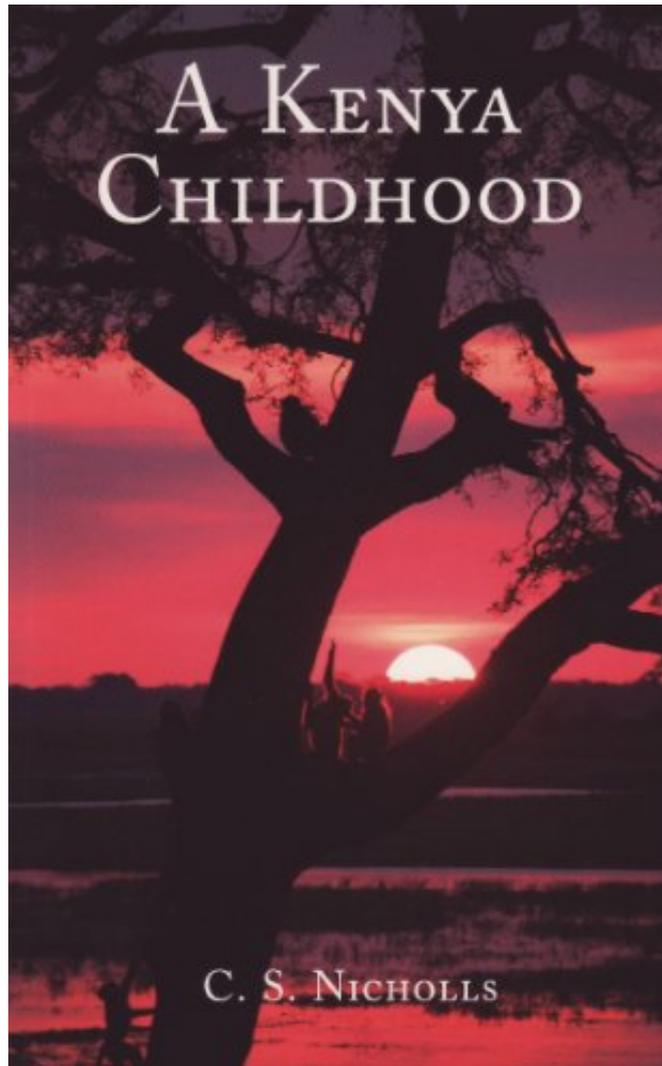


# A Kenya Childhood

*by*

CS Nicholls



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## **Synopsis**

Christine Nicholls (née Metcalfe) grew up and went to school in Kenya in the 1940s and 1950s, the time of the Mau Mau revolt and African aspirations for independence. In this book she describes the impact of these events on the lives of small white children. Her parents were schoolteachers in Eldoret, Nyeri, Nairobi and Mombasa, and life in all these places and their schools is chronicled in lively detail. Her tales of boarding at the Kenya High School in Nairobi, living on Mombasa island, climbing Kilimanjaro and trips throughout Kenya are funny and sometimes sad. Friends, family, teachers – all are brought back to life, thanks to the diaries the author kept. Politics are not eschewed, for white children struggled to understand what was happening. It was a childhood during a unique time – that of the decline and fall of the British empire in Africa, and deserves to be recorded before all memories fade.



























## **What people say about this book**

Tony Edwards, "Colonial Africa through a child's eyes. A Kenya Childhood is a beautifully written account by the author of her life as a child in Kenya during the 1950s. I heard of the book through Shaun, the author's brother. He had been in contact with me regarding my schooldays in Tanganyika, as the country was then known, (now Tanzania.) during more or less the same decade. Although we didn't understand this very well, being children, the days of Empire and Colonialism were fast coming to an end. Thus we experienced not only Africa, but the fast changing Political times that were ensuing hastened if not caused by the second world war. I found the read to be magnetic, drawing me in so that it was hard to put down. The author experienced so much of what I had in Tanganyika in various circumstances and yet at the same time her life was very different. She was a girl with parents as teachers and she lived at home much of the time ending up in boarding school eventually. I was a boy and spent little time at home. I found the jump from the 'good days' in Kenya to the omnipresence of Mau Mau a little sudden, I suspect there must have been a creeping transition there initially that was not recorded in the story but aside from that a most worthwhile, authentic record of a place and time never to be repeated. I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in true-life stories, especially involving Africa. Anthony R. Edwards"

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