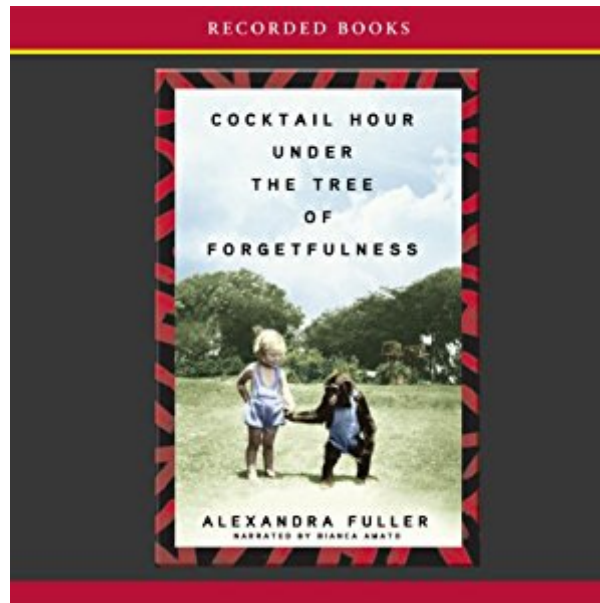




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Cocktail Hour Under The Tree Of Forgetfulness



Synopsis

Alexandra Fuller won worldwide attention, popular acclaim, and critical accolades for her memoir of her childhood in Africa, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*. This engaging follow-up explores Fuller's parents' childhoods and charts the trajectories of their lives through all the British couple's experiences in war-torn Africa. Fuller braids a multilayered narrative around the perfectly lit, Happy Valley-era Africa of her mother's childhood; the boiled cabbage grimness of her father's English childhood; and the darker, civil war-torn Africa of her own childhood. At its heart, this is the story of Fuller's mother, Nicola. Born on the Scottish Isle of Skye and raised in Kenya, Nicola holds dear the kinds of values most likely to get you hurt or killed in Africa: loyalty to blood, passion for land, and a holy belief in the restorative power of all animals. Fuller interviewed her mother at length and has captured her inimitable voice with remarkable precision. *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* is as funny, terrifying, exotic, and unselfconscious as Nicola herself.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 45 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: August 23, 2011

Language: English

ASIN: B005IKIXNS

Best Sellers Rank: #22 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Africa #129 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Africa #541 in Books > History > Africa

Customer Reviews

Alexandra Fuller was five when her mother, best known as Nicola Fuller of Central Africa, began programming her to become a writer. In the first paragraph of her latest book, *"Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness,"* Alexandra tells us that Nicola "loves books and has therefore always wanted to appear in them" Alexandra's first book, *"Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight,"* was a memoir of her experiences growing up in Africa, and surely the book her mother refers to in this latest volume as *"That Awful Book."* This new memoir is a sequel featuring her family with Nicola Fuller of Central Africa as the leading character and her father, Timothy Fuller the primary supporting one. She includes many conversations with her mother, who often utters some variation

of "I suppose you're going to put that in another Awful Book." Then she decides that will be okay. Nicola Fuller is definitely a colorful character, albeit a rather tragic one, due in part to her challenge of living with bi-polar disorder coupled with the chaos of life in Africa as the colonial era ended and the natives reclaimed power. Although humor abounds in this story, much of it serves to put the best face on a grim situation. There were many grim situations. Nicola's parents had emigrated to Kenya years before her birth, but she was born in Scotland. Her mother went home to stay with her parents while Nicola's father fought in Burma in the second World War. When Nicola was two, the family returned to Kenya, and while she was proud later in life to be "one thousand percent Scottish," her heart was in Africa and she was excited about raising her own family there. Unfortunately, about the time she began raising her own family, African countries became independent, and life as Nicola had known it turned a dark corner.

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