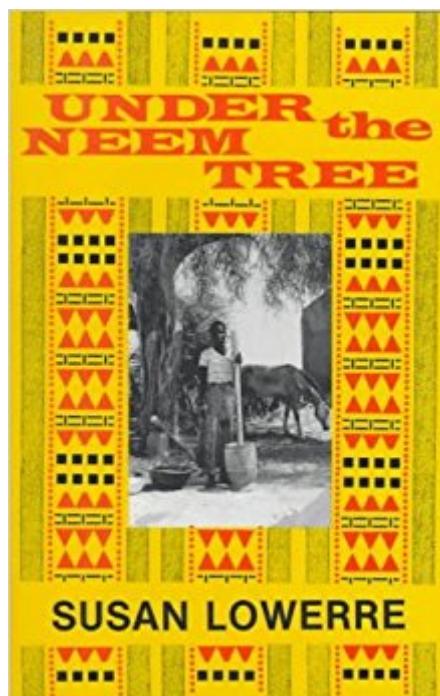


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Under The Neem Tree



Synopsis

Reprint of the Permanent Press edition originally published, Sag Harbor, NY, in 1991. On the adjustment of a Peace Corps worker in northern Senegal. Annotation copyright Book News, Inc. Portland, Or. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

A Peace Corps worker sent to the Sakel to establish a fish-farming project, the author lived with a family in a tiny Sengalese village near the Mauretania border. We share her initial feelings of dislocation as she contends not only with a primitive lifestyle, lack of creature comforts, and the overt sexism of the Moslem men she supervises, but also with her burgeoning relationships with the women in the little compound who become as much her family as her relatives in America. In a guileless narrative filled with affection and anger, Lowerre tells of the ill health and bureaucratic failings that beset her; she acknowledges the Pulaar people's love and good humor, and offers an unprettified closeup of daily life in an African village. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-- An emotionally intense, readable book for mature readers. The neem tree provided Lowerre with shade and sanctuary during her stay in Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer. Both her friends and rivals come alive in this graphic account of her struggle to work and survive in the harsh climate amidst extreme poverty and disease. What comes across throughout is Lowerre's devotion to the Senegalese people; she kept working despite serious health problems of her own. Each chapter

discusses a single event and keeps the pace flowing. This is similar to Mike Tidwell's Ponds of Kalambayi (Lyons & Burford, 1990). He, however, explains the work of the organization more fully while Lowerre helps readers know the people better. There is no glossary of the non-English terms.-Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA
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I enjoyed this book in the beginning. You can certainly tell that Susan is not a writer, but she gets her point across. The reader is presented with a vivid picture of her life in Africa, the challenges she faces, decisions and judgements she makes along the way. Eventually, though, it gets to the point where you grow weary of her self-congratulatory comments. Over and over you read, "That woman wouldn't survive a day in my village," or "Senegal is where I belong, not in this clean, plastic world (America)." Also, unless you care to read a whole lot about fisheries and the work done in them, there is not a whole lot of dimension to the work. She comes across as bitter, angry and self-righteous much of the time, and it gets old. Peace Corps is a choice for a way of life. I, she and several thousand have chosen it now and in the past. Though it is challenging and difficult at times, it's a choice. I see no need to condescend others for making a different lifestyle choice. An okay story, but I recommend "Mango Elephants in the Sun" hands down over this one.

My Peace Corps experience was in Dominican Republic -- Susan Lowerre writes like an angel about her difficult, frustrating, wonderful time in Senegal. The physical [including health] challenges she depicts about her service in Senegal reminded me that I had served in a relatively "easy" Peace Corps country. Despite her travails in-country, what comes shining through in her account is her headlong embrace of life and her love for Senegal and its people. It's an unforgettable story. I recommend this book to anyone -- especially, of course, former, present, and potential Peace Corps Volunteers -- with an interest in understanding other cultures.

She never brought the subject to life. Just unending poverty. Depressing.

Not a glorified look at the Peace Corps but a realistic, gritty account of both the trials and tribulations of serving in the Corps. Lowerre tells how her romantic expectations of life in Africa contrasted with the reality she soon encountered- the heat, the hard life and even the parasites that invaded her body. Even so, she finds herself becoming attached to the people she lives among, to the country and a life that is far different than the one she expected. An excellent, honest memoir.

I am a two time Peace Corps volunteer and "Under the NeemTree" truely captures the Peace Corps experience of manyvolunteers. The small accomplishments, the major disappoint- ments, the challenge of trying to stay physically as well as mentally healthy are all part of this volunteers story.

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