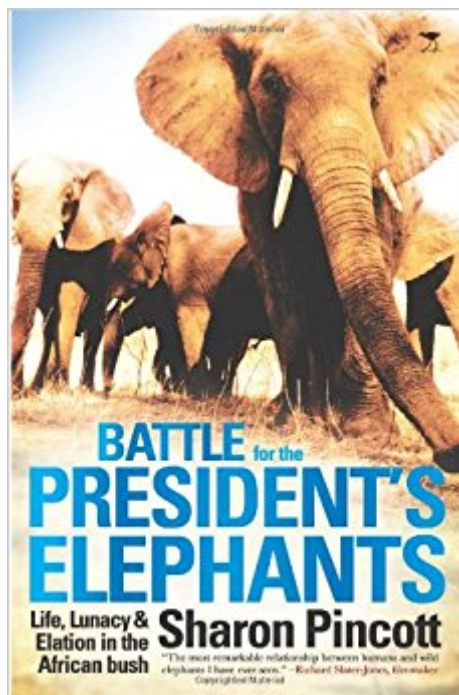




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# Battle For The President's Elephants: Life, Lunacy & Elation In The African Bush



## Synopsis

For more than a decade, Sharon Pincott has lived in the Hwange bush among The Presidential Elephants of Zimbabwe: a celebrated clan of wild elephants that she is devoted to and will do anything to protect. She has formed one of the most remarkable relationships with wild, free-roaming elephants ever documented, yet her battles to keep them safe never seem to end. One minute she's cherishing incredibly intimate encounters with these gentle giants, the next she's accused of being a spy and then her name appears on a Zimbabwe Police wanted-persons list. While things often seem to go from bad to worse, this passionate wildlife conservationist relentlessly perseveres, in the face of overwhelming odds, to stick by the elephants she so obviously loves. Written with engaging humour and warmth and a deep, tangible love of Africa's wildlife, Sharon recounts the enchanting times that make her life in the wilds bearable, as well as some of the preposterous incidents that force her to question her sanity for staying in Zimbabwe. Succeeding her highly praised book, *The Elephants and I*, this captivating collection of bush tales offers a further glimpse into the wonders, and grim realities, of choosing a life less ordinary, where the species that you look out for is different from your own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is a great read: entertaining, informative and brutally honest" - Getaway magazine  
"They say you meet people who bring particular things to your life. Well, Sharon brought an insight and understanding to mine, an example of someone brave enough to follow her heart in search of her

true calling. She's someone who doesn't believe in giving up or turning back, no matter how big the potholes." - Caravan & Outdoor Life "a delightful collection of anecdotes of [Sharon Pincott's] life in Zim ... often amusing, often sad" - South Coast Herald "An absorbing read, joyous in its passion for the sights and sounds of the bush, often lyrical in its descriptions of the creatures who share her world" - Saturday Star, South Africa "A riveting and amusing read." - The Zimbabwean

For more than a decade, Sharon Pincott has lived in the Hwange bush among The Presidential Elephants of Zimbabwe: a celebrated clan of wild elephants that she is devoted to and will do anything to protect. She has formed one of the most remarkable relationships with wild, free-roaming elephants ever documented, yet her battles to keep them safe never seem to end. One minute she's cherishing incredibly intimate encounters with these gentle giants, the next she's accused of being a spy and then her name appears on a Zimbabwe Police wanted-persons list. While things often seem to go from bad to worse, this passionate wildlife conservationist relentlessly perseveres, in the face of overwhelming odds, to stick by the elephants she so obviously loves. Written with engaging humour and warmth and a deep, tangible love of Africa's wildlife, Sharon recounts the enchanting times that make her life in the wilds bearable, as well as some of the preposterous incidents that force her to question her sanity for staying in Zimbabwe. Succeeding her highly praised book, *The Elephants and I*, this captivating collection of bush tales offers a further glimpse into the wonders, and grim realities, of choosing a life less ordinary, where the species that you look out for is different from your own.

