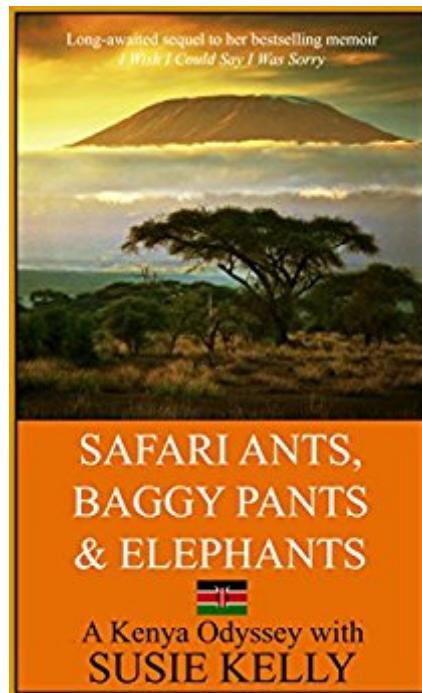




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# Safari Ants, Baggy Pants And Elephants: A Kenyan Odyssey



## Synopsis

The long-awaited sequel to Susie Kelly's US Top 40 ranking memoir *I Wish I Could Say I Was Sorry* More than 40 years after leaving Kenya, Susie unexpectedly finds herself returning for a safari organised by an old friend. With her husband Terry, Susie sets off for a holiday touring the game reserves, but what she finds far exceeds her expectations. In this, her seventh, travelogue, she takes readers from five star hotels to luxury tents in the wilderness, and to poverty in Nairobi's slums, describing a journey of joy, excitement, discovery, nostalgia, of new friendships and encounters of the very close kind with Kenya's majestic wildlife. Forgotten memories come flooding back as she revisits the scenes of her childhood and adolescence, so movingly portrayed in her popular memoir *I Wish I Could Say I Was Sorry*, many of them changed beyond recognition. Written in her characteristic laid back style, this is a travel tale that will appeal to all those readers who have enjoyed Susie's previous books, as well as anybody who has lived in or dreams of visiting Kenya, the magical land Susie still thinks of as 'home'. Vivid, moving, entertaining. Anybody thinking of taking a safari holiday in Kenya, or who would like to take an armchair safari to Kenya, should read this book. "Hemingway wrote: 'I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up that I was not happy.' That is how I feel about Kenya. You feel at once insignificant and amazing, just for being here. This magnificent, beautiful country, birthplace of mankind, owner of my heart." Susie Kelly, 2017

WHAT READERS ARE SAYING: 'I've just been on a wonderful safari trip to Kenya! At least that's how it felt. As a lover of all wildlife this was a trip that I could only ever dream about, but this book more than satisfied my curiosity and thirst for knowledge about African wildlife.' MRS BLOGGS BOOKS 'A wonderful & poignant African safari. Being an animal fanatic I enjoyed learning so much about African wildlife from this book and also the incredible people who care for, and protect it' SUSAN KEEFE 'Susie is a great ambassador for Kenya. It's the best safari experience you are likely to get, without going on safari!' FRENCH VILLAGE DIARIES 'I consider myself rather knowledgeable about wildlife, yet I still found plenty here that was new to me about the animals and the Masai Mara in particular.' ANDREW IVES 'Susie Kelly's books are always a delight to read. The descriptions were informative, insightful and at times hilarious.' 'Wonderful read. I have avidly read each of Susie's previously published books.' 'One of my best reads ever. Cannot recommend this book enough - beautifully written (as always) and having lived in Kenya myself during the same period empathise totally with every word she writes.' 'Personal, Funny, Informative and Memorable! It's so very well-written, so easy to read, so funny and entertaining, so informative and educational.' 'I'm a big fan of Susie Kelly and her travels. Susie - where you going next? I'll be in my armchair right there with you!' 'What a fabulous trip.

Delightful.”Thoroughly enjoyable as well as being informative. Certainly made me look forward to such a journey some day!”Susie Kelly has a wonderful way with words and descriptions and a fantastic sense of humour.”More than your average safari. I pre-ordered the book, received it on 6th June and read it the same day...phone off the hook and cup of tea at hand. I will be reading it again, many times.”Susie Kelly is one of my favourite authors and this book didn’t disappoint.’ ‘What a fantastic read. I have read all of Susie Kelly’s books, some of them three times.’

