



A REAL AFRICAN COCKTAIL

Life in Mozambique is not what it seems, as we discover in Valerie Pixley's biography *Monkeys in My Garden*

It's hard to believe Mozambique is a country which rarely has stories written about it, when truly extraordinary things happen to the people who live there. Valerie Pixley is one of these people, and she believes that the life experiences she went through were too incredible to keep to herself.

Monkeys in My Garden is a true-life adventure story of Valerie and her husband O'D's life in the Nhamacoa Forest. From an idyllic life in the Algarve that was destroyed by an enormous fire, to a ruin of a house in Mozambique with grass for a roof and no doors or glass in the windows, this is a wild mix of hilarious and hair-raising experiences that involved witchcraft, corruption and even a life-saving miracle.

Colourful characters wander in and out of Valerie's story, including a dangerous spitting cobra and seven armed bandits who attacked her home and stole many of her possessions, including the manuscript for this book – which would have been lost had she not already emailed a copy to her brother in London.

Monkeys in My Garden provides a unique insight into life in Mozambique. Valerie's remarkable experiences reflect the situations that many people living in Mozambique and Southern Africa have often found themselves in.

VALERIE PIXLEY was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa and grew up in Namibia and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). She is married to old Etonian O'D Pixley and for the last 17 years has lived in the Nhamacoa Forest which the Pixleys protect and where they grow indigenous trees in their own personally funded reforestation project. She is self-employed, working in wildlife and forest conservation, and has no professional qualifications "*unless you count survival in a country such as Mozambique!*".



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