



The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild

By Lawrence Anthony, Graham Spence

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When South African conservationist Lawrence Anthony 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 account 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, it is a delightful book that will appeal to animal lovers and adventurous souls everywhere.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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From [Booklist](#)

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

Review

"Anthony has made a difference in the lives of many magnificent animals who otherwise would have been lost to the world. When you're feeling down and out and defeated and ready to give up, read this inspiring book and share it widely with others."

--Marc Bekoff, author of *The Emotional Lives of Animals*

"In my thirty-five years of studying man/animal communication I have met only a few individuals who have the ability to enter into the metaphysical realm of the exotic animal. Lawrence Anthony has been there and back. His wonderfully written book *The Elephant Whisperer* is a true reflection of his ability to be one of the pachyderms."

--Ralph Helfer, author of *Modoc*

"A lovingly written tale of close encounters, some beautiful and some frightening, with humans and nonhumans alike. Anthony's story of his trials and tribulations in preserving a herd of African elephants is a parable for the continent."

--Irene M. Pepperberg, author of *Alex & Me*

"An engaging and vividly personal account, *The Elephant Whisperer* invites you in, as confidant and confederate, from the first page and holds you rapt to the very last. A compelling reminder of the power and mysteries of the natural world, Thula Thula's elephants are lucky to have a friend like Lawrence Anthony."

--Amelia Thomas, author of *The Zoo on the Road to Nablus*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Abel:

The particular book *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this book.

Forest Nelson:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild*, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Michael Clements:

Beside that *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* in your phone, it can give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you may got here is fresh from the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* because this book offers to your account readable information. Do you at times have book but you do not get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss this? Find this book as well as read it from today!

Harold Young:

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colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild can make you feel more interested to read.

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