Absolutely one of the best books I've read about elephants and the compassionate hearted woman who would do anything it takes to save them from harm. Through Sharon Pincott's sharing of her knowledge and experience with these wonderful animals, I gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the family bond within elephant families and how important the matriarch is in each group. That there are any elephants left in the wild is a miracle, considering the increasing hazards they face daily with trophy hunting, habitat loss and destruction, killing by farmers when their crops are destroyed, and most alarmingly, the growing number of poachers who kill or maim for profit, destroying family units, leaving orphans and destruction behind. The elephants of Africa have, in Sharon, someone who cares for them as much as she cares for herself - probably more. She is an angel from heaven for these magnificent mammals!

When I first heard of Sharon Pincott leaving a luxury high flying life to live amongst the elephants in

troubled Zimbabwe - I thought she must be 'mad'. I was right - she IS - passionately, deeply, committed mad for the herd that is known as "The Presidential Elephants". Her latest book "Battle for the President's Elephants: Life, Lunacy & Elation in the African Bush" takes up where the previous one left off (with some backfill for newcomers to explain how she landed there). It is a story of struggle in lots of ways because nothing is ever easy in the African bush. It is a story of triumph as her ongoing fight for water, for peace, for safety for the elephants and other wildlife in this remote bush location saw her evicted from her home, charged with crimes (which is actually a very funny part of the book!) and having her life turned upside down by the critters of the bush and... a camera crew. I won't spoil any of the stories - suffice it to say - If you love adventure stories, gutsy women, elephants, the African wilderness or just a great autobiography - this is a terrific read. It would make a great gift for any animal lover, traveller or conservation minded friend or family member too.

By truFormat:Paperback This book should be read by all animal -for sure elephant-lovers. It is Sharon Pincott's story about her challenging life in Zimbabwe where she tries to save a group known as the Presidential Elephants from poaching, snaring and arranging their water supply. Trying to teach the locals about the importance of wildlife, for their future it creates jobs. She needs the support of all the lodges so they can help with water pumping. It is a non stop battle only to help the ellies but some locals and lodges and authorities will or cannot help. I was lucky to be with her and the ellies a month ago it is thrilling to be so close with these gentle animals. A real wonder. Hope this will last for ever. Some lodges did not supply water hope they see the importance of it, no animals no tourists Do support her by buying this wonderful book. Gertru van Tuyll

This is a fabulous account of the Author's time, trials and tribulations, that she encountered, and continues to encounter, in troubled Zimbabwe. I deeply admire Sharon's dedication and passion to conservation in general and the Presidential Elephants in particular. As an Australian, she has worked purely as a volunteer, without payment, and she has given much of her life selflessly in researching, tracking and preserving these magnificent creatures. Having grown up in Zimbabwe myself, and now living on a game conservancy in South Africa, I could well relate to her surroundings, which she describes beautifully. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has a love of wildlife and the African bushveld.

Hopefully this book will soon be in stock, as it is a must-read for elephant and wildlife lovers alike. What first struck me, was the awesome photograph that adorns the entire back cover. It is a photo

of Sharon Pincott kissing one of the wild Presidential Elephants, who roam freely in the wilds of Zimbabwe and whose lives she continues battling to save. Complimenting her previous book, *The Elephants and I*, this one is a collection of short stories; a celebration of the fun and rewarding times that she has experienced in the African bush over the past decade. Although laugh-out-loud funny in places, some of her struggles are unfathomable. Perhaps it is just Zimbabwe, or perhaps it is the life of a Wildlife Conservationist in Africa, but you have to admire this woman for not running back to a more secure First World life. Somehow, despite obstacles, she has endured, and her remarkable relationships with the earth's largest land mammals continue to go from strength to strength. Imagine! How many people in this world have ever lingered over a kiss with a truly wild African elephant? Such an incredible relationship, especially in a place as troubled as Zimbabwe, is testament to the astounding resilience of a species in serious trouble - and to the care and unparalleled commitment of an Australian woman, who loves them. Her writings take you right there with her, to the beauty of the Hwange bush, sharing in her joys and frustrations every step of the way. This is a book that you don't want to miss ... and if you haven't read *The Elephants and I*, you'll love that too! Keep inspiring us Sharon!

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