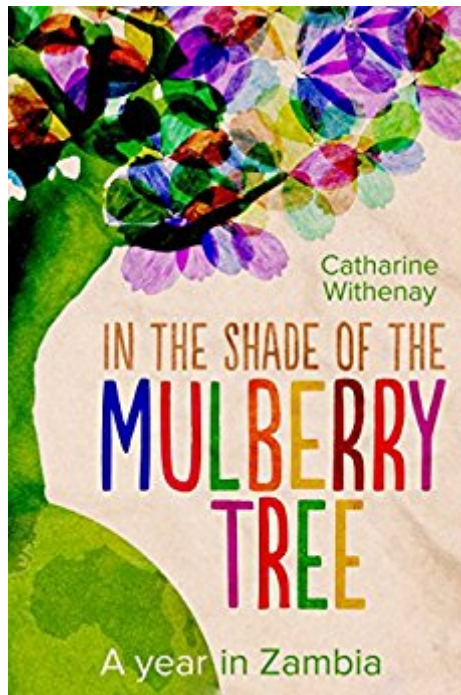




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In The Shade Of The Mulberry Tree: A Year In Zambia



Synopsis

Organising her husband, toddler and babe in arms, three suitcases, two rucksacks, a pram and a travel cot onto a plane ready for a new life in Zambia is complicated enough. Given Catharine's fear of malaria and tropical diseases and the anxieties of moving beyond the reach of friends and family, she wonders how she was persuaded to move at all. Then, just as they approach the airport, it appears that they don't have their passports. *In the Shade of the Mulberry Tree* is a heartwarming and thought provoking tale about Catharine Withenay's first year living abroad as an expatriate wife. She chronicles her family's adventures as they settle into a new culture far from home. Nothing is as simple as it should be, from buying furniture to getting a haircut. As she copes with motherhood and the injustices of poverty and healthcare in Zambia she wonders: could she ever come to call this place home?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wish I could write a more positive review about this book. I know how amazing a first experience outside of one's own country can be. Even the smallest events can be so exciting because they are so new and so completely different then what one is accustomed to back home. But unless you have the gift for storytelling, often those experiences don't translate well to others. Case in point: the

episode when the author describes her dilemma of having to balance her plate and glass of water while trying to read a book and avoid the ants that she assumes are in the grass, while Her two Zambian workers watch her children, is nearly infuriating with its utter lack of anything remotely of interest. I ask myself, am I really spending my precious time reading about a woman who is living in Zambia and the most interesting thing she can find to write about is this. Anyway, I regret to say, I would not recommend this book.

This book is written by the wife of a British doctor who is transplanted to Lusaka, Zambia while he does research. While the book contains a few interesting/entertaining stories of navigating life in a completely different culture, the author comes off at some points as whiny and over-stressed. This book does a good job of portraying life in Lusaka (as an expat), and a few trips outside the capital, but I wish the author had had more chances to get out into the rest of Zambia and experience life in the village - the life that most Zambians live. In the end, she decides that she can handle life in Zambia - with the help of her maid, nanny and other staff, of course.

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