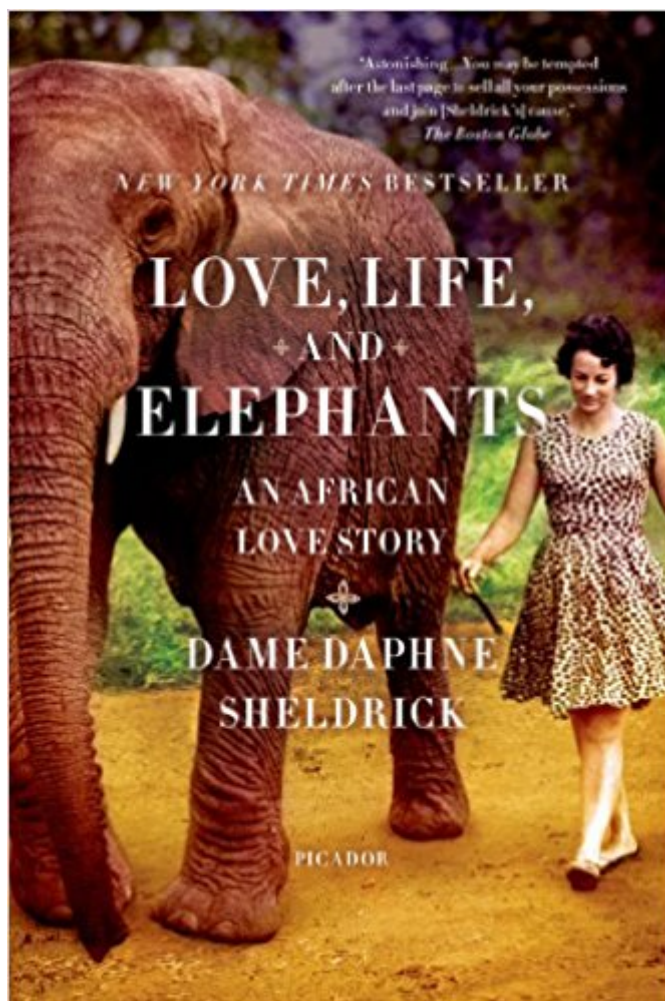


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# Love, Life, And Elephants: An African Love Story



## Synopsis

"Astonishing...You may be tempted after the last page to sell all your possessions and join [Sheldrick's] cause." —The Boston Globe  
The first person to successfully raise newborn elephants, Dame Daphne Sheldrick has saved countless African animals from certain death. In this indelible and deeply heartfelt memoir, Daphne tells of her remarkable career as a conservationist and introduces us to a whole host of orphans—including Bushy, a liquid-eyed antelope, and the majestic elephant Eleanor. Yet she also shares the incredible human story of her relationship with David Sheldrick, the famous Tsavo National Park warden whose death inspired the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the orphans' nursery, where Daphne works to this day. From her tireless campaign to preserve Kenya's wildlife to the astonishing creatures she befriended along the way, *Love, Life, and Elephants* is alive with compassion and humor, providing rare insight into the life of one of the world's most fascinating women.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Sheldrick (not yet a Dame Commander of the British Empire) fostered milk-dependent orphaned elephants in Tsavo National Park in Kenya in the 1960s, she faced almost certain heartbreak. Unlike the impala, mongoose, dik-diks, and other small mammals that she had raised, baby elephants do not tolerate cow's milk. Undeterred by repeated failure, she tested new formulas until she successfully saved tiny, fuzz-covered Shmetty in 1974. Since then, she and her team of keepers outside Nairobi have raised more than 200 orphaned elephants, many of whom

have returned to the wild. In this highly personal autobiography, she recounts a lifetime of fostering orphan mammals, reptiles, and birds while raising a family and helping her valiant husband develop Kenya's national parks in an era of political turmoil and rampant poaching. Filled with eyewitness accounts of African conservation, astute wildlife observations, and a touching love story, Sheldrick's book will delight nature-loving readers. --Rick Roche --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Sheldrick has bottle-fed baby elephants, donned cricket gear to ward off charging baby rhinos, and shared bathtubs with dikdiks...What shines through is her authentic love for the land and its creatures....[She] herself is a rare bird. More "A remarkable portrait of the Sheldricks' love and life's work. "A sometimes harrowing memoir of Sheldrick's years as a conservationist devoted to saving orphan elephants and fighting against poaching...Riveting. "Whole Living "If Dame Daphne hadn't already been honored by the Queen of England, I would personally lobby on her behalf. This extraordinary woman has saved hundreds of orphaned baby elephants....She can write, too."

"Smithsonian "An enchanting memoir...Sheldrick and her pioneering game warden husband David have often been ahead of science in their understanding of African wildlife. Five stars. "The Daily Telegraph (London) "Engaging...Dame Daphne Sheldrick has led a truly extraordinary life. "Women's Wear Daily "Love, Life and Elephants has an animal population big and personable enough to fill a zoo."

