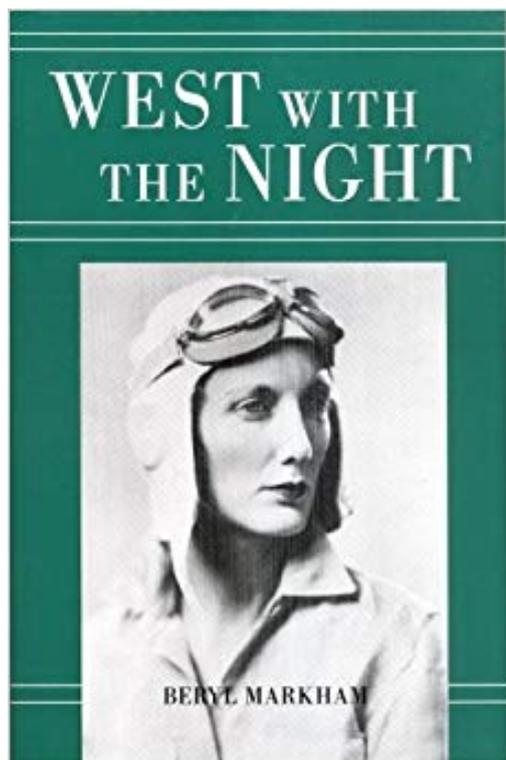


## West with the Night *by* Beryl Markham



### DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



**ISBN:** 0785777032

**ISBN13:** 978-0785777038

**Author:** Beryl Markham

**Book title:** West with the Night

**Publisher:** Turtleback Books: A Division of Sanval  
(January 1982)

**Language:** English

**Category:** Transportation

**Size PDF version:** 1234 kb

**Size ePUB version:** 1873 kb

**Size FB2 version:** 1508 kb

**Other formats:** rtf lrf azw lit

Book by Markham, Beryl



## Reviews of the *West with the Night* *by* Beryl Markham

Zehaffy

West With the Night is a marvelous auto biography of Markham's time in Africa. She was raised on a farm by her father who bred race horses, and became quite an accomplished trainer and horsewoman herself. Since the road system was deplorable or non-existent in the 1930's, small planes delivered the mail and other essentials, and she trained to be a pilot. She conducted groups of hunters on safari, helping them to locate big game, especially elephants which were difficult to locate in the vast areas of Africa.

Her crowning achievement was a solo flight from Europe to Newfoundland, 3600 miles, 2000 of it unbroken ocean, in a small plane with no radio and no electronic guidance systems. She had to let the engine die to ensure that she had completely consumed the fuel in a tank before switching to another tank and restarting the engine! It was an astonishing accomplishment for any pilot, and the first time for a woman to make such a solo flight. She writes with such intensity of the details of the 1936 flight that you feel like you're in the plane with her, gripped with the suspense and surrounded by the black night.

Markham's writing is beautiful and at times poetic, especially when she describes the landscape and inhabitants of Africa. She lived in the wonderful era described so gorgeously in "Out of Africa", and even knew some of the people described in that book. She lived another 50 years after this magnificent feat, and I wish she had been convinced to continue writing.

Umdwyn

I've never read a voice like this--not because of the style, though. Yes, the writing is good and beautiful in parts, but if Hemingway really did say that Markham was a better writer than he, I disagree. For me, the complex long sentences tripped over their own feet at times, overextending metaphor where Hemingway's simplicity would have done better. No--it was the workings of Markham's mind, her philosophy and decision process, that I found truly incredible.

Paula McClain's book *Circling the Sun* is a fictional memoir of Beryl Markham, and *West with the Night* is her actual memoir. I wondered at first why McClain would choose Markham of all people to fictionalize, when Markham had already spoken for herself in this memoir. I was almost irritated. After all, Markham is dead. She can't speak up and say, "that's not how it happened. Read the book I ALREADY WROTE if you want to know." Now that I've finished *West with the Night*, I understand why McClain wanted to write *Circling the Sun*.

