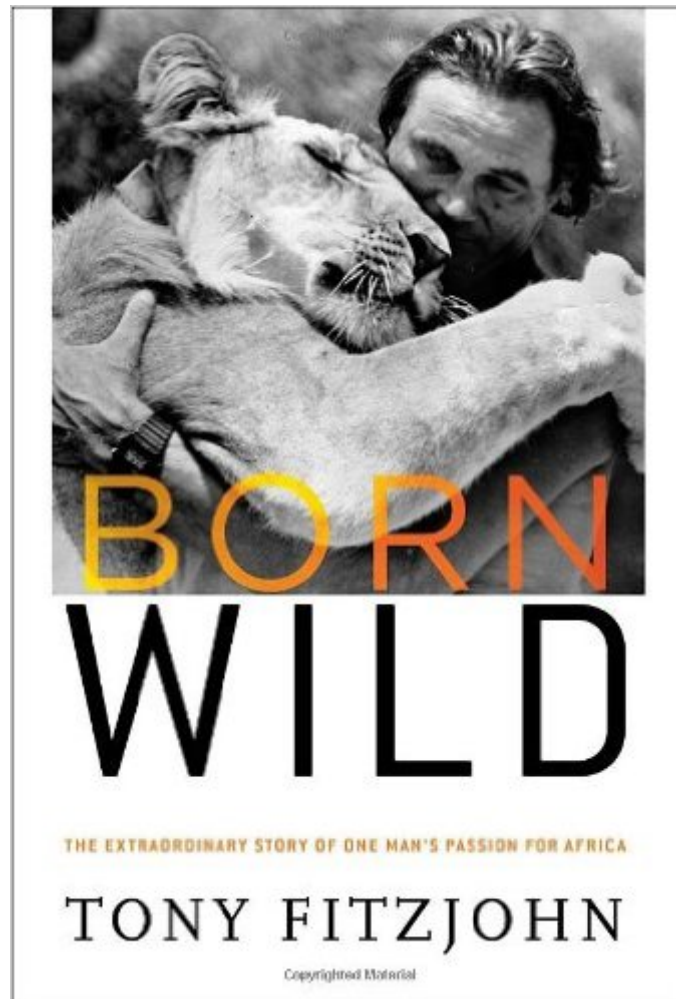


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Born Wild: The Extraordinary Story Of One Man's Passion For Africa



Synopsis

Tony Fitzjohn, part missionary, part madman, has been called "one of the world's most endangered creatures." • An internationally renowned field expert on African wildlife, he is best known for the eighteen years he spent helping Born Free's George Adamson return more than forty leopards and lions "including the celebrated Christian" to the wild in central Kenya. • • • • • Born Wild is the memoir of Fitzjohn's extraordinary life. It shows how a man driven by an impossibly restless spirit can do almost anything, from being a bouncer in a brothel, to surviving a vicious lion attack, to fighting with the Tanzanian government, to being appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen. • • • • • A notorious hell-raiser given to scrapes with bandits, evil policemen, and wicked politicians, who has been shot at by poachers and chewed up by lions, Fitzjohn is also a wonderful raconteur. Shenanigans aside, he belongs to that rare species of humans who have sought refuge and meaning in a life truly dedicated to the restoration of the animal kingdom. Many times Tony Fitzjohn has put his life on the line for the cause in which he believes. Born Wild is the story of that passion.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I've never written a review before though I'm an avid reader. Until now where I can't help but tell someone how much I loved this book! I've thoroughly enjoyed Tony's writing. I can see bits of British humour in it, which I really loved. It also made me appreciate the work of conservation of wildlife. I'm also more appreciative of good governments and anti-corruption - growing up in developed countries, I sometimes take that for granted. I can never do the work that Tony and George does,

and so it has made me appreciate how I can read about it! As you read, you feel as though you are just right there, witnessing everything. The many photos in the book help put pictures in your head as you read. This book inspires not just about lions and wildlife but about life! I believe they have a divine calling and purpose for this work...I can feel the passion in his words through the pages of the book. It has made me a more conscious consumer, making me realize how my decisions and support can make all the difference. I've become fond of story telling and almost preachy as I rave about the book and their work to my friends. This book has impacted me in many ways. I've cried alongside Tony as I read, feeling compassion during the moments he shared with George or when a loved animal has died or killed and mutilated by illegal poachers. I feel deep sorrow when I read about how beautiful landscapes and homes are destroyed by greed and corruption. I've rejoiced when they made breakthroughs in their work. I've also learned to appreciate the simple life. Most of all, I've learned a lot about animals, and how each animal is special and different and amazing. The accounts of each animals were my favourite parts of the book, as well as those stories about Tony and George.

Tony Fitzjohn was a bad boy, drinking and carousing his way through life--not really knowing what to do with himself. Adopted as a baby, later a Boy Scout with mischievous tendencies; he once became infected with Typhus when someone dared him to drink out of a dirty puddle. While recuperating, he read Tarzan and it inspired a life long love of Africa. That desire to visit Africa, got him there in 1968, and he bummed around taking odd jobs and barely surviving until he met George Adamson in 1971. While most people knew of George and Joy Adamson from Joy's book and movie Born Free about George's work with the lions in Kenya, it was George's autobiography Bwana Game that inspired Tony to seek him out. Adamson's camp, Kampi ya Simba, is in Kora Kenya and from his first day there Tony never wanted to leave. The animals in Kora National Park, were being hunted into extinction, elephants for their tusks and rhinos for their horns were slaughtered by Somali poachers. George, his brother Terence, and Tony worked hard to restore the area, with some government and local help, but for every victory there was heartache and increasing violence. As much as many people believed in Kora and the reintroduction of the animals, there were just as many people corrupted by money, who would look the other way when it came to hunting and poaching. There were more than a few who outright lied; causing trouble that in the end would cause Tony to leave the place and animals he loved, to start over in Tanzania. No longer working with the lions and leopards in Kora he would go onto Mkomazi National Park and build a Rhino Sanctuary, along with reintroducing African Wild Dogs back into an area where they

had been decimated.

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