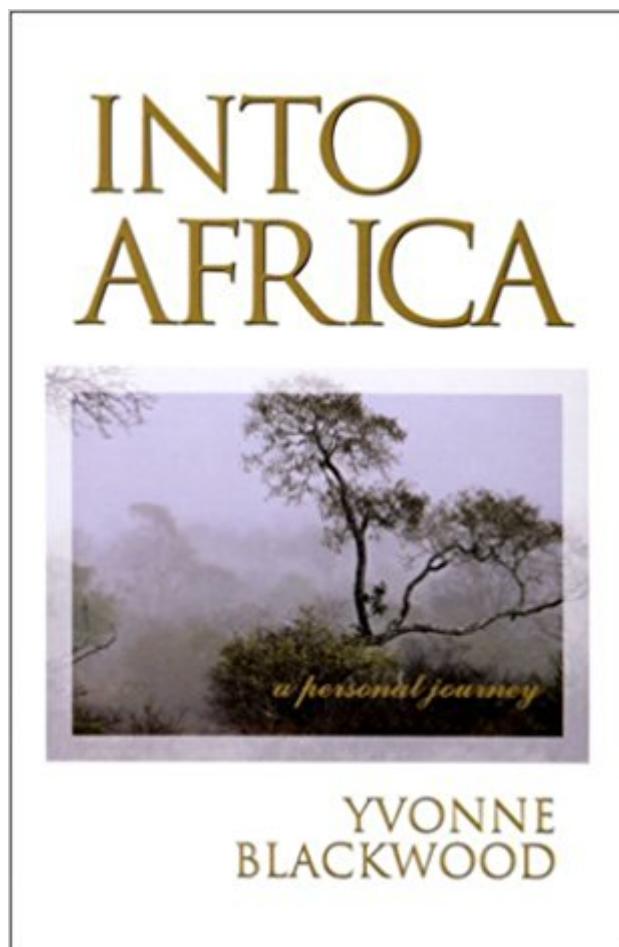


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# Into Africa : A Personal Journey



## **Synopsis**

A remarkable and intriguing story about a journey by Yvonne Blackwood, Banker, community activist, to West Africa, the land of her ancestors. It begins in Nigeria with exposure to tight military control that causes Blackwood to experience fear as never before. In Ghana her respect for human beings and sense of adventure along with destiny, lead her to meet Adamson. Determined to see it all, she finds herself in deserte situations, each mysteriouly resolved by strangers. Peppered with nostalgic flashbacks to Blackwood's native Jamaica, Into Africa, resonates with unique poignancy, a love of people and her growing spiritual quest for her African roots among the proud Ashanti people.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"...The book is an easy read. It challenges you to put it down..." -- The Spectrum, as supplied by the Toronto Star"..."This is a delightfully pleasant read, and gives some insight into some of the West African origins of Caribbean society." -- The Caribbean Camera"...a delight to read. It captures something elusive--a magical, almost indescribably wonder of discovering one's ancestral roots..." -- The Weekly Gleaner (NA)

A remarkable and intriguing story about a journey to the land of Blackwood's ancestors. "Into Africa," begins in Nigeria with exposure to the tight control by the military that causes Blackwood to experience fear as never before. Her journey continues to take her on an exploration of a new mysterious world where she experiences joy and wonderment as she shares in the lives of family members, friends and new acquaintances. In Ghana her respect for human beings and sense of

adventure along with destiny, lead her to meet Adamson. Determined to see it all, Yvonne finds herself in desperate situations, each one mysteriously resolved by strangers. Peppered with nostalgic flashbacks to her native Jamaica, "Into Africa, A Personal Journey," resonates with unique poignancy, a love of people and Blackwood's growing spiritual quest for her African roots among the proud Ashanti people. Down to earth, vulnerable yet fearless, Blackwood shares with us a small part of her life as it unfolds.

An excellent memoir. There was more about personal relationships than Africa but both were interwoven to tell the story. Additionally, I purchased the book to learn about relationships on my mother's side of the family so I loved it!

I have just read Yvonne Blackwood's book, "Into Africa A Personal Journey" and what a read! It's a fascinating story that every person who has emigrated from their native country, or their parents, should read. Blackwood's writing is colourful, lively and fun. It's as if she and I were sitting in her living room talking. I was with her all the way. It is a story of a woman who was determined to visit the land of her ancestors. Although she had several obstacles to overcome she was determined to pursue her dream to the end. It will appeal greatly to people who are determined and know what they want, and will inspire those who do not. It will also appeal to anyone who loves adventure. I learned a lot about West Africa that I wouldn't find in text books. This is a book you will want to read again.

Having spent a lot of time in Africa, my mind travelled back to Nigeria as the writer brought the pages alive with her experiences. I drove along the roads with her, saw the scenes that she described in my mind's eye. Her fond recollections of her friend in Ghana made me wish that I could have met him, just to tell him how much he was appreciated as a human being. Tears came when at the end of the book she said that he had died. What a pity at such a young age, but unfortunately death comes early to many in Africa. I look forward to reading her next book. Well done!

I read the entire book "Into Africa" in one evening because I could not put it down, and I wanted to find out how it ended. Although, the book was about the author's own personal journey, and the obstacles she faced when trying to fulfil her life long dream, I could relate to it. The book prompted me to ask myself the question, "Which dreams would I go against all odds to accomplish?" The story reminded me that you can achieve your goals if you are serious, determined and resilient.

Yvonne Blackwood has captured the power to dream. Her dream of visiting Africa has been beautifully translated into her book. I became swept away in this sweet and evocative desire to read every last bit of her journey. The sounds, the tastes and images flowed through my mind during my 'escape' into Africa. Every sense of fear, delight and passion was with me as if I was there...Reading this book will give you every reason to pursue your dreams, no matter what they are.....

Yvonne has brought out the magic of travel thrills and perils, especially when travelling in Africa, matter-of-factly. The personal travelogue is never boring egging you to finish the book. Yvonne's determination in the face of many odds she faces in Ghana and Nigeria while travelling to towns and cities across the borders is remarkably brought out....An interesting read.

Finding a book that draws you into the author's experience within the first few pages is always a pleasure to read. Into Africa is such a book. Blackwood is able to tell her story and make the reader cheer her on to the best possible outcome. Very well written. A feel good book.

An entertaining and educational tour of West Africa that creates a backdrop to relive childhood experiences and establishes a basis for understanding a culture that is similar to the authors.

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