Bookey Peek. *All the Way Home: Stories from an African Wildlife Sanctuary* (East Street, 2007).


A love story about a warthog – and incidentally 6500 acres of Zimbabwe bushland and its other inhabitants – is aptly named after the little piggy that cried wee wee wee wee … Bookey and Richard Peek and their son David shared their home with Poombi the warthog, who had been saved from the hunting dogs that killed her mother, for several months, and despite her wayward urinary habits they came to love her so much that it was a wrench when they released her into the wild.

The Peeks run a wildlife sanctuary and guest lodge near Bulawayo. Under the ever-present threat of invasion and takeover, they have built up a habitat from the degraded landscape for a variety of animals, and Bookey (no, she doesn’t explain her name) infects the reader with her enthusiasm for nearly every species. The human guests are treated with a more critical eye, especially if they come to Africa to complain about the heat and the insects: the Peeks show a rather Fawltyesque attitude at times. The narrative is often as chaotic as her life, and Peek usually doesn’t bother to explain unfamiliar African words, but nonetheless it’s a charming and readable memoir.