

# SANCTUARY

BY

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AUTHOR OF

"WE'RE TELLING YOU," "STUBBLE," "—AND THE LAITY LAUGHED,"  
"POTTED POLITICIANS," "A SACHEL OF SONG," ETC.

WITH A FOREWORD BY

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCESS  
OF GREECE

A MESSAGE FROM

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A TRIBUTE FROM

Mrs. J. C. SMUTS

AN APPRECIATION BY

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRINCE AND  
PRINCESS GEORGE OF GREECE AND DENMARK

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AND OVER SIXTY POEMS BY

C. S. STOKES

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"No civilization is complete which does not include  
within its sphere of charity and mercy the dumb and  
defenceless of God's creation."

—*Queen Victoria*

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## Chapter IV

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### THREE TONS OF BAD TEMPER

*THE white rhinoceros a rarity.—Size.—Suggestive of Bellona's tank.—Misnomers, "white" and "black."—Black variety a fire-eater.—The tape measure's tale.—Single thrust kills twenty-two natives.—Should see an oculist.—Unsociability.—Age attained.—Horn's supposedly magic properties.—An Oriental love potion.—Pigmy species.—His feathered friend.—He'd neatly clip your garden hedge.—Last stands in the Cape and Orange Free State.*

#### I



IF the rhinoceros, it has been written :

*“ His brain is small, his bulk immense,  
His sight is dim, his hearing tense,  
He's lacking most in common sense.”*

These three lines appropriately introduce the subject of this chapter.

The Kruger Park's representatives of the rhinocerotid family inhabit a densely-bushed section of the Lower Sabi area, but because of the jungle nature of much of their territory, no attempt has been made to compute their number. The so-called white rhinoceros, a huge beast of generally peaceful inclinations and celebrated as being among the world's rarest creatures, was, until about the sixties of last century, indigenous to tracts now embraced by the Kruger Park, where it was destined to become non-existent.

About 1860 João Albasini, a trader of Portuguese nationality, arrived on the Transvaal's lowveld. He recruited native hunters, whom he armed with guns, and through them reaped rich harvests of the chase. Its naturally placid temperament, and the weight and worth of the great skin, frequently made

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the white rhinoceros a target for the hunters, and within three or four years of the opening of Albasini's campaign the lowveld lost it. Natives other than those employed by the Portuguese trader had likewise made onslaughts upon it. Bows with tip-poisoned arrows were mainly their weapons, although they also used game pits.

Sanctuary measures have enabled various faunal groups to recover from the toll taken by hunters, but the white rhinoceros has not returned to the Transvaal's lowveld. To-day this modern mammoth—its height is often six and a half feet, its circumference twelve feet, and its length about fourteen feet—is roughly three hundred strong in Zululand, while the Belgian Congo, the Sudan, and Uganda\* have small numbers, although those in Zululand actually form an isolated sub-species.

A census of the white rhinoceros population in the four territories named would furnish the return for the entire world, and it is doubtful whether the collective figure would exceed fifteen hundred. Thus we appreciate what an important attraction South Africa possesses in this huge beast, which has never been available for view in captivity. Its appearance sends one's thoughts back to prehistoric times, and its skin's seeming misfit brings to mind the story of a small boy who took his stand in a witness box to give testimony in an action instituted by his father. The little fellow was just about lost in the garments which he wore, and he presented so ludicrous a picture that the magistrate asked why he had so strangely attired himself before attending court. "The lawyer told me, sir," the youngster replied, "to appear before you in my father's suit."

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\* In July, 1940, it was officially estimated in the Belgian Congo that the white rhinos there numbered three hundred, and about the same time the Uganda authorities set their total at two hundred and twenty. In September, 1940, the Sudan had five or six hundred.

**Giant Tank** — Nature's Model: A  
Marcuswell-Maxwell study, complete with rhino-  
ceros birds.



**"THAT PHOTOGRAPHER WILL ANNOY ME  
SOME DAY":** This picture of a white rhinoceros  
in Zululand is reproduced with acknowledgment  
to Dr. Herbert Lang.



