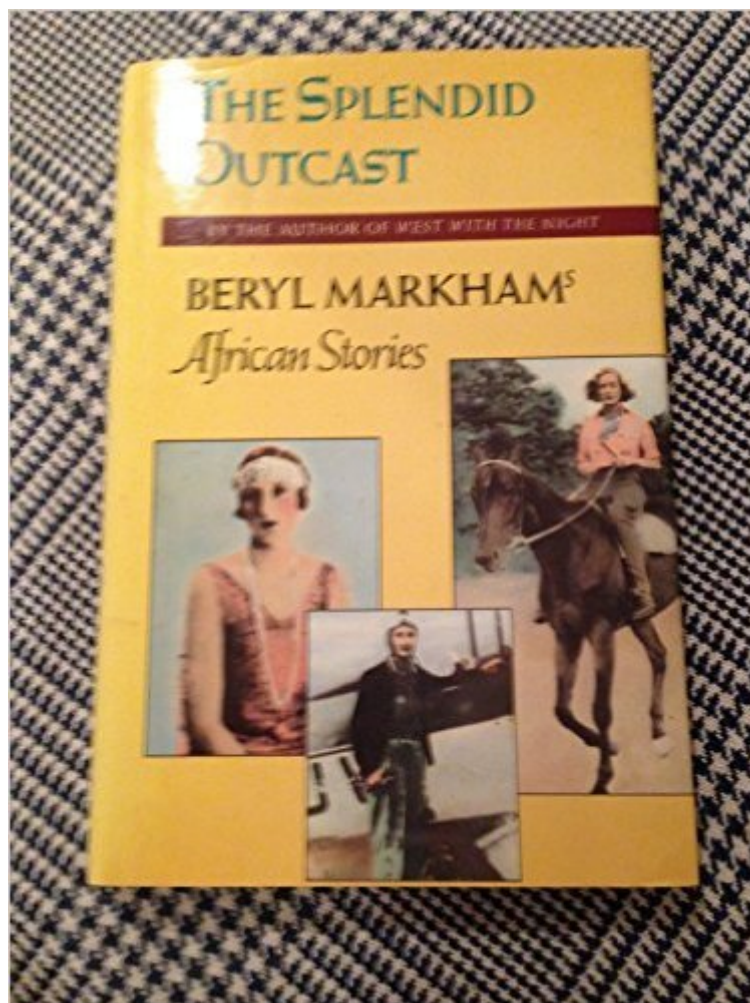


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Splendid Outcast: Beryl Markham's African Stories



Synopsis

Written in the '40s for magazines such as Ladies' Home Journal and Collier's, these eight stories belong both to their time and to their author, the aviatrix and horse-trainer whose bestselling *West with the Night* detailing her 1936 solo flight east to west across the Atlantic was recently reissued. About horses, flying and romance, the early autobiographical stories in particular are vivid with details of African custom and landscape gleaned from the author's early life in Kenya. The last four stories, more obviously fictional and broadly romantic, are likely collaborative efforts of Markham with either her third husband, writer Raoul Schumacher, or her friend and fellow writer, Stuart Cloete; they are more commercial and less satisfying. That this accomplished woman wrote tales so determinedly romantic seems rather odd; yet, as Mary S. Lovell observes in helpful and clearly written introductions, such was the magazine market in those war years. *West with the Night* and this volume comprise Markham's known written work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I read a writer such as Beryl Markham, I like to read the auto-biographical stories the best. Those essays were utterly wonderful. The fictional stories were okay, but on the romantic side. I'm not a fan of romance writing. This wouldn't stop me from reading anything else by Beryl; it even made me want to go back and read *West With the Night*.

After reading Markham's "West in the Night" I was anxious to read more on the life of Beryl Markham. "Splendid Outcaste" is a group of short stories written by Markham for popular

magazines of the day and compiled by Mary Lowell. Some of the stories are historical fiction, some are pure fiction and some are auto bio. All are prefaced by Lowell with "the rest of the story". It was an enjoyable read but not up to "West of the Night".

I have now read everything written by Beryl Markham and about Beryl Markham that is available on . This collection of stories is somewhat a rehash of her book, *West with the Night*, which was quite good. They were both written more than 50 years ago so the style is sparse and quick to the point. I'd recommend *West with the Night* to get to know her (quite adventuresome she was - professional horse trainer when that wasn't done by women, world record setting aviatrix when there were very few) and then decide if you want to go for more.

Beryl Markham wasn't just an over the top woman...she was an expert thoroughbred trainer, an accomplished pilot, and a fantastic writer! I share her stories with many friends. So many have never heard of her. She was amazing especially in her time.

A wonderful look at life in Africa in the first half of the 20th century. The stories, many autobiographical, are exciting and well written. Several stories are especially geared toward admirers of the horse. Most are great stories for young people and teens.

The Splendid Outcast: Beryl Markham's African Stories is a welcome addition to her autobiography *WEST WITH THE NIGHT*, and the biographic film *SHADOW ON THE SUN*. Ernest Hemingway admitted that she was a better writer than he was and who am I to say otherwise?

absolutely one of the best reads of my life...i forced myself to slow read it to savor it like an old friend...SO much better than that treacly bulls*** made up offensive bio..This one is it...and I will reread it after it stops circulating among my people!

I love Beryl Markham's writing. She's a brilliant story-teller, and as she mostly wrote from personal experience, I love it all the more. I'm a bit disappointed in this anthology however, as the tone of her tales is more dark and heartrending. As a matter of fact, where I usually can't put her work down, this particular book hasn't been finished yet. I find I have to steel myself somewhat.

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