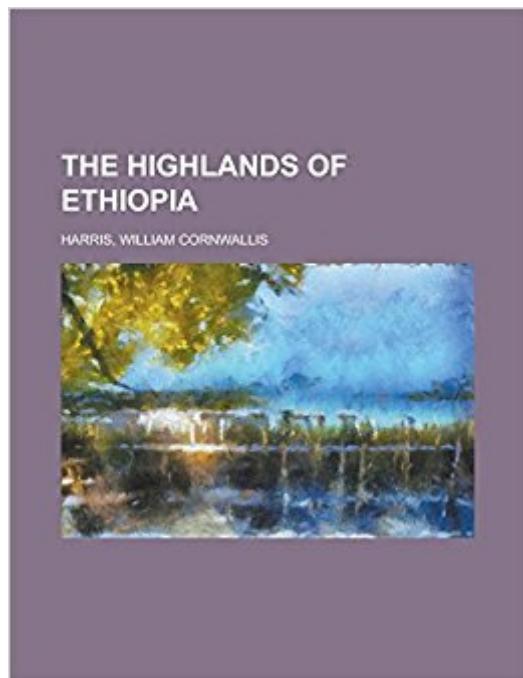


The book was found

The Highlands Of Ethiopia



Synopsis

Excerpt: ...in proportion, it was curious to listen to the vaunts of coming prowess that arose from the board. No limit was placed upon the victims who were to be gathered to their fathers, and loyalty and devotion knew no bounds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book on African adventure. If you like this book you will want to read the following 99 cent classics of African travels:1.Â Alone Among the Zulus: The Narrative of a Journey Through the Zulu Country, South Africa (1866)2.Â First Footsteps in East Africa or, An Exploration of Harar [Illustrated] (1856)3.Â Tropical Africa (1889)4.Â A Camera Actress in the Wilds of Togoland (1915)5.Â The Life and Exploits of Hugh Clapperton the Distinguished Voyager, Adventurer, and Discoverer (1840)6.Â Scouting for Stanley in East Africa (1890)7.Â Through the Kalahari Desert (1886)8.Â Lassoing Wild Animals in Africa (Illustrated) (1911)9.Â Stories of the Gorilla Country (1870)10.Â The Unknown Horn of Africa (1888) (With active table of contents)

Disclosure: William Cornwallis Harris was my great-grandmother's first cousin. That being understood, I believe that I am not biased in this review. I have no financial interest in the work and neither have received nor will receive anything in exchange for my review. This two-volume work is a factual narrative by Maj. William Cornwallis Harris, who was sent by HM Queen Victoria to head a mission as the first ambassador from the UK to the Kingdom of Goa in the heart of modern Ethiopia. The kings of Goa became the Emperors of Ethiopia in later years. I warn that his writing style is

somewhat difficult for the modern reader, but well worth the effort for the insight into local culture of the time and its resemblance in many ways to that of the present. His style is very "Victorian," with elaborately descriptive prose. "Florid" would be a good word to describe it. After a while, however, the reader falls into the rhythm of the prose and the reading becomes easier. The writing style places the reader within the Victorian milieu. In order to get something out of the work, one must overlook the racism of the first half of the 18th century among wealthy British families. It is present in this work, but not overbearing. It is written to provide a narrative of the mission, and a somewhat analytical record of observation of terrain, peoples, cultures and customs encountered. One who is familiar with modern Somalia will recognize it in Maj. Harris' description. He lands in Somalia, having departed with the other members of his mission from India. He must then travel overland through Somalia and into Ethiopia. He describes Somalia in his day as being a rather lawless country, lacking a government, with warring rival tribes, peopled by pirates and bandits, and with a very low level of civilization as a 19th century British colonialist would understand the term. He faithfully describes the mission day by day as it moves through punishing terrain, tribal battles, and various dangers finally to reach the highlands. He faithfully describes the peoples along the way -- their appearance, their customs, their culture -- culminating in an in-depth look at the culture of Goa -- its monarchy, its court, its towns and townspeople, its Coptic Church, and modes of dress, in sufficient detail that the reader feels he has been there in that day and age. Any student of history -- as well as anyone interested in African history -- will find this book fascinating. Just be sure you have time available -- it takes time to read, but then, history takes time to absorb properly.

Well written in a beautiful early Victorian style, it follows the amazing saga of the adventures of an appealing, well educated young Englishman in the previously unvisited by any European wilds of upland modern-day Ethiopia, bringing vividly to light the customs and beliefs of not only that exotic land at that time, but his native Victorian England as well.

Excellent original source for the history of that time.

Rather tedious language to get through.

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