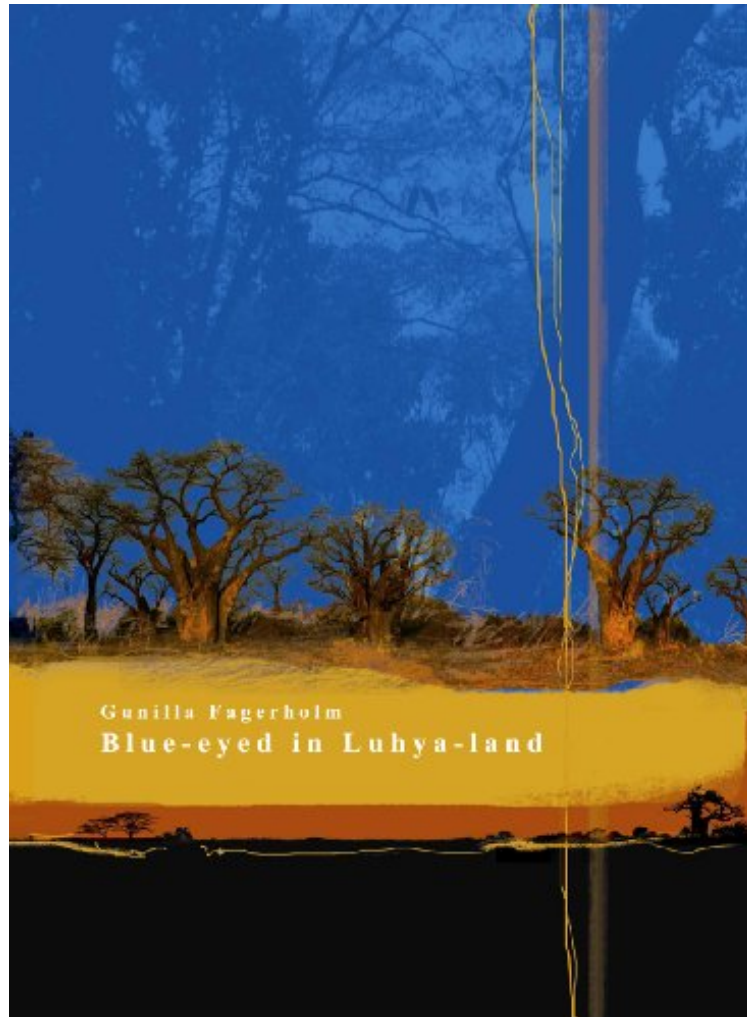


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## Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (English Edition)

*Von Gunilla Fagerholm*

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**Von Gunilla Fagerholm : Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Reviews copied from .com, Goodreads, Smashwords etc.Von Fagerholm GunillaAn Authentic View of Africa, June 2, 2010ByA. Ashdown "Sitatunga" -This review is from: Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (Kindle Edition)This is that rare thing an original, authentic and unvarnished view of Africa as told by an unbiased, idealistic yet pragmatic witness. This is a highly individual and admittedly European perspective but it may be more useful to establish here what it is not. It is not a travelogue, a sentimental sightseeing safari; it is not sensationalist journalism; nor is it a political manifesto with the familiar pre-packed conclusions; not an 'I was there' self-congratulatory and self-important tale of heroism, not another empty instalment of the New Age agenda. Rather, it is a factual, human (originally diarised) account of a

