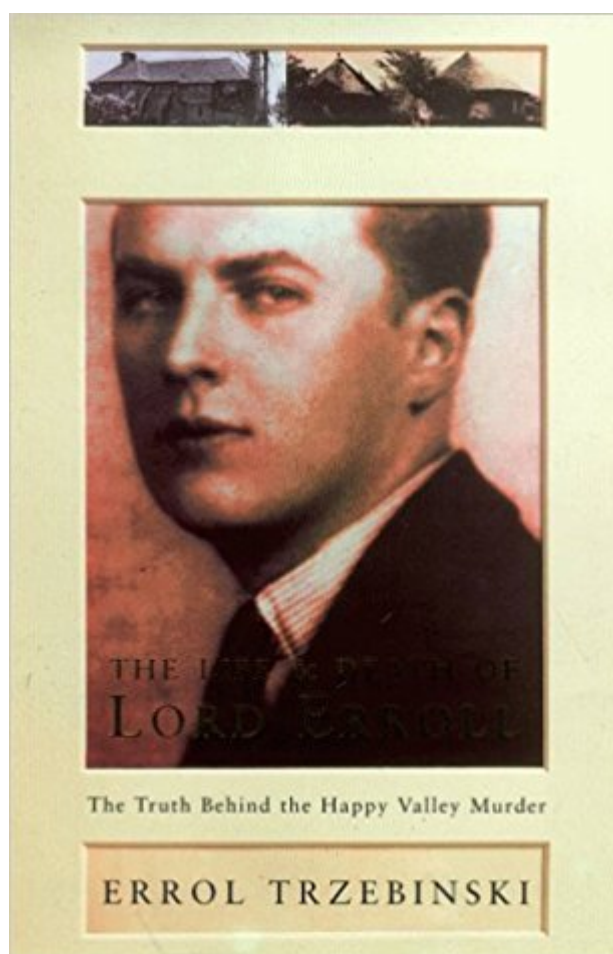


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# The Life And Death Of Lord Erroll: The Truth Behind The Happy Valley Murder



## Synopsis

The definitive solving of the mystery surrounding the murder of the most talked-about and glamorous member of Kenya's notorious Happy Valley set, by the much praised author of bestselling previous books including 'The Lives of Beryl Markham'. Since Josslyn Hay, 22nd Earl of Erroll, was discovered dead in his car with a bullet through his head just outside Nairobi in 1941, speculation has not ceased as to the culprit and motive for his murder. The authorities seemed satisfied with the highly sensationalised trial of the only suspect, Jock Broughton, the cuckolded husband of Erroll's last lover, Diana. A not-guilty verdict was returned after a baffling display of confusing evidence and clumsy police work. Trzebinski, who has lived in Kenya for 30 years, was not satisfied with the conflicting gossip on the case, none of whose evidence adds up, including that of the celebrated *White Mischief* by James Fox. In this gripping evocation of a glamorous, decadent and sinister life, Trzebinski uses her renowned biographer's skill to unlock the mystique surrounding the man, and the mystery enveloping his death. Her investigations lead her to astonishing conclusions about the true motive for his murder.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Errol Trzebinski is the author of *The Kenya Pioneers*, *The Lives of Beryl Markham*, and *Silence Will Speak*, a biography of Denys Finch Hatton, used as the source for the love story in *Out of Africa*.

A little more supposition than fact, but the lifestyle of the British living far away from their home country is interesting!

much of it read like an extended series of footnotes. Author is clearly enamored of Erroll. Much better is the book by Fox, *White Mischief*.

Transported me to the time and place. Detailed, and well researched.

A thorough and well researched account of, as the title says, the life and death of Lord Erroll. The subject of much speculation, Joss Hay's unsolved murder in Kenya during WWII has inspired books, movies and enough gossip to span two centuries. In this publication, Trzebinski promises the truth, revelations, and exposés of behind the scenes government plots. It is clear the author admires Hay as she attempts to overturn the unfair notoriety imposed posthumously upon the unlucky lord, allegedly to deliberately discredit him in the public eye. With interviews and photographs she is meticulous in painting the details of his life from birth to death, almost to the point of describing his pyjamas (actually I think she does describe his pyjamas). The details of the mismanaged investigations into his murder and resultant court case of the man eventually acquitted are equally microscopic. The revelations at the end of all this background however start to become a little sketchy and the book ends looking more like a dark and murky Turner than an exposé. It's almost as if the author has, in extolling Hay's many charms and virtues, reached her word limit too early and had to finish in a paragraph. Unsatisfying as a murder mystery perhaps, the book is still valuable as a more accurate historical account of this Scottish lord who, so far from the hills of home, met his untimely demise at the hands of ruthless persons unknown.

Just finished this book. It was terrific!

But I didn't care for it. The author goes on and on about how she has solved the decades old Lord Erroll murder in Happy Valley (Kenya), which is the case that James Fox wrote *WHITE MISCHIEF* about. She claims that James Fox was absolutely wrong and had a fact wrong on every page, and that through thorough detective work she has come up with the correct answer. Well, Errol Trzebinski has written other books, some of them published in the US, and some of them have been international bestsellers, but I can see why American publishers are shaking their heads and murmuring, "No thank you, we'll pass," about this manuscript. It just doesn't add up. When after slogging through the whole book, I finally found out who she claims committed the murder, and why, I threw up my hands in disgust. It was the most far-fetched solution in the world, not even a child

would believe it, a very gullible child. For Errol Trzebinski, there is no such thing as a bad person, especially if they sport a title and have good looks like Princess Margaret. Idina, Diana, Joss, the whole lot of them are martyrs in her book. These wretched human beings carried glamor and swank from England into their own giant corner of Kenya, and that's enough for Errol Trzebinski. I don't want to give the spoilers away, but rest assured, no one with a title committed the murder of Lord Errol. Instead it was someone hitherto unknown to history, some commoner from another country. The photos are nice and if someone proposed having a museum exhibition of the photographs she has gathered, I would be the first to say, what a smashing idea! But if someone offered me 100 pounds and a trip to Happy Valley to read another trzebinski potboiler, I would decline with thanks. I'm adding a star because I don't want to be unnecessarily cruel to a person who is trying to be loyal to her former friends.

I'll cut to the chase. Lord Erroll was murdered by British Intelligence (SOE) because he knew too much about British backroom dealings with Hitler. Retired insiders leaked a long report to Trzebinski describing how "Operation Highland Clearance" was executed. This is a must-read for people who can accept that the government kills its political opponents and provides an alibi for the public. The author deserves our gratitude for digging out the truth. Errol was a charismatic political leader who could have caused problems for the people who run the British government.

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