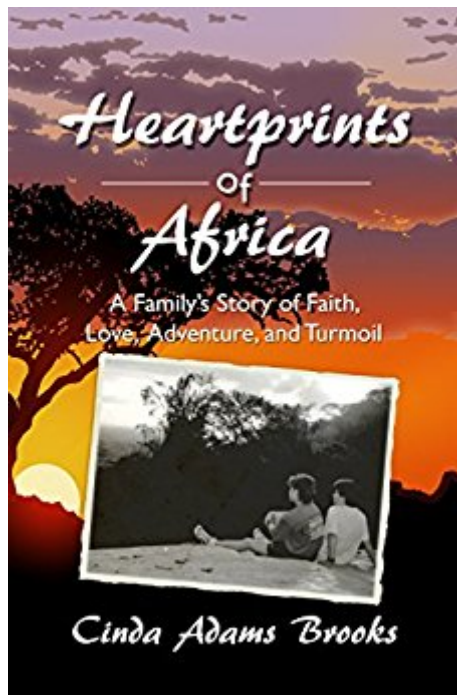


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# Heartprints Of Africa: A Family's Story Of Faith, Love, Adventure, And Turmoil (East Africa Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

No. 1 Bestseller in Travel in Africa, Travel in East Africa, Ministry & Evangelism, and Missions & Missionary Work. When Cinda decides to visit her identical twin, Linda, and family in Northern Uganda, little does she know they will soon be running for their lives. How did a relaxing vacation result in a terrifying escape from artillery and automatic gunfire? The answer begins four decades earlier when their parents and family of five children leave everything familiar in America to start life as medical missionaries in rural East Africa. Three generations of a family's love, forged by shared faith, struggles, and triumphs, serve them now as they fight for survival.

REVIEWS: "Brilliant writing, a heart-stopping adventure, and unforgettable characters make "Heartprints of Africa" a keeper!" • "Catherine Palmer, Christy Award-winning author of "A Touch of Betrayal" and 57 other novels." "Sizzles with the sights, sounds, and smells of her African childhood in the 1960s juxtaposed with a perilous return to that world as an adult. Reading "Heartprints of Africa" is an immersive experience, one that will not be easily forgotten." • "Rita Gardner, author of "The Coconut Latitudes." "Fascinating look at the life of a missionary family in East Africa. I loved reading about the author's swashbuckling, fearless missionary father and his remarkably capable wife as they set off with their five young children for a new life at a mission hospital in East Africa. Very well written, well edited and impeccably formatted and certainly worthy of 5 stars." • "Susie Kelly, author of "I Wish I Could Say I Was Sorry", No. 1 Bestseller in African Travel. A beautifully written memoir that powerfully immerses the reader in the author's life in Africa, both as a child and as an adult. Nail-biting at times, humorous at others, it is a heart-warming account of one family's love, faith, and struggles and I look forward to a sequel from this talented author." • "Jacky Donovan, author of best-selling "Simon Ships Out: How One Brave, Stray Cat Became a Worldwide Hero"" "What a GREAT READ. I highly recommend this book. Cinda did a fabulous job of putting life, danger, family and Africa into context for her family." • "John S. Basham, author of "Serving is a Pilgrimage"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having grown up in a similar time and place, I was struck by the author's thoroughness in describing her experiences. From the first impressions of a five year old girl in a strange new land, to the struggles of saying goodbye to a country that has left a permanent mark on her heart, I felt my own heart saying "yes, exactly!" Brooks has managed to describe the grime, flies, perils and difficulties of a wild land in perfect balance with the breathtaking beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and people. I appreciated her ability to speak frankly about the struggles and conflicts that come with family life under the stress of many inconveniences, illnesses and cultural adjustment, while showing honor and respect for her parents and siblings. Even as she describes the most difficult and heart wrenching experiences, she does so with a forgiving and an understanding heart. This book resonated so strongly with my own African experience, that I found myself thinking, "The next time someone asks me what it was like to grow up in Africa, I am just going to tell him to read this book." If that was all that was accomplished, it would have been enough for me. But that isn't all! The adventures of the author's childhood are tied together with a nail-biting account of a modern day evacuation from political upheaval in rural Uganda. Interspersed in this intense narration are humorous interludes and observations, along with the beautiful story of the connectedness of twins. All this is tied up in a lovely package of the author's description of heartprints, "life experiences, victories, struggles, and wounds are their ridges and valleys." This theme is carried out in the book to help the reader contemplate how our past experiences inform our present decisions. One of the best memoirs I have read. Looking forward to seeing what will come next for this author.

