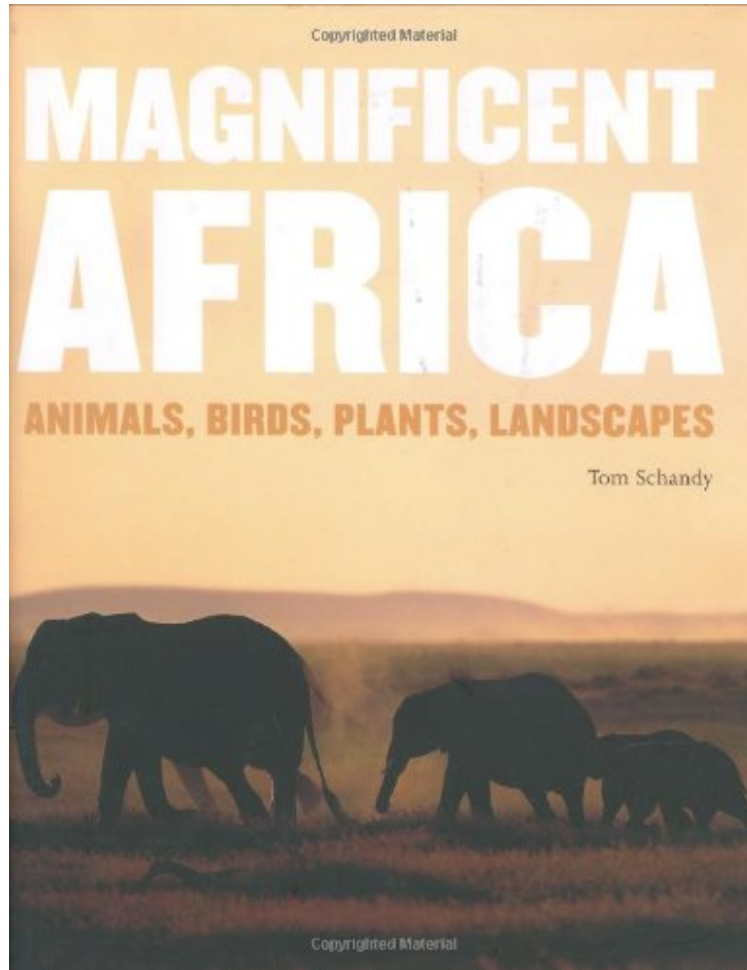


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Magnificent Africa: Animals, Birds, Plants, Landscapes

Tom Schandy

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Tom Schandy : Magnificent Africa: Animals, Birds, Plants, Landscapes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Magnificent Africa: Animals, Birds, Plants, Landscapes:

For more than two decades, wildlife photographer Tom Schandy has been crisscrossing the African landscape, recording its incomparable beauty and capturing unguarded moments in the lives of its animals. Magnificent Africa, a collection of his finest work, takes us into the jungles, deserts, wetlands, and savannahs of this fascinating continent. We see lions mating, antelopes grazing, and elephants bathing in photos that give us an unparalleled sense of being there. We also view, close up, some of Africa's most beautiful plants and trees. Tom Schandy, one of Norway's foremost photographers, has received numerous awards for his work, including honors in the world's most prestigious competition: BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award.

From Publishers Weekly Africa's economic struggles often overshadow its ecological riches, but Schandy's photos bring them to the fore. Schandy, a photographer who works extensively with the World Wildlife Fund, has journeyed often through Africa, and in this book he combines travelogue with history and science in the passages that accompany his stunning photographs. The book's largest section is given to the savanna region where wildebeests, cheetahs and giraffes roam, but he also ventures into mountains and forests, deserts and river and lake regions. There are many beautiful tableaux like the view of a Botswana sunset, but some graphic photos (a lioness devouring a wildebeest, a hyena trotting off with a severed antelope leg) won't appeal to the squeamish. Schandy's macro work—the giant lobelia's blossom of leaves and small creatures like chameleons—leaves as memorable an imprint as the magnificent landscape shots, including a particularly grand panoramic of Mount Kenya at sunrise. The text provides in-depth explanations of the natural phenomena in the photos, from relating the legend of the warthog's ugliness (hint: it has something to do with the perils of vanity) and the history of Mount Kilimanjaro to discussing how flamingos eat. Though the gorgeous photos could stand alone, Schandy's enthusiasm and awe are palpable in his writing, so that the words add to the photos rather than being mere afterthoughts, and the result is an engrossing journey through a singular land. 130 color photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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