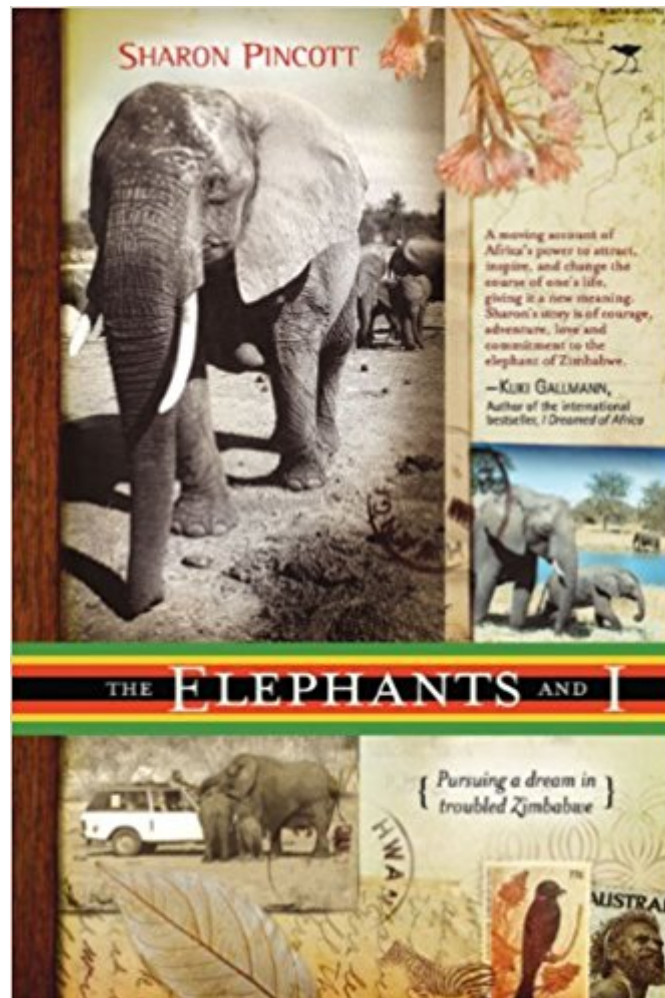




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# The Elephants And I: Pursuing A Dream In Troubled Zimbabwe



## Synopsis

A true story filled with both joy and foreboding, this portrait of Zimbabwe and its wildlife comes from an Australian woman who went as a tourist to Africa and then decided to leave her old life and live permanently in a tumultuous Zimbabwe to work with elephants on land bordering Hwange National Park. Not a scientist, she wanted to observe elephant interaction informally, and this moving memoir describes how, in time, she and the elephants developed affectionate relationships with each other. As the beauty and wonder of the park became increasingly threatened by illegal snaring of wildlife and land invaders claimed the territory where her elephant herd roamed, she went into battle for the animals; and this compelling account reveals how she put her own survival at risk.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Secret meets Born Free in this story of an Australian woman's bond with 'the Presidential Elephants of Zimbabwe' and her efforts to stay positive and protect them in a time of political upheaval. --British Airways Comair magazine Sharon Pincott's *The Elephants and I* masterfully combines a tale of the struggle to conserve Zimbabwe's 'Presidential Elephants' with a portrait of what life in Zimbabwe is like; it is a passionate and touching read. --Big Issue, South Africa Sharon Pincott is the Joy Adamson of Zimbabwe. It takes a special person to battle the loneliness/isolation of the African bush. We salute her courage and dedication. Her book gives rare and important insights. --Wilf Mbanga, Editor, *The Zimbabwean* A moving account of Africa's power to attract, inspire and change the course of one's life, giving it a new meaning. Sharon's story is of courage,

adventure, love and commitment to the elephant of Zimbabwe. --Kuki Gallmann, 'I Dreamed of Africa'  
Sharon had the courage to leave a cushy life, the grit to stand up against those who looked the other way. If everyone had Å her spunk we would have few conservation problems on our earth. --Delia Owens, 'Cry of the Kalahari'

