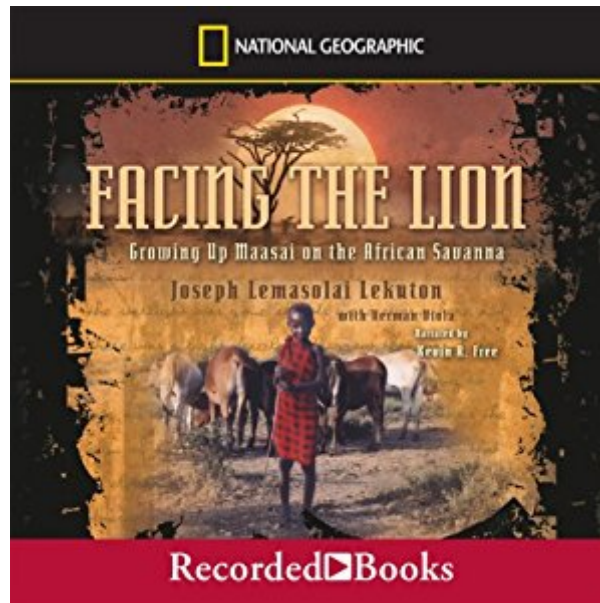




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Facing The Lion: Growing Up Maasai On The African Savanna



Synopsis

Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton is a Maasai tribesman of Kenya. In this fascinating autobiography, he shares stories about growing up in his nomadic tribe - from licking sweat off cows' noses to survive a drought, to facing down a lion at age 14, to playing soccer for the president of Kenya. The only member of his family to receive a formal education, Joseph sometimes lived as much as 40 miles away from school. While at school, he learned about Western culture and traditions. A member of two very different communities, Joseph struggled with what he was taught and what he already knew. But eventually, he learned to balance two worlds. Hailed by Children's Literature as a "superb book for any age", Facing the Lion is a riveting tale of one man who took his destiny in his own hands and became an extraordinary citizen of the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Facing The Lions is a wonderful book and a MUST READ if you want to understand how Massai people think!!!! read it to my kids (11,9,7,4) while we were in Kenya. (Though they could have read it by themselves- I did not want to miss it!!!)Joseph is a boy that grew up in a Massai tribe and explains his world so well that you start to understand their way of thinking.The book has short chapters. It would be an easy read for a reluctant reader.If you study about Africa, Kenya or Massai, it is a must!Your students will love it and beg for just ONE more chapter!!!! love the message that education is important. How hard some students have to fight to reach their goal. What a different world it is to be brought up in a tribe that does not acknowledge education.Note: I did skip one

chapter (of the last chapters) which talks about Joseph's experience about circumcision (because of my 7 and 4 year old) while the older ones read it by themselves.

I recently visited Tanzania and this book was on a recommended reading list. While there, I had the rare opportunity to visit a Maasai tribe that had little history of visits from "outsiders." This book gave me a good knowledge base for understanding this tribe and I was so glad that I had read it. It was an interesting and fast read and I enjoyed reading it.

Having recently visited a Maasai village in Tanzania I wanted to know more about their culture. The author's life is amazing and I learned more about their culture. This would have been good to read prior to my trip.

I really enjoyed this book. I had hoped to be able to use it with my third grade students as part of our Africa unit. Unfortunately, there was a long chapter on the boy's circumcision which isn't appropriate for my age students. Otherwise an insightful look into the Masai life.

Having been to Kenya several times and meeting the Massai people and the Saburu and Pokot people has been the best experience of my lifetime. Being out in the bush and sleeping outdoors with elephants and lions is a feeling that goes to your very soul. I could relate to the beauty of Joseph's life and the different worlds he so valiantly managed to live in. I would recommend this book to anyone who has been there and anyone who has not because the book truly shows you how you can overcome anything if you put your mind to it.

We in America have everything. Even the poor and welfare recipients have more in terms of comforts than the Massai. But no one, even the wealthy, could have a childhood as rich or have an outlook as positive as those who live truly free. My prayers are that modern society remembers and holds dear the traditions and lives of nomadic people such as the Massai. Thank you Joseph for a truly inspiring story and life.

Interesting story of this young man growing up and overcoming all odds of living in Africa.

Book arrived in new condition and very quick. Loved the story too

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