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African Ark: People And Ancient Cultures Of Ethiopia And The Horn Of Africa



Synopsis

Book by Carol Beckwith, Angela Fisher, Graham Hancock

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After seeing this book in the hands of friends, I am glad to finally have it in my special book collections. In this book photographers Beckwith and Fisher have truly captured the fierce, exotic, and natural beauty of the people of Ethiopia and the surrounding area. Indeed, Hancock covers the history of this mystic land dating back to early pre-Christian era. Anyone with a sincere interest to learn the people and cultures of Ethiopia should have this amazing book in their possession!

A friend lent me this book some years ago and I immediately bought a copy. It is not a cheap book, but if I had a dollar for every time a visitor got lost in it, it would have been paid for many times over.

"Recording the Past, Supporting the Future", while Ruining the Present. Please do not buy this book. These two photographers are extremely unethical. I've seen them work during a festival in Burkina Faso and it was a disgrace for Western civilization. The aura of absolute entitlement was around Beckwith&Fisher during the multi-day festival as they stood/sat within less than a foot of the performers, covering the performance from all the locals (of which there were thousands and who were much further from the performance at the places designated for spectators). This was equivalent of someone climbing on the stage of the theater performance and standing right in front of the actors the whole duration of the performance. I talked to the organizers and they were upset

with such behavior, but their hospitality didn't allow them to ask these women to be respectful. The cost of you being able to see moments of foreign culture are pretty steep here. The cost is ruining the same moments (except that they mean a lot more) for the people of that culture.

A land now wracked by famine and war, the region of Ethiopia and the surrounding countries which make up the Horn of Africa, have a rich and diverse cultural history. The coastal areas have been in close contact with the outside world for centuries, linked by trade with Arabia, China and India.

Ethiopia itself is situated in more remote highlands and has enjoyed protection from foreign influences, for an even longer time. There are archaic forms of Christianity and Judaism, pastoralist groups, hunter-gatherers and farmers and they have lived undisturbed for hundreds of years. Until the twentieth century, Ethiopia was the only African country to have successfully avoided Western imperialism. And here is a book of superb photographs of the land and its different peoples by Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher. The text by Graham Hancock is unusually helpful giving the historical background so necessary to take in these startling photos. A wonderful book, beautifully designed, published by Abrams, it is well worth its published price of \$75.00 to anyone interested in Africa.

I first saw this book in an Ethiopian restaurant in Amsterdam on vacation. I was on my own and the book was there, so while waiting for my delicious meal I thumbed through the lush photos and fell into a trance of wonder and delight. I am an artist, interested in design (former graphic artist) and pattern. It was incredibly inspiring. The photographs are very beautiful and the dignity of the people are not compromised in these images. When I returned from my holiday I quickly ordered the book and feel fortunate to own such a magnificent tribute to an incredible culture. It is something I will continue to pour over for a long time to come.

As a repeat visitor to beautiful Ethiopia, and a pretty darn good photographer, the last thing I want my friends to do is to pick up this book before they see MY pictures. My best ones are drab next to this fabulous work of Fisher and Beckwith. So many books on Ethiopia cover either just the north, with its religious architecture and history, or just the south with its beautiful tribal people only recently touched by the encroachment of modernity. But this book covers it all, and stunningly so. If you can afford only one book of glorious photography on tribal Africa, make it this one. There is a reason for the consistent 5-star ratings. (Later note: two newer books by different authors/photographers focus just on the tribal areas of the Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia. If that's your interest, then also check out Gianni Giansanti's "Vanishing Africa" and Hans Silvester's

"Ethiopia - Peoples of the Omo Valley.")

I had this book for a long time and everybody who looks at it cant let go.Great pictures.As an Ethiopian it makes me feel great to show people my country and my history. Elisabeth

This work of art in nothing less than excellent!!

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