"Janet Maslin, The New York Times summer reading list "[Sheldrick] gives a lyrical yet droll voice to her rollicking life in Kenya, where she has spent more than 50 years rehabilitating orphaned wildlife...[A] rich memoir. "Publishers Weekly "In this highly personal autobiography, [Sheldrick] recounts a lifetime of fostering orphan mammals, reptiles, and birds while raising a family and helping her valiant husband develop Kenya's national parks in an era of political turmoil and rampant poaching. Filled with eyewitness accounts of African conservation, astute wildlife observations, and a touching love story, Sheldrick's book will delight nature-loving readers. "Rick Roche,

Booklist "Heartfelt...fascinating. "Kirkus Reviews "[Love, Life, and Elephants] is both an incredible memoir of a life and two romances. The first of these blossoms when the young author moves to Tsavo with her first husband and falls head over heels for the park and its famous warden, David Sheldrick. The second love story follows Daphne and David as they devote their lives to rescuing baby elephants from poachers and finding homes for orphan

elephants, all the while campaigning against the ever-present threat of the ivory trade. [Read more](#)  
Daphne Sheldrick (UK)

I have never been more emotionally tied to a book. Dame Daphne Sheldrick tells her amazing life story, from her recent ancestors move to Kenya, to her current role running the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which, amongst other things, aids orphaned elephants and rhinos in order to preserve these dwindling species. I loved the stories about orphans raised throughout Daphne's lifetime, with funny anecdotes about the most memorable animals. The romantic part of her life story is one that shows how happy life can be when you have really found your soul mate. There is so much insight into life and happiness that comes from reading this book, the ups and downs that are encountered as a human lifetime goes on. My only regret is that there is not more of this book to read. I highly recommend this book, keep a box of tissues nearby to help cope with the happiest and saddest moments!

I first heard of Dame Sheldrick in an article about this book in TIME Magazine. Her profile captured my imagination and caused me to want to learn more about her, her remarkable interesting life and the foundation that was started to honor her late husband, David. I was not disappointed. In an effort to raise awareness about the plight of the wild animals in Kenya, especially the elephants, the Dame writes about her and David's experiences while he was Game Warden in the south of Kenya in the 50's and 60's, and right up through to the modern day. They, and later, she, raised awareness about and fought (and continue to do so) the poachers who see value in the elephants only for their ivory. David's untimely death 35 years ago, changed the circumstances of Daphne's life, but she is still living and continuing his work with a large menagerie of orphaned animals, most of which are rehabilitated and then encouraged to re-join the wild community. She and her large staff continue to raise orphaned babies and accustom them to the ways of the wild so they can be reunited with their kind when they are healthy and ready. If you are touched by her work, as I was, there is an opportunity to sponsor one or several of the animals, which helps keep the foundation working toward the preservation of wild life in Kenya.

This memoir about Dame Daphne Sheldrick's life is wonderful. The things David Sheldrick taught her about wildlife helped her create the elephant sanctuary for orphan elephants. Her dedication to discovering the right milk formula helped baby elephants survive past 3-6 months and on into adulthood. I loved the story of her life and her children's dedication to the Sheldrick Trust.

Like another reviewer, I have visited the Wildlife Preserve and have supported it financially. The work and devotion Dame Sheldrick has given to the wildlife of Kenya is most praise-worthy. Her love for the animals, for the land, for David Sheldrick, and for her daughters is so clear and personally-described. It's important to read this as an autobiography that gives insight into history and into a geographical area. As a novel reader, I am likely more familiar with stories that talk to the motivations, feelings and thoughts of multiple characters. In this way, we get to know Dame Sheldrick and to some extent the animals, but David Sheldrick still seems a bit remote. Her devotion and admiration is in no way remote; this is touching. And it is the revery of a woman who was born in the 1930s in a certain context. Despite - or perhaps because of - her colonial context, we see less of black Africa as people. There are black Africans who work and have worked with Dame Sheldrick, but we do not get to know them personally, with small exception. Sheldrick is a native of Kenya, speaks Swahili and has a deep and lasting love of the land and animals. I don't see a personal relationship with the indigenous people, and this element may be challenging for those who are more accustomed to a more modern context. Just as I would make exceptions for an older family member for not having a modern language in talking about people and cultural context, I tried to apply this to Sheldrick. The stories and victories of the animals she loved, nurtured and lost are truly lovely and often heartbreaking. And her writing and examination of the consequences and risks of the actions taken in the name of conservation and progress are fascinating. If one finds a dying elephant, should he take the tusks to keep them from poachers? With the Park's collection of tusks, should the agency sell them to fund anti-poaching and conservation projects? Or should they be destroyed to aid the progress of banning ivory entirely? There are certainly dilemmas uncovered in this book that will cause you to think and to challenge assumptions. Truthfully, I'm a little more inclined to rate it 3.5, so I have increased to 4. The proceeds of this book will support a lady who has given her life as a (mostly unpaid) public servant who has made a tremendous difference to the wildlife of Africa. If your purchase funds her comfortable retirement in a modest place and later the lovely baby elephants and Maxwell the rhino, it's a good spend.

Great story. I have been wanting to read this book for a long time now. If you love animals you will love this book. The book opens with this quote... "What we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God." --Anonymous This book is certainly a great gift from the author to us!

The saving of orphan baby elephants is wonderful. Dame Daphne has an uncanny link to the wild

life she helps save and gives an interesting perspective on her home country of Kenya. The descriptions of her family and love life were a bit too belabored for me but the rest of the book is a must read for anyone who cares about what man is doing to our fellow creatures. I have a whole new appreciation for elephants after reading this book. The pictures are fascinating so better to get the book than the kindle version.

This is one of my favorite wildlife books. A classic love story, not only of Daphne and her husband, but also all of the wildlife orphans she has helped! READ IT!!! Follow the orphanage on social media, David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

What a wonderful story. This book was recommended to me years ago. I finally got around to reading it, and I'm sorry I didn't read it years ago. Moving, educational and a wonderful woman story of strength and courage.

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