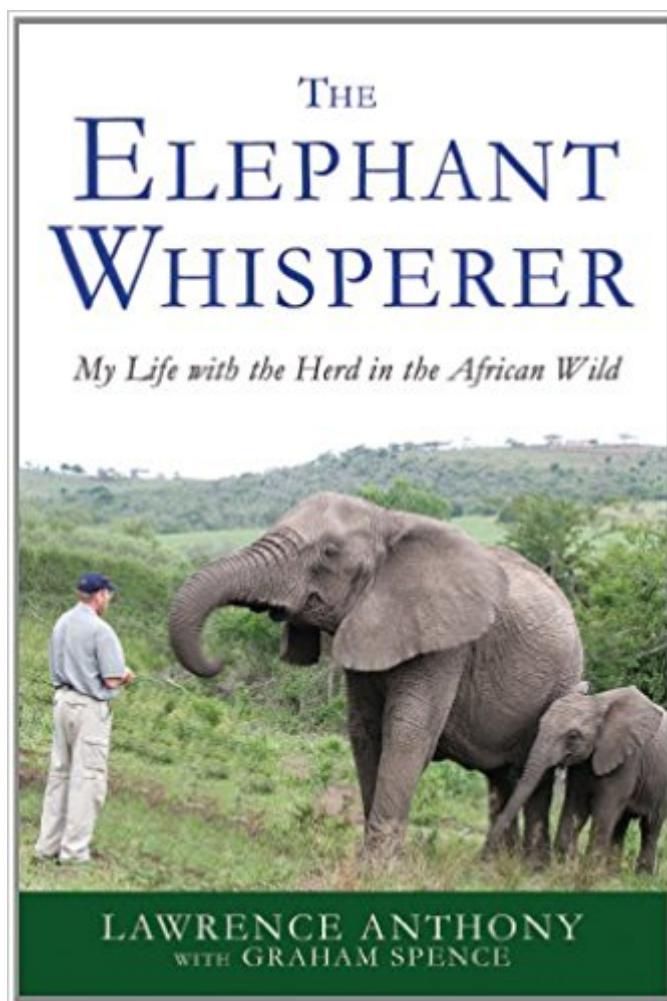


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# The Elephant Whisperer: My Life With The Herd In The African Wild



## Synopsis

Lawrence Anthony devoted his life to animal conservation, protecting the world's endangered species. Then he was asked to accept a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand. His common sense told him to refuse, but he was the herd's last chance of survival: they would be killed if he wouldn't take them. In order to save their lives, Anthony took them in. In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom. *The Elephant Whisperer* is a heartwarming, exciting, funny, and sometimes sad memoir of Anthony's experiences with these huge yet sympathetic creatures. Set against the background of life on an African game reserve, with unforgettable characters and exotic wildlife, Anthony's unrelenting efforts at animal protection and his remarkable connection with nature will inspire animal lovers and adventurous souls everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1998, prize-winning conservationist Anthony (Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo) purchased Thula Thula, "5,000 acres of pristine bush in the heart of Zululand, South Africa," transforming a rundown hunters' camp (dating to the 19th century) into a wild animal preserve and a center for eco-tourism. In 1999, Anthony agreed to take in a herd of "troubled" wild elephants, the first seen in the area in more than a century. Winning their trust, becoming deeply attached, and even learning how they communicate (deep, rumbling "whispers," sensed rather than

heard), Anthony took enormous risks in the form of enraged elephants, distrustful neighbors, and poachers. Over time Anthony succeeds in his larger goal, winning support from the six Zulu tribes whose land borders the reserve ("most Zulus ... had never set eyes on an elephant"); they eventually join Anthony's venture as partners in a larger conservation trust. An inspiring, multifaceted account, Anthony's book offers fascinating insights into the lives of wild elephants in the broader context of Zulu culture in post-Apartheid South Africa. 8 page color photo insert. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Anthony, conservationist and author (Babylon's Ark, 2007), owns a wildlife reserve in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. A former hunting preserve, rumored to be part of the legendary Shaka's exclusive hunting territory, it has become a game reserve with a lodge for ecotourists. Home to Zululand's full suite of wildlife, Thula Thula had everything "except elephants. When he was offered a herd from another game reserve Anthony accepted wholeheartedly, despite the fact that these elephants were known escape artists. During their first night at the park the traumatized elephants broke out, and after days on the run had been given a death sentence by the local wildlife authorities, only averted when the author pleaded for one more chance. The story of how Anthony saved his elephants by making friends with them, reversing their negative perceptions of humans and earning their trust, is both heartwarming and heartening. Life on a game reserve is never easy, particularly when elephants are added to the mix, but Anthony's enthusiasm and obvious love for the bush shine through in hair-raising, sad, and funny tales. This life with elephants is a real winner. --Nancy Bent --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Wow. Loved this book. Originally purchased it as an audible book to listen as I exercised. It was so good, I sent a copy to a friend who loved it so much she sent it on also. Then, purchased it as a Christmas gift for another friend who spent several years raising a family in South Africa. She absolutely enjoyed the book as well and is passing it along to her daughter. Who knows how many more copies will be purchased and read by my family and friends simply because it's so good!

