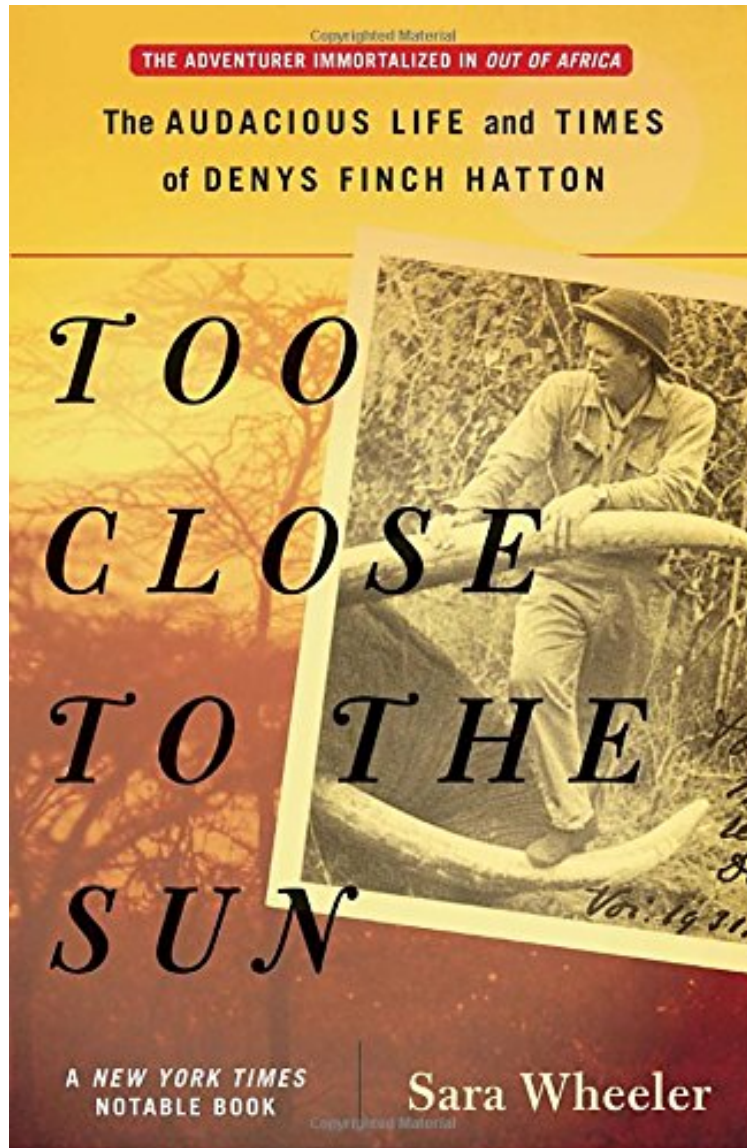


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# Too Close to the Sun: The Audacious Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton

Sara Wheeler

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#100434 in Books Sara Wheeler 2009-07-14 2009-07-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.191, .55 #File Name: 0812968921336 pages Too Close to the Sun The Audacious Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton | File size: 70.Mb

Sara Wheeler : Too Close to the Sun: The Audacious Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Too Close to the Sun: The Audacious Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. UnreadableBy Jackie DeCesarisSadly, the book is unreadable. Faced with few facts about the man, yet a real love for the romance of his life, the writer fall back on an attempt to write as Blixen would have done if she had cared to write about him this way at all. The result is a disaster. Take this line: "The bride had copper pre-Raphaelite hair, aspirin-white skin, and large grey eyes that sheltered under broad red brows." Yikes! The writing is so poor, so overly, badly wordy. I'm sad the writer did not use her own voice, her own style. It would have been a greater (possible) read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read it ladies and fall in love.By LOULOU MI fell in love with Finch-Hatton as a teenager, when reading *Out of Africa*. Cried my eyes out at the end of that book.I enjoyed very much to now more about this fascinating and wild man. No wonder Karen Blixen fell in love with him.Many of us like an untameable man.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Not Close EnoughBy S. HunterHaving lived in Kenya, I looked forward to Sarah Wheeler's book. Her tremendous research is apparent in the loving care afforded to specific details, especially concerning the early settlers in Kenya. I very much enjoyed the historical backdrop which gave context to behaviors and attitudes. However, Ms. Wheeler's view of Finch-Hatton is almost hagiographic. When the word "selfish" is floated in connection with his seemingly aloof response to Karen Blixen, Ms. Wheeler immediately counters with its romantic counterpart "elusive." She claims that this "elusiveness" was part of Finch-Hatton's charm and his attractiveness for women. I also have to agree with another reviewer; Karen Blixen is virtually excoriated throughout a good deal of this book. Ms. Wheeler's conclusions may be the result of interviews with Blixen's and Finch-Hatton's families. However, the trashing of Ms. Blixen's fiction seems particularly uncharitable and subjective. From this book, it appears that Finch-Hatton was the result of a pampered childhood and early schooling at Eton where he never recovered from being an "adored tyrant", and felt unable to "engage" with anything or anyone despite the devotion of many friends and lovers. Ms. Wheeler appears to agree with Beryl Markham who states that Finch-Hatton "was a great man who never achieved arrogance." However, Finch-Hatton seems more reminiscent of Henry James' John Marcher in "Beast in the Jungle" who waits for some great life-defining event to take place. Unlike Marcher, Finch-Hatton may never have understood that he allowed his life to slip away from him.

A champion of Africa, legendary for his good looks, his charm, and his prowess as a soldier, lover, and hunter, Denys Finch Hatton inspired Karen Blixen to write the unforgettable *Out of Africa*. Now esteemed British biographer Sara Wheeler tells the truth about this extraordinarily charismatic adventurer.Born to an old aristocratic family that had gambled away most of its fortune, Finch Hatton grew up in a world of effortless elegance and boundless power. In 1910, searching for something new, he arrived in British East Africa and fell in love with a continent, with a landscape, with a way of life that was about to change forever. In Nairobi, Finch Hatton met Karen Blixen and embarked on one of the great love affairs of the twentieth century. Intellectual equals, Finch Hatton and Blixen were genuine pioneers in a land that was quickly being transformed by violence, greed, and bigotry. Ever restless, Finch Hatton wandered into a career as a big-game hunter and became an expert bush pilot. Mesmerized all his life by the allure of freedom and danger, Finch Hatton was, writes Wheeler, the open road made flesh.