

# THE EYE OF THE ELEPHANT

*An Epic Adventure in the African Wilderness*

MARK JAMES OWENS  
CORDELIA DYKES OWENS



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

*The Eye of the*  
**ELEPHANT**

An Epic Adventure in the  
African Wilderness

DELIA AND MARK OWENS



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To Helen and Fred,  
Bobby and Mary,  
and Mama—for doing so much.

And to Lee and Glenda, who keep us all smiling.

## **Authors' Note**

This story is not meant to judge Zambia's past conservation practices so much as to project hope for the future. The events described in this book occurred under the previous one-party Marxist government in Zambia. In 1991 the Zambian people elected a truly democratic government, which has taken positive steps to address the conservation problems of the country. It is only because of this change in government that we have the freedom to tell our story. Scientists and conservationists have the responsibility and the right to report their findings. By telling the truth, no matter how controversial, they incur a measure of personal and professional risk; by not telling it, we *all* risk much, much more.

The names of the innocent in this book have been changed to protect them from the guilty; the names of the guilty have been changed to protect us. The rest of this story is true.

## Principal Characters

Island Zulu	the "Camp-in-Charge" at Mano Camp
Patrick Mubuka	the "Camp-in-Charge" at Nsansamina Camp
Nelson Mumba } Gaston Phiri } Tapa }	the game scouts at Mano Camp
Chomba Simbeye } Chanda Mwamba } Mutale Kasokola }	the first Bemba tribesmen to work for us
Mosi Salama } Bornface Mulenga }	game wardens at Mpika
Sunday Justice } Mumanga Kasokola }	our cooks
Jealous Mvula } Bwalya Muchisa } Musakanya Mumba }	our earliest informants
Chanda Seven } Bernard Mutondo } Mpundu Katongo } Chikilinti } Simu Chimba }	the most notorious poachers of North Luangwa National Park
John Musangu } Kotela Mukendwa }	unit leaders at Mano Camp
Banda Chungwe	the senior ranger at Mpika
Evans Mukuka	our first educational officer
Marie and Harvey Hill	friends in Mpika
Chief Mukungule	chief of the area west of the park
Chief Nabwalya	chief of the area between North and South Luangwa parks

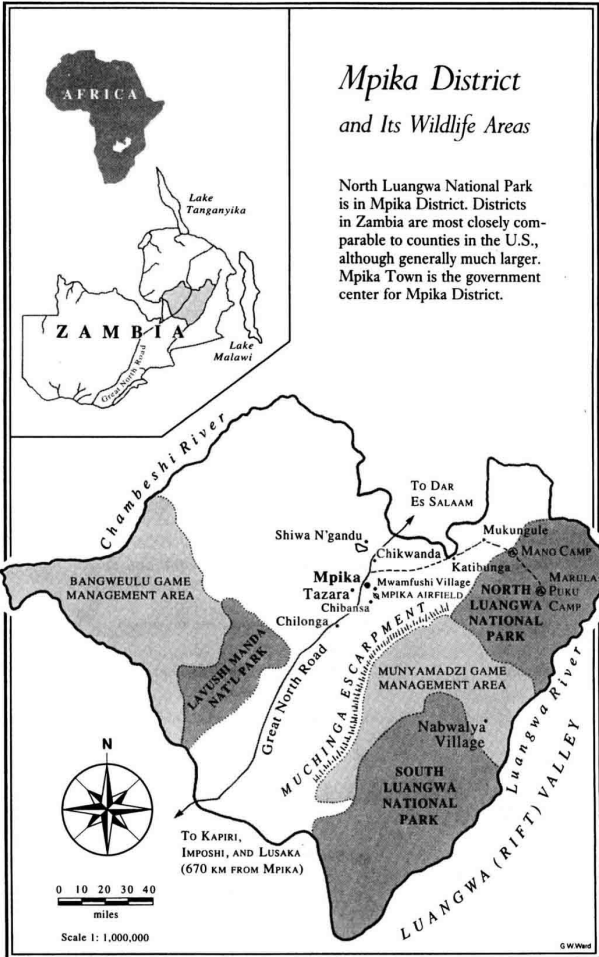
Chief Chikwanda	chief of the area near Mpika
Max Sali	our community service officer
Tom and Wanda Canon	volunteers from Texas
Ian Spincer } Edward North }	assistants from the University of Reading

*The Lions*

Happy } Sunrise } Sage } Stormy } Saucy }	the new members of the Blue Pride in the Kalahari
Serendipity } Kora }	lions of the Serendipity Pride along the Mwaleshi River
Bouncer	the male we radio collar on the plains

*The Elephants*

Survivor	the male elephant who comes into our camp
Cheers	the male elephant who sometimes accompanies Survivor
Camp Group	the group of male elephants that forages near our camp
One Tusk } Misty } Mandy } Marula }	a family unit of female elephants
Long Ear and her daughters	another family unit of female elephants



## Mpika District and Its Wildlife Areas

North Luangwa National Park is in Mpika District. Districts in Zambia are most closely comparable to counties in the U.S., although generally much larger. Mpika Town is the government center for Mpika District.



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miles

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G.W. Wood