

My Kind of Adventure

By Marilyn Reeves

Whether I'm trekking across the wilds of Africa with Stewart Granger and Deborah Kerr in search of the lost treasure of King Solomon's Mines, or working my way up the Ulana River with Bogie and Hepburn in an old riverboat called The African Queen, I love a great adventure.

I have survived a plane crash on a not-so-deserted island, getting lost with Matthew Fox, Josh Holloway and Evangeline Lilly. I've even endured the brutal cold and oxygen-deprived altitude as I climbed my way, step by death-defying step, to the top of Mt. Everest with both Mallory and Hillary. And on two separate occasions, I traversed thousands of miles - on foot - from a labor camp in the Siberian wilderness to freedom in civilized Europe.

You may notice a theme here. Like the armchair quarterbacks who cheer on their favorite team, I too am guilty of either reading about or watching others perform fetes of derring do from the comfort of my favorite easy chair.

I wish I were braver, more physically fit. Those are the kind adventures I would love to participate in. What great fun it would be to parachute out of a small plane, or go paragliding over the hilltops. Or go on safari in the Kalahari or take a boat ride down the Amazon.

If only someone would invent a bubble in which I could float above all the snakes and spiders and all manner of other things that could be hazardous to my health. The bubble would be temperature controlled so I wouldn't have to endure the extremes of heat and cold, have a nice soft bed and a refrigerator stocked with food, and a modern, private bathroom in the rear where I could take a shower and freshen up each morning. Then I'd resume my seat in my ergonomically correct viewing chair, from which I could watch all those marvelous creatures frolicking down below me and enjoy the exotic sights and beautiful scenery as I bask in perfect comfort and relaxation.

But what the heck, I've already got all that available to me at home. I just need to open the fridge and decide what to fix for dinner, then what I'd like to read or watch on TV. That's about as much adventure as I'm up for. But kudos to those who actually do those kinds of things. They not only live life to the fullest, they also provide great entertainment for couch potatoes like me. At least I can enjoy all those wonderful adventures ... vicariously.