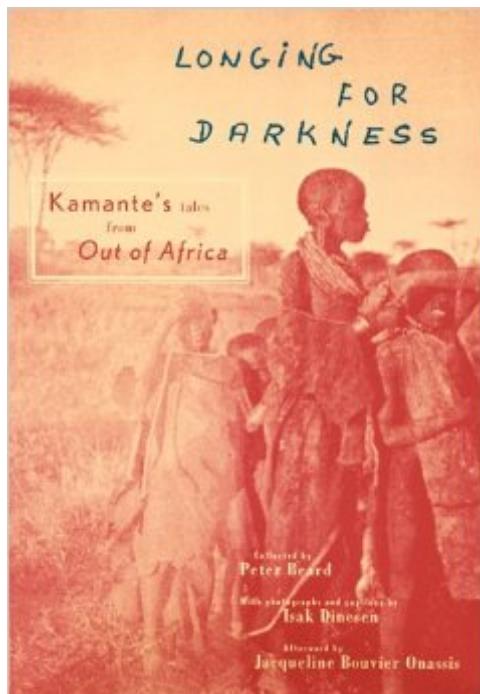


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# Longing For Darkness: Kamante's Tales From Out Of Africa



## **Synopsis**

Isak Dinesen and the land and people she loved are nowhere so real and compelling as in *Longing for Darkness*, written by Dinesen's majordomo, Kamante, and now boasting a smart new cover. Readers familiar with *Out of Africa* may recognize many of the enchanting stories. These celebrated tales and others are retold here from Kamante's perspective and are enhanced with his own drawings and letters, Dinesen's words and snapshots, and photographs by Peter Beard. Writes Beard, "Over a period of 12 years, as if divesting himself of his possessions, Kamante put down the extra dimensions of truth which are at the heart of *Out of Africa*."

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 264 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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Grade Level: 8 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Peter Beard has lived near Karen Blixen's farm and collected her story from many of her friends and staff in Africa. In this beautiful book he assembles excellent original photographs of Karen Blixen and enhances them with photographs of his own from Africa. The commentary is by Kamante Gatura, Karen Blixen's cook. A fascinating book, especially because Kamante's version differs from that of some of Karen Blixen's biographers. The illustrations compliment a reading of Linda Donelson's "Out of Isak Dinesen in Africa: Karen Blixen's untold story."

I had a hardback copy of a previous edition which somehow slipped through my grasp and for which I have been searching vainly for twenty years. The combination of cultural perspectives effortlessly

and simultaneously presented in a correspondent range of visual and graphical styles, telling stories of quiet appreciation and respect enchanted me like no other book, and I am grateful at least for finding a paperback edition and a thread to keep my hopes alive.

Peter Beard has shown us another dimension of Isak Dinesen's (Karen Blixen) life as told in "Out of Africa". This time however, those days are described by Kamante Gatura, who, as a young boy was employed by Ms Dinesen. Kamante's memories are translated & written down...the result is an enchanting, magical book; it is the only book I would risk everything for to retrieve from a burning building...it is my most treasured possession.

This book was a real "find" for me. I "discovered" it after having read much about Africa and all I could find about Karen Blixen. The way it is written from Kamante's actual words, a hand written English translation from Swahili by his sons is just awesome. The connection with Jackie Kennedy Onassis in her own hand writing in letters in the afterward of the book is like hearing her speak those words. The many early photographs of the individuals Karen Blixen referred to in her "Out of Africa" cause this book of Kamante's Tales really come to life. Mr. Beard has done a fabulous job in bringing all this information together.

The book was in very good shape. The illustrations by Kamante are charming. It is very unusual to have the book done in his handwriting rather than a set typeface. It makes the book more personal. It was also charming that the postscript by Jacqueline Onassis was also hand written.

The condition of the book was disappointing as I was told like new and the top binding definitely worn, and bent. I am thrilled to finally find book search that has found this out of print book for me.. I read it many years ago through my local library and have wanted to purchase it for years. Thank you for helping me do this .

For all those who have enjoyed "Out of Africa" by Isak Dinesen, this volume is a must. Nicely illustrated with photographs and drawings, Kamante's tales are a welcome companion to many of the same stories that Isak Dinesen told.

For anyone who fell in love with Peter Beard's writing and stories, this book is an interesting follow-up. Probably best for big fans of African adventure stories. A must for travel journal writers,

due to it's handwritten text and drawings.

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