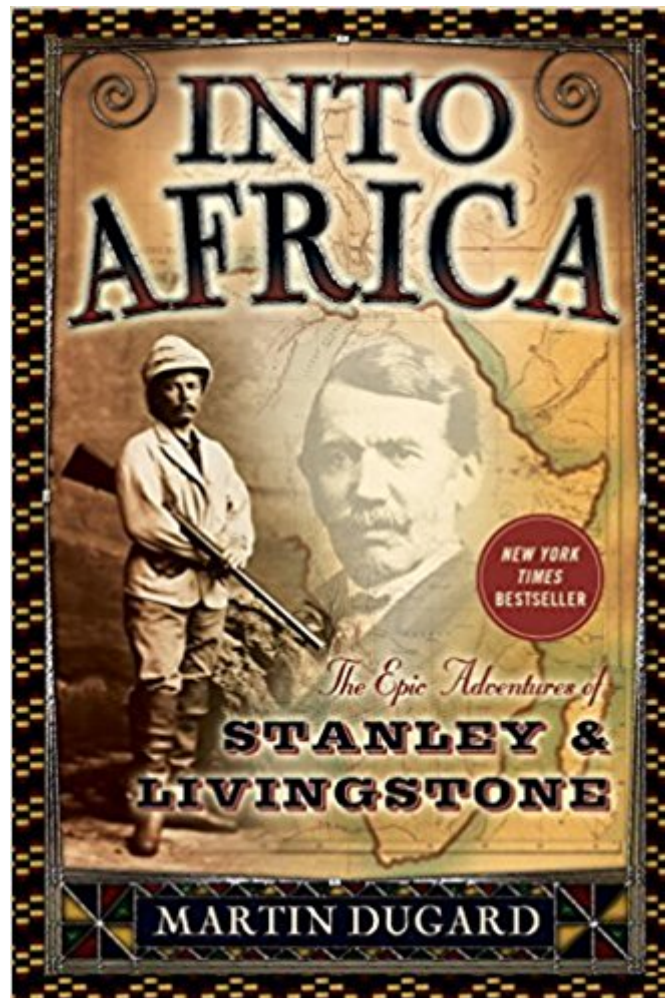




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# Into Africa: The Epic Adventures Of Stanley And Livingstone



## Synopsis

With the utterance of a single line—“Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”—a remote meeting in the heart of Africa was transformed into one of the most famous encounters in exploration history. But the true story behind Dr. David Livingstone and journalist Henry Morton Stanley is one that has escaped telling. *Into Africa* is an extraordinarily researched account of a thrilling adventure—defined by alarming foolishness, intense courage, and raw human achievement. In the mid-1860s, exploration had reached a plateau. The seas and continents had been mapped, the globe circumnavigated. Yet one vexing puzzle remained unsolved: what was the source of the mighty Nile river? Aiming to settle the mystery once and for all, Great Britain called upon its legendary explorer, Dr. David Livingstone, who had spent years in Africa as a missionary. In March 1866, Livingstone steered a massive expedition into the heart of Africa. In his path lay nearly impenetrable, uncharted terrain, hostile cannibals, and deadly predators. Within weeks, the explorer had vanished without a trace. Years passed with no word. While debate raged in England over whether Livingstone could be found—or rescued—from a place as daunting as Africa, James Gordon Bennett, Jr., the brash American newspaper tycoon, hatched a plan to capitalize on the world’s fascination with the missing legend. He would send a young journalist, Henry Morton Stanley, into Africa to search for Livingstone. A drifter with great ambition, but little success to show for it, Stanley undertook his assignment with gusto, filing reports that would one day captivate readers and dominate the front page of the *New York Herald*. Tracing the amazing journeys of Livingstone and Stanley in alternating chapters, author Martin Dugard captures with breathtaking immediacy the perils and challenges these men faced. Woven into the narrative, Dugard tells an equally compelling story of the remarkable transformation that occurred over the course of nine years, as Stanley rose in power and prominence and Livingstone found himself alone and in mortal danger. The first book to draw on modern research and to explore the combination of adventure, politics, and larger-than-life personalities involved, *Into Africa* is a riveting read.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is rare when a historical narrative keeps readers up late into the night, especially when the story is as well known as Henry Morgan Stanley's search for the missionary and explorer David Livingstone. But author and adventurer Dugard, who's written a biography of Capt. James Cook among other works, makes a suspenseful tale out of journalist Stanley's successful trek through the African interior to find and rescue a stranded Livingstone. Dugard has read extensively in unpublished diaries, newspapers of the time and the archives of Britain's Royal Geographical Society; he also visited the African locations central to the story. Together these sources enable him to re-create with immediacy the astounding hardships, both natural and manmade, that Africa put in the path of the two central characters. Dugard also presents thoughtful insights into the psychology of both Stanley and Livingstone, whose respective responses to Africa could not have differed more. Stanley was bent on beating Africa with sheer force of will, matching it brutality for brutality, while Livingstone, possessed of spirituality and a preternatural absence of any fear of death, responded to the continent's harshness with patience and humility. Descriptions of the African landscape are vivid, as are the descriptions of malaria, dysentery, sleeping sickness, insect infestations, monsoons and tribal wars, all of which Stanley and Livingstone faced. More disturbing, however is Dugard's depiction of the prosperous Arab slave trade, which creates a sense of menace that often reaches Conradian intensity. This is a well-researched, always engrossing book. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Adult/High School-A superb tale of adventure, heroism, and suffering. Dugard provides essential background information between generous servings of heart-pounding excitement. The story begins in the spring of 1866 as David Livingstone was leaving Zanzibar for Mikindary to begin his search for the source of the Nile. Meanwhile, Henry Stanley, an unremarkable freelance writer, embarked on his own adventure, a journey east from Colorado that began by rafting the South Platte River. He hoped for a career as a newspaper reporter in New York. The activities of each man are described in alternate chapters. Rich biographical detail contributes to readers' understanding of the men's

