Into Africa: A Love Story That Ignores International Boundaries

With language and imagery as dripping with emotion, Neely Tucker describes the harrowing trials and triumphs of foreign love and an infant named Chipo with little chance for survival. Ignoring the recommendations of their American friends and the advice of African officials, a biracial American couple defeats the bureaucracy and odds by adopting a young African infant. The story itself is riveting. It engages the reader on an emotional level by tying the fates and feelings of the protagonists’ battle with our own. You find yourself involved in their struggle to help relieve the African infanticide epidemic one child at a time.

Chipo’s name itself means a gift. To Neely Tucker and his wife Vita, she is a precious gift that they cannot leave to suffer the fate that most African foundling infants experience. The story’s begins in one of the more well-established Zimbabwean orphanages. Nevertheless, the infants there are plagued with disease and almost certain death. Not only AIDS threaten their health, but Rotavirus, cases of pneumonia and malnutrition tip the odds in death’s favor. Neely and Vita chose to take on the emotional burden and partake in one of the most stressful and finally successful tests of their adult lives.

The book is a quick and enjoyable read that leaves its audience astounded and changed. It educates the average reader about current issues and an African experience while broadening your horizons. Tucker’s story bridges two continents and two races with one true to life story. If Love in the Driest Season had been fiction, I would have
found the story to have been less pleasing and effective. The detail of his story involves
the reader on an intimate level. Keely Tucker’s adventurous spirit and enthusiasm is
infectious. This book will leave you changed and appreciative of tenacious and
passionate people like Keely and Vita Tucker and their African story of the extent that
one love and one child can succeed any circumstance with unwavering faith and
persistence.