### *Three Tons of Bad Temper*

In a sense the rhinoceros is armour-plated, and one might be pardoned for expecting it to clank into the picture. In degree, too, it is suggestive of the battle tank. Bizarrely loose-fitting in places, its tough inch-thick hide\* mocks the fiercest fangs and claws, and, cut into slabs roughly two feet square, it provides excellent table tops, each weighing approximately thirty pounds.

Perhaps the day will come when a party of Zululand's white rhinoceroses will be established in the Kruger Park. Such a transfer, which might be practicable, although costly, has been discussed more than once.

## II

Both rhinos are greyish, so that their distinguishments "white" and "black" are misnomers; but they are very different in temperament. Downright disagreeableness is commonplace on the part of the smaller and darker beast (known as the black), which can be a veritable fire-eater. When fully grown, it weighs three tons or more, and its height, to the top of the shoulder, normally exceeds five feet. The tape will probably show a ten-foot girth, while a nose-point to tail-tip measurement of a little over eleven feet is ordinary.

Notwithstanding the devastating purpose to which the horns can be turned, they are attached not to the skull, but to the skin, and are of agglutinated hair. They are very tough, and although only skin deep, have great lifting and penetrating strength. The longer of the two is a truly fearsome weapon which has sent many a hunter to his death.

"Rhinoceros" signifies "nose-horned." Against the single horn of the Indian type, each of the African varieties has two, the anterior of the white rhinoceros usually growing to about

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\* The hide is probably thicker along the back in old specimens.

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three feet, the posterior being short. In the smaller African type the anterior horn is often a dozen inches long, although frontal and other lengths of fifty-three and twenty-nine inches respectively have been known. A horn of sixty-two inches has been yielded by a white rhino. As a rule, records of this nature are established by females.

An idea of the strength of the beast will be gained from an accredited account of an East African tragedy. Twenty-two native slaves, marching in single file, and chained one to the other by the neck so that they formed a connected line, were charged by one of the pachyderms of the black (and blacker-hearted) brigade. A man occupying a centre position in the row was struck and was impaled on the horns, the shock of the onslaught breaking the neck of each of the other twenty-one captives.

Another authenticated story tells of a well-known South African hunter who approached a white rhinoceros of particularly fine horn length. He took no precautions because of the animal's natural placidity, in such contrast with the more or less perpetual bad temper of the darker type; but he had found an exception, for the monster charged. Its front horn passed sheer through his thigh and through the body of the horse. The hunter and his mortally wounded mount were then tossed into the air, and many months passed before the man's severe leg injury was healed.

Unusual as it is for the white rhinoceros to show temper, in February, 1936, one of the beasts forced five sightseers in the Hlululuwe Reserve, Zululand, to seek safety in a tree. They remained aloft for about two hours, until their gaoler left the vicinity. That offender had a bad reputation, and, shot by official decree, it received the attention of a taxidermist. The mounted specimen became the property of the Natal Museum at Pietermaritzburg.



III

The black rhinoceros is thoroughly erratic. One never knows what it will do. Without provocation or urge of appetite it craves to spread destruction. Something may disturb it. A breeze may give it tidings of near-by humanity. With twisted-up tail, it perhaps decamps speedily from the scene. But more probably it expresses its agitation by snorts and puffs, a stamping of the ground, and a vigorous shaking of the head. Following these preliminaries to its advance, it breaks into a slow trot. But its pace changes, and it soon reaches a speed of forty-five miles an hour. In the areas which it favours, it would out-distance a horse in a two-mile race. As it thunders on, the earth in the immediate neighbourhood almost seems to tremble, but the object of the rush may escape unscathed if, at the psychological instant, he steps aside. The irascible three-tonner will then blunder past and beyond him, for it has limitations in sight and agility. Indeed, it is so short-sighted that from a distance of forty or fifty yards it cannot differentiate between a rock and a stationary man.

