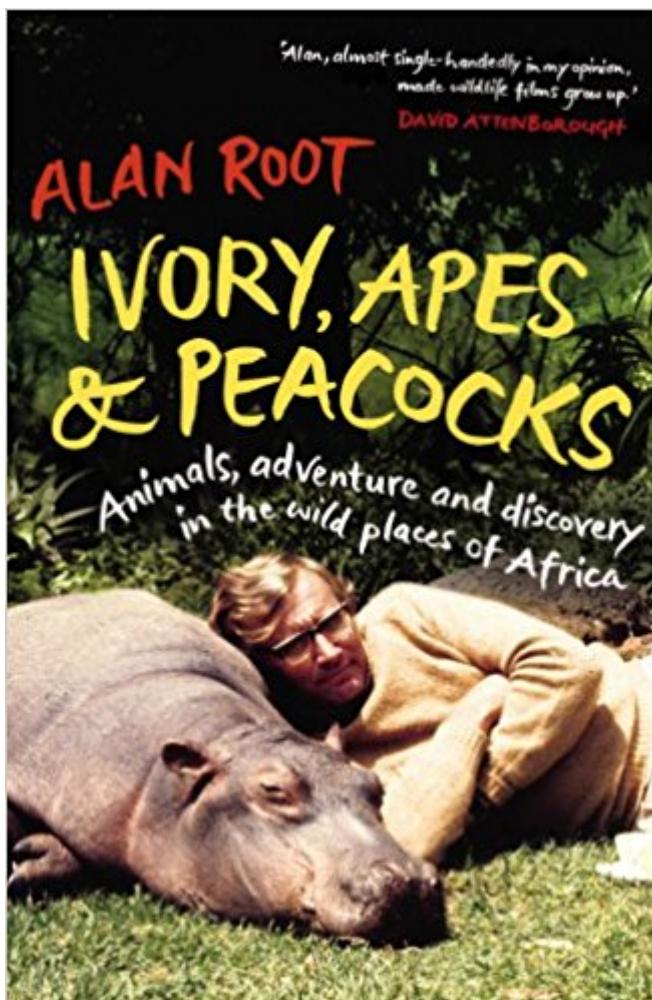


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# Ivory, Apes & Peacocks: Animals, Adventure And Discovery In The Wild Places Of Africa



## Synopsis

Alan Root is one of the great wildlife pioneers. He began his career making films for the TV series *Survival*, which started wildlife film-making as we know it, and is responsible for numerous groundbreaking documentaries and natural history discoveries -- from being the first person to film hippos and crocodiles underwater and the wildebeest migrating to observing that hyenas hunt. His friends and colleagues have included George and Joy Adamson and David Attenborough; he showed Dian Fossey her first mountain gorilla. His wife and long-term collaborator was Joan Root, who was tragically murdered in 2006 in retaliation for her environmental campaigning in Kenya. In *Ivory, Apes & Peacocks*, Alan tells the story of his life's work, from his arrival in Kenya as a young boy (furious at having to leave behind Britain's birds) to his game-changing films, which looked at whole ecosystems (baobab trees, termite mounds) rather than the Big Five animals. Along the way we encounter Sally the pet hippo and Emily the house-proud chimp as well leopard and snake bites, ballooning adventures and amphibious cars. In this extraordinary memoir we look at Africa's wonders through the eyes of a visionary, live through hair-raising adventure and personal tragedy and also bear witness to a natural world now largely lost from view.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Written by a consummate wordsmith, Alan Root's enthralling memoir is the best true-life adventure story to come out of Africa for years. The final chapter, which describes Root's last moments with Joan, I found almost too painful to read (5 star review)" -- Brian Jackman Daily Telegraph "This is an entrancing book. Root is a natural story-teller, roaming East Africa before poachers began to

