



## Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91

By Charles Nicholl

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

**Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91** By Charles Nicholl

At the age of twenty-five, Arthur Rimbaud—the infamous author of *A Season in Hell*, the pioneer of modernism, the lover and destroyer of Verlaine, the "hoodlum poet" celebrated a century later by Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison—turned his back on poetry, France, and fame, for a life of wandering in East Africa.

In this compelling biography, Charles Nicholl pieces together the shadowy story of Rimbaud's life as a trader, explorer, and gunrunner in Africa. Following his fascinating journey, Nicholl shows how Rimbaud lived out that mysterious pronouncement of his teenage years: "Je est un autre"—I is somebody else.

"Rimbaud's fear of stasis never left him. 'I should like to wander over the face of the whole world,' he told his sister, Isobelle, 'then perhaps I'd find a place that would please me a little.' The tragedy of Rimbaud's later life, superbly chronicled by Nicholl, is that he never really did."—*London Guardian*

"Nicholl has excavated a mosaic of semi-legendary anecdotes to show that they were an essential part of the poet's journey to become 'somebody else.' Not quite biography, not quite travel book, in the end *Somebody Else* transcends both genres."—Sara Wheeler, *Daily Telegraph*

"At the end of *Somebody Else* Rimbaud is more interesting and more various than before: he is not less mysterious, but he is more real."—Susannah Clapp, *Observer Review*

 [Download Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 ...pdf](#)

# Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91

By Charles Nicholl

## Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl

At the age of twenty-five, Arthur Rimbaud—the infamous author of *A Season in Hell*, the pioneer of modernism, the lover and destroyer of Verlaine, the "hoodlum poet" celebrated a century later by Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison—turned his back on poetry, France, and fame, for a life of wandering in East Africa.

In this compelling biography, Charles Nicholl pieces together the shadowy story of Rimbaud's life as a trader, explorer, and gunrunner in Africa. Following his fascinating journey, Nicholl shows how Rimbaud lived out that mysterious pronouncement of his teenage years: "Je est un autre"—I is somebody else.

"Rimbaud's fear of stasis never left him. 'I should like to wander over the face of the whole world,' he told his sister, Isobelle, 'then perhaps I'd find a place that would please me a little.' The tragedy of Rimbaud's later life, superbly chronicled by Nicholl, is that he never really did."—*London Guardian*

"Nicholl has excavated a mosaic of semi-legendary anecdotes to show that they were an essential part of the poet's journey to become 'somebody else.' Not quite biography, not quite travel book, in the end *Somebody Else* transcends both genres."—Sara Wheeler, *Daily Telegraph*

"At the end of *Somebody Else* Rimbaud is more interesting and more various than before: he is not less mysterious, but he is more real."—Susannah Clapp, *Observer Review*

## Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl Bibliography

- Rank: #490490 in Books
- Published on: 1999-05-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, 1.11 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages



[Download Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As a teenager in Paris, Rimbaud (1854-1891) thrilled at his initiation into violent sex with poet Paul Verlaine, 10 years his elder. However, on the evidence of his subsequent travels in Africa as documented by Nicholl he fled the fleshpots of Paris and London in revulsion, seeking a life remote in the extreme. Arriving in 1880, after much wandering, in somnolent Aden across the horn of Africa, Rimbaud at age 26 had run away from every aspect of his former self. He had already written his last verse, his decadent masterpiece, *A Season in Hell*, had been composed at 16. So now I can see, he writes in hopeful resignation, that existence is just a way to use up your life. In tracing the stasis and stagnation of the tropical entropy in which Rimbaud exiled himself as a small trader and gunrunner in Djibouti and Ethiopia, where the culture of bohemia did not intrude, Nicholl creates a minor classic of biography and travel. In the offbeat vein of *The Quest for Corvo* and *Hermit of Peking*, the narrative is less about the subject than about the search for documentation, little of which exists. Nicholl evokes the flyspecked, sunbaked miasma of mountain villages and the cursed coast, where the hubbub of the marketplace was all that gave life its interest, and where Rimbaud drove himself relentlessly, intending to use himself up. At age 37 he succeeded. In reconstructing the lost years, Nicholl (*The Reckoning: The Murder of Christopher Marlowe*) has described, compellingly, a long suicide. 38 b&w photographs. (May) FYI: *Somebody Else* received the Hawthornden Prize in England in 1998. Benjamin Ivry's *Arthur Rimbaud*, focusing upon the two-year affair with Verlaine, was reviewed in PW on February 22.