A rhinoceros may be asleep in the warmth of day, but if, with a breeze in its direction, a man approaches, it will be awakened by the tell-tale scent. As it ploughs through undergrowth, it creates such a commotion with its blowing, snorting, and whistling, that one might justifiably visualize a runaway locomotive.

As a red object or article may rile the farmer's bull, so a camp fire will enrage the rhinoceros. Then with hasty zest it charges the flames. Fortunately its approach is noisy, giving the round-the-fire party time in which to disperse. Yet when it so chooses, it moves silently, or practically so, and in some of its natural settings, its colour tends to merge into that of the surroundings.

**W**HEN folk talk of the tiger horse, they focus  
thoughts on me,  
(So spoke the zebra as he frisked and kicked in  
ecstasy),  
And footballers and I have some affinity (he  
claimed),  
For jerseys patterned like my coat on playing fields  
are famed.

★

Though my stripes suggest a convict, I'm as free  
as space and air,  
But I own it's always prudent of Foe Leo to  
beware :  
The wildebeest's my boonest friend—he's com-  
monly with me--  
And when the warthog joins us, we're an odd-  
assorted three.

★

Years ago I had a kinsman—the quagga—but my  
race  
Was bereft of his sub-species by hunters in their  
chase :  
It was his annihilation that among men sowed  
the seed  
From which game protection rooted, in response to  
urgent need.

## Chapter XVI

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### WITH THE WHITE RHINOCEROS IN ZULULAND

*AMONG the Zulus.—The Hluhluwe Reserve.—Highly spectacular region.—Rest huts.—The bushbuck and nyala described.—Livingstone's antelope.—Urgent need for a white rhino stronghold.—Lions and elephants in the Mkuzi Reserve.—The Ndumu.—Elephants seen there.—St. Lucia Bird Sanctuary.—Richards' Bay Reserve.*

