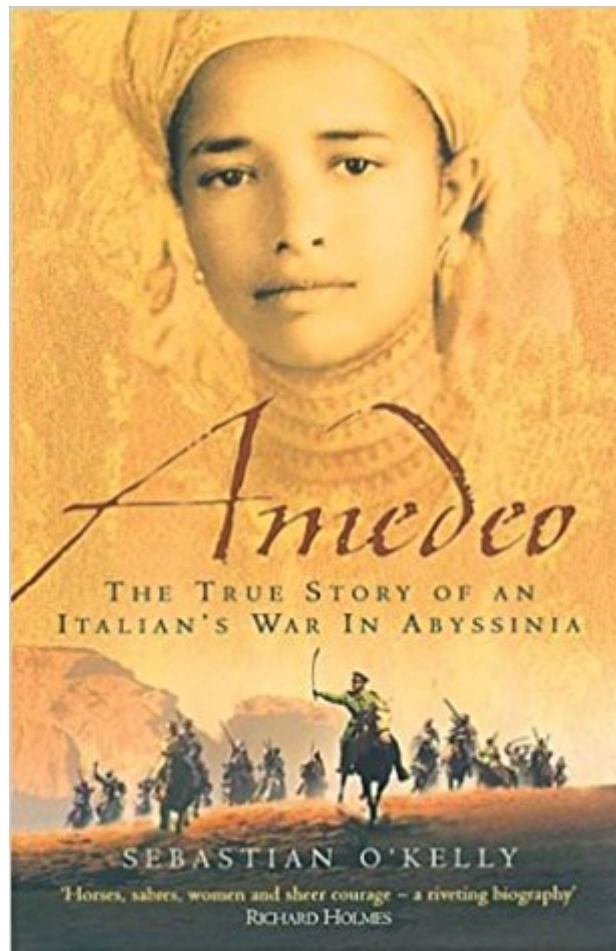




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# Amedeo: The True Story Of An Italian's War In Abyssinia



## Synopsis

War-time love story set in Abyssinia, Eritrea and the Yemen 1935-1945. Amedeo Guillet is still alive and living in County Meath, Ireland. Khadija is lost. This is the story of Amedeo Guillet – an Italian cavalry officer who was sent out to Abyssinia as part of Mussolini's army to establish and command a troupe of 2,000 Spahis or Arabic cavalry. He met and fell in love with Khadija – a beautiful Ethiopian Muslim. Together they held up the British lorries heaving up the mountain road to Asmara and blew up the important Ponte Aosta. Eventually captured, Amedeo went on the run disguised as an Arab, eventually making it to Yemen, only to be thrown in jail. This is a rare view of the Second World War from an Italian perspective; particularly valuable are the chapters that tell the story of Italian resistance to the Nazis, and their subsequent withdrawal from Italy in 1943. There are few stories more cinemagraphic than this – Fascist Italy, his early years in Ethiopia commanding the Cossack-like Spahis, the brutal Abyssinian war waged by the Duce, Italian and British colonial rivalry; Amedeo led the last ever cavalry charge the British army faced (Eritrea 1941 – they were massacred by tanks and sub-machine guns), defeat and guerrilla warfare against the British; then flight, disguised as an Arab, imprisonment in the Yemen and a great love lost as he leaves his beloved Khadija behind to face her future alone and returns to Italy, to his fiancée and a career as a distinguished Italian diplomat and Arabist. Amedeo is still alive and living in County Meath, Ireland. Sebastian O'Kelly is a journalist for the Mail and Telegraph and has Amedeo's full co-operation in writing this book. This is a very valuable and absolutely stunning story, beautifully told by O'Kelly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Sebastian O'Kelly has found a story so extraordinary and moving that it seems inevitable it will end up as a film. Think *The English Patient* crossed with *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* and you will get some idea of the epic sweep, rich detail and sheer romance of *Amedeo*.' Kathryn Hughes, *Mail on Sunday*

'Amedeo Guillet was a young aristocratic cavalry officer who would not give up. In 1941 he led what was to be the last cavalry charge of the war against a battalion of British tanks. When the Italians surrendered, he did not. With a motley band of Eritrean and Arab irregulars, including his gun-slinging Ethiopian paramour, Amedeo fought on.' The politics and passions of the time, the pity and pathos of war, the love and the loss all rise from the pages.' Ross Leckie, *The Times*

Sebastian O'Kelly is a journalist for the *Telegraph* and *Mail on Sunday*. He is an expert on horses. This is his first book.

well written, a honest account of an exceptional man's life unravels the events that shaped our world and opens up to the unknown civilization that thrived in the horn of Africa

Before I read the book, I didn't know anything about the protagonist. I think he had an amazing personality. I enjoyed reading this book a lot.

One of the most important books in my library. This is a story of tremendous courage, well written and carefully researched.

This is a truly excellent book for military and non military readers alike. As a love story, its gripping, poignant and emotional. As a war tale, its a 'must read', an account of a truly brave and rambunctious war hero. As history, its also a wonderful, acessible and mature rendering of Italy's tragic involvement in Colonialism, Fascism, and the demise of her Noble families who fought for Italy - and suffered the consequences of Musollini's ill-concieved marriage with Nazi Germany. Pertinent to today's American adventures in Iraq, the hero of the story both fights against and later himself employs the kind of irregular desert warfare that the US Forces now are confronted with in Iraq. A great book.

Amedeo is the story of an Italian army officer from an upper class family. Though the story revolves around Amedeo Guillet, one learns about political friction in Italian politics, Italy's successes against

the British, and Italy's relationship with Hitler. The book paints a very accurate picture of the landscape of north-eastern Africa. The maps are good, but could have been better. The book is gripping, and difficult to put down.

This book is a fun read for anyone interested in the colonial history of Africa, and of Eritrea in particular. It suffers somewhat in comparison to other works of pop history about the region, such as Anthony Mockler's Haile Selassie's War, the most glaring shortcoming being a lack of important details, such as dates. The reader is likely to come away with the feeling that the subject, Amedeo Guillet, is worthy of a better effort. That having been said, I still recommend the book. It's a ripping good tale about a fascinating character.

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