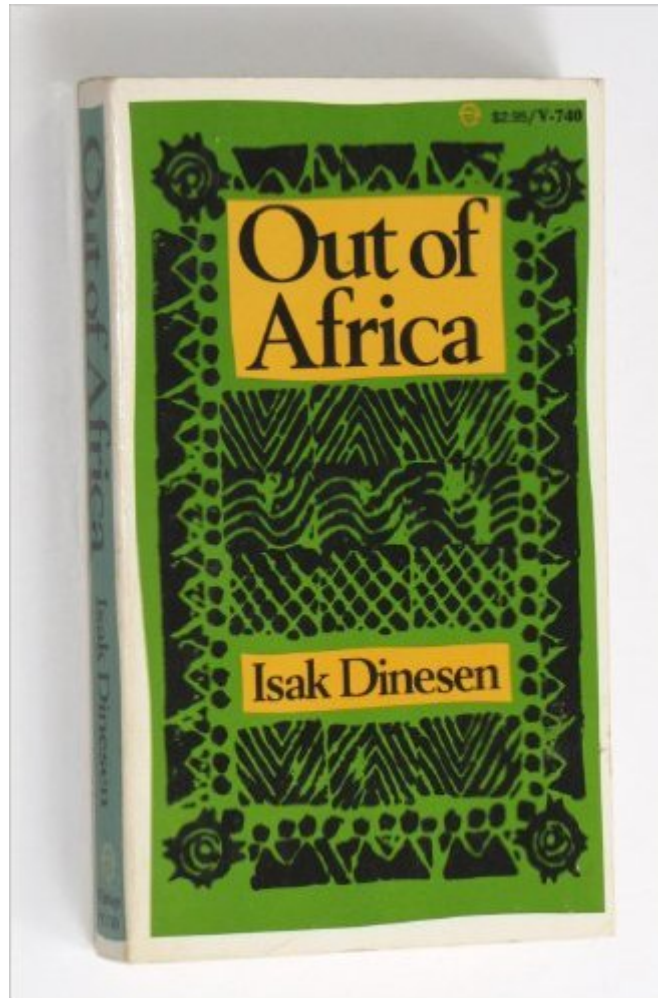


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# Out Of Africa (Vintage Books, V740)



## Synopsis

In 1921, the year that Baroness Karen Blixen found herself stranded by her divorce on a Kenyan mountain farm, most women in her circumstances would have fled back to civilization. But instead of returning to her native Denmark, the 35-year-old Blixen stayed on and ran the farm. In 1931 coffee prices collapsed and she was forced to leave. She returned to Denmark where she poured her memories into a passionate love letter about the life that would hold her in thrall till the end of her days. *OUT OF AFRICA*, published in 1937 under the pseudonym of Isak Dinesen, became a classic. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (339 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #567,407 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > History > Africa > Kenya](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'm another reader who comes to *Out of Africa* by way of Holden Caulfield in *Catcher in the Rye*; and it became recommended reading before I visited Kenya for myself in the early 90's. So, having just finished it and now half way through *Shadows on the Grass*, my overall impression is a pleasant one. I enjoyed Dinesen's writing style very much, and would agree with many readers that *Out of Africa* deserves a place among the classics in English literature. It's Karen Blixen's memoirs of her time in Kenya around WWI, living and working on her coffee plantation near Nairobi. Her descriptions of the Natives, her European friends, the land, the animals, flora and fauna are incredible. The chapters shift back and forth in time, some focused on specific events and individuals, some more whimsical and anecdotal. Reading *Out of Africa* transports the reader into early 20th Century colonial Kenya, and more concretely, onto Ms. Blixen's farm at the foot of the Ngong Hills. Years later she takes up her time in Africa again in *Shadows on the Grass*, talking more about her loyal Somali servant & right-hand man, Farah, taking a more philosophical tone

regarding "masters & slaves", Native superstitions, manners, and so on. *Shadows* is inferior in many ways to *Out of Africa*, and it feels more like an "addendum" to the main work, which is poetry by comparison. By the time she writes it, she seems to have grown slightly more distant, and well, Colonist European. As for *Out of Africa*, if you've seen the movie version and are looking for it here you're in for a surprise because the book contains no overt romance between Karen & Denys, nor mention of siphylous, nor much in the way of Karen's own personal life. Her ex-husband, Bror is almost non-existent.

Writing under the pen name of Isak Dinesen, "*Out of Africa*", published in 1937, was written by Karen Blixen who lived in Kenya from 1914 to 1931. She was from Denmark and had come to Kenya to marry her Swedish cousin, but even though the marriage didn't work out, she stayed on their 4,000 acre coffee farm. In loving detail she describes her way of life, including some extensive descriptions of incidents involving her native servants. Through it all her love for the people and for Africa shines through. The reader lives her adventures with her and shares her regrets when the farm fails and she has to return to Europe. "*Shadows on the Grass*", published in 1960 is a much shorter work and describes her relationships with some of her African friends in the years after she had to leave. Together these two books form the story of her world and stand today as both a literary and historical document to the times. Ms. Dinesen used her words well. I particularly loved her characterizations of the native people who touched her life. . She had no medical training with the exception of a first-aid course and yet she doctored to the many people who worked for her. She was also a fine huntswoman, good with a gun. There were seasons of drought on the farm as well as attacks by grasshoppers and she wrote about all of this. Often her European friends stayed at her home, bringing food delicacies and wine. One of the men died horribly in a plane crash and her description of his funeral and his burial was most moving. Perhaps some of her views on the differences between Europeans and the natives as well as the way she casually killed animals might not be considered politically correct today. And it was never clear to me if the man who died was her lover or not.

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