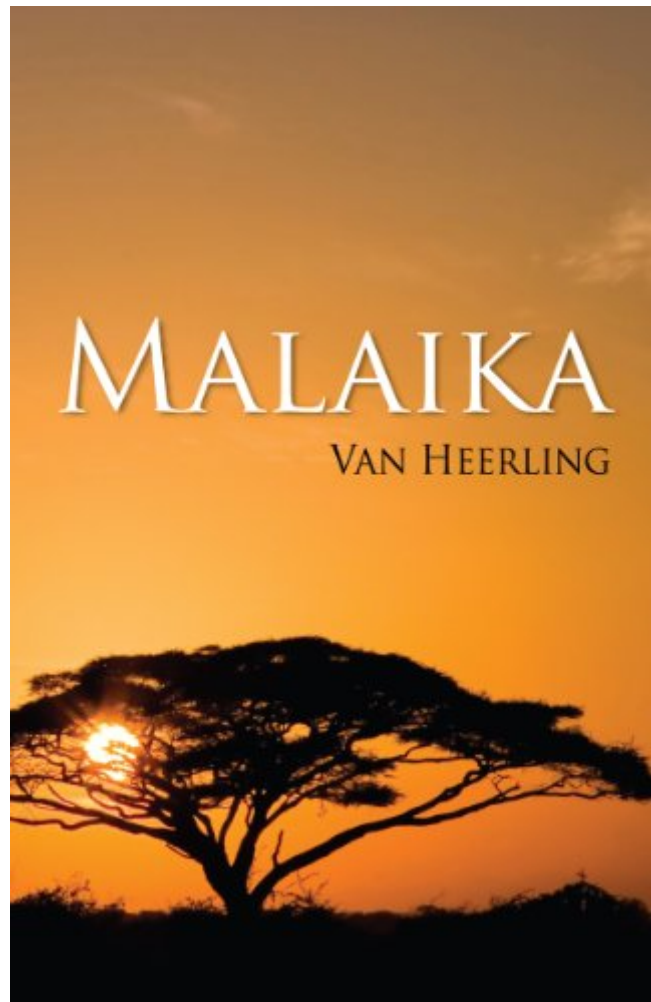


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# MALAIKA



## Synopsis

Synopsis: A middle-aged man with the crushing weight of his American past seeks peace and a simpler life in rural Kenya. Armed with only his smokes and coffee he discovers a friendship with the most unlikely of friends--a lioness he rightfully names Malaika, "Angel" in Swahili. But she is no ordinary lioness nor is he an ordinary man. Between them they share a gift. But not all embrace their bond and some seek to sever it. Discover this new world rich in human truth and sensibility.

"MALAIKA by Van Heerling is one of the best novellas I've read in a long time." "An excellent piece of writing that I enjoyed immensely..." S. Warfield (TOP1000 REVIEWER) (VINE VOICE) "INTRIGUING STORY, TALENTED WRITER, AS GOOD AS IT GETS," "...Heering has exceptional ability for finding the soul of realism." Schuyler T Wallace (VINE VOICE) "There is definitely more substance in this story than appears on its surface." Jerry Sanchez (VINE VOICE) "...it is a gift to relish and savor...a keeper to the nth degree." ---Heidi Johnson "It is a book that should become a highly acclaimed classic and be required reading in every school. I have read it twice already." Carol in Ohio I'm afraid I will not be able to do this amazing novella justice in my review. To put it short, MALAIKA was quite simply beautiful and haunting. It is a powerful story woven by the author in masterful prose--one that is thought provoking and speaks of the power of forgiveness. This is by far the best piece of literature, under full novel length, I have EVER read, and I cannot wait to read this author's next work. ---Author T.M Souders

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## Customer Reviews

Van Heering's wonderful little novella, MALAIKA, might become your favorite feel-good read about animal and human interaction. He claims that it is total fiction. If that's true then Heering has exceptional ability for finding the soul of realism. I finished it at one sitting and then read it again to simply enjoy the writer's insight and use of language. A man, overwhelmed by his personal travails, sits on the edge of the Serengeti enjoying an African smoke and a cup of fragrant coffee. He tells the reader up front that he isn't going to share anything about his personal situation. He's true to his word. You learn very little about how or why he got here. He lets you know that he has "another lifetime dappled with hurt and a lost love elsewhere in the world -- I won't bore you with the details." Okay, I'm sorry to hear that but have enough travails of my own. I am eager to get on with the story about lions. I like lions. As he's enjoying his surroundings, along comes a lioness, big and beautiful and terrifying, capable of taking his life with one snap of her massive teeth. The man is not a brave person and, in fact, empties his bladder during the encounter (as I probably would). The lion samples the smoke and a little spill of coffee, and, although still a threatening creature, seems to feel at ease with the man's presence before she ambles away. The visits become more frequent and welcome. Over time, the relationship evolves into one of companionship and affection on the part of both animal and man. Malaika (as she is named by the man) occasionally spends the night

alongside his bunk, much the same as a house cat, with his dangling hand entangled in her soft coat.

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MALAIKA

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