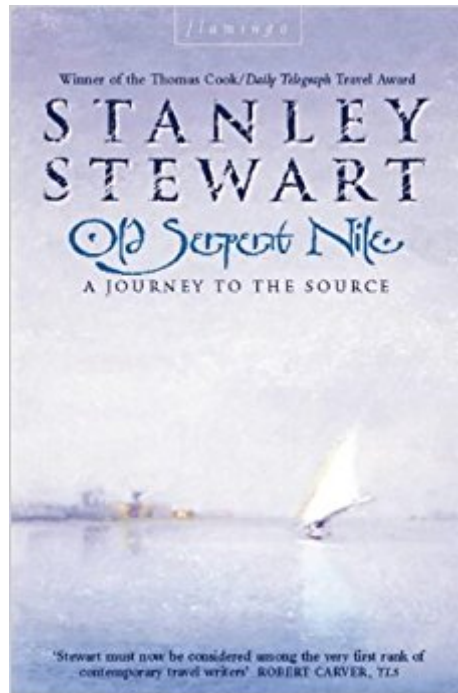




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Old Serpent Nile



Synopsis

Stanley Stewart describes his journey through Egypt, Sudan and Uganda to the source of the great river Nile. Taking him from Nile Delta to the Mountains of the Moon, the trip was arduous, colourful, funny and sometimes dangerous.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Stewart must now be considered among the very first rank of contemporary travel writers' Robert Carver, TLS

I was lead to this book by Stanley Stewart's successive work "The Empire of Gengis Kahn" which I had found very amusing. This delightful travel book was written more than 10 years ago and this probably explains why it is a little bit outdated and difficult to find. But, we are still reading Robert Byron's "The Road to Oxiana", so that wouldn't be a problem. SS has planned a long trip up to the sources of the White Nile (the longer one) and gets there traveling through Egypt, Sudan and Uganda. He is taking along a girlfriend which is beatiful and proficient in Arabic (who could ask for more?). The trip is "on the rode", so felucas, barges, trains, and lorries are used and planes are reserved only for otherwise unbridgable tracts. The stile is diaristic in the best travelogue tradition and langue is rich and satisfying. The Egyptian part of the trip is easy-going and somehow gives a vision of the country that unfortunately is not true anymore. I visited Egypt once in 1976 and again with my children two years ago and witnessed a complete revolution of customs, habits, attitudes and whatever else. Mass tourism has completely changed all the habits SS describes and tourism

security problems condition every aspect of the visit to this beautiful country. Getting back to the book, one can feel the juvenile enthusiasm of this couple and their way of tackling logistic problems. I was a little disappointed for SS's scarce historical preparation, but a picture drawn by a non prejudicial mind is refreshing. Sudan today is practically unapproachable or anyway not recommended for tourists. Some of this attitude was already present at the time. This part of the book is more interesting because a greater political and historical background is analyzed. But the best part is that on Uganda, here we can really "feel" the political and human situation and appreciate SS's intuitions of what was going to come up. The descriptions of the people and of situations are so true. My brother is doing voluntary work for the Church in Uganda and his descriptions are exactly the same. The unity of the book is evidently the Nile and maybe a more detailed hydrological description would have helped to understand the economy of these three African countries. I intensely enjoyed the reading and I found the book a little less cynical than "The Empire" (which by the way is one of the defects of this last work). Ageing is hard on anyone! Read it, if you can find it.

Nice tale.

I read this book after I had returned from the Sudan. I do wish I had read it before I went to there. A good read fully appreciated after moving in that region. Look at my pictures from my visit at [...]

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