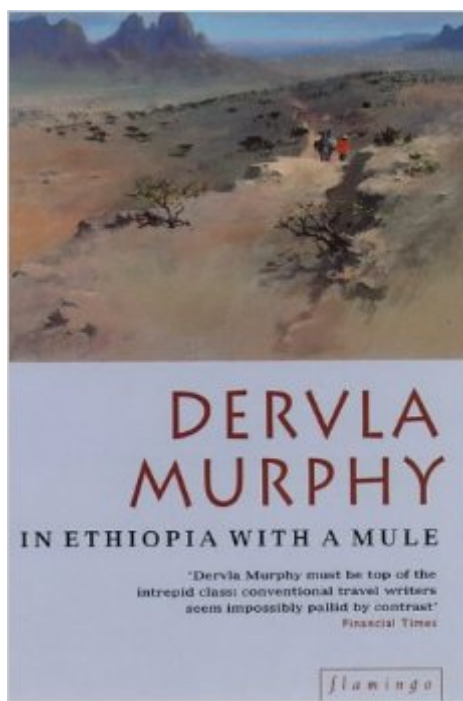


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In Ethiopia With A Mule



Synopsis

Dervla Murphy set out with her pack-mule, Jock, on a hazardous trek through Ethiopia's remote and hostile regions. Inspired by stories of Prester John and the Queen of Sheba, she hoped to find there beauty, danger, solitude and mystery. Instead she encountered rough terrain, exhaustion, illness and the disorder of the Ethiopians' domestic affairs - all of which she conquered with endurance and good humour. Despite being robbed three times, Dervla Murphy found the Ethiopian highlanders were unusually hospitable. Out of her dependence on them and her increasing familiarity with their way of life grew a close and warm understanding. On reaching Addis Ababa, she concluded that affection for Ethiopia's peoples was the richest reward of her journey. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Flamingo / HarperCollins; New Ed edition (1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0006547982

ISBN-13: 978-0006547983

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.1 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,275,142 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÂ Books > Travel > Africa > Ethiopia & Djibouti #1028 inÂ Books > Travel > Africa > General #3492 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel

Customer Reviews

A very gutsy woman, give her that at least, and an inspiring peripatetic who took so many of the world's paths less traveled. She's written books on her travels in the Andes, Madagascar, Siberia, and other exotic locals. But she first gained fame for riding a bike, leaving her home in Ireland, starting at Dunkirk, and following one of the traditional overland routes into India - alone, in 1963. Her book on the trip is Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle. Not that long thereafter, the lure of the remoter lands of the world called again, and she undertook the subject of this book, a solo walk with a mule in Ethiopia, for 1000 miles, during the first three months of 1967. In the Prologue, she quotes Edward Gibbon on Ethiopia: "Encompassed on all sides by the enemies of their religion, the Ethiopians slept near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten." And

that is precisely the "charm" of Ethiopia for the traveler, if not the residents. It is quite different from all the surrounding countries, and, like Burma, in many ways an immense open-air museum. In the highland area of the country, the elevation ranges between 6,000 and 15,000 ft, overall a salubrious climate. She started her journey in the Red Sea port of Massawah, in what is now Eritrea. She did take a truck up to the highlands, and supplemented her walking with a plane ride and a journey in a Land Rover.

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