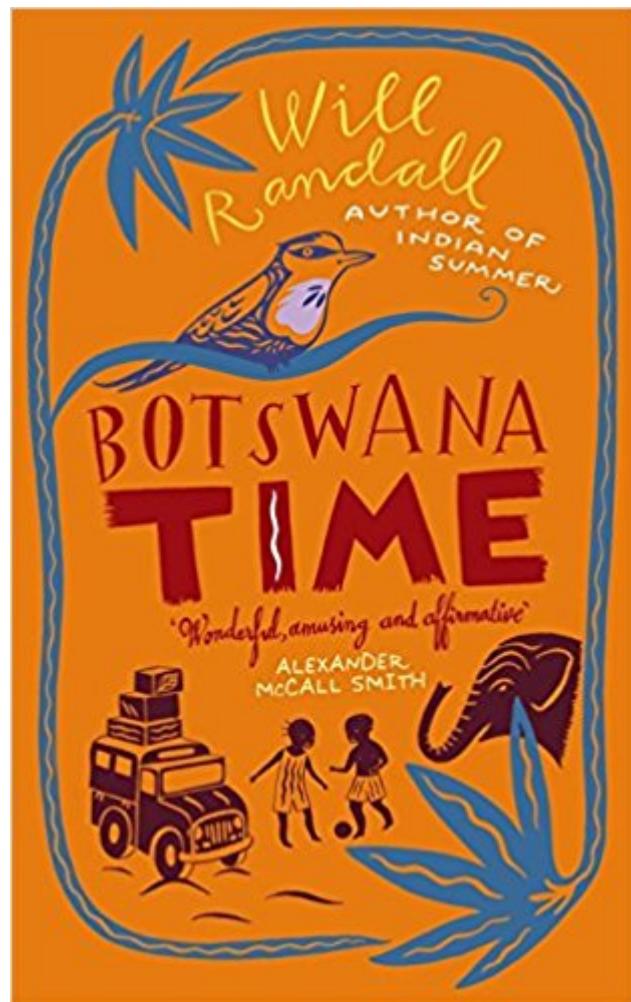


The book was found

Botswana Time



Synopsis

Will Randall travels with a purpose, as well as an outrageous sense of fortune. In INDIAN SUMMER he found himself, by chance, having the extraordinary experience of helping slum schoolchildren put on a play to help save their school. In Botswana he was taken up by a headmaster to teach a class of six year olds at The River of Life school. They are football crazy and one of Will's jobs is to take them to play neighbouring (sometimes as much as 100 miles away) schools. Camping enroute or staying in farms and rural villages, often travelling by foot or dug-out punts, thousands of antelope, elephant, buffalo and zebra follow their progress. The sound of lions, leopards and hyenas become the soundtrack of their dreams. Against all the odds they find themselves preparing for the Grand Final of the season - the titanic clash with arch rivals, Victoria Falls Primary school. Both an endearing personal story and a travel book about a little-known but highly successful country, BOTSWANA TIME will win new fans for both Will Randall and the extraordinary country of Botswana.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'This is a good-humoured book, written by a man who went to Botswana with an open heart. The result is a wonderful, amusing and affirmative book about that remarkable country, filled with laughter, colour, and simple decency. Bravo, Mr Randall. Bravo.' Alexander McCall Smith

Will Randall is 38. He has taught in schools in Devon and London and is the author of SOLOMON TIME and INDIAN SUMMER.

Do not be fooled by the Alexander McCall Smith blurb. There are a tiny number of passages that are nice pieces about Botswana. Everything else is about how a man who makes most of his life decisions when roaring drunk, using a 'why not?' approach to life. He is supremely self-centered, worrying not a jot about the people whose lives he crashes into (become a tour guide? why not! too bad for the hapless people who have paid to have a guide who doesn't need to run to the back of the bus to read up on the places they are going. move into a small town and join a school for a few months? I'm really drunk, so why not!). It's not dissimilar to a Bill Bryson book- but the bad parts are worse and the good parts aren't nearly as good. This guy is not a good writer, and is clearly dining out on his mis-spent adulthood.

Funny, warm book by an English schoolteacher about his living in Botswana for a year. I have some Swedish friends, doctors in Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), who have lived all over Africa and feel that, as the book mentions, Botswana is the nation that is currently working the best. While this book is not as good as the author's previous "Solomon Time" and shares the same minor unfriendliness to an North American reader, it is a great, light read. It made me want to visit the places he wrote about and to meet the people he lived among. Highly recommended.

not as interesting or intriguing as the book set in india

Will Randall once more finds himself taking an unusual teaching job, this time in the town of Kasane in Botswana. Here he finds himself not only teaching the children but running the school football team as well, football being of supreme importance. He also encounters a lot of exotic wildlife, with elephants and crocodiles literally on his doorstep. And he has to deal with some very shady characters. And, sadly, he has to come to terms with the terrible devastation that AIDS is wrecking throughout the country. Fans of Alexander McCall Smith's 'No 1 Ladies Detective Agency' will be pleased to discover that Botswana is every bit as delightful as it is described as being in that series, and the people, on the whole as friendly, kind and good, as Mma Ramotswe and her friends. A delightful and heartwarming book.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Mr. Randall relates his experience, first as an assistant tour guide and later as a grade school teacher with characteristic British humor and an objectivity that is unusual for articles and books on post-apartheid southern Africa. He gives the reader a sample of

the moral complexities affecting the people of the region (racial and cultural relations, AIDS) without degenerating into didactic platitudes. The reader also gets an introduction to the grandeur of the Kalahari and its wildlife; although if I have one criticism, it's that he doesn't give enough attention to the Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls. Nevertheless, there is a lot to like about this book, and I would recommend it to anybody who has an interest in southern Africa. Five stars.

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