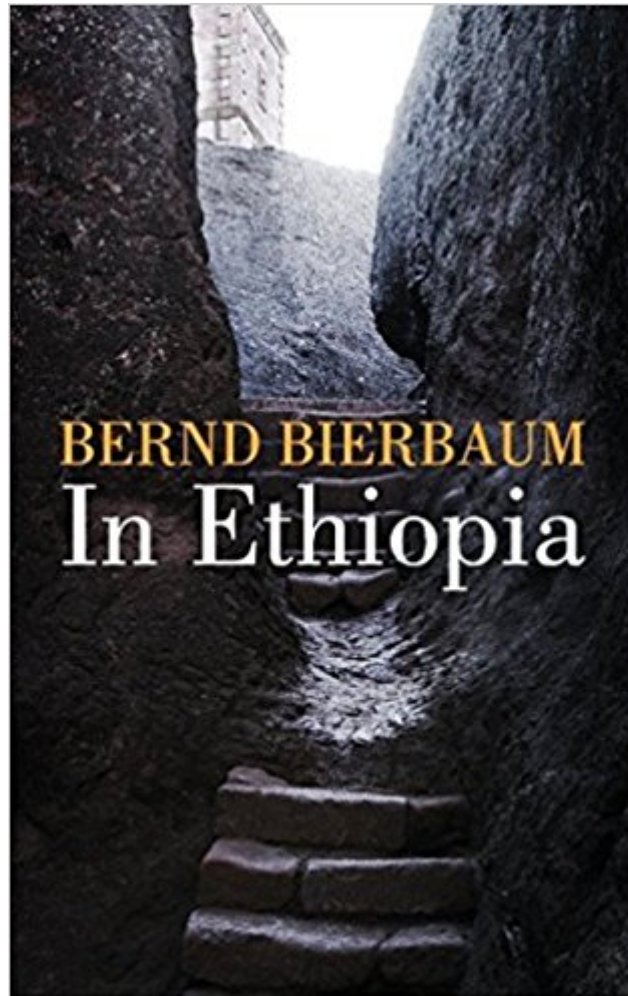




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In Ethiopia



Synopsis

A dust-filled journey of 3000km, taken twenty times, yields ten chapters of vivid encounters and tangible impressions. Set between sky-high mountains on the top of Africa, blistering hot deserts of the Danakil Depression and the fertile Blue Nile valley, this is the cradle of humankind, or, according to the Ethiopian Church, the home of Adam and Eve before their fall from grace. Bernd Bierbaum, avid traveller, writer and anthropologist was so captivated by Ethiopia that he returned twice each year for the past decade. Painting an intriguing web of myth and everyday life, In Ethiopia challenges common assumptions, allowing an ancient yet universal and relevant wisdom to reveal itself. A classic of modern travel writing. "I asked myself time and again, how a Faranji (foreigner) could understand so much about my country." (Azeb Tadesse-Hahn, Deutsche Welle) "Bernd Bierbaum travels with open eyes, without any form of arrogance or wise-cracking." (Andreas Obst, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) "Refreshing, poetic, and written with deep knowledge." (Arte TV Paris)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found this author very interesting in his descriptions of his travel thru Ethiopia! It really came out how he loved Ethiopia...even the parts most would not enjoy. You could almost see and smell from his details. I knew it would add to my knowledge about Ethiopia, as my daughter and son-in-law are adopting from there. I also purchased an Ethiopian cook book from there from .com and my it looks good!

For me this book is a rather general overview of the author's impressions about his travels to

Ethiopia. It's ok if you look for someone's impressions, but if you are interested in specific information about the country/culture/social matters, then definitely look elsewhere.

Small book containing the author's point of view of his travel to Ethiopia. It was not the book I expected

This book was a disappointment for me as the reviews suggested it was better. The book is a quick read and quite slim for its price. It is a personal 'wonder tour' for Bierbaum. The English version seems badly edited. Titled 'In Ethiopia', it only covers Harar in the east and all the rest is Addis Ababa or north of that. Descriptions of Addis are fine, but the walked routes are convoluted. When familiar with the locations the book seems badly edited. Chapters jump from the 'northern tour' to the east then back to the north again. We start in Addis, go to Lalibela, then Harar... In Harar, the only market visited is the 'chat' market - and there are many to choose from! The author visits Rimbaud's 'abode', but seems unaware that it was built after Rimbaud's death. Suddenly, we are north of Addis Ababa again in the text. In Axum, after much political and social deliberation, Bierbaum sits 'on the hotel terrace...', but with no name given, I suggest to any reader who would like to visit that it is the Yeha (not the only Hotel, but the one with the best views and probably still the most costly). Baboons are Gelada, not gelaba (which I figure was spell-checked into being clothing). Debtera are priests - not 'sorcerer priests' - which seems slightly offensive to these Holy men of faith. The descriptions of people and occasions give the best sense of their reality. In the final few pages Bierbaum discusses gender issues then departs with the esoteric.

Ethiopia is one of those fascinating places that I've always wanted to visit. While I haven't managed to make that trip, Bernd Bierbaum's "In Ethiopia" has taken me close enough to feel the heat, dust and mystery of this ancient country. Bernd's masters degree in anthropology and lifetimes travel experience are evident in his intelligent and sensitive response to Ethiopia. Further, having travelled Ethiopia's 3000 kilometre long historic route twenty times he knows his topic intimately. Yet, he remains open-minded, always aware that he is an outsider being afforded a privileged peek at a complex culture. This kind of immersion should become the benchmark for travel writing as opposed to the typical summary accounts and crass conclusions written by writers who spend a few days in exotic locations. If you are planning a trip to Ethiopia, this slim volume is an essential companion that will alert you to the mysteries that lie beneath the surface. Even if you never plan to visit Ethiopia, buy this book simply for the pleasure of reading about a culture that is so uniquely other and at the

same time so similar. This is sure to become the classic travel book on Ethiopia. I look forward to reading more titles written by the author.

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