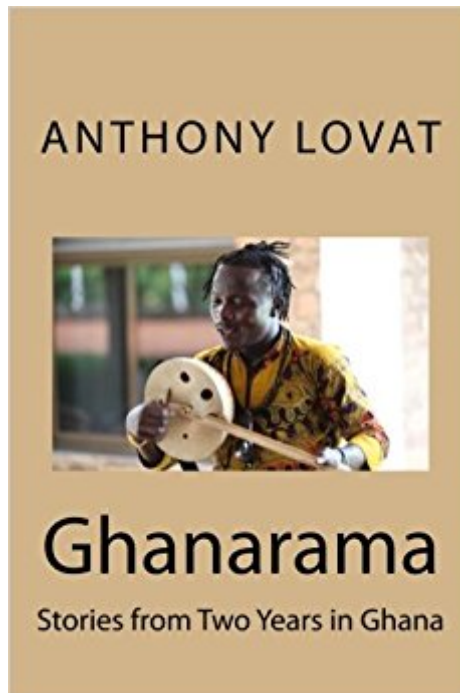


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Ghanarama: Stories From Two Years In Ghana



Synopsis

With a naive sense of adventure and idealism, Anthony and his wife Laura, a teacher and a vet from Croydon, South London, volunteered with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in northern Ghana for two years – a country they knew virtually nothing about beforehand. Their experiences were sometimes depressing, sometimes hilarious and always bizarre. Whether losing a sheep's head during a dissection lesson because the students want to "make soup" or hearing from science teachers how Indian footballers were banned by FIFA for using juju magic to trick the opposition, Anthony fondly describes in hilarious detail experiences that are as unpredictable as they are fascinating. Anthony also describes wider truths about West African politics, history, culture and economics; about the corruptions and double standards within the development industry and how Ghanaians perceive the UK in particular and Europe in general. Global issues are highlighted such as Goldman Sachs profiting from the privatisation of Ghanaian gold mines and the family of one of the July 7th London bombers being from the small town of Bolgatanga - a bustling regional capital in the most optimistic of African nations. A keen musician, Anthony joined a group playing modernised traditional music at weddings, parties and, most importantly, funerals. Whether trying to convince the Regional Government Director for Culture that they are all under twenty-six or playing Michael Jackson on local radio, the trials, hopes and disappointments for TangaCulture trying to break into the Ghanaian music industry make "Spinal Tap" seem like an easy ride. This book paints a picture of an Africa generally ignored by the sensationalist or romanticised media but recognised and loved by all those who have visited this marvellous continent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This a must read for every foreigner visiting Ghana. It is an independent and balanced assessment of the Ghanaian way and makes for very interesting reading. Although the writer spent most of his time in the northern most parts of Ghana he has captured accurately the essence of the Ghanaian people having experienced the culture first hand as VSO volunteer, a bandsman/musician and as a tourist. As a Ghanaian, I was impressed with the writers honesty and fairness and commend the book to all and sundry.

Let me declare my interest upfront: I was in Ghana at the same time as Anthony and I became good friends with him and Laura. I hope this doesn't distort my review of what I believe to be a remarkable record of their experiences. Written with brutal honesty; at times heart wrenching, on other occasions hilarious - in a laugh out loud sort of way - but always thought provoking, intelligent and compassionate. For anyone contemplating volunteering in the developing world or interested in West Africa, particularly life in Northern Ghana, this is a wonderful read.

We plan to visit the home country of our Ghanaian son after having him with us for 5+ years. This book provided a wonderful vision of Ghana that our son could not have provided.

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