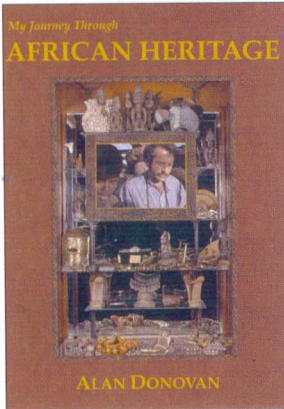


# My journey through African Heritage

*The first ever book review of Alan Donovan's Biography.*



As the cradle of humanity, Africa is known for its unique beauty and the hidden attractions that are yet to be discovered with time. Though many of us do not appreciate and neglect the beauty of our country Alan Donovan in an exciting and appealing way has tried to make us appreciate the beauty of Africa in his

book 'My Journey Through African Heritage'.

The book brings out the vibrant inner beauty of Africa and the unique artifacts that we have. Which include fashion, art, music and textile. Its all about his journey through Africa and what makes it more incredible and fascinating is that we are able to see it through his eyes.

In this book Alan Donovan, the co-founder of African Heritage traces the 30 year journey of the 'African Heritage,' Africa's first Pan African Gallery, the origination of Kenya's African Heritage Festival, and details the construction of the African Heritage House which is regarded as the 'most photographed house in Africa.'

To him, the house represents the culmination of his travels through Africa and his fascination with the mud architecture of the continent and he also gives us a recipe for the house. A detailed information about what was involved in construction of the house and designing process. The most interesting thing is the view outside the house. "Every year around August, I pull back my curtains to be greeted by the sight of Maasai men draped and layered in folds of bright, bold

cotton "shukas", their colorful patterns accentuated against the background of green grass and morning dew" he says.

He also lets us in on people both men and women who have influenced the course of The African Heritage and played a memorable role in its history. These are people in one way or the other have made an impact in his life and made him who and what he is today. For instance, he mentions Maryesta Carr who made an impact by organizing the 'Kenya Maridadi' promotion at the prestigious New York Fashion Institute of Technology. Which was a major boost for the Kenyan market.

This is one book that will take you around Africa in so many different angles, Donovan has covered each and every aspect that is important in his journey. This may sound unbelievable, but 'My Journey Through African Heritage' lets us in on what and why we need to appreciate the simpler things in life and our surrounding and the most important thing he urges us to do is, store and keep our traditional artifacts before they disappear. His main concern is letting us be aware of our roots as Africans.

If you live in Africa, this is one book that will leave you wondering "where have I been all along and how come I haven't heard of this". Be warned, the book is surely addictive and the minute you start reading it, it will be hard for you to put it down. African Heritage has a reputation as a pioneer on the African continent on whatever they put their hands on and this, is one book that is a positive result of that.

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