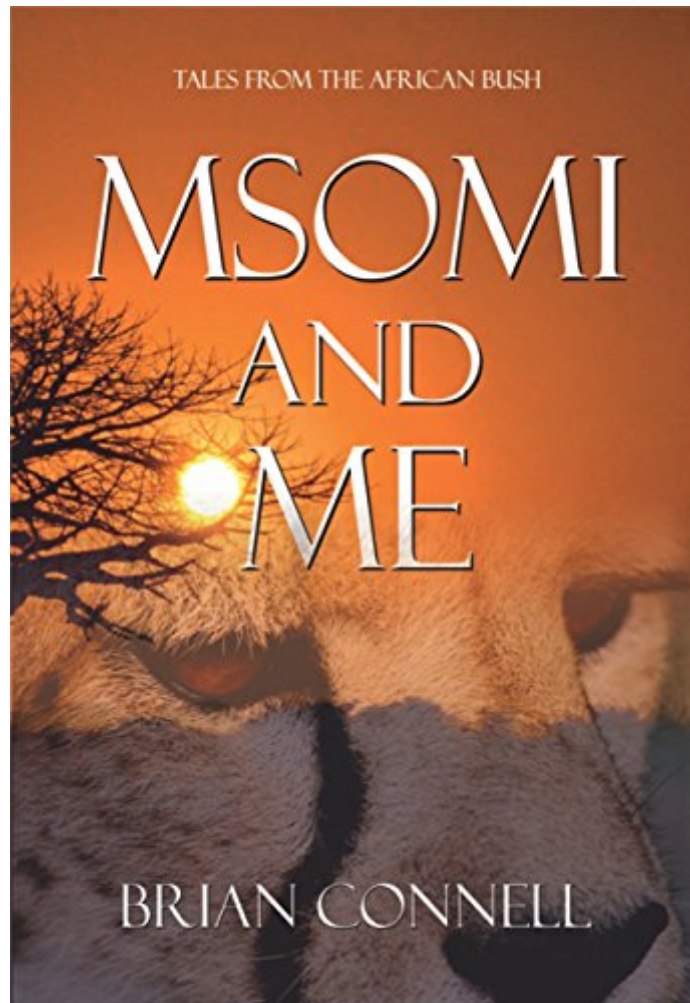




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# Msomi And Me: Tales From The African Bush



## Synopsis

Msomi & Me (M&M), is one of the all-time best reads of a lifetime. In fact, it IS a lifetime, one of which you've never experienced or ever possibly could! Intriguing, colorful, unforgettable protagonists, cute & naughty little bush animals wreaking havoc on the tourists in the Lodge, and camera shots of dangerous African animals' eyes taken with a mere 135mm lens thanks to a genuine old African "animal whisperer." Adventure, love, playfulness, tragedy, calamity, wild animals (one especially stands-out), denouement....what more do you want? Blood? Well, there's that too! It's not too long, & it includes some EXCELLENT original recipes at the back. This book has EVERYTHING! It's an easy read, & is so compelling it cannot be put down.

## Book Information

File Size: 2107 KB

Print Length: 279 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Brian Connell (September 24, 2013)

Publication Date: September 24, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00BED8SXI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #34,982 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Africa > Republic of South Africa #3 inÂ Books > Travel > Africa > South Africa > General #216 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers

## Customer Reviews

I am a white South African. Like most of us South Africans I have a deep love of the bush (as we call the wild parts and the game reserves). I enjoyed this book and loved the observations of nature and the wisdom of Msomi, the old Zulu. It really is worth your while reading this book, as long as you

remember we do not have lions in the streets! Brian writes exclusively from the viewpoint of the (fairly) untamed bush close to the Kruger National Park. While I enjoyed the book, I suspect some "author's freedom" was used to make some tales more melodramatic than it really was. A case in point was Brian's encounter with the python. A python is a long, thick and scary-looking snake, but Brian says it's one of the most feared predators and I suspect he wanted to be considered heroic ... Come on Brian, a python is slow, mostly kills small game by constriction, and is absolutely non-poisonous! People even keep them as pets. I also suspect that Msomi might not have been quite as clever and crafty as described. Nevertheless, an enjoyable story about a game reserve and its trials and tribulations.

