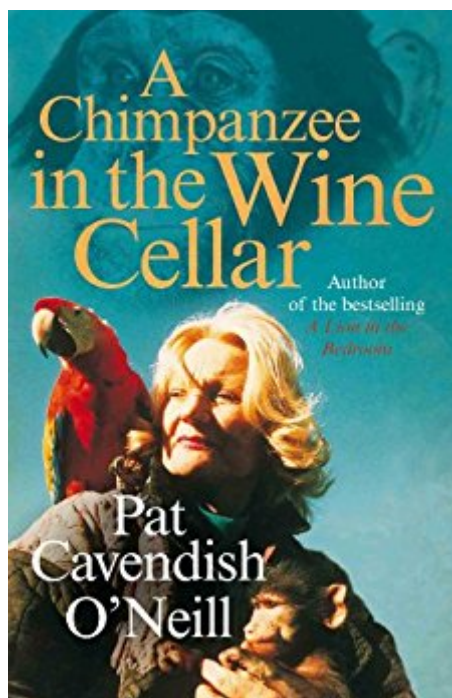


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A Chimpanzee In The Wine Cellar



Synopsis

From the international best-selling author of *A Lion in the Bedroom*, Pat Cavendish O'Neill, comes another glimpse into her extravagant and adventurous life ... In 1968, Pat Cavendish O'Neill reluctantly left her magical years in Kenya behind to join her mother in Somerset West, South Africa. She left behind her wonderful friends, a life she loved and, even more heart-breaking, her beloved lioness Tana. However, arriving at her new home on Broadlands Farm, Pat soon found a different channel for her extraordinary gift with animals when she revealed a sharp eye for identifying winning race horses, turning Broadlands into a renowned stud farm. As always, the women attracted a colourful international audience into their extremely lavish lifestyle - champagne and caviar were the order of the day - and Pat and her mother would regularly fly to Australia to bid on some of the world's finest fillies and colts. Pat's fierce love of animals has resulted in her opening heart and home to a variety of creatures, from monkeys to baboons, birds, sheep, pigs and horses, to a pack of seventeen dogs and a goat all living underfoot. But a rescued chimp named Kalu found his way deepest into her heart. For over 40 years Pat and Kalu have lived at Broadlands together and the one without the other is a picture incomplete. Today, at the age of 87, Pat leads a very different life from the enormous privilege and wealth into which she was born, yet she still remains true to her first love of animals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read *Lion in my Bedroom* & thoroughly enjoyed it. This sequel of her later years in Cape Town and her ups & downs was interesting but I was slightly disappointed somehow. Maybe I just expected too much but felt it seemed a little too repetitious. However, it certainly held one's interest to the end and I found myself engrossed and a little sad about her future.

A fascinating, quick read. Interesting because we knew the people in the book and were involved in the breeding and racing world. Pat's love of animals consumed her whole life and at times this passion was outrageously funny and at times jaw-dropping. The heartache of losing everything must be very hard. If you love animals, had anything to do with Thoroughbred breeding and racing or simply just to help Pat's legacy continue, then this book is well worth buying.

I am a huge animal lover and lived in South Africa for a short period, so was excited to purchase this book. Firstly, the book was an endless 'list' of stream of consciousness writing (unintentionally, I suspect.) The author would have done well to rein in her hubris and recognise her weakness as a writer. It is best to employ a ghost writer in order to convey your extraordinary life if you can't do it adequately yourself. Furthermore, it was hard to find enthusiasm for the dull, turgid "I did this and then I did that" prose. The author jumps about like a demented cricket, relating anecdotes with reckless abandon. There is no attempt at analysis or insight or social comment even to the smallest degree, even though the author experienced one of the most unsavoury, despicable periods known to mankind. Generally, the crux of each little story is to show how wonderful she is. Her constant self approbation was a little hard to stomach. Finally, although Pat Cavendish is clearly a genuine animal lover, my feeling is that she could have contributed more to the animal kingdom than buying a few lobsters and saving the sundry waifs and strays (commendable though that is) she happened to come across. It may have salved her conscience at the time, but her actions did little to improve the lot of the abused and neglected fauna of this world. With her (then) considerable wealth, she could have done so much more. In short, I wore out the fast forward button on my kindle. A promising subject, but the author failed to deliver. I persevered because I thought the book may improve as the story developed. It did not.

Very interesting and thoroughly enjoyable read. What a fascinating life.

Enjoyed the second part of the book which was all about the horses, their training methods and the actual racing.

Perhaps if you are a horse racing fan you will enjoy the long descriptions of her horses and their races. I had to drag myself through this book. Having said that I did enjoy the little there was about her chimp, a very intelligent and interesting animal. It is a self indulgent memoir. The photos are interesting.

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