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- Reporting on the places to go, the sport available and all the equipment to use.
- Examining the challenges of managing wildlife as a sustainable resource and the relationship between Africa's game and its people.

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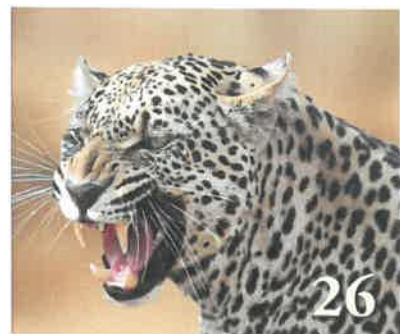
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# Two Arrows, Two Jackals

*By Frank Berbuir*





*It is 4:00 in the morning when my alarm clock jolts me out of sleep, and soon I am in my Sniper Africa Camo clothes. Outside it is still dark and quiet.*

*The old Landy.*



on our faces and smell the scents of the bush, although even stronger was the smell of the unburned fuel from the old "Landy". We parked under a camel thorn tree and walked the last three-quarter mile through still dark savanna.

Beautiful rosy-faced lovebirds and masked weaverbirds were the morning messengers around our blind, welcoming the early dawn, the sunrise imparting a comforting warmth. With the first light came the first animal visitors to the waterhole – helmeted guinea fowls and doves.

Suddenly the bunch of fowls and other birds scuttled off or flew away in a flurry as two black-backed jackals *canis mesomelas*, seemed to appear from nowhere, heading straight to the waterhole. I was fully awake and excited. The jackals were skittish as they came closer, the younger and smaller one nudging and teasing his companion when they arrived at the water, whereas the bigger jackal was looking in our direction, seeming to check out if everything was all right. Gustav and I were both dead quiet and froze in our blind.

As I peered at 24 yards distance through the mesh of the blind, I had my trustee Mathews LX bow in one hand and the

**I**t was the end of August and I was back in Africa staying on a wonderful family-owned farm, Okapunja, in northern Namibia, close to the Etosha National Park. Under the lapa I meet Gustav, my professional hunter. After a quick coffee and some homemade cookies, we headed out in an old, almost indestructible Land Rover. The windshield was folded down and we could feel the fresh morning breeze



*Jackal in Namibia #1.*





*Beautiful bushveld in Namibia.*



*Open Range.*

*Our termite blind.*



*The two jackals.*

Gold Tip Lazer carbon arrow in the other. Gustav stood silently behind the video camera, focusing on the jackals. The big jackal was bothered by the younger one, and bared his teeth and barked at him. This short distraction gave me the opportunity to nock in the arrow, lift up my bow and pull it back to full draw. Then for a moment these wild canines of the African savanna paused at the waterhole and both dropped their heads to drink. It was my only chance to put the sight on the vitals of the bigger male in front. Fortunately, the younger was not standing behind or in front of him and the line of fire was clear when I released the arrow. The arrow with the Silverflame 125-grain Broadhead penetrated the animal just above the left front leg, and within seconds he fell dead only 10 yards from where he had stood.

The younger jackal hesitated a short



## Highly strung

while before disappearing. We waited a few minutes before I went to pick up the dead jackal and to look for the arrow, which we finally found 70 meters behind the shooting spot.

Two days later when I sat this time with Rudy, the other PH on the farm, in the same blind at about the same time in the early morning, and this entire scenario began to repeat. This time the younger, smaller rooijakkaal arrived at the waterhole, creeping from out of the thick bushes. He seemed nervous as he trotted to approach the waterhole. Cautious, he checked the area before he lowered his head to drink. Once again, the distance was 24 yards and the jackal was standing slightly quartering towards us. The spot on the vitals was small but feasible. As the animal bent and was drinking, I carefully drew my bow and focused on the spot. Slowly my index finger pushed the release and let the arrow go. It hit hard and penetrated him, and he dropped dead within five seconds at five yards distance. Rudy was astonished at how quickly and cleanly this happens with bow and arrow.

What an amazing awesome morning it was, and what a lucky hunter.

Always good hunting, *Waidmannsheil and Alles van die Beste.*

### Equipment:

**Bow:** Mathews LX 70#

**Arrows:** Gold Tip Lazer

**Broadhead:** German Kinetics Silverflame

**Optics:** Zeiss Victory Binocular & Bushnell Rangefinder

**Release:** Scott

**Camo:** Sniper Africa

### *A happy hunter with jackal #2.*



*German hunter Frank Berbuir is passionate about the outdoors and hunting – especially bowhunting, which he has practised for more than 22 years. Although he's bowhunted in several countries, he's become addicted to hunting in Africa since his first safari in 2004. Frank is a mechanical engineer and risk manager in the automotive industry.*

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