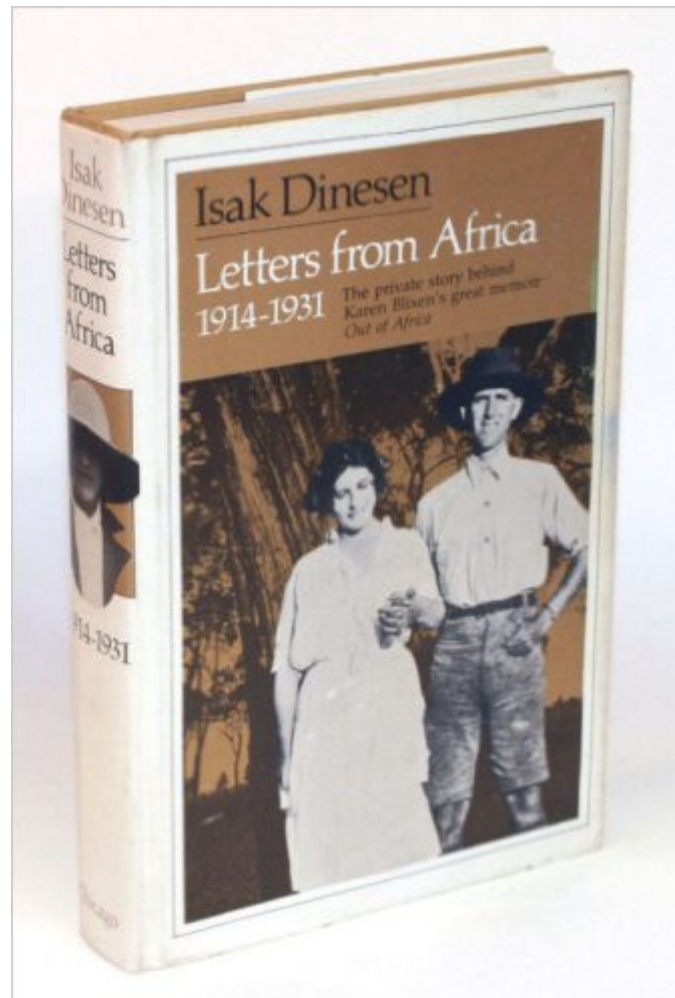


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Letters From Africa, 1914-1931



Synopsis

"Here is a rich new biographical perspective on the brilliant storyteller whose sophisticated romantic fiction . . . made her an international success and perpetual candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature. . . . [These letters] contain the raw material that was later transformed into her classic memoir *Out of Africa* (1937). They also reveal her as a highly intelligent and sensitive analyst of a strange new world."â "Bruce Allen, *Christian Science Monitor*"*Letters from Africa* is literary gold, 24 karat."â "Alden Whitman, *Boston Globe*

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (25 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a must read for anyone interested in her life, or anyone interested in that period in history. I have been fascinated by Karen's story since I first watched "Out of Africa." I have since read several books about her and Denys. What I found especially intriguing about these letters was that I had to keep reminding myself of the time period in which they were written. She was a very liberal and a liberated woman. More than once, she remarked that woman were free to do whatever they wanted and how wonderful that freedom was, but she felt that with it, came responsibility. Her views on marriage, womanhood and even birth control were very modern. Most of the letters were written to her mother and brother with some that were written to other relatives and friends interspersed. They are detailed accounts of her day to day and year to year struggles and successes while running this farm in Africa. Her relationship with her mother was very close and very beautiful and interesting to follow. They didn't see eye to eye on everything and from the one letter that is included from her

mother to her brother, her mother revealed that she had showed great restraint over the years in telling Karen her true feelings about her life choices. That letter was a bit of a disappointment in some ways, but perhaps in the context of when it was written (near the end of Karen's time in Africa, it is understandable. As a mother, she just wanted to have her daughter come home where she could take care of her, and keep her from going off on any more wild adventures that would further deteriorate Karen's health and deplete their funds further. I hadn't realized until reading this book how often she was very ill, to the point of being hospitalized, during her years in Africa.

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