Markham writes about how she came to hunt with the Masai tribe as a child in Africa, and how she came to love and train horses (when there were no other women doing it), and how she came to fly planes (when hardly anyone, let alone women, was doing it), but she dwells not at all on her personal relationships or feelings, which for the curious reader should provide context and explanation of Markham's unusual talent and viewpoint.

She writes more about the moody, wise, indifferent nature of Africa than she writes about her own feelings. We have no idea, for instance, what it felt like when her mother left Markham and her father to return to England when Markham was four years old. You don't even know from *West with the Night* that Markham's father practically forced her into marrying an older man at the age of 17 because her father was moving and didn't know what else to do with her. These events undoubtedly shaped Markham's courage and ambition, but *West with the Night* doesn't tell us how.

*West with the Night* is the end result of some strange fomentation within the person of Markham. She writes without arrogance and with plenty of humor about all of her 'firsts.' To Markham, they were simply good ideas. She cared nothing for, or even seemed to think about at all, what other people thought of her. She moved in circles that other women never entered, and was treated as one of the boys. In making life decisions, like the decision to move to Britain, for instance, she was pointed solely by the needle of her own compass. She was happy flying and scouting game in Africa, but wondered what she might be missing. So she moved. Apparently, men followed her. I admit to my morbid curiosity on this point, and I may read *Circling the Sun* for McClain's take on the other parts of Markham's life.

On the other hand, I may not read it. Markham's critics accuse her of not writing her own memoir (it's too good, they say, to be written by her), and of being a home-wrecker. Her critics look for opportunities to criticize her, for of course she is too unbelievable to escape jealousy. Our curiosity about Markham's personal life shares also this unbelieving desire to justify, to show how the rest of us may have gotten from Point A to Markham's Point Z if only we'd been born into similar circumstances. Really, all you need to know is that she did these things, in spite of fear, and did them well. She was luminous and rare. You can sit back and be inspired by her story without having to justify, explain, or otherwise take away from its magnificence by delving into a personal life she preferred to leave private.

Jan

Sheer poetry! I've never been to Africa, I've never flown a plane, I've never trained a race horse... Neither had Ms. Markham until one day, there she was, a British child--an only child--in the highlands of Kenya, her feet at the starting line of becoming the amazing woman she would become. To read this is similar to watching a time-lapse photographic record of an exotic flower bursting into bloom--all the more fascinating because the subject isn't a simple flower but a human being. By doing, one becomes!

The story culminates in an epic, trans-Atlantic flight, but along the way it reads like a marvelous bed-time story--the kind that the Aesop's Fables author might have written if he had lived in Africa, observing human and animal nature in an era that feels farther removed from today than a mere century should seem.

I enjoyed three things about this book: the beautiful language with which it is written, the observations of a world I will never see, and the affirmation that yes, it is possible to become all that one might be if only one takes that first step and then the next and the next.

## Related PDF to **West with the Night** by Beryl Markham

1. [Tyrone Mitchell by Beryl J Wright](#)
2. [Mighty Adventurer of the Planet \(Beryl E. Bean, Book 1\) by Amy June Bates, Ricki Stern](#)
3. [North-west-central Queensland:: An annotated bibliography \(Australian Aboriginal studies\) by Beryl F Craig](#)
4. [According to Queeny by Beryl Bainbridge](#)
5. [The theory of numbers; \(Markham mathematics series\) by Anthony A Gioia](#)
6. [Class and race in cities and suburbs \(Markham series in process and change in American society\) by Leo Francis Schnore](#)
7. [The sociological method \(Markham sociology series\) by Stephen Cole](#)
8. [An Awfully Big Adventure by Beryl Bainbridge](#)
9. [Essays in the Theory of Risk-Bearing \(Markham Economics Series\) by Kenneth Joseph Arrow](#)
10. [Every Man for Himself by Beryl Bainbridge](#)