

**Recommendations for Fair Trade, Books & Films**  
*Maasai Girls Educational Fund & Huru International, Kenya*  
June 2012

Fair Trade Shopping

These [tribal soapstone tea lights](#) would make a great accent piece – and check out the many other wonderful products made by Kenyan artisans on One World Projects website.



This [Solidarity Sisters magnet](#) will spice up your kitchen – and you will support the nonprofit SERRV and the disabled artists from Mombasa, Kenya, who make the magnets from recycled aluminum.

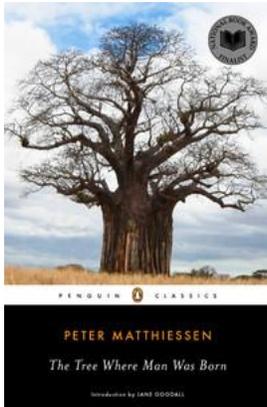


A [beautiful beaded bracelet](#) made by Maasai artisans of the Namayiana cooperative would make a nice addition to your wardrobe – or gift for a friend.

## Recommended Books

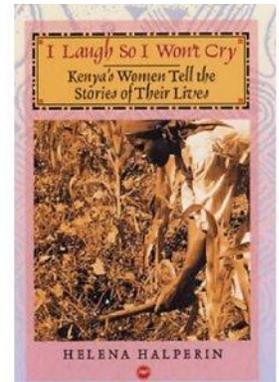
### *Non-Fiction*

***The Tree Where Man Was Born*** by Peter Matthiessen (Penguin Classics, 2010)



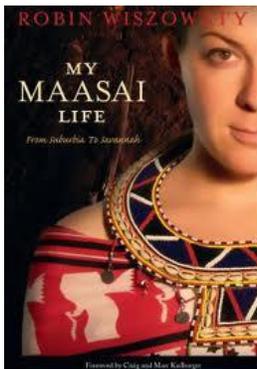
“The idea for this book was to engage a writer and a photographer with the combined talents to create a book unlike any other on the human and natural history of East Africa—one of the world's last splendors and the greatest wildlife spectacle in the world. Usually working apart, and with no attempt to cover exactly the same terrain, Matthiessen and Porter roamed the ancient land of man's origins to create two parallel statements—one in words, the other in pictures—in one enduring book.” – Goodreads.com

***I Laugh So I Won't Cry: Kenya's Women Tell The Story of Their Lives*** by Helena Halperin (Africa World Press, 2005)



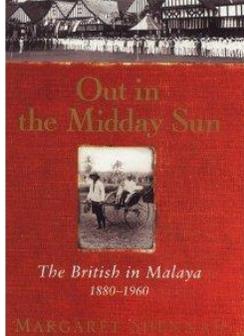
“Women tell their stories of love, struggle, happiness, and tragedy in their own words. *I Laugh* strikes a balance between intimate acquaintance and a comprehensive view. In-depth portraits allow readers to know a diverse selection of women intimately. Topical chapters feature the voices of a large range of women talking about the subjects closest to their hearts.” – Goodreads.com

***My Maasai Life: From Suburbia to Savannah*** by Robin Wiszowaty (Greystone Books, 2010)



Growing up in suburban Illinois, Robin Wiszowaty leads a typical middle-class American life. But from an early age, she has longed to break free of this existence and discover something deeper. What it is, she doesn't quite know ... Through a twist of fate, Robin has an opportunity to travel to rural Kenya and join a Maasai community. “Suddenly her days are spent hauling water, evading giraffes, and living in a tiny hut made of cow dung with her adoptive family. She is forced to face issues she's never considered: extreme poverty, drought, female circumcision, corruption - and discovers love in the most unexpected places. In the open wilds of the dusty savannah, this Maasai life is one she could never have imagined.” – Goodreads.com

## Fiction

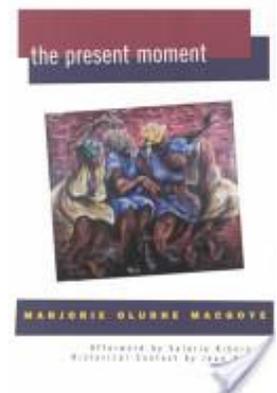


**Out in the Midday Sun: My Kenya** by Elspeth Huxley (Penguin, 1995)

“With the same charm that made *THE FLAME TREES OF THIKA* so memorable, Elspeth Huxley evokes the Africa of her adult life, in particular the legendary personalities of Kenya between the wars, the men and women who gave the country its character and helped shape its destiny.” – Goodreads.com

**The Present Moment (Women Writing Africa)** by Marjorie Oludhe MacGoye (The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2000)

“*The Present Moment* tells the story of seven unforgettable Kenyan women as it traces more than sixty years of turbulent national history. Like their country, these women are divided by ethnicity, language, class, and religion. But around the charcoal fire at the Refuge, the old-age home they share, they uncover the hidden personal histories that connect them as women: stories of their struggles for self-determination; of conflict, violence, and loss, but also of survival. As they reflect upon their tragedies, they also become aware of the community they have formed—a community of collective history, strength, humor, and affection.” – Goodreads.com



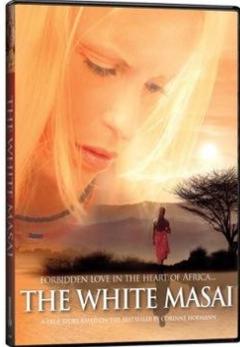
## Recommended Films

**Masai: The Rain Warriors** (2005; 95 minutes)

This beautiful adventure is shot on the savannahs of Kenya and details a community’s quest for their survival. This is the first film to be solely populated by real-life Masai and spoken entirely in their native tongue. “Masai follows a group of courageous teenagers who are sent out to secure the mane of Vitichua, the fiercest of all lions, as an offering to the rain gods — a quest that has recently taken the life of the village’s beloved war chief. Along the way, the eight boys, a shepherd who accompanies them against his father’s wishes, and an older spiritual guide battle a rival tribe and face sickness, death, thirst and starvation, but refuse to turn back.” – The New York Times



**The White Masai: My Exotic Tale of Love and Adventure** (2005; 132 minutes)



Corinne Hofmann tells how she fell in love with an African warrior while on vacation in Kenya. After overcoming many obstacles, she moves into a tiny hut with him and his mother, and spends four years in his Kenyan village. Slowly, but surely, the dream starts to crumble, and she returns home with her daughter – but leaving her husband behind. “Visually stunning, *The White Masai* is an unforgettable love story that takes us deep into the heart of Kenya. The course of true love is never smooth, and the story of a Swiss woman who marries a Masai warrior is romance at its most exotic.” – Urban Cinefile

**Disappearing World: Masai Women: The Masai of Kenya** (2003; 52 minutes)

Shot in the highlands of eastern Africa, this documentary chronicles the lives of women in the Masai tribe, exploring topics such as marriage and female circumcision. “Within the constraints of their society, the powerful Masai women have fashioned workable lives for themselves. This film explores the successful adaptation of these remarkable women to what seems, to the Western eye, a totally oppressive system. The presentation of their triumph and dignity is informative and inspiring.” – The New York Times

