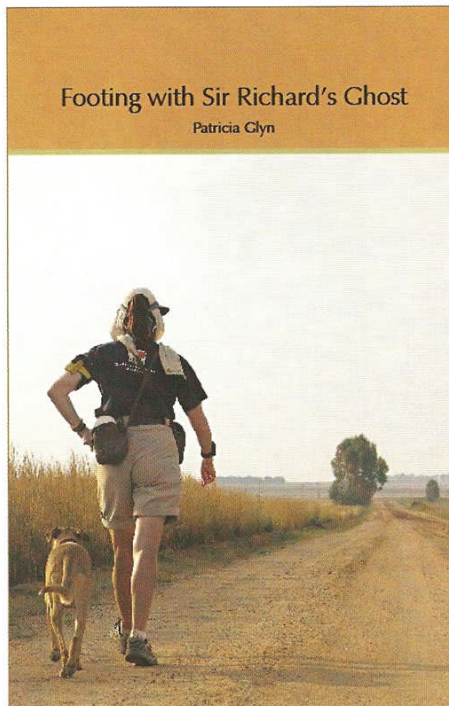


FOOTING WITH SIR RICHARD'S GHOST



Footing with Sir Richard's Ghost

Patricia Glyn

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AUTHOR: Patricia Glyn
PRICE: R200.00 plus R20.00 postage
PUBLISHER: Sharp Sharp Media
TO ORDER: By post, Patricia Glyn: patriciaglyn@wol.co.za

What a lovely book this is! Well-known radio and television personality Patricia Glyn, who has always had a powerful and compelling female voice in the South African media, has written a brave, intriguing and engaging account of a remarkable adventure. From March to July 2005, this plucky woman undertook to walk 2 152 km from Durban all the way up to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

And why precisely did she do this? To retrace (as closely and accurately as possible) the footsteps of her forbear, Sir Richard Glyn, a British nobleman and adventurer who came to Africa in 1863 to do a spot of hunting and see some sights. Top of his list, apart from bagging an elephant, was to lay eyes upon "the smoke that thunders", that great cascade, the Victoria Falls. Inspired and intrigued by David Livingstone's account of the falls and by the thought of shooting some prize game, Glyn hopped on a ship from England and spent four and a half months travelling through southern Africa. Inspired and intrigued by Sir Richard's journey, and wanting to investigate how much southern Africa had changed in 140 years, Patricia spent months researching old maps, consulting historians and topographers and getting

both a team and the funding together to do the same trip, completely on foot!

Glyn's book, which is beautifully packaged with thick, glossy paper and contains hundreds of wittily captioned photographs, interweaves three narratives: her ancestor's travel diary from 1863, her own journal entries (which are more subjective in tone and very personal) and her core, first-person account of this audacious journey. In addition, there are meticulously researched inserts on various colourful historical figures and events, which make for riveting reading.

Glyn writes with humour and candour about the many trials and tribulations of her journey. While fraught with dangers, bureaucratic ordeals and the author blowing her top at her back-up team for their various foibles, the journey's countless joys and gifts far outweigh the negatives. Glyn is confessional without being sentimental and forthright without being brash, and writes about Africa with respect and reverence. Footing it with her ancestor's spirit and her little nguni dog, Tapiwa, by her side, she meets farmers, hunters, priests and sangomas. Her chief interaction, however, is always with the varied landscapes and animals of Africa, an experience that evidently changed her life forever. We, as readers, have the honour of being privy to her most personal reflections on this epic undertaking. A joy to read. ■

REVIEWED NEXT MONTH

AZANIAN LOVE SONG

Don Mattera

Icon Don Mattera's seminal poetry collection has now been re-printed for a new generation. This raw, visceral and lyrical material remains a document of a darker time. First published in 1983, Mattera's verse is still as relevant today as it was two and a half decades ago. South African poetry at its finest.

