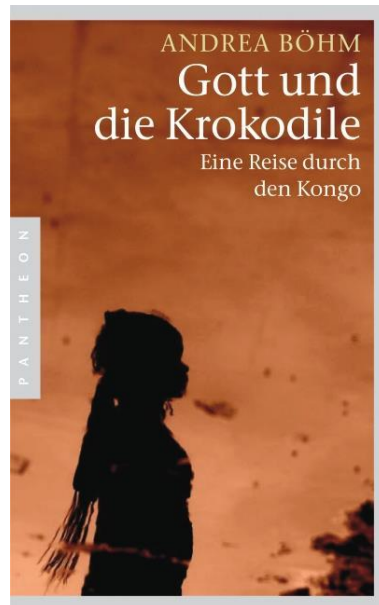


## An encounter with the true Congo



Andrea Böhm  
**God and the Crocodiles**  
[Gott und die Krokodile]  
A trip through the Congo

Pantheon  
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**Andrea Böhm**, born in 1961, spent ten years in the USA as a freelance journalist for *taz*, *Die Zeit* and *GEO*, among others, and was awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize in 2004. She has worked as an editor for *Die Zeit* since 2006 and has been the paper's Middle East correspondent since 2013, reporting from Beirut. 2011 saw the publication of her book *God and the Crocodiles: A journey through the Congo*.

Andrea Böhm takes us on a journey of discovery through the Congo.

She leads us to the lively, noisy heat of the capital city, Kinshasa – formerly called "la Belle" but now only known as "la Poubelle", the garbage bin. She follows the tracks of an American missionary, who in the 1890s lived among the Kuba tribe deep in the jungle, and meets one of the mysterious Mai-Mai fighters who are made invincible by a magic potion. She also takes a look at the world's biggest diamond mines and visits the crisis zone in the Kivu provinces, where hundreds of thousands of people took refuge after the genocide in Rwanda.

More than anything else, however, Andrea Böhm tells the story of the people she meets: hard-working market women, "bewitched" street kids, clever local politicians – all of them have become true masters of improvisation in the daily state of emergency.