#### I

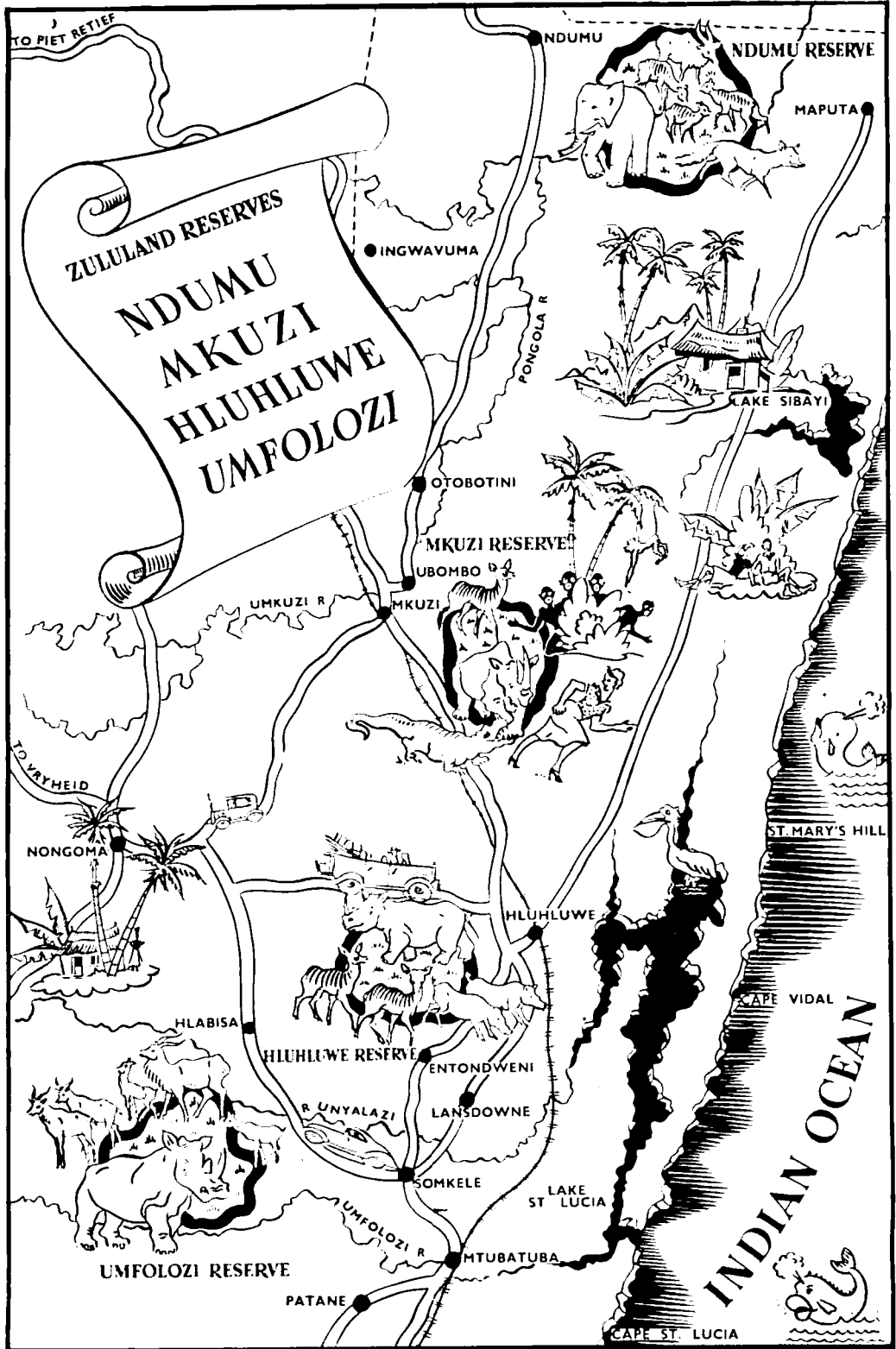


IT was high noon in Zululand. Now and then, in grove or gully, monkeys squabbled for shade. Here a mierkat, there another, paused in the sunshine to give us inquisitive greeting.

Up low huddled hills, through pleasant valleys, our car throbbed, the road twisting as if made by a practical opponent of Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson's liquor views. A sense of inactivity lay about the native huts. Few Zulus, we decided, were abroad. But we were to find ourselves mistaken.

Water being needed for the car's radiator, we halted. Then Zulus came flocking around us, some merely curious, others commercially inclined. They were scantily clad, some boasting little beyond a string or two of beads.

A young woman, proud in her loin-cloth, asked four shillings for a bangle of kraal workmanship. Words flowed freely from prospective buyer and seller alike, until the adornment changed hands for eighteen pence. Another damsel, with numerous clicky ejaculations of readily-assumed dismay, removed her beaded snuff-box from her neck. The long



*With the White Rhinoceros in Zululand*

and argumentative business was over, and the trinket was the white man's property. But the price paid for it was only a third of that at first suggested by the erstwhile (and, from a revenue-raising point of view, optimistic) owner.

Meanwhile Piccanin Ngigin'indhlovu (the combination of n's and i's and other alphabetical characters means "I have swallowed the elephant") had gone for water for the car. Ngigin'indhlovu had named three shillings as a fitting reward for his toil; but finding us without enthusiasm, he had agreed to accept a threepenny piece. Fate had severely jested with him, for he was a piccanin of stunted stature.

At last Ngigin'indhlovu, returned from his pilgrimage and clamouring for his reward, jabbered his way in upon us as we bartered and bought, giving sweets, cigarettes, or a coin in exchange for a curio. So the car was given water, and soon we had left the gesticulating and chattering humanity far behind us.

\* \* \* \*

Despite decades of some contact with Europeans, the Zulus largely retain the primitive customs and beliefs of their forefathers, "in happy ignorance that our civilization has passed them by."

There are spirits everywhere, usually evil spirits, they assert, and of course the witch-doctor is a natural corollary of such teachings. To be lord over the superstitions of the people, it has been said, is to be lord over their lives.