I have seen too many fiction and non-fiction "reviews" and reviewers that unfairly reveal major plots points and secrets. (A "review" is NOT a "Synopsis") Authors work so diligently to build to these big reveals and an insensitive reviewer spills the beans ... WELL, it ain't happening this time! I am NOT going to deprive the reader of the thrill of discovery, the adrenaline rushes, the gut-clinching terror, the outrageous giggles, and the incredible LOVE that is to be discovered in the pages of "Heartprints of Africa"! The author paints vibrant vistas and experiences with her words, one can truly imagine relaxing on the cool porch, morning light growing as one sips sweet chai tea. Or trying to sleep with lions roaring or artillery explosions not so far away. Gracefully and effortlessly the tome flows back and forth, a gentle ebb and flow that spans 40 years. The gossamer threads of thought, emotions, and experiences weave together in a beautiful tapestry of Life. The craftsmanship is exquisite! The voice change is incredible ... seeing and hearing the impressions and perceptions of a 5-year-old, then that voice matures through time and experiences of life. Tight bonds of Love, Family, and Faith grow even stronger through the challenging times and wondrous adventures. It is ingeniously embellished by excerpts from the beautifully detailed letters written by Martha (Mother) and John (Daddy) ... Absolutely Masterful!! I have read the book twice and am on my third reading (something I just don't do) .. and the discoveries keep coming!!!! This is Volume 1 .... Can't wait for Volume 2!

Having lived in East Africa for twenty years, I really enjoy reading biographies of other people who have been similarly fortunate. This is the first book I have read about missionaries, and it certainly changed my perception of them. I loved reading about the author's swashbuckling, fearless missionary father and his remarkably capable wife as they set off with their five young children for a new life at a mission hospital in Uganda. Their lives there, particularly for the children, sound idyllic, with the freedom to run and climb and explore wild places, encouraged by their parents. They also assisted during operations and had to take care of themselves when their father was seriously ill and their mother away visiting her parents in the United States. They certainly were self-reliant, and the family were tightly bonded and loving, particularly the author and her twin sister. Their mother taught them to "do what you have to do" and that is what they did. Reading this book was a trip down memory lane, as I knew many of the places mentioned, as well as the Swahili language. There were occasions when I became a little lost, as the narrative moves between the 1960s and the early 21st century and the family frequently travelled around from mission to mission, but that doesn't detract from a very enjoyable and inspirational read. The book has been very well written, well

edited and impeccably formatted and is certainly worthy of 5 stars.

Cinda Adams Brooks's memoir sizzles with the sights, sounds, and smells of her African childhood in the 1960s juxtaposed with a perilous return to that world as an adult. Brooks describes living in a place where the local greeting translates into "Are you alive?" a logical question in a land where a life's focus is on survival. She writes matter-of-factly of nights punctuated by the cough and deep resonating roar of lions and a vast orchestra of other beasts. Her descriptions of local delicacies including a Masai cocktail (involving cow blood), warthog fajitas and fried grasshoppers bring them to life in a most visceral way. Throughout her story, her parents' sense of duty and love for their children provide an environment of safety in an unsafe land. Her mother's motto of "doing what we have to do" is an echoing theme, and becomes a critical mantra in the Uganda of 2004 as the adult Cinda finds herself and her family members unexpectedly running for their lives. Reading "Heartprints of Africa" is an immersive experience, one that will not be easily forgotten.

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