



# My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story

*Fransje van Riel*

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"Set in the spectacular wilderness of the South African lowveld and later in Zambia's Luangwa Valley – both vividly portrayed – this is as poignant a tale of unrequited love as you are ever likely to read. And, like the best animal stories, it tugs at the heartstrings without ever descending into anthropomorphism."

Brian Jackman , BBC Wildlife Magazine

"Anyone who has read Joy Adamson's books will rekindle some of that awe of experiencing life in the company of our big cats. Graham Cooke's tale is no less engaging, as written as a first-person account by Fransje van Riel. ...From the start it is clear that over a year Cooke formed a very close bond with his charges, and it's this emotional entanglement that makes the story all the more heart-rending... Author Van Riel does a sterling job of evoking the sights and sounds of the African bush with lush descriptions, and brings readers directly into Cooke's world... I'll admit that the ending brought a tear to my eye."

Nerine Dorman, author and editor

"Vividly told, beautifully written with lovely descriptions."

Andre Eva Bosch, author and journalist

"A must-read for any wildlife enthusiast."

Adel Groenewald

"This compelling story is a "must read" for anyone who loves nature and the challenges of helping two young leopards get back to their wild world. Well written, entertaining and emotional; to be enjoyed."

Richard Leakey

"No other book I know takes you so deeply into the secret world of the leopard."

BBC Wildlife

In 1993 game ranger Graham Cooke was given the opportunity to parent two six-week-old leopard cubs. Establishing himself and his charges in a small tented camp in the middle of the South African bush, Graham set about his task of habituating the cubs to the dangers of the wild in preparation for their eventual release.

But first he had to gain the young leopards' trust. Boycat, the slightly bigger male cub proved to be an easy-going character and, after his initial reservations, he soon settled in. His sister Poepface however was not that easily swayed. Her complex character and strong reservations appeared to persist, despite Graham's efforts to win her trust.

Eventually Poepface relented and so began a love story; a powerful bond.

When a year later Graham prepared the cubs for their release in the remote South Luangwa Valley he knew it was the beginning of the end. Joining the cubs on daily walks to familiarise them with their new home. Graham knew that soon it would be time to let go.

Set in both in the bushveld of South Africa and the wilderness that is the South Luangwa Valley in Zambia, My Life with Leopards is a story with the universal theme of love, loss, danger and heartbreak.

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#### **Ronald Hopkins:**

The book My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to study, this book very acceptable to you. The book My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

#### **Gordon Miller:**

The reason why? Because this My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### **Adrienne Helms:**

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this time you only find guide that need more time to be go through. My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story can be your answer mainly because it can be read by an individual who have those short time problems.

#### **Leah Humphries:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like My Life with Leopards: Graham Cooke's Story which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

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