



Hunting in British East Africa (1909)

Percy Child Madeira

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Percy C. Madeira (1863-1962) was an American big game hunter who in this book writes a complete account of a highly successful hunt through the African Veldt and jungle taken by the author during the winter of 1907-1908. He hunted over much the same country Mr. Roosevelt later covered, and the author returned with one of the most extensive and beautiful collections of African trophies yet fallen to the rifle of one man.

It is certain that Mr. Percy C. Madeira had a good time hunting in British East Africa, for it is evidenced on every page of the book he has written. His outfit was complete, porters to the number of forty or more carried his burdens, and there was little for him to do except shoot. And he did. Hartebeest, zebras, gazelles, jackals, wildebeest, impalla, steinbucks, buffaloes, rhinos, and hippopotami, not to mention a blue monkey and a baboon, were among the quarry. A lioness was also bagged.

Mr. Madeira was accompanied by his wife, to whom—although she took no active part in the pursuit of game—fell the most stirring experience chronicled in the book.

Mrs. Percy Madeira and another of the party became separated from the rest and lost their way for more than twenty-four hours. The incident was grave in its potentialities rather than in its results, but thirst and several attacks by a rhinoceros and a herd of buffalo made their predicament continually dangerous.

The book is a very interesting narrative from the pen of a big game hunter telling of his experience in that sportsman's paradise, British East Africa. Starting with the initial arrangements for the big game hunt, the reader is taken step by step through the wildness of jungle and plain into the heart of the animal kingdom and hardly realizes the study of natural history he is absorbing so graphic is Mr. Madeira's story.

African big game hunter Selous states:

"Mr. Madeira's narrative is a plain, unvarnished tale, modestly yet interestingly told, and I trust that it will have a wide circulation, and it should certainly prove of great interest to all American sportsmen who contemplate a trip to the wonderful hunting grounds of East Africa."

This book is the type of a book that combines instruction so entertainingly that one feels anxious to read more about the country after completing the volume. Perhaps the fact that Mrs. Madeira accompanied her husband and was a sharer with him in many exhilarating incidents imparts additional interest to the volume.

It must be stated however that the incidental floggings which the author had administered to refractory members of his safari would have best have been omitted from the narrative. They may have been justified in his own mind, but their details have no interest for the healthy minded reader.

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