If you have also lived in Africa, Brian Connell's beautifully crafted memoir will make you home sick with longing for the people, sights, and smells of the bush, and yearn for the special sound of peace in the wild. It is a three-way love story. A man (Brian) with a mission to build a game lodge "Nokuthula" Place of Peace; assisted by Msomi (with his clever, didactic and humorous stories, delivered with near theatrical skills) and Robert (the go-to white man to fix things). Brian's detailed telling of the sweat, blood and tears, that accompanied the creation of something beautiful in the middle of the bush, is worth every word. The landscape, the typography, the light and the darkness are tangible elements brought to life. Msomi's explanations of almost every spot stain and marking of each of the animals, are completely credible and immensely entertaining. Thank you Brian for sharing a wonderful experience, with all the bittersweet tears of joy, sadness, and ultimate exhaustion and continued hope. The book is also an antidote for the depression felt by conservationists, and wildlife lovers everywhere, as the multimedia daily blast of bad news continues relentlessly. Elephants, Rhinos, killed by poachers; corrupt politicians work hand in hand with ivory traders, etc. This book is a must read.

I've read many books about game reserves, safari guides, African farms, and especially African wildlife. This is one of the best. Connell is a skillful writer and his love--and understanding--of the people and animals in his life make this "story" very special. Msomi is the focal point, of course--wise, amusing, and often poignant. The book reads as smoothly as good fiction and it's full of wonderful information about animals, life in the bush, running a photographic-safari lodge, and the customs of the local people. There are some hilarious anecdotes and a couple of heartbreaking events, so the emotional impact ranges the entire spectrum. Connell's sensitivity and compassion--and humor--shine through every page. I hated to reach the end! Fortunately, he has

written another book about this time in his life, "Elephants Are People, Too."

This book is a great read. It is written in the first person by an author, who is dedicated to wildlife conservation and has an incredible love for wild animals of the bush. The author had left his engineering profession in order to build a camp out in the wilds. He recruited an incredibly dedicated staff with the help of his faithful friend Msomi. Nokuthula (meaning Place of Peace) was the name of the camp. His purpose was to host guests from all over the world and show them the beauty of the bush and the animals that inhabit them. His companion, Msomi, knew the ways of the animals and had taught him so much about animal behavior. The two became very close friends and their relationship was one of complete trust. Msomi is truly a rough diamond and without him, the author would never have achieved what he did. The book makes great reading and the chapters are simple, short and anecdotal in many ways. Each chapter is a gem, having its own story and an ending that gives one an appetite to read the next chapter. One feels the empathy of the author throughout as well as his relationship with his lady partner. The adventures of the guests, many of whom had no knowledge of African wild life, also gave a hand in certain life threatening situations that they had experienced while touring the bush with a Land Rover led by the author and his incredible friend and helper, Msomi. What I liked about the book is the dedication of the author to the wilds of Africa and the way he instills his love of that to the reader. The author is also a dedicated photographer with a 135 mm camera. These adventures occurred before the advent of digital photography. This book is an excellent read especially for those readers who love wild life of all kinds and it does whet the appetite of the more adventurous to tour the African bush.

Brian has written an enjoyable book, and one can well appreciate his values in terms of the kind of camp he has created. After having read at least 5 similar stories by guides working in Southern Africa there is a similarity to stories that lessens the impact if one were only reading the first one....great love for animals and the bush, risky behavior at times in getting guests or self close to the animals, and gutsy courage when facing difficult circumstances with an angry .....(add name of animal). Msomi is an unusual person and adds to the stories, so that is one significant difference in this particular set of stories.

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