remarkable and ultimately tragic adventure which took place in the unfamiliar, remote region of Western Kenya, deep in the emerald green forest on the slopes of Mount Elgon and close to Lake Victoria. Here, in the most densely populated yet least known, least 'developed' part of Kenya, there existed (still exists) a world remarkably untouched by western influence. This provides the backdrop to the couple's valiant efforts to establish a livelihood - through farming, then building and running a hotel (with a bit of gold-panning thrown in for fun) and finally pioneering a new form of enterprise in the form of mushroom cultivation. The scenes towards the end of the book (glimpsed in the opening chapter), of the couple literally fleeing the threat of mob violence, is as gripping as any fiction, with all the vividness and stark brutality we associate with the worst side of Africa, all the more powerful for its gradual build up through the story and, of course, its utter veracity. This is a good antidote for the all too numerous superficial, lightweight and stereotypical pot-boilers coming off the press and jumping into airport terminal bookstalls (where they belong). Beautifully written, keenly observed and with a true sense of narrative, I found it hard to put down once caught up in the unerringly convincing and intensely human story.-----The adventures of moving your life to a corrupt society, April 8, 2010 By F. Erik "the traveller" (Stockholm, Sweden) -This review is from: Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (Kindle Edition) Blue-eyed in Luhya-land is a non-fiction adventure story, which I recommend to every adventure-loving person having a dream of exchanging his/her sheltered and comfortable life for a new one in a developing country. A middle-aged Swedish couple moves to Africa in full assurance that the public law of their new country, like it has been in Sweden, will guarantee them protection and freedom of action. But as they are trying to build a new and better life, they find that they can not trust anyone or anything. Their dreams fall apart in a harsh reality where no laws are carried out in a correct way and where bribery is expected if you want to start any project, even if it is for the benefit of the suffering locals. Their life turns out a real roller-coaster ride; from one moment to the next they never know what will happen. In their rural village, near the rainforest, corruption is regarded as normal; death is hiding behind the corner; your best friends steal your belongings but still expect to be regarded as friends. It is impossible to communicate because words do not mean the same thing for you as for them. The couple's dreams about helping others are gradually destroyed as they, the hard way, find out that tribal traditions and loyalty, witchcraft and violence are stronger than their wish to succeed. The couple and their belongings seem to be fair game for everyone. And they can not expect any help from the authorities either... Will the blue-eyed couple succeed or will they be defeated by local traditions, witchcraft and violence? This book, in certain aspects, reminds me of another book that I liked very much as a child: Alice in Wonderland. Erik-----Bente from Denmark: So I have finished your book. I have been completely lost - just been reading. I have been in Luhyaland, seeing all the beauty, smelling, listening to the birds and all the noise from people. I like the book very much and it is very well written. You describe the nature, the people and the daily life very good.-----P. Eng, USA: Blue-eyed in Luhyaland - a review "Blue-eyed" is a charming book. It is the account of a Swedish couple, weary of the back-home greyness, that decides to move to Kenya to start a new life in a simpler setting, away from the Nordic cold and the modern treadmill. So, meet Gunilla, the author, and her husband Bertil, the driving motor behind the Kenya project. The plan: To establish a hotel/resort in the Kenyan highlands. All doesn't go well. Almost from start there is a clash of cultures between the Scandinavian couple and the local population. Gunilla and Bertil refuse to adjust to the more-than-a-little corruption that permeates the life in their new home. Firstly, there is an almost complete lack of infrastructure, from water to telecommunications to electricity to - worse! - the social and legal network that Europeans are accustomed to and depend on. Which means that if you encounter people and situations that don't treat you fairly, you are pretty much on your own. Most striking is the utter lack of forward thinking on the part of local dignitaries and the local population. You would think that the influx of foreigners and especially foreign currency to an area that depends on subsistence farming would be a good thing, and that the people and their leaders would see this and support the venture. Not so. An immediate handout (as a bribe is politely called) is chosen every time over the establishment of a job-creating enterprise, just as the trinkets that can be pilfered are chosen every time over job retention. This, unfortunately, is very common and very international, I have seen charity hospital projects in Asia go belly-up because local politicians asked for "handouts" to grant the necessary permits that the donors simply couldn't afford. The end of Gunilla's and Bertil's venture, not unpredictably, is defeat, with their resources severely depleted and in disgust over the way things are. I recommend reading "Blue-eyed" in part for its entertainment value, in part because there is actually quite a lot to learn from it: Build a local alliance with a local strongman, even if you have smoothed the way. Understand the local culture for what it is, rather than for what you are used to or would like it to be, and sit on top of employee production from day one. Sadly, the only perfect vision is hindsight. I am sure that the Riverdale Gardens venture would have ended differently if Gunilla and Bertil had the insight then that they have now. It's too late to change that now, but any reader with similar plans can profit from these experiences. Happy reading! -----A Swedish couple in Kenya, I'm in the safari business, so I have been to Kenya many times and made many friends in Kenya. I love that country very much. The people are so genuinely friendly and accommodating. However, I've never lived in Kenya, I always wanted to, but .... Anyway, it was with great anticipation that I embarked on reading this book, in my native Swedish. What an eye-opener! Wow! This very brave couple gave up all their comforts, everything they were accustomed to in their Swedish socialistic society and

