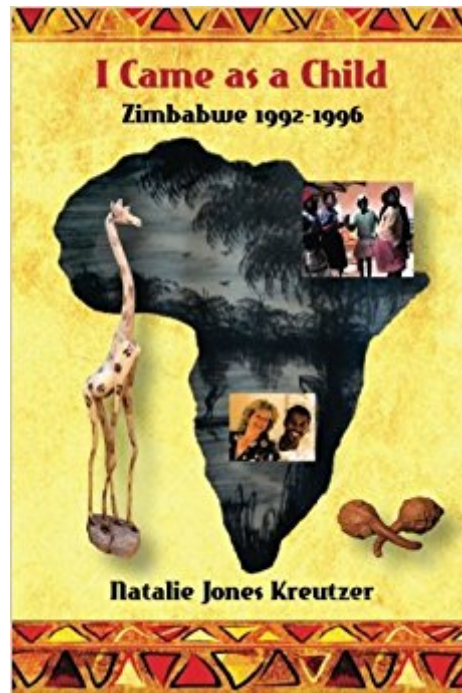




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I Came As A Child: Zimbabwe 1992-1996



Synopsis

This is a memoir about an American woman doing her Ph.D. research in Zimbabwe from 1992 to 1996....and so much more! Supported by a Rockefeller grant to conduct research for her dissertation at Indiana University, Natalie Kreutzer stayed to create and pioneer the country's first-ever music degree at the University of Zimbabwe. Poised above the South African border, she witnessed that country's transition from an apartheid state to the Rainbow Nation. But this is not Goody-two-shoes goes to Africa. Along the way of working with rural Shona-speaking women and socializing with ANC and PAC patriots from South Africa, interactions with local mobsters and the police, Natalie falls in love. Her story of personal love and loss adds a unique touch to her research story. With an Indiana farm girl's affinity for nature, she creates images of landscape and wildlife. A sprinkling of words from the Shona language enlivens the narrative. The reader is left with a sense of people and place. Natalie is very much present in every page, and the reader will find her adventurous, courageous, strongly principled, and sometimes breathtakingly impulsive--all of which motivates us to loyalty and heart-felt support.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Natalie Jones Kreutzer has a Doctorate in music education from Indiana University and has published numerous articles on children's musical development. "Zimbabwe Children's Singing Games" (University of Idaho, 2003), a DVD based on her fieldwork videos, is available from West Music, Coralville, Iowa. Now retired from teaching at the University of Idaho, she lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she practices palmistry for parties and indulges her love for travel. She has been a docent for the Rio Grande Zoo and is the full-time

servant of her Maine Coon cat, Paddy.

I read the first line of the memoir. "I always get divorced on April 1st" and I was instantly hooked. I eagerly read the author's story of her time in Zimbabwe, in the 1990's, when political and social transitions were occurring there and in neighboring South Africa. Natalie skillfully weaves events from her "former" life throughout the story of her work to study the acquisition of song in Shona children, and the creation of a music degree program at the University of Zimbabwe. The author's talent and work ethic are understated in this humorous and touching tale of her relationships and daily life in her adopted country, so different from the Indiana farm where she grew up. One of the anecdotes I loved was about newly elected president Nelson Mandela opening the Harare Agricultural Show. Dr. Kreutzer describes the singing and dancing, and how Mandela himself danced away from the podium. This book immerses the reader in the culture of Zimbabwe and makes me want to dance!

Wow! A book you cannot put down! So well written this book takes you along on the author's extraordinary life adventure in Zimbabwe. While music is a common thread, the adventure of her time in Zimbabwe is woven by many threads: political, medical, the heartbeat of the people and of the land. A truly candid memoir that is full of surprising elements. Intriguing from start to finish!

A fun and intriguing read! I was in the middle of another book when this arrived, and now I can't put it down! Came as a Child down! Natalie's voice is authentic and lively, always leaving me wanting to hear more of her adventures.

This memoir is a powerful, heart-felt adventure. Natalie Kreutzer is a master story-teller. She adds wisdom and humor throughout this international tale of learning and growth. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

A delightful read! Since I lived and worked in music in Zimbabwe two different times I could relive many of Natalie's experiences with her. She captured the warmth of the people and the feel of the land in her story. Well done, Natalie! What a beautiful country. Makes me want to go back. Myrna Capp

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was a fascinating glance into Zimbabwe culture through the eyes of an American music educator.

Book kept my interest throughout. Writer painted verbal pictures well and storyline was intriguing. Knowing it was true, made it even better.

For the reader, this memoir is a profound emotional experience as well as a first-hand visit to both Zimbabwe and to South Africa as it emerged from apartheid. The reader journeys, along with the author, from the child's simplistic notion of Africa to a more mature empathy with the inhabitants and history of Zimbabwe and South Africa. Dr. Kreutzer was absorbed into and integrated by her life as a temporary citizen of this culture that she came to study. Her experiences there, including dangers, friendships, accomplishments, love, and loss, became a permanent, profound part of her. Through her memoir, we mature a little with her.

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