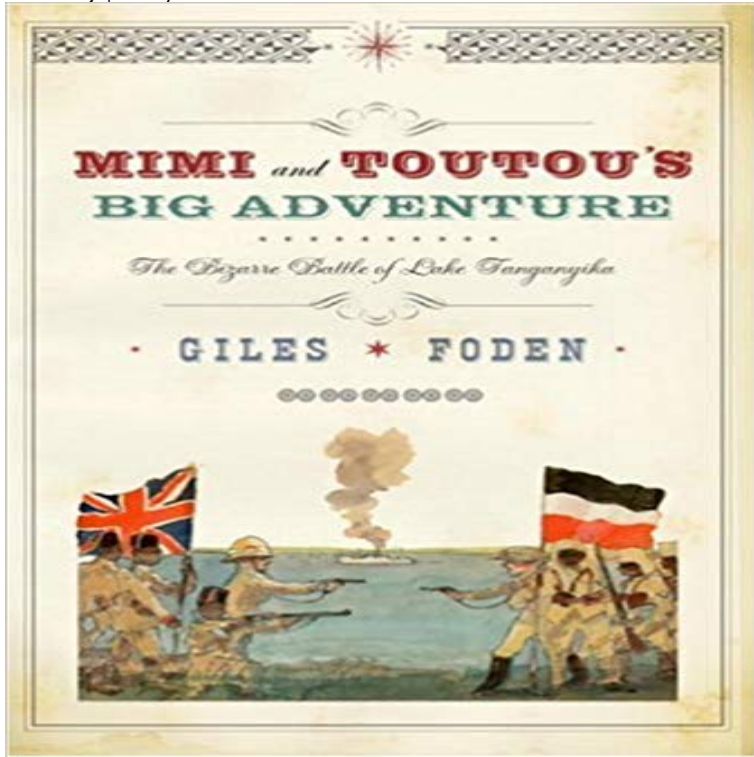


Mimi and Toutous Big Adventure: The Bizarre Battle of Lake Tanganyika



The Whitbread Awardwinning author of *The Last King of Scotland* brings his extensive knowledge of Africa to his first work of nonfiction: the incredible true story that inspired the classic film *The African Queen*. When the First World War breaks out, the British navy is committed to engaging the enemy wherever there is water to float a ship even if the body of water in question is a remote African lake and the enemy an intimidating fleet of German steamers. The leader of this improbable mission is Geoffrey Spicer-Simson, the oldest lieutenant commander in the navy, whose career thus far had been distinguished by two sinkings. His seemingly impossible charge: to trek overland through the African bush hauling Mimi and Toutoutwo forty-foot mahogany gunboats and defeat the Germans on Lake Tanganyika. Spicer-Simson sets forth on a lunatic 2,800-mile journey with a band of cantankerous, insubordinate Scotsmen, Irishmen and Englishmen. After going into battle wearing a skirt and becoming the god of an African tribe by showing them his tattoos, he is acclaimed a hero. But the truth about the battle is somewhat more complex. With its powerfully evoked landscape, cast of hilariously colorful characters and remarkable story of hubris, ingenuity and perseverance, *Mimi and Toutous Big Adventure* is history at its most entertaining and absorbing.

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