



The Elephants Secret Sense: The Hidden Life of the Wild Herds of Africa

By Caitlin O'Connell

University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 264 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. While observing a family of elephants in the wild, Caitlin O'Connell noticed a peculiar listening behavior the matriarch lifted her foot and scanned the horizon, causing the other elephants to follow suit, as if they could hear the ground. The Elephants Secret Sense is O'Connell's account of her groundbreaking research into seismic listening and communication, chronicling the extraordinary social lives of elephants over the course of fourteen years in the Namibian wilderness. This compelling odyssey of scientific discovery is also a frank account of fieldwork in a poverty-stricken, war-ravaged country. In her attempts to study an elephant community, O'Connell encounters corrupt government bureaucrats, deadly lions and rhinos, poachers, farmers fighting for arable land, and profoundly ineffective approaches to wildlife conservation. The Elephants Secret Sense is ultimately a story of intellectual courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. I was transported by the author's superbly sensuous descriptions of her years spent studying the animals. . . . Conjures a high-class nature documentary film in prose. Steven Poole, Guardian A ride as rough and astonishing as the roads of the African floodplain. Joan Keener, Entertainment Weekly A successful combination...



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