am digressing. Always planning to read her chef-d'oeuvre last, after studying her letters and short fiction, I somehow stopped on the finishing line. Therefore I am still looking forward to reading that novel with the lovely first sentence: "I had a farm in Africa..." that I have started on so many times I know it by heart. It is such a melancholy, poetical way of looking back on her lost life in Africa.

The letters give the real life background to that nostalgia: they tell of family frustration, problems of various kinds (financial, social, emotional), and they do that in their own unique way of letter communication. As opposed to fictional works, they don't explain the wider context of a conversation. They don't fill in explanations on family relationships, on things that happened between letters.

But they give details and authentic voices, and Karen Blixen's family is a collection of extraordinary people, all with voices well worth hearing. Between the lines we see the sad love stories, the health issues, the conflicts take shape, and we follow the economic struggles. Finally, the farm in Africa is lost.

I don't think I would recommend to start with these letters and the short stories like I did, and as I have still to read "*Out of Africa*", I am not the right person to recommend it either, but I can say from the bottom of my heart that Karen Blixen is a fascinating personality who lived through one of the most exciting eras in world history with a brilliant intelligence and a mission!

That is reason enough to start getting to know her from any one of the many possible angles. And I am still on a mission to read her masterpiece!