The witch-doctor is reputed to perform remarkable feats. He is credited with the power to ward off or bring evil to a kraal, cause rain to fall, and control the elements generally. And his love potions are claimed to make a young woman favour the suit when a tottering veteran courts her. There is the medicine-man, too. His knowledge of herbs is considerable, and no doubt his aid is timely on occasions.

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Often the Zulu is unable to count his wives on the fingers of one hand, and as the tending of his fields and crops, his flocks and herds, falls to them, not infrequently he is a rather idle fellow. He gives half a dozen cattle, or perhaps a dozen, to the father of a girl in exchange for her, so that he buys his wives.

### II

It was mid-afternoon when we reached the Hluhluwe Reserve. It is about a hundred and eighty-five miles by road from Durban, and is linked with Mtubatuba railway station by a thirty-mile road which offers the motorist a smooth run.

The reserve, established in 1897, covers about forty thousand acres, and its creatures include white and black rhinos, the buffalo and zebra, and the rare nyala, so strikingly handsome. The wildebeest is common there, the antelope family being further represented by the kudu, waterbuck, bushbuck, impala, reedbuck, mountain reedbuck, steenbok, klipspringer, and duiker, the last-named in the common, blue, and red varieties. The warthog, bushpig, hyena, and baboon are likewise of the community. So is the shy and seldom-seen Livingstone antelope, which is rare in the Union. Of it, more anon. Most of the animals are described elsewhere in this book.

The birds of the area can be absorbing. There is considerable diversity in kind.

The Hluhluwe Reserve is thickly wooded. It is walled by verdant mountains on which dense bush is general, and there are mountains in it, both highveld and low being included within its extent. It has water and grazing in abundance in all seasons, for five rivers water it and pans are scattered through the region. Crocodiles frequent the waterways and their banks.

**CONTRASTING "TRADE-MARKS":** The white band on the hindquarters of the waterbuck is more restrained, but just as much a brand, as the bold "all-over" pattern of the zebra. This is a P. W. Willis photograph from the Kruger National Park.



### *With the White Rhinoceros in Zululand*

The varied scenery ranges from the quietly graceful to the overwhelmingly grand, and the sightseer is enthralled by glories at every turn, whether in a fairyland of peaceful beauty or enveloped by the twilight of a forest's heart.

Winter-time visits are the most popular, for in summer animals are often hidden from sight by long grass. There are car tracks in all directions. From them, wild life may readily be seen when the grass is not rank, and the visitor's enjoyment is enhanced by the alternating grandeur and witchery of the settings. The sanctuary is a paradise, too, for the botanist.

As lions are not found in the Hluhluwe, sightseers are not confined to the roads there, but may ramble hither and thither on foot, although they should not venture to do so unless accompanied by a game guard. A committee appointed by the Natal provincial authorities to enquire into Zululand's wild-life preservation included in its report, "Visitors are not encouraged to wander round the Hluhluwe Reserve without a guard. Even those acquainted with the habits of wild animals find it necessary to have the services of a game guard available, for the black rhinoceros is to be treated with considerable respect and caution. There is no danger if the advice of the guard is followed."

The reserve headquarters are fifteen hundred feet above sea level. Comfortable rest huts, with electric light and hot and cold water, are available at the camp. The charge for the accommodation is low, and bedding, crockery, cutlery, and kitchen utensils are part of the hut equipment.

### III

Apart from being common in the Zululand game reserves, the bushbuck is found in the Kruger Park, the Addo Park, and elsewhere in the country. It is up to about three feet in



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height, and sometimes weighs a hundred and fifty pounds. The spiralled horns, which are grown by the males only, can be strikingly massive; but they vary, and sometimes are not heavy. Specimens nearly twenty-two inches long have been obtained, although a length of fifteen inches is good.

There are different types of the bushbuck, and consequently variety occurs in the coat colour. The males are often slaty-brown, the females frequently being of a rich brownish-red. Both have markings in white. In the female, these commonly include stripes:

The males fight among themselves to such an extent that the number slain in such battles exceeds that of any other South African antelope similarly killed. The Honourable W. H. Drummond\* told of a man and a leopard being killed by a bushbuck, and Colonel Stevenson-Hamilton has written that the formidable wild dog may lose its life in a like way.

