

# A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa: Being a Narrative of Nine Years Spent Amongst the Game of the Far Interior of South Africa, Containing Accounts of Explorations Beyond the Zambesi, on the River Chobe

Frederick Courteney Selous



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Frederick Courteney Selous 1851 – 1917 was a British explorer, officer, hunter, and conservationist, famous for his exploits in Southeast Africa. His real-life adventures inspired Sir H. Rider Haggard to create the fictional Allan Quatermain character. Selous was also a friend of Theodore Roosevelt, Cecil Rhodes and Frederick Russell Burnham. He was pre-eminent within a select group of big game hunters that included Abel Chapman and Arthur Henry Neumann. Going to South Africa when he was 19, he travelled from the Cape of Good Hope to Matabeleland, which he reached early in 1872, and where (according to his own account) he was granted permission by Lobengula, King of the Ndebele, to shoot game anywhere in his dominions.From then until 1890, with a few brief intervals spent in England, Selous hunted and explored over the then little-known regions north of the Transvaal and south of the Congo Basin, shooting elephants and collecting specimens of all kinds for museums and private collections. His travels added greatly to the knowledge of the country now known as Zimbabwe. He made valuable ethnological investigations, and throughout his wanderings-often among people who had never previously seen a white man-he maintained cordial relations with the chiefs and tribes, winning their confidence and esteem, notably so in the case of Lobengula. In 1890, Selous entered the service of the British South Africa Company, at the request of magnate Cecil Rhodes, acting as guide to the pioneer expedition to Mashonaland. Over 400 miles of road were constructed through a country of forest, mountain and swamp, and in two and a half months Selous took the column safely to its destination. He then went east to Manica, concluding arrangements which brought the country there under British control. Coming to England in December 1892, he was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of his extensive explorations and surveys.

Chapter I.

- Land at Algoa Bay
- Diamond Fields
- Trading Trip through Griqualand
- The Chief Manchuran
- Batlapin Village
- Bushman's Lair
- Klas Lucas, the Koranna Chief
- Bechuanas at Lange

#### Chapter II.

- Seventy-eight Elephants shot
- Chief, Montsua
- Secheli
- Bamangwato First Giraffe-hunt

- Lost in the Veldt
- Tati Gold Fields
- Mashuna Diggings

#### Chapter III.

- Massacre of a Tribe Lobengula, King of the Matabele
- Umziligazi
- Slaughter of the "Headmen"
- Battle of Zwang Indaba
- Terrible Adventure with a Lion
- Mashunas

Chapter IV.

- Eland shot
- Abundance of Game
- Rain
- Hardship
- "Bill" and the Crocodile

Chapter V.

- -"Inxw?la" Dance
- Matabele War Dress
- Black Rhinoceros
- Bull Elephants
- Linqu?si Valley
- Hunting in the "Fly
- Varieties of Fauna
- Sable Antelope
- A "Skerm"
- A Grand Elephant-hunt
- Narrow Escape of a Kafir

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