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a new breed of book - and author. At such an attractive price I could hardly pass up the Kindle version of the book. I sense that Susie Kelly is a woman who simply loves to communicate, loves to play with the language, and is having the time of her life in retirement (approaching 70, by my reckoning). This book takes her back to Kenya, where she spent her childhood, to go on safari at the invitation - insistence - of a childhood chum. She has a kind, self-deprecating yet penetrating

take on all she sees. She is generous with credit to the Kenyans whose hospitality she so enjoyed, as well as those with whom she grew up. She manages to be somewhat kind to the ex-husband who ran off and kidnapped her kids so long ago! An author can learn a lot by observing her sense of style. For another account of a childhood in Kenya of that era, see Richard Dawkins. Kelly gives an account of the two week Safari which hit the major wildlife parks of Kenya. The map in the back of the book shows their route. They arrived in Nairobi, drove south to the Amboseli Nature Reserve on the Tanzanian border just opposite Mount Kilimanjaro, then north past Nairobi to Mount Kenya, straddling the equator, northeast a few miles to Samburu, southwest back to the Tanzanian border and then straight east back to Nairobi for the return. They made the trip in Land Rovers specially equipped for taking photos, recharging cameras, snacking and napping. Kelly gives warm, appreciative descriptions of the Kenyan drivers and spotters on the trip. She had adored her childhood in Kenya and finds good words for just about everybody. She is especially enthusiastic about their hardy and sincere welcomes. The catalog of wildlife that they saw was astounding. It starts off with the big five – the animals that every Safari has to show its clients: Elephants, lions, giraffes, rhinos and hippos. But these are only the tip of the iceberg. They came incredibly close, within touching distance, of these and many other species. There were mischievous monkeys and baboons, out to plunder what they could from the tourists. Cheetahs and leopards, oblivious to the humans as they went about their predatory business. A great many kinds of antelope, from the tiny dik dik to the eland. There were also birds of every description. She is especially eloquent about the marabou stork, the lugubrious scavenger described so well in Kipling's "The Undertakers." Kenya is a country of contrasts, with patches of significant wealth, wide swathes of poverty, stately remnants of a colonial past and a fast-paced, garish modernity. The British introduced health standards resulted in a population explosion that brought with it ever expanding slums. Kelly notes several times that her British friends who had no knowledge of Africa were aghast that she would undertake the Safari. They thought that she would be a victim of terrorism, robbery, or predatory wildlife. She knew better – she had grown up there. She describes her run-ins with safari ants and puff adders with a certain nonchalance. Kelly's self-description as an apolitical being is not quite accurate. She is needless to say an ardent conservationist. Though she acknowledges that the standards were different in previous ages, she still shudders at the site of stuffed trophy animals. She worries about global warming destroying the ice cap atop Mount Kilimanjaro and depriving the wildlife at its base of their source of water. It is an altogether enjoyable read. A good study of the British settlers who formed modern Kenya, the Africans who live there, and the adventuresome souls from Britain and the United States who were

up for the trip.

If you buy a book this year, buy this one! It's so very well-written, so easy to read, so funny and entertaining, so informative and educational. If you've never taken a safari, read this book. If you HAVE taken a safari, read this book. If you've never been to Kenya, read this book. If you HAVE been to Kenya, read this book. The author, who has written several well-reviewed books, writes always of personal and memorable experiences. She surrounds these accounts with just the right amount of background information to make everything come so very much alive. After you've read this book you will want to read more Susie Kelly books if you haven't already. And you may just want to sign up for an As You Like It safari. When you've read this book, or maybe even before you read this book, take the time to look at the marvelous slideshow of photos on the book's website. These accounts are truly unforgettable. This book is great, spread the news!

I'm a big fan of Susie Kelly and her travels. This truly was an homage to a place she lived and grew up in. She loved it and it shows on every page. You can learn a lot about Kenyans and the wild life and get a better understanding of Kenya in all its glories and problems. Susie - where you going next? Ill be in my armchair right there with you!

Enjoyed this book.

I love this book. It brings back many fond memories . Great writing style.

Very pleasant read, (except for her parents separation).Very interesting place and time for Susie's childhood.

I thoroughly enjoyed this latest book of Susie Kelly's.

good read but not the Susie Kelly I expected.

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