The bushbuck, which was described in 1775 by one of the pioneer travellers in South Africa, takes great bounds, and F. Vaughan Kirby once measured two successive leaps. Together they covered thirty-four feet, one being of eighteen feet.† The antelope is a good swimmer, and does not hesitate to plunge into water when pursued. It is extremely watchful and of highly sensitive hearing. Whether male or female, it barks hoarsely when it sees or senses danger. When the male is angered or alarmed, the mane on its back rises.

The antelope shows a great partiality for bush, as its name suggests. It grazes to some extent, but is primarily a browser.

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\* Author of *The Large Game and Natural History of South and South-East Africa*, published in 1875.

† Kirby wrote in one of his books, "Few people credit the distance which these heavy-looking animals (bushbucks) can cover at a bound. I measured leaps of sixteen and eighteen feet—thirty-four feet in two bounds."

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Usually it is found near water, and is often seen singly. While to it "three's a crowd," pairs are frequently observed. Now and then an albino bushbuck occurs.

*SOME may think (remarked the bushbuck) that  
I haven't much to tell,  
But opinions differ widely, as we all know very  
well,  
And dealers on the stock exchange, concerned with  
bulls and bears,  
May, having heard about me, corner bushbuck  
stocks and shares.*

★

*In a book by William Drummond you'll find  
it's told to you  
That my horns have taken human life, and claimed  
a leopard's, too,  
And the warden of the Kruger Park has seen it  
fit to say  
That sometimes I kill hunting dogs when I am  
held at bay.*

★

*And in another volume, one from F. Vaughan  
Kirby's pen,  
My jump is shown to cover fully six yards now  
and then :  
We're jumpers and we're fighters, and our male-  
'gainst-male strife,  
By other bucks unequalled, means heavy loss of  
life.*

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### IV

The nyala is related to the bushbuck, but it is the larger of the two. It is often ranked as the most beautiful of antelopes, of which it is also one of the rarest. It is found in the Kruger Park, usually in the northern parts, but its South African stronghold is Zululand. It is represented, in limited numbers, in Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland. As it feeds by day and is not unduly shy, it is seen without much difficulty, and according to Zululand's game conservator, it is seldom that sightseers in the Hluhluwe make an excursion there without observing nyalas.

The nyala is also known as the inyala and the inyala bushbuck. The coat is soft, that of the male being a bluish-grey, patterned by vertically-running stripes of white. The heavy, shaggy mane, too, is striking, in its contrastive black and white. The limbs, on which chestnut is prominent, are elegant. The height, to the top of the shoulder, reaches forty-four inches, more or less, and the handsome horns curve inward. They grow to about thirty inches and resemble those of the bushbuck, a frequent normal measurement being, say, twenty-seven inches. The female is hornless. She is not as tall as her lord. Her coat has white stripes like his, but is basically of a lightish chestnut.

Nyalas browse and graze, and as a rule are near water. They grunt, and also bark hoarsely and loudly.

"Certainly a full-grown nyala bull is a grand-looking beast," Colonel Stevenson-Hamilton wrote in *Animal Life in Africa*. "His shaggy forehead and dewlap, and his proud carriage, make him appear much larger than his shoulder measurement of about forty-four inches proves him to be. His long spiral horns are laid at a graceful angle with his back as, with head slightly raised, he glances round him. Suddenly

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he curves his bushy tail over his back so that the white underside of it is visible, and canters steadily across the open, to halt at the edge of the bush. . . . He raises his nose until the long horns lie flat along his back, and dives into the tangle, to crouch and dodge under every obstacle with an ease incredible until seen."