backgrounds and characters. This is not a tale for the squeamish: exhausted men slogging through fetid swamps succumb to horrifying diseases; roving bandits mutilate and devour their captives. Using the men's detailed journals, the archives of the Royal Geographic Society, newspaper reports, an impressive collection of secondary sources, and a few black-and-white photographs, the author provides readers with a picture of the time that is as compelling as the story of the search. Details about the role of newspapers, the management of ships, the debates about slavery, and many other topics enrich this book. The volume ends with the burial of Livingstone in Westminster Abbey, but an epilogue provides brief notes on the remainder of the lives of the other major figures in the story. Kathy Tewell, Chantilly Regional Library, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

We all as school children learned of the famous British explorer David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley..."Dr. Livingstone, I presume..." but there is so much more than just that...This generation of epic British explorers endured hardship, deprivation and personal jeopardy beyond our wildest imaginations in the quest to discover the world and all its magnificence. Walking across the breadth of Africa, seeking its secrets, deploring its slave trade, spreading the missionary spirit and ultimately dedicated to finding the source of the Nile, Livingstone stands with the great lions like Shackleton that define a country's greatness... the undaunted heroic spirit that defies all odds that even in the jaws of defeat, refuses to give up. Livingstone was never lost...he just ran out of supplies and food and lost communication because of illness...Stanley, an American journalist working for the NY Herald's publisher, Bennett, was sent to find him to boost circulation for the paper. And search he did...everything up...for 13 months he plodded through deepest, darkest Africa hoping to catch him in Ujiji...which he finally did...finding the great explorer debilitated, starving, verging on dementia yet singularly determined to find the source. Stanley spent only five months with Livingstone but that was long enough to get the great explorer back on his feet, into a canoe and renewing his search...and enough time to form a bond that transcended time and space and lives on wherever great deeds are coming to fruition. SPOILER ALERT: Stanley went on to further enhance his endeavors as an adventure journalist. Livingstone died in Africa having never found the source...his body embalmed and shipped back to England for a royal burial as a great lion of the realm....and the kicker of the story... the source was discovered 100 years later from satellite photos from space showing the birth of the Nile about 600 miles north of Livingston's projections ....his greatness of spirit and dogged determination defined a nation and an era and will forevermore fire our imagination.

The meeting of Dr David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley in the middle of Africa in 1871 is perhaps one of the most remarkable and dramatic events in history. Like the Miracle of Dunkirk, when a flotilla of civilian boats rescued the British army from Nazi forces early in WWII, the near impossible odds of success and eventual epic victory seem to be pulled from a Tolkien book rather than real history. Thus Martin Dugard's *Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone*, is rightfully a story first and a history second. In Dugard's story, Stanley is the true protagonist, who will survive Africa to become Livingstone's successor as the world's greatest explorer. However, he ends up working counter to the Doctor's goal of a slavery-free Africa, tragically helping to make the Dark Continent... darker. The book begins at the start of Livingstone's third and final trek into Africa in 1866. The world renowned, prototypical explorer and paragon of Victorian virtue is desperate to redeem his reputation and finances after his disastrous 1858 Zambezi expedition. He sets out to find the source of the Nile, an elusive mystery since 460 BC when the ancient Greek Herodotus failed to find the source. However, despite setting out with his usual exhilaration, writing in his journal that Africa is "a tonic to the system", the trials of Africa quickly overwhelm the now older man. His porters desert him, taking irreplaceable supplies. He constantly fights all manner of African diseases, often so weakened by fever and dysentery that his few remaining porters have to carry him. Completely obsessed with finding the source, he relies on the Arab slave traders he despises to continue his quest. Dugard writes that "it was as if he had sold a part of his soul in the name of ambition." After staying with the slavers for five years, he witnesses the Arabs massacre a village of Africans deep in the center of the continent. Faced with the evil of the slave trade, he leaves for the small village of Ujiji, where, sick and without supplies, he helplessly and hopelessly waits for a "good Samaritan" to rescue him. Livingstone has been gone for nearly four years and is presumed dead by many when the New York Herald's owner, James Gordon Bennett, seeking an exciting story to distract the public from a gold market scandal, assigns Stanley, his foreign correspondent, the task of finding Livingstone. An unlikely African explorer, Stanley was born in England to a prostitute and the town drunk. Abandoned at the age of five, he was sent to live in an orphanage where he was regularly sexually violated until, at the age of 17, he escaped to America. In the States he fights for both the Confederacy and Union in the Civil War, where he discovers his talent for writing. After an ill-fated adventure in Turkey, he dedicates himself to journalism, eventually joining the staff of the Herald. Ironically, Stanley's horrific upbringing prepares him well for the brutalities of an African expedition. After months of preparation, facing

