



A Guide to the Birds of East Africa

By Drayson, Nicholas.

Houghton Mifflin. 1 Paperback(s), 2008. soft. Book Condition: New. Of course, naturalist Nicholas Drayson's charming tale of love and ornithology in Nairobi, Kenya, was bound to be compared to the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series; fortunately, Drayson also the author of Confessing a Murder more than rises to the challenge, and also makes it a more gripping read. We meet Mr. Malik, a shy widower who takes the weekly bird walks of the East African Ornithological Society because they are led by one Rose Mbikwa, a Scottish widow with whom he is secretly infatuated. Just as Mr. Malik is getting up the nerve to invite her to the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball, his old school nemesis, the dashing Harry Khan, shows up and also sets his sights on Rose. Their rivalry takes them on a quest into the jungle: whoever can identify the most of Kenya's thousand bird species in one week wins the right to escort Rose to the ball. While Harry heads off on expensive safaris, Mr. Malik is beset by a plague of problems, including the theft of his car and bird-watching notebook, and an ambush by renegade Somalis. The competition takes on a surprising page-turning urgency, thanks largely...



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