



Amie: An African Adventure

Lucinda E. Clarke

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Alternative cover edition of ASIN: B00LWFIO5K

Amie was just an average girl, living in her home town close to friends and family. She was happily married and she had her future all planned out. They would have two adorable children, while she made award winning programmes for television. Until the day her husband announced he was being sent to live and work in an African country she had never heard of. When she came to the notice of a Colonel in the Government, it made life very complicated, and from there things started to escalate from bad to worse. If Amie could have seen that one day she would be totally lost, fighting for her life, and enduring untold horrors, she would never have stepped foot on that plane

Amie: An African Adventure Details

Date : Published (first published July 17th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Lucinda E. Clarke

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Cultural, Africa, Fiction, Adventure, Travel

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From Reader Review Amie: An African Adventure for online ebook

Jessica says

Lucinda is a very clever writer and tells the story as if you are actually there going through it, amie well i would love to have been her very brave and courageous. The situations in the book can be scary very frightening at times but does give a good realization on what its like as every country has different rules and regulations they have in that part of the world.

When i read the first page i was hooked and can't wait to read the next adventure amie has, this book is amazing and highly recommended from teenagers to adults, wish i could say more about the book but don't want to give it away.

Cynthia Morgan says

The beauty of this story is what initially intrigued me and what held me as a captive audience from the first to last pages. Though I felt somewhat ‘behind the 8-ball’ without having read the first in the series, the explicit detail with which the author leads the reader into Africa, through the pluck and verve of her protagonist, Aime. Young and full of heart, while retaining a very honest uncertainty about the path she walks, Aime strides boldly where many others might fear to tread, but her goal is far and away one that might lead many of us in the same direction. The story is inspiring and uplifting; yet filled with the very real, often frustrating, realities Africa/African’s face today. Well written and accurate, I would recommend it to anyone interested in reading something other than fluff and farce.

Lesley Hayes says

I reached the end of ‘Amie’ with such regret that the story ended there... and then relief to find that the author is writing a sequel. During the preceding week, it hadn’t been just Amie who had had her ‘African adventure’. “If Amie could have seen that one day she would be totally lost, fighting for her life, and enduring untold horrors, she would never have stepped foot on that plane.” I had read this in the synopsis, but like Amie herself, those words meant nothing until I found myself embroiled in the actual story. The early chapters seemed benign enough, introducing Amie, the archetype innocent abroad, and describing the first year of her life in Africa. But then, at the mid-point of the book, having been lulled into admiration for her sheer willingness to adapt to ex-pat life, Africa showed its other face. By this time I truly cared for Amie; I had begun to feel protective of her as her eyes were gradually opened to the truth of the situation she was in. I found myself for the remainder of the book completely, breathlessly absorbed, alongside Amie throughout her ordeal of sometimes appalling suffering, hoping she would find her way through to some semblance of safety. Because I always look at the underside of what I’m reading, I saw the metaphor as well as the reality of Amie’s incredibly courageous journey. It described woman’s struggle everywhere: to be heard, to fight against neglect and abuse, to overcome fear and find a safe place of refuge, to discover her own strength and her own authentic voice. This book was written with such consummate skill. I have enormous admiration for Lucinda E Clarke as an author. She not only knows how to write an edge-of-the-seat, well-constructed story that would make a brilliant movie – she does it using beautiful, spare, intelligent, and amazingly descriptive language. By the time I got to the end of ‘Amie’ I felt as though I’d been to Africa

– seen it, touched it, smelled it, heard it... loved it and hated it. Everything that is the truth of the country is there in this book. Can I give it six stars please? It deserves it.

P.A. Rudders says

My biggest regret about this book is that it had to end at some point, as all books do. It tells the story of young couple's move to Africa for the husband's career, particularly that of the wife, Amie. It starts off sedately enough, detailing their preparations and Amie's initial fears and nervousness about leaving behind everyone she knows and loves and her way of life back in England, charmingly detailing many of the fears any of us might have at such a prospect. After their arrival in Africa, things seem to be working out for Amie as she adapts to and begins to enjoy a very different way of life. Now although I say it starts 'sedately,' right from the start the author has already hooked the reader with a harrowing and well-placed preface of things to come, and the reader knows that this is to be no ordinary foreign posting, that danger and adventure are sure to follow their initial settling in.