An unplanned visit to South Africa's Kruger National Park changed Sharon Pincott's life as she knew it. She was a high-flying information technology specialist Down Under, but now she dreamed of working with Africa's wildlife. Eventually, she abandoned her life of privilege and luxury and moved to Zimbabwe - a country in turmoil - to live and work among elephants on land bordering Hwange National Park. It was a startling contrast to her former life. In time, Sharon formed extraordinary relationships with wild elephants, having learned to know them intimately. She treasured escapades with friends, both human and animal, in spectacular, remote places. But, as she soon discovered firsthand, the beauty and wonder of wild Zimbabwe had a dark foreboding side. Snaring of wildlife was rife, and when land invaders claimed the area where Sharon's elephant friends roamed, she went into battle for their land and their lives - while fighting for her own wellbeing, in her homeland of choice. Å This is an inspirational true story filled with unrivalled splendour, joy and hope - but in today's Zimbabwe, this precious beauty is frequently shattered by heartbreaking despair. Å Sharon Pincott has written a brave and passionate book about her work in Zimbabwe trying to protect the special herd called the 'Presidential Elephants'. Against all odds and her own safety she has stayed in this troubled country for over eight years trying to deal with poaching, land grabbing, unethical hunters and personal harassment. Sharon vividly portrays both the tragedies and joys of her mission. Her writing about the individual elephants and their behaviour is fascinating. I highly recommend this book for its insights into some of the conservation challenges in Africa, into elephant behaviour and into the personality of an extraordinary woman. - Cynthia Moss, World-renowned Elephant Specialist, Amboseli, Kenya

I read this book while I was in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe in July, 2011, I was staying at Somalisa Camp. The interaction with the elephants was fantastic, as they constantly came to a waterpole in front of the camp as well as the camp's swimming pool to drink the water. Of course I appreciated those magnificent elephants which are often regarded as Africa's largest all the more so for having read this book. I even saw a battle for the waterhole between the elephants and a troop of baboons!!! The baboons managed to win the first round and take control of the waterhole. But the herd of elephants turned around and the baboons beat a rapid retreat. It was an incredible scene. I

wish to thank the author so that the public can enjoy the elephants and all the other incredible wildlife of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, I loved it, and feel it's a very special place. Owen Shaffer, Chicago, Illinois

Sad that mankind doesn't place more value on the gift wildlife is. SO grateful to those who are involved in trying to save them.

Sharon personalizes her experiences with her elephant friends in a way that makes you feel that the elephant are human. That elephant are very special animals is not in question when reading these books and Sharon puts the reader right there with her in among the presidential herds. I lovely read.

I met Sharon when I was in Africa a few years ago. A wonderful lady who has devoted her life to saving the elephants.

As an ex Zimbabwean and a lover of elephants I was delighted when a friend recommended this to me. Sharon Pincott shares her amazing relationship with the presidential Elephants of Hwange. She is a brave dedicated person who has overcome resistance from the authorities, fought against the greed of trophy hunters and continues to promote the need for people to visit the troubled country and bring in much needed financial support. Her descriptions of her close encounters with these magnificent animals are heart lifting and heart rending. The joy and privilege of the elephants inviting her in to their world is truly touching. Her grief and helplessness when challenging the snare setters is hard to read - but her dogged persistence in spite of personal danger has helped save many elephants from horrendous injuries and a long drawn out painful death. She not only describes her time with the elephants but there are delightful descriptions of other animals and birds and simply her love of all things african - the bush, the smells and the sunsets. Anyone who has an interest in elephants, conservation, wild life, safaris will enjoy this easy to read and most enjoyable book. She has included many amazing photos of her encounters and some of the 'stars' like Lady and little Libby. Buy it - the proceeds all go towards Sharon's projects and this is much needed.

Unfortunately .com has this book listed but does not have it for sale. So I hope reviewing it might make the book-purchasers department think about stocking it! (It is available here: [...]) Sharon Pincott's tale of moving lock, stock and barrel-sized heart from a luxury life in Australia to a hut in Zimbabwe in Southern Africa and her daily life amongst the Zimbabwe elephant herd known as

"The Presidential Herd" is a very moving story. Despite, supposedly being protected - these elephants have come under immense pressure from the land invasions euphemistically called "settlers" where even protected gazetted land is forcibly settled by people who do not know, or do not care for the environment and wildlife. The sad reality of snaring, poaching, encroachment and death is counterbalanced by Sharon's guts and determination to ensure the safety of the herd and the lengths she has gone to ( and still does today in 2009). Anyone who loves wildlife, who admires courage and is interested in a life walked to the beat of a different drum (or who dreams of leading a different life) will enjoy and be inspired by Sharon's story.

Elephants and I by Sharon Pincott This book is so special to me because I met the elephants of the "W" family myself with Sharon in June 2010. She is the Jane Goodall of elephants. Everybody who wants to know more about their behaviour should read this book and then go to Zimbabwe. It is very safe for tourists. She tells about them as individuals with their own character and behaviour. She really understands how they are and why they react as they do. They know her and if you go with her the elephants trust you 100 %. That is the way how it should be and hopefully it will stay forever. We animal lovers should all support her because life over there is not easy!!!!!!! Gertru van Tuyl

Just got my copy of The elephants and I. Sharon is one gutsy woman living her dream in Zimbabwe amongst those magnificent elephants. The book really shares her ups and downs of life in Zimbabwe battling politics, animal snaring and a country in turmoil. The photographs capture some of the beauty that has made her so passionate about her life there. She is truly inspiring. I thoroughly recommend getting a copy.

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