

Joy Adamson (whole name Friederike Victoria Gessner) was born on January 20, 1910 in Troppau, Silesia, Austria-Hungary (now **Opava**, Czech Republic).

When she was 12 she moved to **Vienna** to her grandmother, she studied **music, sculpting, art** and **photography**, in 1937 she relocated to **Kenya**.

In Kenya she married George Adamson (1944), a British who had worked in Kenya as a gold prospector, goat trader, and safari hunter. For 15 years she painted

flowers for botanical books, spending time camped out in the wild; became interested in African customs, ornaments, and costumes, which she began painting as well. She adopted

three lion cubs; kept **Elsa**, the smallest, and wrote book **Born Free**, followed by **Living Free** and **Forever Free**, which told of experiences living with the lion and returning her to the wild.

She proved that captive wild animals could be reeducated to live in their natural habitat, a practice widely used today.

At age 69 she was **murdered** by a dissatisfied employee on January 3, 1980 in Shaba National Reserve, Kenya.