moved to Kenya where you are on your own to fend for yourself as they quickly found out. The laws of Kenya are not there to protect you, as they so naively thought, but to be used by those in power. I give this book three thumbs up for suspense and adventure with some very powerful witchcraft thrown in. A very different book from your regular safari journal. Kristina Trowbridge "WinWin Vacations" (Seattle, WA USA)-----Review: Blue-Eyed in Luhya-Land Posted on October 27, 2011 by shawndaviswrites Blue-eyed in Luhya-land by Gunilla Fagerholm My rating: 4 of 5 stars When circumstances and medical issues urge a Swedish couple to consider living abroad, they are captured and captivated by the beauty of the wilds of Kenya. Their dreams of owning and operating a modest resort soon run into the realities of living on the edge of civilization and all that entails. From the constant problems with power, phone lines, and water distribution to the constant betrayal by those they trust and ever-present issues of theft, Gunilla and her husband Bertil tried desperately to live where modernities are clashing with ancient tribal beliefs. I picked this book up because, looking at an upcoming move to Africa, I am reading as much about the continent as possible. The experiences of Ms. Fagerholm and her husband are eye-opening, to say the least. And, having discussed them with people who have traveled back and forth to less developed areas Africa themselves, they are also completely believable. Ms. Fagerholm's first language isn't English, and I was very pleasantly surprised at how well she translates her story. She is very descriptive, and you can sense the building desperation and exhaustion of their Kenyan life. What she does not do, however, is denigrate Kenya and its people. I think that after her experiences ' which included times when the family legitimately feared for their lives and constant theft by employees ' she might be forgiven for being overwhelmed with anger. And yet, what comes through most of all in her book is a feeling of sadness ' of regret for what might have been. The book begins with the end ' so you know what the outcome will be. But it is the details in how that ending is reached that make the story so interesting.-----3.0 out of 5 stars An Insider's Look Into Living In Kenya, March 2, 2011 By Mandy - This review is from: Blue-eyed in Luhya-land (Paperback) Cover I love the colors and photo editing on this cover. It has drawn me in since the first time I looked at it. Plot This is a very in-depth look at two people's new lives in a strange country. I was amazed at the situations that took place in the lives of Bertil and Gunilla while they lived in Kenya. These two individuals have to be made of strong fortitude and a determination that won't quit. There is no way that I would have lived five years in the same place going through all of the stress and worry they did. Characters Gunilla is the author and one of the people whose story is written in this book's pages. To make the decision to leave home and live in a foreign land (Kenya) is admirable. Bertil is Gunilla's husband and lived with her in Kenya. He is Gunilla's calming influence and support system ... although there are times when he gets upset enough to speak and act out. Overall Blue-eyed in Luhya-land is a very enlightening look into what life is/could be like in Kenya for outsiders. I would recommend this to those who enjoy reading about other countries and ways of life.

Kurzbeschreibung A rather normal middle class Swedish couple in their fifties left their suburban life in Sweden in search of something new a contrast to the secure Swedish Welfare State. They sold their small house, packed their belongings in a shipping container, and left Sweden behind. They went to Africa. This book tells the true story of how they, during five years, lived as the only Europeans in a small village at the edge of one of the last rainforests in Kenya. They moved from a stressed life to a simple one, a clay hut on a maize field in Western Kenya, without any of the modern conveniences. On their own, they built a small rainforest hotel as the start of a new life. But life turned out difficult; corruption, tribal traditions and witchcraft hindered the blue-eyed couple in their efforts to help the suffering villagers. The story reflects this turbulent time with a lot of positive and negative experiences, arising in the meeting of contrasting cultures and traditions; Swedish meeting tribal Kenyan. Kurzbeschreibung A rather normal middle class Swedish couple in their fifties left their suburban life in Sweden in search of something new a contrast to the secure Swedish Welfare State. They sold their small house, packed their belongings in a shipping container, and left Sweden behind. They went to Africa. This book tells the true story of how they, during five years, lived as the only Europeans in a small village at the edge of one of the last rainforests in Kenya. They moved from a stressed life to a simple one, a clay hut on a maize field in Western Kenya, without any of the modern conveniences. On their own, they built a small rainforest hotel as the start of a new life. But life turned out difficult; corruption, tribal traditions and witchcraft hindered the blue-eyed couple in their efforts to help the suffering villagers. The story reflects this turbulent time with a lot of positive and negative experiences, arising in the meeting of contrasting cultures and traditions; Swedish meeting tribal Kenyan.