As the story develops, the author introduces the reader to the real Africa and its way of life for the majority. Yes, Amie lives the comparatively comfortable and indeed luxurious life of an ex patriot, shielded from much of the hardship, but she sees it all around her, and against advice goes out of her way to help as best she can. Within the story, with some truly beautiful writing and turns of phrase, the author manages to convey a real sense of being in Amie's shoes, providing the reader a glimpse and real insight into the everyday life and comings and goings of the native population, of the poverty and corruption, and of course the dangers. We also learn though not to judge the culture and ways of the African people in relation to European ways of doing things. Amid the vivid descriptions of Africa, the ex-patriot community, and the local culture, the reader experiences the growing unrest of a volatile society, the dilemmas Amie has to face and deal with, and the sudden and explosive upheaval of an entire country. How she copes with everything around her is a story in itself, and perfectly complements the story of her African adventure.

Quite apart from the story itself, which was thrilling to say the least, I also admired and enjoyed the way Amie adapted and grew as a person, watching her confidence and self-reliance grow a little more every day. We see the transformation of someone initially afraid of travelling much beyond her home town and who probably thought that a package holiday to Spain was the extent of travelling abroad, into a resourceful and determined young woman more than capable of surviving the dangers of wildest Africa. What I would also say here though is that, while there is an element of memoir to the writing, this is still mainly an action and adventure filled tale, and one that won't disappoint those who like to see the adrenalin flowing in their reading, combining an imaginative and descriptive narrative with just the right degree and tone of dialogue to drive the story forward. If I had but one tiny criticism it would be the cover, which if I'm honest, didn't quite grab me or in my opinion, reflect or do justice to the story within. Other than that, I'm delighted to say the author is currently writing a much anticipated sequel to this wonderful book.

Julie Hodgson says

A very powerful and emotional story, following the life of Amie.. As a well traveled expat myself I totally "got this" We all try and fit in where our husbands take us, and yes danger lurks where we least expect! No spoilers but a bally good read.

Christopher Downing says

Great book. I recommend it to everyone!

Ms. Clarke sure knows what she's writing about: her imagery/evocation of Africa alone make this novel a fantastic read! Not only that, but this is a good story, well-crafted and edited.

The challenges Amie (the title character) faces, set-up, heartbreak, and above all hope, pulled me in and kept me going. I had to stop reading for a week because life got in the way, but everyday I wasn't reading, I was thinking about Amie and what was coming next. Plenty of tension and apprehension to work through.

I know that Ms. Clarke spent a great of time in Africa, and I'm glad she could use that as a backdrop for the book. It's simple remarkable. Informative too.

Great book. I recommend it to everyone!

Robert Jr. says

I am not going to say anything about the story line in Lucinda Clarke's novel - the other reviewers have done an excellent job. I will say the writing is superb, the story beyond captivating, the descriptions of Africa rival a photograph, and the characters emotions are real to the core and highly captivating (you hope beyond hope all works out well) A great novel - perhaps based on parts of the author's life. Well worth your time.

Sarah Stuart says

Amie rather reluctantly leaves her job and goes to Africa with husband Jonathan, who is offered work on a desalination plant. Her life there, in a large house with a maid and a gardener, and activities at the Expat Club is strange. Amie, and the reader, only realise its benefits when the couple go home for a holiday, to tea, telly, and disinterest in her new life.

“Home” in Africa, a colonel high up in the corrupt government threatens Johnathan’s job unless Amie uses her family’s parting gift of an expensive camera to film “progressive innovation”: no easy task as none of it has come to fruition, but Amie is taken deeper into the heart of the dark continent.

She is shopping when her world is blown apart, literally, by tribal warfare. Travel with Amie as she attempts to escape through the bush – she could use your company!