almost no chance of success, he sets out with a large caravan from Zanzibar. Struggling to lead his recalcitrant men, Stanley resorts to whipping them constantly, at one point writing in his journal "The virtue of a good whip was well tested by me". Overcoming multiple mutiny attempts, a near fatal case of cerebral malaria, a war with "The African Bonaparte", crocodile attacks, and worst of all the unforgiving African landscape itself, Stanley finds the strength and confidence he has always lacked. Miraculously, he also finds Livingstone. Upon their meeting he asks the now famous question, "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?" Stanley and Livingstone spend weeks together in Ujiji. Stanley, "basking in the older man's grace", writes of the doctor: "I grant that he is not an angel, but he approaches to that being as near as the nature of a living man will allow." Stanley tries to convince Livingstone to return to England with him but the Doctor refuses. Weeks after one of the most improbable meetings in history, Stanley returns to Zanzibar and Livingstone continues his quest for the source. He dies shortly after, his body destroyed by years of African hardship and disease, in a village almost 600 miles south of the actual source. Stanley takes up Livingstone's mantle as the world's greatest explorer, finding the source of the Congo and following the dangerous river all the way to the West coast of the continent. Dugard tells this story with great care and skill. He is himself an adventurer and while researching into Africa, he followed Stanley's path across what is today Tanzania, getting thrown into an African prison while doing so. This is, presumably, what helps him understand his explorers' relationship with the African landscape, leading to wonderful insights such as the following after Stanley's near miss with a crocodile: "Africa had soothed him and calmed him and made him feel as if he were its master. But it was all a myth. The continent had no equal." Dugard also enhances his story with an epic style. Like a gifted movie director, he cuts chapters back and forth between Stanley, Livingstone, and the rest of the world, creating dramatic scope and pacing. Little details, for instance starting each Stanley-focused chapter by counting down the "Miles to Livingstone", gives an intense sense of urgency to his relentless quest. But Dugard never loses the intimacy of his characters. For example, when he describes Stanley "striving desperately to say exactly the right thing" when meeting Livingstone. If Dugard loses anything in his account, it is the different impacts Stanley and Livingstone will have on Africa after their meeting. Livingstone's fervent abolitionist beliefs and his graphic description of the horrific slave trade, especially the massacre he witnesses, will spur the British Empire to use its superpower status to end the slave trade. Stanley, however, tragically uses his knowledge of the Congo to enforce the brutal Belgian regime of King Leopold II, failing to continue the true legacy of

Livingstone. The two explorers serve as contrasting symbols, the best and worst of Western action in Africa.

I found Dugald's telling of this story to be completely fascinating. He has filled it with little known facts (he is such an excellent researcher). For those of us that believe we know all about Stanley and Livingstone - well, we had no idea of the "real story." This book is chilling, inspiring and written so that you cannot wait to get to the next chapter. This book is filled with good and evil, rich and poor, the courageous and the ones who only wished to be. This book is so much more than, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume."

While the subject and the explorers are ones I've read about extensively, this account was more of a travelogue than an historical perspective. The emphasis seemed to be on the arduousness of the expeditions than of the African politics which impacted it all. The main failing is the lack of maps outlining the routes, locations of conflicts, and attempts to find the source. I listened to the Audiobooks version for about half the book. While good, it added to my frustration with the book's repetitiveness.

Wonderful classic IMHO, detailed, descriptive reading about the lives of these two historic adventurers, the near death experiences in the deep African jungles in places Caucasians had never travelled before. Sickness, infection, caused by insects, jungle fever, malaria, with no medicines to treat same, lack of food supplies causing starvation and unfriendly tribes keep you on the edge of your seat, this book should be an American Classic its that good ... Read it very enjoyable and fast reading .. Truly an adventure

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