How do you put such deep emotions for the animal kingdom into words. Not only is this author at the top of his field describing the beautiful African plains but also ones emotions are peaked while learning from Lawrence's rare experiences with true wildlife. It has been a real blessing to have this

insight - thank you for sharing. Very much Looking forward to your next book and your continued effort to maintain life and dignity amongst wildlife that need our help in survival.

I just finished reading this book. It is very well written and gives wonderful insights into the lives of African wildlife and the humans who interact with these marvelous creatures in their natural habitat. It is an emotional journey as Mr. Anthony learns and grows with a herd of wild elephants. After reading this I will no longer look at animals in a zoo the same. Mr. Anthony and his Zulu cohorts create a safe environment for these elephants while battling against terrible commercial interests who would soon destroy all wildlife for personal gain. I learned how elephants can communicate with other elephants over long distances. These are amazing creatures with an intelligence I could never have imagined. While reading the book the news of another elephant conservationist being murdered by the criminals who engage in illegal ivory trade. Conservation of these marvelous creatures is difficult while greedy men would soon destroy them all. I highly recommend this book. I learned so much that will stay with me. Very worthwhile!

This is a wonderful book about Africa - its wild beauty, the rhythms of nature, and more specifically about the author's building of a trusting relationship with a small herd of elephants he acquired for his conservation reserve. Lawrence Anthony, who has since passed away, shows his love and dedication to create a natural reserve in which animals can live as close to their natural wild state as possible, free from the hunters and poachers who see them only as wild game objects. While he cannot completely reach perfection in that regard, he makes tremendous progress to make "Thula Thula" a conservationist model. He and his French wife love the land and their life, and his staff echoes those feelings. The book is much broader than the elephants, although they are a consistent and common theme throughout the book. It's about life in Africa, and the challenges he faces in achieving his dream against oftentimes formidable odds and opposition. You will learn much about elephants, which are wonderful animals. While I thoroughly enjoyed the narrative and his growing relationship with his herd, I have to say if you are really interested in learning about elephants in a more intimate way, read "Elephant Company", the true story of a young British man who moved to Burma in the late 1930's to work for a Teak company, in which the majority of raw labor consisted of Indian elephants, their handlers, and the British managers who oversaw the operations. The book encompasses the period from his arrival in Burma through the war in the Pacific, the Japanese invasion of Burma, and his continued life in Burma and travels back to England where his expertise in elephants was in demand. The stunning and remarkable insight and ability to communicate with

the elephants is fascinating, and I'd recommend as a must read if you have any interest in learning more about these remarkable, in many ways human-like, creatures. Apologies for including another book's review in this one, but I figure if you're considering this one, you probably have an interest in wanting to learn more about elephants and the remarkable relationships that special men (and women) have been able to establish with them.

I enjoyed this book a lot. The author brings an elephant herd into his game reserve, but the first night they break out. Upon retrieving them he spent two months with them, sleeping just outside their enclosure, or following them in his land rover, talking to them to calm them and let them know they were safe. He talks about other animals in the reserve, too. He describes people working for him, including the Zulu staff. Poachers steal antelope or shoot rhino for their horns but with help from locals he tracks down the poachers. The author's French female partner cooks wonderful meals, but when they plan to eat outside sometimes monkeys steal the food. I recommend this book to anyone. PH

Marvelous. This is an absolutely marvelous book!. I love Africa, and the magnificent animals in their own habitat, and he is a wonderful storyteller! Shortly after reading his book about the Baghdad Zoo, I read that he had died the year before and the elephants had come into their yard and stood vigil for three days! After reading this book, you know why!

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