Amie: African Adventure is a brilliant thriller, but also a book that left me wondering who has got it right. First world countries working 9 to 5 and living through TV soaps? Third world countries where only the powerful benefit from aid? I’d plump for Amie’s “Little People”, and if you read this book you’ll see why.

Max Power says

Lets start with the basics. For me I like a good story well told. It needs the obvious if you like a good opening, a strong middle and it must wrap up nicely at the end to satisfy the reader. Top marks on all fronts here. Cracking opening that sucked me in immediately. I have read a couple of Lucinda E Clarke's books before so I sort of knew what to expect. Here is a writer able to tell a story and get to the reader. Her sense of Africa is clearly on point. I do know from reading her other books and biography that she has spent time there and it shows. Although the country setting in this book is fictional, it is brought to vibrant life by the authors clarity of thought and skilled writing. The plight of Africa is so misunderstood with many people seeing the huge continent as a single generic entity, but Lucinda picks familiar African themes if you like, and develops them into a really great story. The struggle of the poor the corruption of officialdom is all here. Significantly, I enjoyed her vision of the place. You can hear see and smell Africa. The dialogue is vibrant, there is a simple scene where Amie discovers surprise deposits in her bank account and I found myself picturing the scene in detail as she describes the discomfort of her predicament while visualising the setting in the bank where African sense of personal space is clearly different than a European one. It is not a central scene but that is the point, the author writes so well and such things stick with me. The narrative is crisp and the characterisation is fantastic. I love a well written book and I loved Amie. I know you will too, pick it up and go hunt down the rest of Lucinda E. Clarke's books. You will become a fan, I certainly am.

Gordon Bickerstaff says

A real true grit adventure

This is a strong drama blended into a striking travel exploration and they complement and enhance each other very well. Reluctantly, Amie relocates to Africa with her husband's new job, and her perception of Africa as she contrasts it with England, adds fascinating insight into the life and culture of the African way of life. The author employs all her senses to draw powerful descriptions and create a vivid pictures of Amie's new environment. Set in a region where intimidation and fear from tribal wars is a constant threat. The characters are very believable and fit perfectly into their situations. In particular, Amie's character grows as Africa opens her eyes, and she gains great strength from her nefarious experiences. The constant threat of danger provides the imperative for a thrilling backdrop as Amie adapts to her new life. A very well written story that does not disappoint. Highly recommended and I for one will be reading the sequel.

T.R. Robinson says

The author certainly has an excellent grasp of words. Considering her background I suppose this should have been foreseen but, in my experience, it is not always so. Her way of conveying scenes, emotions, tensions etc. draws you in. You have absolutely no trouble visualising the situations, frustrations, disappointments, apprehensions and fears Amie encounters and experiences.

At the start there were occasions when I feared Lucinda Clarke was going to go into too much detail but she never does. There is enough for you to understand and comprehend what is going on without dragging out every minute and unnecessary aspect or point. Neither does any of it leave you wondering what happened. She more than paints a picture with the words used.

To be honest there are times when I felt there was a memoir aspect to the tale. For example she realistically conveys the disappointment encountered on a family visit. The author is obviously an accurate observer of people and life.

I do not want to say too much about the story so as not to spoil it for those who are still to read it. Basically, it is the tale, from Amie's perspective, of an unexpected move to live in an African country. It describes the very different society together with the accepted attitudes, practices and workings. The cultural shock to Amie is readily apparent. You can really visualise yourself being in the township as well as in the surrounding savannah (countryside). For anyone the least bit interested in Africa as a continent and in African life I would suggest this is a must read. Lucinda Clarke lived in Africa for many years and has readily and clearly conveyed what it is like to live there.

The story does have an unexpected and dramatic twist which will make you hold your breath at times. You will have to read for yourself. As I said earlier, I do not want to spoil this for future readers.

I found this an unexpectedly engaging read.

