


TRACEY TURNER



LOST

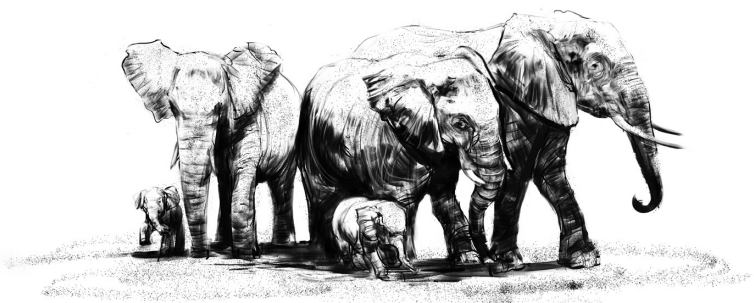
IN THE CRATER OF FEAR



Live or die, YOU decide.

LOST

IN THE CRATER OF FEAR





WARNING!

The instructions in this book are for extreme survival situations only. Always proceed with caution, and ask an adult to supervise – or ideally, seek professional help. If in doubt, consult a responsible adult.

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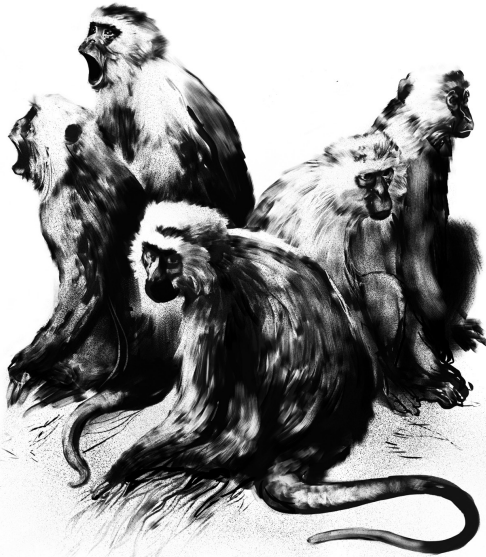


TRACEY TURNER



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Kenya



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Lake
Natron

Olduvai
Gorge

Ngorongoro
Conservation
Area

Ngorongoro
Crater

Lake
Magadi

Lake Eyasi

Lake
Manyara



Welcome to your adventure!

STOP! Read this first!

Welcome to an action-packed adventure in which you take the starring role!

You're about to enter the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, breathtakingly beautiful and teeming with dangerous African wildlife. On each page choose from different options – according to your instincts, knowledge and intelligence – and make your own path across the crater to safety.

You decide . . .

- How to escape a charging bull elephant
- What to do when you come face to face with a deadly snake
- How to understand monkey alarm calls

. . . and many more life-or-death dilemmas. Along the way you'll discover the facts you need to help you survive.

It's time to test your survival skills – or die trying!

Your
adventure
starts on
page 7.



You've taken a moment to be by yourself while the rest of your group crowds around the jeep, listening to the guide's lion-attack story. Their voices fade into the background as you look across the crater. It shimmers in the early morning haze. Standing in the middle of the crater, you can see some zebra in the distance, and far beyond them the crater's rim looks green and lush.

The roar of an engine brings you out of your daydream. You turn and see that the jeep is driving away! You call out as loudly as you can, but it's no good. The engine drowns you out. All you can see now is just a far-away cloud of dust as the jeep speeds away. Your heart pounds violently as you realise what's happened.

This African trip was the prize for winning a national schools competition, and you're here with a group of 25 other prize-winners that you haven't really got to know yet. Today, the friend you're teamed with wasn't well and had to stay at the campsite. Without her to raise the alarm, everyone else must have forgotten you. Maybe the guide thought that you'd stayed behind too.

A long, low roar echoes across the crater, chilling your blood. You are completely lost, and, for the moment at least, alone.

With no other options, you shoulder your backpack and set off in the direction the jeep headed.

How will you survive?

Turn to page 8 to find information you need to help you survive.

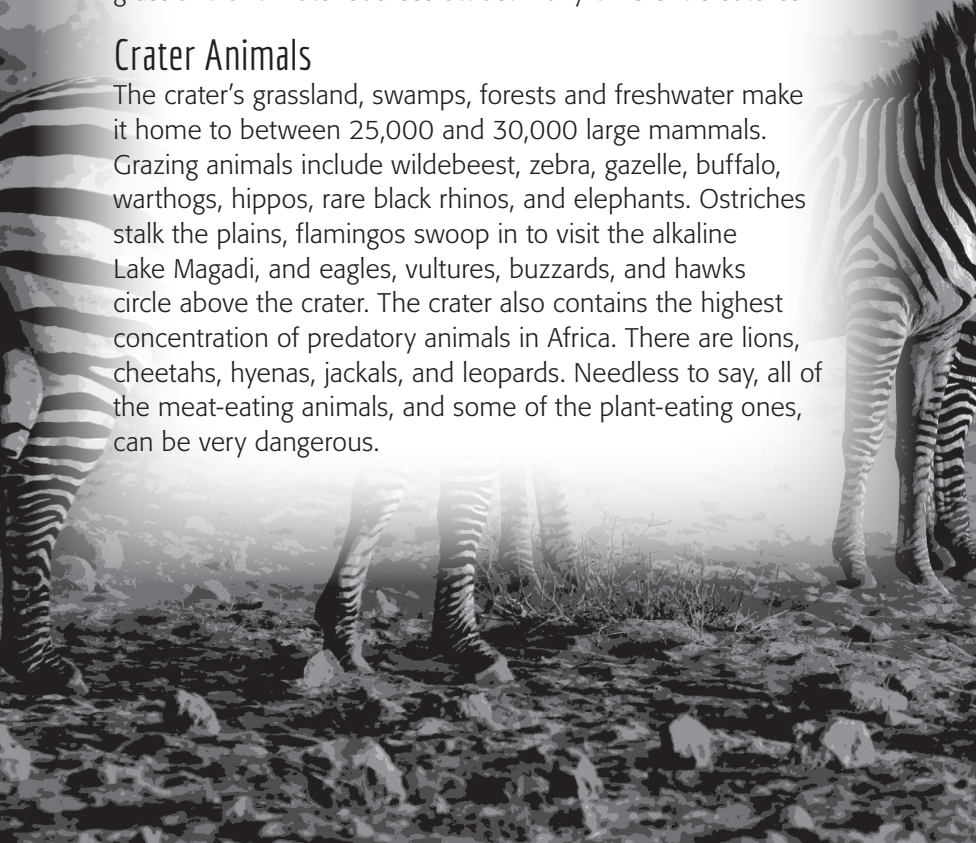
You are stranded in the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, East Africa. The crater covers about 300 square kilometres, and is part of the 8,300-square-kilometre Ngorongoro Conservation Area. This includes plains, ravines, lakes, forests, and highlands on the western edge of the Great Rift Valley.

