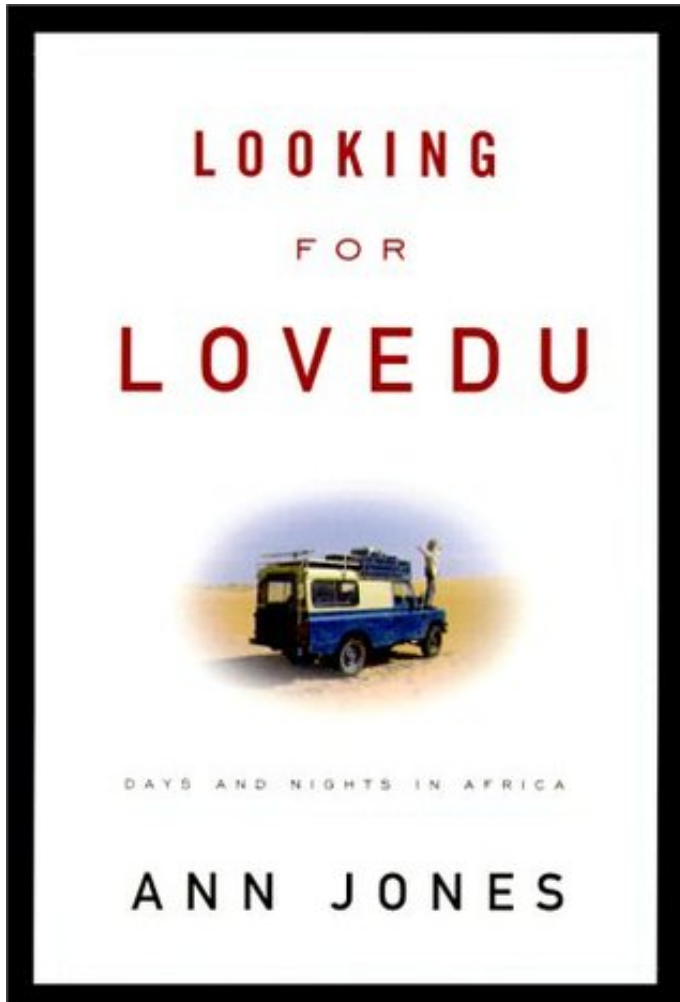


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**Ann Jones**

**Looking for Lovedu: Days and Nights in Africa**



Title: Looking for Lovedu: Days and Nights in Africa

Author: Ann Jones

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## Description

When Ann Jones decided to travel overland from Tangier to the southern tip of Africa with an Englishman she barely knew, she lived firsthand the worst and best of travel. Muggleton, at 28 half Jones's age and twice her size, turns out to be a road warrior with a foul temper who insists on charging headlong across a continent with practically no roads. Seen this way, Africa becomes little more than a drive-by history lesson (Jones injects encapsulated summaries for each country they pass but fail to truly visit). With his mantra, "We can do it on our own," Muggleton insists on crossing the Sahara alone with no map, bearings, or road, and takes the more treacherous road across Zaire simply to be rid of a convoy of jeeps (and, of course, to prove himself). The chasms of mud and water that cover the "roads" of Zaire cause the duo innumerable hardships and frustrations. Muggleton comes down with malaria, Jones's feet turn gray and her toenails fall off, the jeep falls to pieces--all to cover in five days what passing Africans walk in two. It's those same potholes, however, that ultimately save the journey and the book, for the creeping pace forces them to interact with their surroundings, and ultimately to split up. After that, Jones hooks up with two women, a Brit and a Kenyan, and the remainder of the journey takes a decidedly opposite approach. With the slower and more receptive pace, Jones begins to experience Africa, and to learn from the African inside her own car.

The irony of the Jones-Muggleton expedition is that its ultimate goal was to meet Modjadji V, the rainmaking queen of the Lovedu people of South Africa. As an "aging female," Jones is intrigued to meet the reigning member of a dynasty of single mothers and to experience a culture that values traditionally "feminine" ideals such as compromise, cooperation, tolerance, and peace, a far cry from her working relationship with the testosterone-charged Muggleton. The opinionated Jones, however, is not as close to those ideals as she would like to think. In fact, her coverage of West Africa is disturbing--she condemns the Tuareg social system as offensive without meeting a single member of nomadic tribe, and declares Ghana and Togo identical simply because she doesn't have time look for differences. These are the types of sweeping observations colonialists used to defend their rules. Jones's lesson then is to learn how to incorporate the Lovedu's values with the challenges of taking charge of her own journey. Ultimately, the book proves just how difficult it is to experience the vastness and variety of Africa from your car. --*Lesley Reed*

## Insightful reviews

Clivemichael: Honest narrative exploring terrain and understanding, quite moving (pardon the pun) interpersonal dynamic, cultural references and perceptive analysis of the people met.

Mathilda: The idea of finding the Rain Queen started off on a canoe on the Zambezi..... In 1995 Ann Jones a travel writer and Kevin Muggleton, a photographer, and traveling partner, set off on an expedition through the African continent. They drove from Tangier to Cape Town. They used the search of the mystical Rain Queen Modjadji of Lovedu, a matriarchal tribe in southern Africa as the reason, but eventually it became Ann's passion to find her. Ann is also is equally

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interested in whether the Lovedu tribe continues to exist and how their feminist values of cooperation, compromise, tolerance, mutual helpfulness and forgiveness coincide with the paternalistic and masculine doctrines she has witnessed throughout Africa. Apart from the feminist aspects, that is real and exist all over the world, it is also an excellent travel narrative that allows you understand and imagine what it must be like to go on an African expedition without a convoy all on your own. The history and real life situations get intertwining along with her own travel experiences. The effects of colonialism, globalization, tourism, and environmentalism are all explored in an attempt to understand how Africa is sustaining in the current social world. The book is fascinating because I've been to Modjadji. I'm a South African citizen who has always been intrigued by this mythical Queen. After reading the book I still dream of going on my own expedition.

Bill Subalusky: An entertaining but unfortunately not very informative, book about the current state of Africa, written by a lady as she travels through the numerous African countries. If James Michener defines a 10 on a 1 to 10 scale for informational detail, this book is a minus one. That said, it does give a view, albeit shallow, of the unfortunate states of these countries and helps one to again recall how fortunate we are to live in the U.S.

Lourenda: This used to be a publication that I needed to learn ahead of my journey to Kenya with TFC. That said, it was once a fascinating subject: the hunt for a matriarcal tribe in Kenya and the entire mishaps alongside the way. Its been your time for the reason that i have learn it and my reminiscence is filled with different greater things.

Pam Crosby: learn this at the encouragement from my mother even supposing now not whatever i would often choose up. Now considered one of my favourite commute books ever. relatively really extraordinary!

Tashia: I picked up this reserving considering i'd love it, yet fact learn it took a few attempt to get through. I enjoyed the historical past and element at the African nations, yet did not love the writing type and tale telling... I simply stored short of more...

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