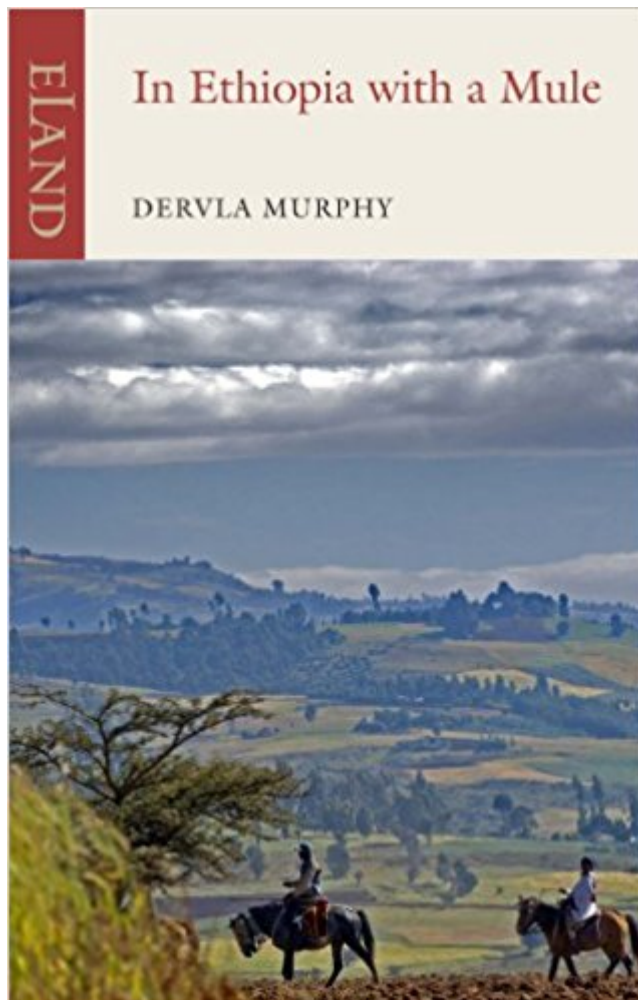


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In Ethiopia With A Mule



Synopsis

Dervla Murphy set out with her pack-mule Jock on a hazardous trek through Ethiopia's remote and hostile regions. Inspired by stories of Prester John and the Queen of Sheba, she hoped to find beauty, danger, solitude, and mystery. Instead, she encountered rough terrain, exhaustion, illness, and the disorder of the Ethiopians' domestic affairs - all of which she conquered with endurance and good humor. Despite being robbed three times, Murphy found the Ethiopian highlanders were unusually hospitable. Out of her dependence on them and her increasing familiarity with their way of life grew a close and warm understanding. On reaching Addis Ababa, she concluded that affection for Ethiopia's people was the richest reward of her journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is probably the best book I have read on Ethiopia. Dervla's descriptions of rural Ethiopian life are spot on and if you venture out into rural Ethiopia today you will see in certain areas that not a lot has changed yet at the same time the book allows you to realize how far other aspects of Ethiopian life has changed since 1966. One great example is the description of Bahir Dar back then and take a look at it now, boom town. Yet take some hikes in the hills and peaks of the Wag district and you will find life very similar to the tales honestly portrayed in this book. It was truly a remarkable read thanks to the gifted talents of the author, her amazing sense of adventure, her courage and stamina. Anybody who spends time in Ethiopia will appreciate this trek through the highlands and for those who think they are on a adventure tour will realize it is time to get out of the Land Cruisers and of the circuit. Long live Jock.

Another amazing adventure by Dervla Murphy with a very special mule she purchased at the start of her trip. Dervla Murphy gives a firsthand account of the people she met along the way, their living conditions, their customs, their hospitality and of course, details of the incredible landscape both pastoral and wild. The majority of the people she met were good to her but she had some dangerous encounters with shady characters who robbed her, and at times she was unsure whether she'd get out of these situations alive. A wonderful story of her experiences which are absolutely fascinating but at times very scary! Dervla Murphy exposed her most obedient mule who accompanied her for about 2 months to extremely dangerous conditions with several disturbing mishaps. It's one thing to expose yourself to risks but to put another creature who depends on you in circumstances such as she did was the one aspect of the story that really troubled me.

The finest travelogue I've ever read and I've read more than a hundred.

I loved this travel book. Although it was written in the 60s, it is amazing that so many of the things she describes are still exactly the same 55 years later!!!

this is a wonderful account of travel in an unfamiliar place. Dervla is the best travel writer I know. She really gives unusual perspectives on different cultures.

Very readable and informative account of travel in Ethiopia - captures the spirit, the dangers and the humanity of a time and place removed from us.

This book is an account of an amazing three-month journey on foot through Ethiopia, including what is today the separate nation of Eritrea, fifty years ago. For most of the way, the author was accompanied by a brave and hardy mule (hence the title), who becomes arguably the central character of the book. The author engaged in some serious off-the-beaten track travel, through a difficult landscape of mountains and gorges, and areas where foreigners had scarcely been seen before by most locals. She encountered gripping poverty, robbers and traditional cultures. Taking the form of a diary, mostly written each night around a fire in a hut or an outdoor camp, the book was interesting throughout, sometimes witty and often sad. This book was of particular interest as Ethiopia is on my travel wish list. Of course massive change will have taken place in the intervening fifty years, so the book may be of more value as an historical account of Ethiopia before the Derg,

Eritrean independence and widespread influence of western culture. However, I would still recommend it to anyone interested in Ethiopia, or anyone interested in a well written account of hardcore travel. Dervla Murphy is still with us, and has written over twenty travel narratives from various parts of the world. This is the second of her books that I've read and it won't be the last.

Published in 1968, this is a remarkable account of one woman's trek of over 1000 miles through Ethiopia. Accompanied only by her trusty mule, Jock, she tells of their adventures crossing the inhospitable terrain: ascending mountains, swimming across rivers, and the swamps and jungle around Lake Tana. The narrative, of course, is brought to life by her dealings with local people whom she encounters on the way, often sleeping in their compounds. She writes of the poverty, the bugs and disease; but also the interesting and amusing situations she encounters; and the dangers from hostile 'shiftas' (bandits.) And she describes beautiful scenery and magical moments. The author's sense of humour shines out in her writing, at herself as much as the Ethiopians. Rather less 'political' than her later work on Laos. One finishes the book full of admiration for a colossal achievement by a solitary traveller, unfazed by the injuries and difficulties she suffers in this remote and impoverished country.

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