



The Bafut Beagles

Gerald Durrell

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Bafut Beagles

Gerald Durrell

The Bafut Beagles Gerald Durrell

Young English zoologist Gerard Durrell returns to the Cameroons in West Central Africa in 1949 for another humorous and fascinating animal collecting expedition. Meet a frog with a coat of hair (which turns out not to be hair at all), full grown monkeys that fit inside a teacup, mice with wings, and many more of the species endemic to the Cameroons, not to mention the local ruler, the Fon of Bafut.

The Bafut Beagles Details

Date : Published 2001 by House of Stratus (first published October 1954)

ISBN : 9780755111794

Author : Gerald Durrell

Format : Paperback

Genre : Nonfiction, Animals, Travel, Cultural, Africa, Biography, Humor, Environment, Nature

 [Download The Bafut Beagles ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Bafut Beagles ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Bafut Beagles Gerald Durrell

they're very small, jump around in branches and get up to mischief. They don't even attempt to catch any on this trip, just sit and watch the animals. And the Fon tells him that he often comes to watch these animals - "Dat beef!" he chuckled, 'I like um too much. All time 'e make funny for me, an' I go laugh". (p109). Surely enjoying watching these animals in their natural habitat should be the most important thing, as the Fon is doing?

Mind, this perhaps happened in the late 40s, and attitudes change. Besides, I am no expert on conservation.

Ksenia (vaenn) says

????? ?????????? ?????????? ?? ????????? ?????????? ????????????? "???? ??????" ???... ?, ??????, ?????????, 21 ???, ??? ????? ??????????????. ? ?????? ? ?????? ????? ? ?????????????? ?????????????* - ??? ????? "?? ????": ?????? (?? ????? ??????, ?? ? ????????? ?????????, ?? ?? ?????, ?? ?????? ???), ????????? ????????? "????????????????", ?????????? ????????????????? ? ?? ???? (?? ????? ?? ? ?????? ?????? ????? ?? ?? ?????????????) ? ?? ????? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?? ?????? ?????. ? ?? ????? ??????????, ?????? ?????????? ?? ????????? ?????????? ?????????? ???????????. ? ?? ?????????-???????? ?????????? ??????, ?????, ???, ? ?????? ?????????? ??? ? ?? ?????.

?????. ?????? ??????. ?????? ?????? ? ?? ????????????? ?????? ????????? ?????????? ?????? ?????-????????????.

* ????? ??????????: ????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?? ?????????? - ? ?? ???? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ??????????!

Satwant Singh says

Wow, wow, wow. I was at airport in between my flights and i need something to pass my time. So i just go to store and pick a random book up and guess what, It was The Bafut Beagles. I causally go through first few pages and start to feel that this is not the usual book we read. It has something extra and something new. The natural comedy that generate from individual from this book, commentary by My Durrell about certain incidence, Bafut people and most of all an exciting world of wild life. I am just stunned. Super cool :)

Alena says

I give 5 stars - I like this one very much. I read it in Czech, as usual with Durrell books. This time the translator was Šimon Pellar. This edition is without original illustrations. The date was 1986. Czech added scarce illustrations of a very popular artist, Adolf Born. But the number of them is only five to the whole story. The title in Czech is "Bafutští chrti". Knowing that the hunters to whom the name belongs are mostly thin, with long legs and big feet (as much as long arms and finger part) this name is more appropriate than the original English name. "Chrt" means a greyhound dog, "Chrti" being the plural of it. Far away of beagles as I know them from the streets of my town.

Kate says

"In *The Bafut Beagles* he [the author] describes a collecting expedition to the Cameroons, where, with the assistance of a pack of African enthusiasts and mongrel dogs, he captured almost everything from flying mice to booming squirrels. "The unconscious humour of a supercilious toad or a hypocritical chimpanzee is only surpassed by the electric charm of the convivial Fon of Bafut himself."

~~back cover

Another gallop through grasslands and forest of the Cameroons, by day and by night, with often hilarious results. The African people are depicted as quite simple and servile, but the author was doing this collecting in the 1940s, and the native people probably seemed so to him, given the European attitude to other cultures at that time. In fairness, he treats the natives with affection and courtesy. As always, entertaining accounts of the collected animals antics, fascinating glimpses of the time and effort involved in capturing and then caring for creatures with unknown habits, and the difficulties of transporting them back to England by ship.

Colin says

It's quite interesting reading this at the same time as I'm listening to the audiobook of "Blood River". Both are tales of Englishmen in Africa. Whereas Tim Butcher spends most of the time in real danger, refuses to stereotype, and uses his wits to determine which of the many people he meets are worthy of trust and respect, Gerald Durrell is writing in another age, and he just cruises around, effortlessly assuming his right to be called "Masa" and "Sah" by the flock of undifferentiated, caricatured natives whose words are transcribed phonetically and embellished for comic effect. There's nothing so crude as overt racism of course, and it would be pointless to judge him by the standards of today anyway, but the spirit of the age shines through every paragraph, and reading it in conjunction with the more modern work only makes it the more obvious. Anyway, don't let me put you off - it's very funny indeed!

Matt says

This is a difficult book to review. On its surface, and I'm sure at the time it was written it was received this way, it presents itself as a charming account of an expedition to Cameroon to pick up live animals to bring back to England to study, replete with amusing anecdotes about the difficulties of collecting and caring for the animals, and humorous depictions of the people Durrell meets along the way...

Can you spot the problem? It's in the "humorous depictions of the people". This book is the most pure example of a privileged, imperialist perspective that I have ever read. Written by a man who has no qualms, questions, or concerns of any kind about the colonialist system that supports his entire life. It's possible his depiction of the local patois is simply a factual depiction of how the poor English speakers of the area, fluent in other languages, managed to communicate with the English in their midst, but it felt like he played it for maximum "comedic" affect.

I don't want to cite specific examples of racist attitudes, but about halfway through the book he throws out an offhand comment about how he was taking an action not "merely" to demonstrate his inherent racial superiority, but for other more manipulative reasons, and it rather gave the whole game away. Making the subtext text, as they say.

This book made me deeply uncomfortable, and I found myself sometimes wishing I had first encountered Durrell through his more famous *My Family and Other Animals*, which takes place on the Greek island of Corfu and might thereby have been free of his condescending and dehumanizing view of the Africans he

dealt with. In the end, I'm glad I didn't, because avoiding the fact that he had these attitudes doesn't make them go away.

His attitude towards women is hardly superior, as there is an elaborate "comic" scene that presents him finding domestic violence completely acceptable, and reminiscent of proper English society, which disappoints him because he was hoping for something more superstitious as the root cause. There is also his absurd joy in humiliating British women he meets by exposing them to the more earthy behaviors of the monkeys he's captured.

I'm glad I read this book. It's too easy to read books like *Burmese Days* and assume that Orwell's own complicated views of the colonial system were typical, but I suspect it was attitudes like Durrell's that were far more common. Experiencing that attitude in all its condescending, myopic glory has been a learning experience, if nothing else. He's a fish in water, and it all seems perfectly natural and appropriate to him.

Glad I read it, but I don't think I'll be picking up any more books by Durrell.
