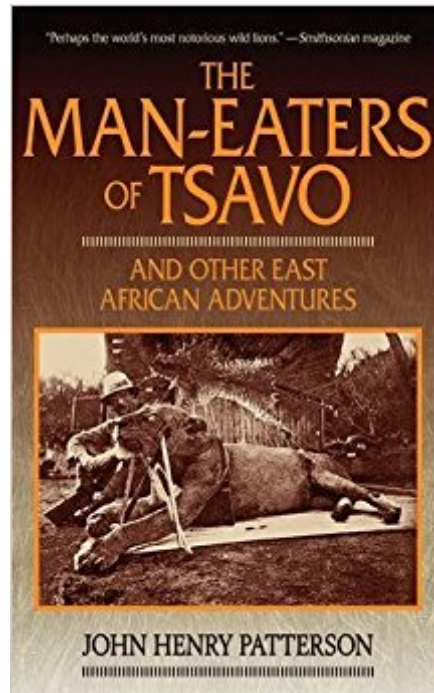




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# **The Man-Eaters Of Tsavo: And Other East African Adventures**



## Synopsis

When the British government undertook the construction of the Uganda Railway through East Africa in 1898, harsh criticism from the press, tremendous amounts of money spent, and rebelliousness of the workers turned out to be the least of the government's worries. Their biggest obstacle came in the form of two ravenous lions with a taste for human flesh, terrorizing the 35,000 laborers building a railway bridge over the Tsavo River. After killing more than one hundred-thirty people over the course of nine months, the lions completely halted construction, as the workers were too afraid to continue. Colonel John Henry Patterson, the chief engineer overseeing the project, then took matters into his own hands. An inexperienced hunter at the time, but a courageous and clever man, he took on the beasts and single-handedly brought an end to their nine-month reign of terror. Patterson's true account of his gripping and terrifying adventures confronting the lions and overseeing the project termed "The Lunatic Line," while tackling countless other obstacles, is a must for anyone looking for a thrilling read. With over 100 original photos of the East African lands, native tribes, and wild animals, *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo* is a true hunting classic.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing; 1 edition (February 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620874067

ISBN-13: 978-1620874066

Product Dimensions: 6 x 6.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 267 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #342,648 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > History > Africa > Kenya #61 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Railroad Travel #88 in Books > History > Africa > East Africa

## Customer Reviews

Colonel John Henry Patterson (1865–1947) was an Anglo-Irish soldier, hunter, and author. After overseeing construction of the Uganda Railroad in Tsavo, he became chief game warden in Kenya. He later served with the British Army in World War I. He is the author of *In the Grip of Nyika*, *With the Zionists in Gallipoli*, and *With the Judeans in the Palestine Campaign*.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book that was written so long ago. It not only gives a great and readable account of events but a great 'mind read' of the mind-set of the period. Patterson would have been a fascinating person to know for sure. My interest was peaked on this subject by the movie: "The Ghost and the Darkness" which has a great deal of 'artistic license' with the true history. Patterson tells his story well and keeps the reader eager for each succeeding chapter. The battle with the 'man-eaters' is only part of the story though. This is truly a telling of an engineer who built a railroad in the most primitive of conditions and a great look at Africa and its peoples in the time period. We, in the early 21st Century, need to look back through the eyes of contemporaries of the period to have proper perspective of the events and actions of that period. Patterson has given us a great 'window through time' in his book.

This book has all the charm and grace that it should. While he is most indeed a hunter it is written in such way that you can't be angry about it. The writer is very detailed about his adventures and they're a wonderful read. He's smart charming and funny I laughed a few times he also writes about all the different tribes he meets and that alone is worth reading. I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes English books and anyone who wants to learn more about the history of Africa.

Man-Eaters of Tsavo and Other East African Adventures is a well-written account of turn of the previous century East Africa. Col. Patterson, hired to complete a rail bridge over the Tsavo river, enters the scene shortly after a pair of lions have begun to feast on the workers. In plain, matter of fact language, Patterson details the predations of the lions, and his various attempts, finally successful, in killing them. This story was made into the movie "The Ghost and the Darkness" starring Val Kilmer, which, apart from the scenes involving Michael Douglas, is an accurate portrayal of the events that transpired. The uncanny hunting techniques of the lions, and the many abortive attempts to kill them make for an entertaining story. The lions themselves, or their skins anyway, are now on display at the Chicago Field Museum. The Tsavo lion story makes up the majority of this book, but what makes this book special is the inclusion of several other stories by Col. Patterson of his safaris in Africa, and of other violent animal encounters. I specifically searched for this book in order to get the full story of Patterson's tour in Africa, as there are several versions of the book in circulation, most of which cover only the Tsavo story. I found the additional chapters to be a wonderful addition to the main story.

After watching the movie "Ghost and the Darkness" I wanted to read the original story that was the

basis for the movie. At first I bought the paperback book of the same title as the movie, however that was essentially a carbon copy of the movie. In the back of the book was a reference to the original story, "The Man-Eaters Of Tsavo". I ordered it and what a great story! The original story is even more compelling than the movie. I liked it so much I bought a second copy for a friend that is an avid hunter and sportsman in his own right.

Colonel Patterson's first hand account of dealing with the Maneating Lions of Tsavo is riveting reading indeed! Also entertaining is his description of conditions and happenings along the trackway and his interactions with workers and natives alike. While the actual settling of the lions makes for the highlight of the book, Colonel Patterson's handling of the mutiny of the workers and their conspiracy to murder him is capital reading. Colonel Patterson was a very brave man who never flinched from what he saw as his duty and you will be glad to have gotten to know this humble hero after finishing the book.

This Man-Eater of Tsavo (Peter Capstick edition) is a great copy of the original book. This edition contains all the pictures and maps included in the original copy. Some are probably not as clear as in the original copy, but they are still good.

My daughter heard some of the story on Mystery at the Museum on the Travel channel. She wanted to know more about it. So I found the book and movie on . I gave them to her for Christmas and she was very happy

Reads very bluntly like a journal. Of interest for it's obvious historical content and as context for the movie based on the first part of the book. The failure to include the referenced photos was disappointing.

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