Livingstone's antelope, Colonel Stevenson-Hamilton tells us,\* "is found in the densest undergrowth, where it is generally impossible for a man to progress. It is excessively timid and wary, and, instead of bounding away like most small antelopes, runs under covert, crouching and slinking, more like a jackal or cat than a buck. . . . Presently a dainty little form delicately picks its way along, pausing every few steps to look around or feed, every sense evidently tuned to extreme alertness, the slim legs, not much thicker than a pencil, in constant and springy motion."

There are times when the creature "simply vanishes" (says Colonel Stevenson-Hamilton). "The eye scarcely sees it go."

### V

There are about three hundred white rhinos in Zululand, but unfortunately they have no permanent sanctuary there at present. Some are in the Umfolozi Reserve, some—as we have seen—in the Hluhluwe, and others range native areas near the Umfolozi, especially in the dry seasons. They are, of course, among the rarest of mammals, and it is hoped that about sixty thousand acres of Crown land, between the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Reserves, will be added to the Hluhluwe, to form their stronghold.† Because of its abundance of water and good grazing, the region would constitute a paradise for protected wild life, and white rhinos are already there in good numbers.

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\* In *Animal Life in Africa*.

† Not very long ago the Natal Provincial Administration intimated that the Hluhluwe Reserve is to be enlarged in this way.

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There are black rhinos and many buffaloes in the Umfolozi Reserve, while the zebra, kudu, wildebeest, waterbuck, reedbuck, and mountain reedbuck give additional colour to the everyday pictures. So do the red, blue, and common duiker, the klipspringer, steenbok, bushbuck, and other creatures.

The Umfolozi, in which dense bush abounds, is about thirty miles from Mtubatuba railway station, to its north, and approximately forty miles from the railway at Empangeni, to its south. But unlike the Hluhluwe, this reserve is subject to severe droughts and its grazing is often indifferent. Indeed, a commission appointed by the Honourable the Administrator of Natal to enquire into wild-life preservation in Zululand considered that it fell materially short of the ideal sanctuary for game.\* It exists as a temporary reserve, being maintained so that its creatures may be localized to some extent while science wages war on the tsetse fly, troublesome in parts of Zululand. But according to the writing on the wall, it is likely to be deproclaimed in due season.

Lions roam in the Mkuzi Reserve, of a little over sixty-two thousand acres. So do black rhinos. And elephants from Portuguese East Africa, some seventy miles away, now and then visit there. The reserve is thirty miles from Mkuzi railway station. Much of it is flat or of gentle undulations, the settings often being park-like, and there are extensive stretches of thick bush.

Here the beautiful nyala and graceful impala are much on view. So are the zebra and wildebeest. The area also has the kudu, waterbuck, and bushbuck, both types of the reedbuck, and other inhabitants, including Livingstone's antelope.

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\*The commission decided that because of the droughts which occur there, it would be possible to keep the fauna under proper control only through reduction measures on a scale calculated seriously to endanger the preservation of some species. On the other hand, says the commission's report, the Hluhluwe is an ideal sanctuary from the scenic point of view, and it is free from drought.

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But the Mkuzi, established in 1912 near an earlier-proclaimed sanctuary (long since abolished), will probably be disestablished, the commission of investigation, mentioned earlier, having reported that it is not a satisfactory reserve, partly because of droughts there.

The Ndumu Reserve, of twenty-four thousand acres, is connected by road with the rail at Mkuzi, and adjoins Portuguese territory. The Pongola River flows through it, and another river (the Usutu) forms one of its boundaries. An extensive fresh-water lake is in the reserve.

The hippo finds conditions ideal in the Ndumu, where the ponderous creature, its lower jaw "as big as the cot of a ten-year-old child,"\* is in two senses a huge attraction.

Elephants are seen in the sanctuary at times. They cross into it from Portuguese East Africa. Unmolested, they roam the flats and climb the hills,† the freedom of the region being theirs.

