

Daisy's Daughter, Our Lives for Africa
Autobiography by Heather Rooken-Smith

Ah, Africa! Adventure, love, animals and birds, snakes and crocodiles, pet warthogs and porcupines... hairy coconuts, the scents of spices and floral blooms... intrigue, hushed messages carried on the breeze... and the special indigenous peoples of this great continent.

A true African saga, readers all over the world will fall in love with 'Daisy's Daughter, Our Lives for Africa', by author, Heather Rooken-Smith.

Starting with Heather and her husband Ian's British 1820 Settler Cape founding fathers, take an amazing journey with them through their lives in five diverse African countries – Kenya, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), war-torn Angola, South West Africa (Namibia), and Nelson Mandela's Rainbow Nation of South Africa.

Share with William (Ian's father) some of his charming 1906 stories and poems... 'finding the land of milk and honey, a No-Man's land teeming with game; the Rhino cow with a horn curved like a Turkish sword; a milk-white Antelope; Lions and their Occult Powers'.

Read about a gun being in Heather's hand almost as often as a baby's bottle, the fear and anxiety of Mau Mau. Her climb to conquer Africa's greatest mountain, Kilimanjaro, with its incredible ice-magic hidden like a secret in the belly of the volcano and the purest gift of silence as she gazed down across the African landscape from the crater's rim high above. How Humpy Hornbill saved the lives of Ian, Heather, and their family in war-torn Angola where their toil had turned virgin African bush into a triumph of tobacco farming - their terror and heartache at having to abandon their animals and Angola fazenda to face the unknown on a stupendous convoy journey with thousands of others to seek safety as refugees in South West Africa (Namibia).

From farming dairy and maize to deep-sea fishing in Kenya - marlin, sharks, seashells and corals, boats bobbing in Malindi Harbour and the mystique of Arab dhows sailing the Indian Ocean; World Wars I and II; and so much more, there's a wealth of variety in Heather's story, something for everyone. Intertwined with the happiness of everyday life, Ian and Heather encounter trials and tribulation, trauma, tragedy, drama and tranquillity, and a treasure of unforgettable moments and experiences in a much-loved Africa of yesteryear.

In 2015, at the end of her journey, Heather finds peace in what used to be a war-zone in the far north of Namibia.

Order your copy of 'Daisy's Daughter, Our Lives for Africa' and enjoy a captivating read.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

'Daisy's Daughter, Our Lives for Africa', a self-published autobiography, is author, Heather Rooken-Smith's first book. She will celebrate her 84th birthday in November

2017 and lives with her son Keith and his wife Mary at their guest Lodge in the far north of Namibia alongside the mighty Zambezi River.

Caprivi River Lodge is a tranquil haven of thatched cottages set under a canopy of shady trees and surrounded by lush green lawns and flora with an abundance of bird-life, hippo, crocodile and vervet monkeys. Heather has come to think of the monkeys as the 'Little People'.

The internet keeps Heather connected to her readers, family and friends around the world as she relaxes on the Lodge's verandah, writing and answering mail with Africa's comforting sounds around her – cicadas, the call of the African Fish Eagle, chattering vervet monkeys at play and hippo splashing and snorting in the Zambezi as it passes on its aeons-old 2574km flow to the Indian Ocean.

Heather's parents, Lionel Carol and Daisy, instilled in her an appreciation of books and knowledge. She's been an avid reader since childhood, loves poetry, history and geography, and keeps abreast of world news and sporting events - tennis is a firm favourite. Her other interests include fine embroidery, music, and photography, though when she was younger Heather was a keen gardener as she followed in Daisy's footsteps.

BACK COVER OF THE BOOK

Daisy's Daughter is too beautiful and special not to be read by every ex-Kenya/African type in the world.

John & Robin Channer, Australia

This book is a fascinating account of the author's life in Africa – her family, the struggles to make ends meet, the joyous times, sad times, the people and wildlife, the challenges faced which were sometimes dangerous, and not least living and surviving in an Africa which was rapidly changing. The writing of this book is a wonderful achievement and it deserves to be widely read, not only by those of us who lived in Africa, but also by those who have simply no idea of what life was like in those days.

John Davis, UK

Heather Rooken-Smith is a true child of Africa, her life well-spent from Kenya to Cape Town via Angola and Namibia, where she now, at 82, lives in the Caprivi Strip. This remarkable book is as much a personal history of her family as it is a true record of the upheavals, wars and change - much of it bloody, lots of it heart-rending. What wonderful, image-filled writing in her Angola chapters. Pathos, humour and bravery wrapped in text that I don't recall the news items of the time conveying.

Les Stephenson, Cape Town, South Africa

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