

Catch Up With Author Kevin Richardson

Learn more about the inspiration behind his book “Part of the Pride: My Life Among the Big Cats of Africa.”

By Stacy N. Hackett

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Kevin Richardson and friend. 1. What was your inspiration behind the book, “Part of the Pride: My Life Among the Big Cats of Africa”?

I've always wanted to write a book on animals but never thought it would be about my life with them. Then I was approached by a man named Michael Flamini from St. Martins Press, who had seen me on You tube and other media and thought my life would make for fascinating reading.

2. What was the most difficult part of writing the book?

The most difficult part is trying not to offend people but still get the essence of what happened across to the reader. Obviously it's extremely difficult to retract things once they are in the written word. Also things that I had put to one side in my memory were revisited as the extreme details of my childhood were extracted.

3. What was the most rewarding part of writing the book?

Getting to recall all the funny things that have happened in my life. Also the fact that so many people are going to get to read about these amazing predators and hopefully see them in a different light as well as wanting to conserve them for future generations!

4. What type of feedback have you received so far?

The feedback has been phenomenal. Some say they have laughed out loud, cried out loud and generally felt quite a few emotions they hadn't had for a while. Others have said that it certainly has given them an entirely new perspective on large carnivores.

5. What is your writing process?

The book was written with the help of novelist Tony Park, who listened to me bleating on for hours about my life, then wrote it down in a fashion that he believed best suited my mannerisms. I think he nailed it as when I read the book it feels and sounds like I would speak. Family members who have read the book have thought so, too.

6. Do you have any other books?

No, but I would love to be involved with more.

7. Do you have a cat or other pets?

I own two lovely dogs.

8. Do your pets influence your writing?

Not really, but they are great at bouncing things off of as they are really good listeners and show unconditional love!

Stacy N. Hackett shares her Southern California home with two adorable Cornish Rex cats, Carson and Evita, and a playful tabby named Jackson.