decimate the wildlife. Against the staggering backdrop of East Africa's landscape and wildlife, the darkness of its problems casts a growing shadow over this book... Luckily, Alan Root's wonderful films remain, a testimony to the man of whom David Attenborough once said: 'He made wild-life films grow up" Daily Mail "In a riveting memoir, Root offers far more than a few well-work anecdotes of cute, hand-reared animals who like to sit down to breakfast with you and curl up on the sofa after dinner...a truly compelling book, savage and sparkling by turns" -- Kathryn Hughes Mail on Sunday "Root is aware that his magical life has 'run parallel with a heartbreakingly tragic holocaust, as wildlife conservation has proved to be a disastrous failure'. This wonderful book can't put it more honestly than that. Not only are the current generation of wildlife film-makers mere pygmies compared to Root, but soon they will not even be able to attempt matching his documentaries because the world he captured has ceased to exist." -- Aidan Hartley Spectator "If Dame Daphne Sheldrick's touching and romantic Love, Life, and Elephants has been climbing the bestseller lists in Britain and America, Alan Root's Ivory, Apes and Peacocks is by far the deeper and more interesting read. The problems that beset Africa's wildlife - population pressures, poaching, drought and disease - are all part of this story, though balanced here by Mr Root's sense of fun and adventure" The Economist

ALAN ROOT was born in London in 1937 but moved to Kenya as a young boy. He dropped out of school at sixteen but soon found himself behind the camera. He married Joan Thorpe in 1961 and together they produced an array of award-winning wildlife films including Baobab: Portrait of a Tree, commissioned by David Attenborough, Safari by Balloon, The Year of the Wildebeest and Castles of Clay, which was nominated for an Oscar. Alan has won over sixty awards during his career, including an Emmy, three Lifetime Achievement Awards and an OBE. He now lives on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in northern Kenya with his wife and two small sons.

Alan Root certainly got himself into some terrifying scrapes while filming, making this book an exciting read. For anyone interested in wildlife and photography Alan's book is irresistible, especially if the reader is familiar with Africa and its wildlife. It creates a certain nostalgia for the times when equipment was very basic and one had to show some ingenuity to get the results Alan achieved. Perhaps it's not so generally known just how many very successful films Alan made. This all comes to light in this great book. Highly recommended. Just one complaint - it would have been nice if the photographs listed appeared in the Kindle edition.

As a wildlife film maker myself, inspired by Alan's films when I was a child and given the opportunity

to meet him at a young and mailable age, it's amazing to read his full story. Both beautiful and painful, it's inspiring me to get back out in the wild and film what's left of Kenyas amazing biodiversity and the struggle to keep it.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book! It was recommended to us by a friend in So. Africa and he used to know Alan Root. We have a trip planned to Africa for Sept. 2017 to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary and the Masai Mara and Serengeti are where we will be staying. Alan Root does a fantastic job writing about his experiences.

This story is so fun to read! It is very well written and describes amazing places, events and people. I appreciate very much that the dramatic parts are not drawn out, but are no less compelling for the style. Naturalist stories can get kind of boring, but not this one because there is a lot that unfolds in the story that keeps the reader engaged page after page. If I could find 10 books similar to this one and with this style, I'd have my next 10 books to read, that's how entertaining it is!

This book is fun to read and fascinating. Root's life makes other African adventures seem boring. Everyone will like this book. Buy it! If I would post his DVD documentaries, I would buy every one of them.

Well written book by Alan Root on his life in Africa and how he came to film and produce wild life films. Together with his first wife Joan, he embarks upon his journey into filming wild life in Africa. He visits fascinating places and has an interesting life story to share, including the sad separation from his first wife. Having lived in Africa, love the descriptions of the the countries in which he filmed. Great book.

Alan Root won me when he took issue, ever so carefully, with modern-day documentary presenters whose main aim seems to be to put their own faces in front of the camera as often as possible and/or to provoke animals to perform for the camera. In these days of ego-driven entertainment, the former might be just forgiveable but the latter has always been totally unforgiveable.

Mainly because I could not sort of get into it I picked it up and put it down many times. I remember many of their films and enjoyed them but the book left me a tad cold. I hadn't realised how extensive his work was. That was a revelation and interesting. I also had a feeling that some work was done in

Namibia but there was no mention of that. I am glad that I have read it and will go through it again.

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