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Everlasting: Over The Hill In Malawi



Synopsis

Africa. The only continent I've not explored on my own. Which seemed a good enough reason to go. So off I went, full of ignorance and good intentions, to explore the wilds of Malawi. But not alone for Everlasting was by my side from the moment I stepped off the plane in Lilongwe until the day I returned to the airport. We looked for leopards together, took on termites together, survived storms together. And he told stories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was looking forward to reading this and I wasn't disappointed. I have read and enjoyed all Jo Carroll's travelogues and having lived in Africa myself, I was particularly keen to see what her impressions were. For a start, I felt as if I knew Everlasting myself. In fact, many of him! Mine had different names, but were very similar mixtures of firmly held beliefs, old fashioned charm and unexpected prejudices, alongside some clear sighted wisdom too. I wanted to hug Everlasting for all of these characteristics that I too found contradictory but somehow comforting in their familiarity. That aside, I shared Jo's confusion of thoughts and

emotions about the country's poverty and its economic plight, remembering well my own feelings when I first went to South Africa. In the end I found myself nodding at what her friends Polly and Tim said. You do what you can, as individuals, to make a difference to those around you. You can do no more as the problems are too deep rooted and too big to even define properly. I loved her descriptions of the country. It sounds fabulously beautiful and I would love to go there too. Maybe one day I will and then I can meet the very dear Everlasting too! A really lovely read.

4.5 stars A few years ago I won one of Jo Carroll's travel memoirs in a blog competition, and I've bought all her books ever since. This time Jo spends six weeks in Malawi, and the 'Everlasting' of the title refers to her sixty year old guide ~ that is him on the cover. ~ What I love about Jo Carroll's books is that they read as though she's written them from the heart, without thinking too much about it, just her opinions of the country as it unfolds to her; her impressions often change back and forth as her time there goes along. The short cameos of the people she meets are always so vivid; I can usually see exactly what they are like (particularly those with whom she has a less than totally positive experience!); there's a touch of Bill Bryson about her style. The star of the show in this case, of course, was Everlasting himself, who sounded delightful. Oh, and that's something else that I like ~ her portraits pick out the amusing aspects without ever being patronising. I am always left feeling that part of Jo doesn't want to go home to her First World life... In poverty stricken countries such as this one, Jo Carroll always delivers a fair and uncomplicated view of the problems facing the country. In the case of Malawi, she felt she was going round in circles as she talked to aid workers from large organisations, villagers who were helping themselves, independent aid providers, tourists and white settlers. She has a way of picking out the essential information, but her delivery is never preachy, and there is much else to enjoy, simply about the beauty of her surroundings and her experiences. With every book she writes, it makes me want to visit the country. Thus, as far as I can see, her work is done! Everlasting is only novella length, I read it in one evening, and I recommend it most highly if you have any interest in this sort of book.

We miss you Jo!!! Loved the book so much ~ so great to read and hear about your journey. Come back and visit again!!!! I'd recommend this book to anyone who is interested in visiting this beautiful country

~ young woman from the back of the safari vehicle

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