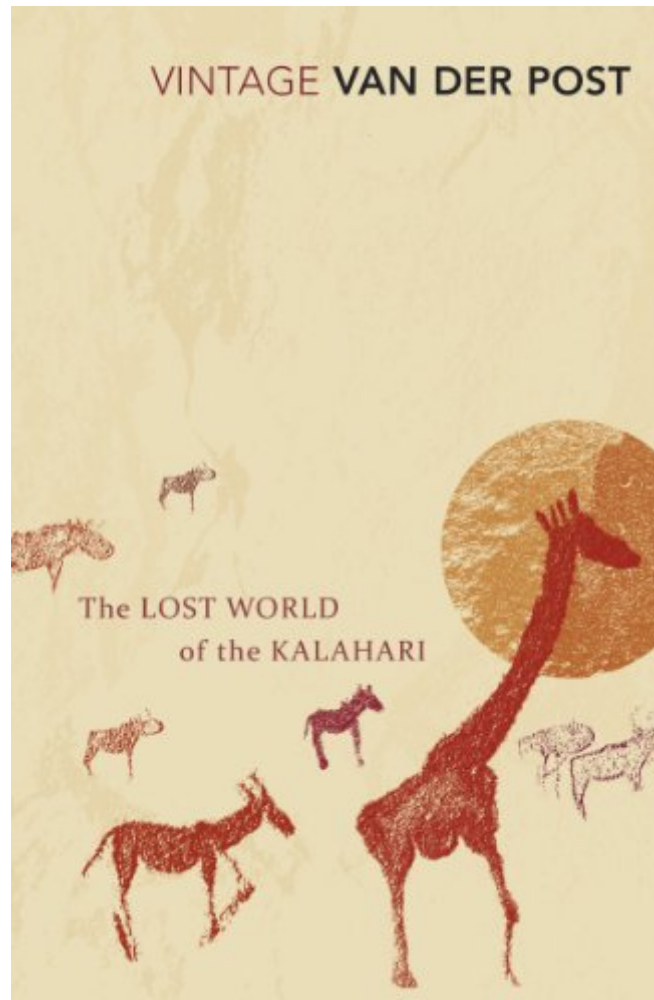


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# The Lost World Of The Kalahari: With 'The Great And The Little Memory'



## Synopsis

Laurens van der Post was fascinated and appalled at the fate of this remarkable people. Ostracised by all the changing face of African cultural life they retreated deep into the Kalahari desert. His fascinating attempt to capture their way of life and the secrets of their ancient heritage provide captivating reading and a unique insight into a forgotten way of life.

## Book Information

File Size: 1005 KB

Print Length: 290 pages

Publisher: Vintage Digital; New Ed edition (April 10, 2010)

Publication Date: May 25, 2010

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003GDFQVG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #798,556 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #52

inÂ Books > Travel > Africa > Botswana #65 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction >

Travel > Africa > South #230 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > Southern Africa

## Customer Reviews

In the 50s, van der Post organized a group to find the last surviving bushmen living in their traditional way, entirely dependent on what they knew of the desert, untainted by modern thought and technology. On his parents' farm, he'd grown up with bushman workers who taught him their language and touched his heart with their stories of slaughter and abuse of their people by black tribes and whites. After immense frustration with his film team, and fruitless weeks in the great swamp in the north of modern Botswana, they start again and contact a family living in the dune country south of there. What they learn, about the very able and intelligent ancestors of all humanity, is both poignant and fascinating to anyone with an interest in culture and the earliest history of people.

Well-written and accurate, Laurens managed to meet one of the last truly "wild" bushman groups before this amazing people became overwhelmed by modern "civilization" (to understand how they were ten years before and 20 years after Laurens' visit, I recommend "The Harmless People"). By the time anthropologists and, later, dna-scientists became fascinated by Bushmen, they could no longer hunt as they could when Laurens visited them. Laurens describes the Bushmen and their way of life with intimate care, relating to them as one human being to another. Not like a scientist studying an "object". He is also a good writer, for example when he describes the eland-hunt. I loved to read this book while travelling through Southern Africa. Especially for travellers to Okavango & surroundings, this is a must-read.

A book everyone should read as it describes the fate of a people, a fate which many other peoples have suffered in the past, the big difference being here that the Bushman has been around for longer than most others

This book is just what I was looking for.. It told everything I wanted to know about the Kalahari. It was very well written and very easy to read. It was in great condition and arrived very fast. The size of the words were easy to read. I enjoyed the descriptive wording of the book. Overall great reading.

What a wonderful book. Tells the story of a lost and forgotten group of people, the true South Africans.

While he may have a nice command of the English language, and certainly shows talent in his imaginative descriptions, this book is not about the Kalahari Bushmen. It's like the author needed a topic, and chose the bushman, so he could have a legitimate vessel to spew his philosophies and insights into the world. Does he truly care about the bushman? Half the book's story felt like it was just an excuse to talk about how the author is an outstanding person: fair, rational, logical, intuitive, expert marksman, friend, compassionate; then he also goes off for pages that are seemingly dedicated to demonizing one of the expedition's members, it's like Van Der Post was still holding a grudge from their trip, and somehow had to vent his anger and prove to everyone that he was "in the right". I wouldn't recommend this to someone interested in learning more about ancient cultures or the Kalahari bushmen; I also wouldn't recommend it to someone looking for a book about adventure. While I'm not unhappy I read this book, I do feel like I could have read something with

more substance. What I gained from this book is the experience of having read something I truly didn't care for. You know how people talk about not being able to put a book down? I had a hard time picking this one back up...There's gotta be something better on the subject. This book isn't even that memorable of a spiritual journey; the books by Carlos Castaneda, the first few in the Don Juan series -- this is what I'd recommend for a "spiritual" journey.

Van der Post strikes a note in this deeply personal account of the Bushmen of the Kalahari that can be found nowhere else.

Wonderful book!

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