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Considered one of the most colorful figures of the French literary scene in the late 19th century and the pioneer of Modernism, Arthur Rimbaud (1854-91) wrote most of his poetry before the age of 19. By 25 he had renounced literary pursuits and embarked on a series of careers as a soldier, gunrunner, and trader in East Africa and Southern Arabia. In this remarkable biography, winner of Britain's 1998 Hawthornden Prize, Nicholl (*The Creature in the Map: A Journey to El Dorado*, LJ 4/15/96) reconstructs Rimbaud's shadowy life, the story of the lost years after he abandoned poetry. Although Nicholl relies on documentary sources, including Rimbaud's letters, and the memoirs of his contemporaries, he also reenacts Rimbaud's journeys, from the souks of Cairo to Yemen, Somalia, and the highlands of Ethiopia. Nicholl argues that Rimbaud's exotic adventures transcended a psychological battle within him. Rimbaud's journeys were a quest for "his other self," a chance to become "somebody else." Highly recommended for comprehensive literary collections. AA  
Ali Houissa, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

Nicholl fuses the genres of biography and travelogue to tell an emotional story of Arthur Rimbaud's ten years in Africa, unveiling the mystery of the leading French symbolist's post-poetry period. Rimbaud gained world renown for his symbolist verse and for a brief but tumultuous homosexual relationship with Paul Verlaine, who left his family to join the teenage Rimbaud (only to shoot him after the younger poet jilted him). However, the man who was hailed as the founder of a new poetic movement dismissed his own talent as an adolescent hobby. He stopped writing verse at age 21 and from then on sought to erase his bohemian past. Rimbaud's vagabond instinct led him to the exotic East, and he arrived in Aden in 1880, after short sojourns in Java and Cyprus. For the next decade, he would shuttle ceaselessly between modern-day Yemen, Ethiopia, and Egypt, trading in coffee, skins, guns, and even, according to some less than reliable accounts, slaves.

Tireless despite his volatile health, driven by a spirit of adventure, Rimbaud walked hundreds of miles at the head of trading caravans through dangerous lands. He found his calling exploring uncharted territories and learning the language, religion, and culture of local peoples. His expertise was acknowledged when the French Geographical Society deemed his commercial and geographical report on East Africa worthy of publication. Drawing on Rimbaud's massive correspondence, Nicholl portrays him as always on the run, physically and psychologically, ever in search of new experiences but never attaining happiness. An enormous, cancerous swelling of the knee finally forced him to return to France. Nicholl's narrative culminates in a powerful description of the agony Rimbaud endured between the amputation of his right leg and his death a few months later. Rimbaud is a fascinating personality, but Nicholl's (*The Creature in the Map: A Journey to El Dorado*, 1996, etc.) account offers more: poetry, historical documents, and personal impressions unite in a general statement about human ambition and limitations. (38 b&w illustrations, not seen) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Jeffrey Lockwood:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive boost then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular *Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91* book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### Joyce Jacobs:

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't ascertain book by its include may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer could be *Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91* why because the amazing cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

#### Steven Whitney:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find publication that need more time to be study. *Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91* can be your answer because it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

**Donna Willeford:**

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. Among the books in the top record in your reading list is Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl #9E8WY4TVQRM**

# **Read Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl for online ebook**

Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl books to read online.

## **Online Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl ebook PDF download**

**Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl Doc**

**Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl MobiPocket**

**Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl EPub**

**9E8WY4TVQRM: Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91 By Charles Nicholl**