## VI

St. Lucia Lake and False Bay with the islands form the St. Lucia Reserve of a hundred and fifty-seven square miles, or a hundred thousand acres. Water covers an area some forty miles long, and, at its widest, twelve miles across. The resort is celebrated as a bird sanctuary, and its feathered inhabitants include the black heron, black-winged stilt, crested guinea-fowl, crane, Egyptian goose, fish eagle, flamingo, francolin, goliath heron, gull, korhaan, little egret, pelican, pou, sacred ibis, spoonbill, spur-winged goose, water hen, wild duck, whistling teal, and white stork.

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\* As described by Edouard Foà, F.R.G.S., in his *After Big Game in Central Africa* (Adam and Charles Black, London).

† Elephants are wonderful climbers, and it is recorded that individuals have scaled Kilimanjaro to a height of fifteen thousand feet above sea level.

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Native life provides fascinating studies thereabouts, and the region has over three hundred hippos. Crocs, too, are common there, and perhaps they remind one that some years ago a crocodile stretched itself across a bridge over the Victoria Nile at Jinja, in Uganda. For over an hour it completely blocked the structure to traffic.

The St. Lucia sanctuary and Mtubatuba railway station are separated by a short and comfortable journey by car. The reserve is famed for its sea fishing, described in the State's *Official Year Book* as "some of the finest obtainable in the Union."

*THE crocodile and hippo made an odd-assorted pair,*

*As side by side they sauntered, near as could be hand in hand,*

*And then, in mighty volume, they committed to the air*

*Their song of jubilation, and it fairly shook the strand.*

★

*The crocodile and hippo sang for very joy that day,*

*And birds of many colours, and kinds, and sizes, too,*

*Full-throated, piped their tribute to St. Lucia and its bay,*

*Where of hunters they know nothing, and their days they're "smiling thro'."*

Hotels at St. Lucia Estuary, about eighteen miles from Mtubatuba, answer the accommodation question.

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Waterfowl in a number of varieties and in very large colonies are seen in the Richards' Bay Reserve, where they are protected. The motorist has a comfortable run of only eighteen miles from Empangeni railway station to the sanctuary.

The fishing at Richards' Bay has wide renown, and hotel accommodation is available there.

Only some of the birds to be seen in Zululand are mentioned in this chapter. The majority are indigenous to the region. But some are migratory. And so unvarying from year to year are their times of arrival and departure that one is not surprised to learn of Red Indians who ask for no better pointer to the opening or closing of a season than that given by the coming or going of birds.

In 1934 Mr. A. E. Charter, O.B.E., during his long term of office as Natal's provincial secretary, publicly spoke of the great service rendered to wild-life protection in Zululand by Senator the Honourable C. F. Clarkson, now the Union's Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Public Works, and Inland Affairs. "I wish," said Mr. Charter, "to express the Provincial Administration's gratitude, which I am sure is shared by all lovers of game, to Senator Clarkson\* for the determined stand he took at the critical time in the history of the reserves (when their abolition was strongly advocated in some quarters). It is safe to say that had it not been for the attitude of Senator Clarkson at that time, and consistently followed since then, there would be no game reserves in Zululand to-day."

\* \* \* \*

Fascination's spell permeates those parts of Zululand dedicated to the preservation of wild life. Novel and refreshing experiences go hand in hand with the sightseer there, where one is completely and happily subject to Nature's rule.

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\* Then chairman of a committee which had been established in the interests of wild life.



**I** *THRIVE* in arid regions (said the gemsbok),  
and though rain

*But rarely gives refreshment to the barren, thirsting  
plain,*

*I'm never thereby troubled, for with hoofs I excavate,  
And moisture-holding bulbs unearth, which fill  
both cup and plate.*

\*

*And then there is a melon that gives food and  
water, too,*

*It flourishes in desert sand, and often sees me  
through,*

*Moreover, in my tummy (let me call a spade a  
spade)*

*I can keep reserves of water—with a storage tank  
I'm made.*

\*

*But not an unmixed blessing is my inside reservoir,  
For lions know about it, and when thirsty crave  
my store,*

*Still, I'm quite a proposition, with my long, strong  
horns, and so*

*It perhaps is vice versa, and I lay a lion low.*