

I Married Adventure

The Lives of
Martin and Osa Johnson

OSA JOHNSON



"Books of adventure are so numerous. . . . [But] this one is unique. It has the human quality of a novel and the permanence of social history. – *The New York Times*

A CLASSIC MEMOIR OF TWO PIONEERING ADVENTURERS Before Joy Adamson went to Africa, before Margaret Mead sailed to Samoa, before Dian Fossey was even born, a Kansas teenager named Osa Leighty married Martin Johnson, a pioneering photographer just back from a round-the-world cruise with Jack London. Together the Johnsons flew and sailed to Borneo & the South Seas, to Kenya, and to the Congo, filming *Simba* (1928) and other popular nature movies, with Martin behind the camera and Osa holding her rifle at the ready in case the scene's big game star should turn hostile. This bestselling memoir retraces their careers in rich detail, with precisely observed descriptions and startling, sometimes distressing anecdotes. Illustrated with scores of the dramatic photos that made the Johnsons famous, it's a classic bestseller available once more – a book that should hold pride of place in every travel-writing library.

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I Married Adventure

The Lives of Martin
and Osa Johnson

by Osa Johnson

Feb. 2019



£17.99 PB; 978-1-56836-587-9

218 x 136 mm; 432 pages; 64 pages b/w photos;
138 original photos taken by the Johnsons.

First published in 1940 by J.B. Lippincott Company.
Revised edition published in 1989 by William Morrow,
and by Kodansha in the 'Kodansha Globe' series in
1997. This Kodansha USA edition is revised to include
additional photographs, original letters &c...





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The original 1940 best-selling travel writing classic story of love and adventure, supplemented with additional black & white photos, intimate letters and more...

With Martin holding the camera and Osa wielding the gun, these two native Kansans documented the indigenous people and wildlife they encountered in groundbreaking films such as "Among the Cannibals of the South Pacific" (1918) and "Simba" (1928). Osa's engaging and exciting text is complemented by scores of the dramatic black and white photos that made the couple famous. After Martin's death in a 1937 plane crash, Osa carried on alone. One of several books written by her, this was the biggest-selling non-fiction title of 1940 and is considered one of the finest examples of the travel-writing genre.

A CLASSIC OF THE TRAVEL WRITING GENRE

- This book was a massive bestseller on both sides of the Atlantic, and is considered a classic of travel writing.
- Osa's text is charming and conveys the danger and excitement of their adventures. The love they shared also shines through.
- New black and white photos have been added to this edition, as well as other material such as original letters written by the Johnsons.
- The Johnsons were national celebrities of their time: their films, lectures, and writings attracted huge audiences.
- In addition to their film work, the Johnsons were pioneers in aviation and aerial photography. Osa Johnson is included in the National Air and Space Museum's "Women in Aviation and Space History" exhibit.
- The Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum opened in Chanute, Kansas (their hometown) in 1961.
- They helped develop the Africa exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History; some of their films and photos are housed in the Museum's archives
- Osa was considered a fashion icon and entrepreneur: she was named one of America's 12 best dressed women in 1939, and launched safari-inspired clothing and jewellery.



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