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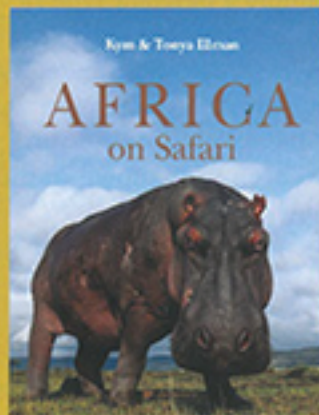
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# IN YOUR FACE

COFFEE TABLE



Photographers of African wildlife are a dime a dozen, traditionally relying on telephoto lenses to capture close-up images of fanged and fearsome creatures. But Aussie photographers **KYM** and **TONYA ILLMAN** have reinvigorated the genre with their dazzlingly original techniques.



The two lions followed the buggy and gently pawed at the camera.



The lions were so taken with the buggy they thought they would keep it for themselves.

Capturing up-close images of wild animals has usually involved relying on telephoto lenses. But the problem with long lenses is that photos produced by them all tend to look the same, with their flattened perspective and boringly even focus from foreground to background.

Australian photographers Kym and Tonya Illman wanted to avoid the clichéd techniques by getting their cameras right in the faces of lions, cheetahs, baboons and chimps. But how could they do that without risking their lives by holding a camera only centimetres from the snouts of nine curious lions?

Ingeniously mounting their cameras atop

remote-controlled buggies no bigger than a toy car, they set their devices loose among the beasts. They also concealed cameras under mounds of elephant dung near waterholes and strapped them onto drones.

**Africa on Safari** is a celebration of these techniques, showing both the final shots from the cleverly positioned cameras and images of the equipment set-ups. So crouch down low or get up high and reignite your interest in wildlife photography with these photos that put you eyeball to eyeball with Africa's most fascinating creatures. **OR**

**Africa on Safari** by Kym & Tonya Illman is published by Papadakis, rrp \$65.00.

COFFEE TABLE



A one-hour-old giraffe presses up against its mother.



Two things that surprised the photographers most about this cheetah were its level of comfort with the camera and the loudness of its purring.



It's rare to see a lion up a tree so spotting nine is quite a coup.



A chimpanzee with her baby in Mahale, Tanzania.



One of the largest groups of lions to take a shine to the buggy.

