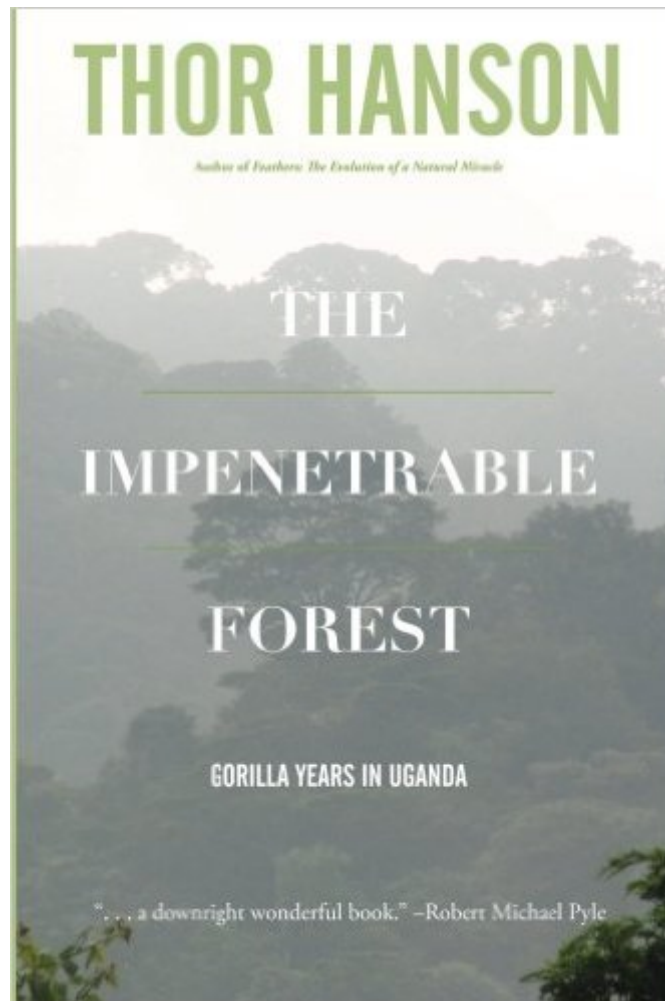


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# The Impenetrable Forest: Gorilla Years In Uganda



## Synopsis

Lying in the remote hills of southwest Uganda, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest harbors elephants, chimpanzees, monkeys, and half the world's population of endangered mountain gorillas. For two years, Thor Hanson called that forest home, working with local guides and trackers to develop an ecotourism program for the newly-formed Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Thoroughly researched and beautifully told, Hanson's story blends natural history with cultural insight to place the forest and the gorillas in the context of modern Africa. The Impenetrable Forest offers a rare glimpse into the world of mountain gorillas, and the human cultures that surround them. A must-read for anyone interested in gorilla tracking, endangered species, or travel to Uganda.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an amazing book about an amazing part of the world. I took this book with me when I visited Bwindi Impenetrable Forest a few weeks ago. While seeing the gorillas myself was wonderful, Thor Hanson's account in *The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda, Revised Edition* really added depth to my visit. In the book, Hanson recounts his years as a Peace Corps volunteer helping to establish ecotourism in Bwindi (the same ecotourism I ultimately benefitted from). His book weaves observations of the gorillas with amusing anecdotes of the Uganda people, whom he describes as being amongst the kindest in the world (an observation with which I agree). Hanson really breathes life into the gorillas, describing the personalities of the individual families. One episode in particular really stuck out. Gorillas often mock charge humans. Once, when Hanson was

observing a family, two aggressive males charged him and his group. However, another gorilla stood in between the aggressors and the humans, as if protecting them. This heartwarming episode suggests some gorillas have empathy for humans. Through Hanson's book, hopefully more of us will have empathy for them. Hanson also provides an excellent overview of life in Peace Corps. While he admits his Peace Corps experience may have been more exciting (most volunteers end up teaching English), he shows the struggles some volunteers face immersing themselves into an entirely new culture. I was particularly struck by how volunteers sometimes felt they were never fully accepted into the community - that they often remained the "white curiosity".

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