Cover: Because so many these days set such store by a book's cover I have taken to commenting on them. Nonetheless, I have to say I think it very sad a reader will allow the decision whether to read a book or not to be governed solely by a cover design. Apparently many will not even read the synopsis. Well that is my little soap box speech over.

There can be little doubt the cover photograph was taken in Africa. It therefore does its work by letting a prospective reader know, without doubt, where the story takes place. Of course the title already does this but as mentioned above for some it is the initial glance of a cover that draws them to a book.

The book is available from Amazon both as a paperback and as an e-book:

UK: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00LWFIO5K>

USA: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00LWFIO5K>

Ann Jones says

Lucinda Clarke brings us into what happens when your everyday life gets turned upside down in Amie: An African Adventure. Amie is living a normal life with dreams of a peaceful life, when her husband takes a job offer in a place far away. A town she hasn't even heard of. We watch Amie as she fights for her life and her world is never the same. Lucinda Clarke has a way of drawing us into the story, keeping us in suspense to find out what will happen! Great read, thank you Lucinda!

Rebecca says

Up to a certain point in this story, I was able to relate to Amie. First, the fear of going to another country, where the culture was different from one's own. Second, the real "culture shock" is not going to such a

country, but it is returning to your own culture after you've been away for a while. You expect the other culture to be different. But when you return to your previous life, you now see it through different eyes, your priorities in life have changed after seeing the poverty and other circumstances other people in the world live.

However, I have not lived the terror of being an expatriate in a country torn by civil war. Travelling into countries where armed guards patrol the borders was terrifying enough. Having to survive when being considered a criminal would be more than terrifying.

This book is well-written and brings the life of the African people to life. It shows the extremes in how people react to the conditions. From horror to acceptance. And it makes you wonder how much "right" others have to try to change the way people other than ourselves live. When, if ever, is it appropriate to intervene in the name of "humanity"?

Lucy's Weight says

28% Of the way through!

This is a story of Amie and her husband, Jonathan's, move to Togodo, Africa for his new work commitments. A shocked Amie was initially reluctant to move here as she was leaving the safety of her home town and leaving friends and family.

This move wasn't on Amie life plan and hadn't expected the announcement of her husbands promotion. This was because Amie had expected to grow old with Jonathan in the UK and have two kids. Amie hadn't released this could be a valuable life experience and opportunity!

Clarke is giving us a glimmer of a different life, in a different country where we are seeing Amie change and become more confident person in her strange new surroundings which are completely different to what she has experienced in the UK.

So far this book just seems an observation of her life in the new country and how she is changing as a person and is sort of meandering along. According to the reviews I have read on Amazon it looks like the book is going to get better and has a 11 five star reviews and 2 four star reviews. So far I would give the book a 3 star as very well written, but doesn't appear to be going anywhere.

100% of the way through!

The above was written on Tuesday 25th of November 2014 and I managed to finish the book last night, Sunday 30th of November. This is kind of a long time for me to finish a book and yes some things did get in the way, but I did struggle to read the book as it couldn't hold my attention for a long period of time, until I was further than 50% of the book.

Personally, for me, I fell the build up took to long and wasn't necessary in terms of the overall story, but some reviews advise the book gives a representative idea of life in Africa, but I can't say whether this was true or not, so I am guessing this part of the book is good for that! I felt some of the things that happened later in the book could have happened sooner so could be expended on.

I did however feel the book was thought provoking and well written and I will try more books by this author.

Joey Paul says

I was intrigued by the synopsis and so brought this book. I was hooked after the first couple of pages, starting with the horrifying prologue and moving into the meat of the story. Amie and her husband are working abroad for what is supposed to be two years, once they get there they realise that all is not what it seems. Add to that being accused of spying for the British and the civil unrest in the country and you're in for a treat of a story. I found myself wondering if it were possible that Amie ever get home and even if she did, would she be able to settle back into the normal English life she'd had before? I won't spoil, but I will say that it is an excellent read with many twists and turns. Perfectly crafted to reflect life as an expat and brilliantly written. Highly recommended!