Explosive Past

The Ngorongoro Crater is what's left of a huge volcano that erupted 2.5 million years ago. The enormous explosion left a 600 metre deep crater (actually a caldera, a collapsed volcano's cone) 19 kilometres across, which is now the biggest unbroken and unflooded caldera in the world. Its rich grassland and water sources attract many different creatures.

Crater Animals

The crater's grassland, swamps, forests and freshwater make it home to between 25,000 and 30,000 large mammals. Grazing animals include wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, buffalo, warthogs, hippos, rare black rhinos, and elephants. Ostriches stalk the plains, flamingos swoop in to visit the alkaline Lake Magadi, and eagles, vultures, buzzards, and hawks circle above the crater. The crater also contains the highest concentration of predatory animals in Africa. There are lions, cheetahs, hyenas, jackals, and leopards. Needless to say, all of the meat-eating animals, and some of the plant-eating ones, can be very dangerous.





Wildlife Watching

All of this amazing wildlife attracts another kind of animal: human beings. People come to the Ngorongoro Crater for safaris, especially since it's one of the few places in the world where endangered black rhinos breed. The number of safari vehicles is strictly limited, and they have to leave the crater by six o'clock in the evening, giving the animals the night to themselves. The dry season, from June to October, is the most popular time for visitors to the crater.

Ngorongoro People

The Maasai people live in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. They manage herds of cattle, sheep and goats, and move with their herds in search of grass and water. The Maasai also live in other parts of northern Tanzania and across the border in Kenya (see page 117 for more information on the Maasai).



Turn to page 10.

Crater Survival Tips

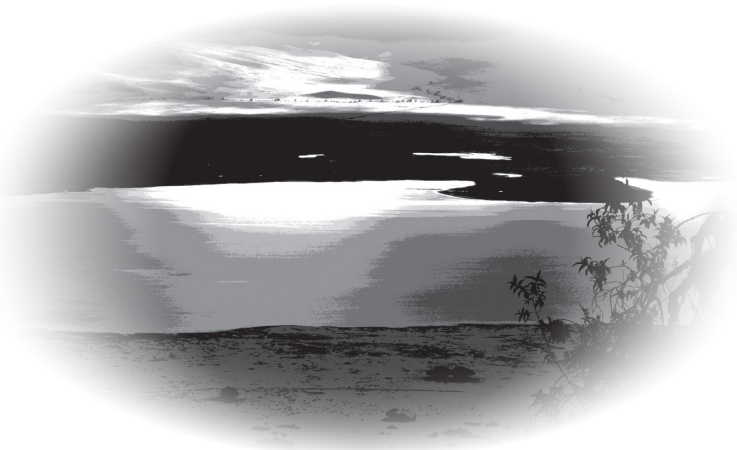
- You have come to the Ngorongoro Crater in October, which is a warm time of year but perhaps not as hot as you might think, especially in the early morning. The floor of the crater is much warmer than the sides. Luckily, you're wearing good walking boots and lightweight layers of clothing, which you can take off and put into your backpack as you warm up.
- It's also lucky that you have a two-litre bottle of drinking water in your backpack. Because you are in such a dangerous territory, finding water isn't a priority - it's more important for you to get out before nightfall!
- As you're probably aware, there are animals in the crater that can easily kill you. Approach any animal with caution, even if you don't think it's dangerous, and always keep your distance.
- A predator is more likely to see you as prey if you're running away from it. Its likely response will be to chase you.
- Large carnivores aren't your only worry: look out for smaller dangerous creatures too, and remember that some plant-eating animals can kill people.
- You will have to find a way to stop yourself from panicking. You are in an extremely dangerous situation, but panicking will lead you to make bad decisions. It's possible to survive if you're thinking clearly - with a bit of luck!

Turn to page 11.

You stop walking to stare out across the crater, doing your best to shake off a feeling of impending doom. You know there are campsites at the crater's edge – you're staying in one – but where are they exactly? And how many dangerous animals might be lurking between here and your destination?

You gulp, and force yourself to stop panicking. You tell yourself that the Ngorongoro Crater is a popular tourist attraction, and you probably won't be alone for long.

You have to set off towards the crater's edge. It looks as though you're almost right in the middle, so whichever way you go will be about the same distance to the edge. You decide to walk away from the rising sun, so that it doesn't get in your eyes and blind you to potential danger.



If you decide to walk westwards, go to page 21.

If you decide to walk to the southwest, go to page 18.