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A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons

By Sapolsky, Robert M.

Touchstone. 1 Paperback(s), 2001. soft. Book Condition: New. "I had never planned to become a savanna baboon when I grew up; instead, I had always assumed I would become a mountain gorilla," writes primatologist Robert Sapolsky in this witty and riveting chronicle of a scientist's coming-of-age with a troop of rambunctious baboons in Kenya. Also the author of *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* and the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant, Sapolsky writes of his 21 years among the baboons, interweaving serious scientific observations with descriptions of culinary atrocities, gunpoint encounters, and a surreal kidnapping, while witnessing the encroachment of the tourist mentality on the remotest vestiges of unspoiled Africa. "Few would relish a job requiring proficiency with a blowgun as well as a willingness to put up with parching heat, low pay and copious amounts of baboon shit. But for Sapolsky, a Stanford professor and MacArthur grant recipient, it was literally a dream come true. As a boy in New York City, he'd wanted to live in one of the African dioramas at the Museum of Natural History. One week after graduating from Harvard in the mid-1970s, he got his chance: he went to Kenya to study social behavior..."



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