



Tales From a Troubled Land

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With a mixture of compassion and despair, this collection of ten short stories by the distinguished author of "Cry, the Beloved Country" speaks eloquently yet incisively of the injustices of the author's native land, South Africa.

Tales From a Troubled Land Details

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Author : Alan Paton

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SpaceBear says

A collection of short stories, mostly drawn from Paton's experiences working in the school system. Although not all of the stories deal with apartheid directly, it's impossible not to place the stories in the context they were written, especially those on the subject of black students with white teachers.

Essam M. Al-Jassim says

Jeff Hobbs says

Read so far:

Life for a life --

Sponono --

Ha'penny --

The Waste land --

The Worst thing of his life --

Elephant shooter --

Debbie go home --

Death of a Tsotsi --

A Divided house --

A Drink in the passage -

Nazmi Yaakub says

BAYANGAN awal tentang karya berlatarkan Aparteid mungkin mengecewakan saya apabila mengingatkan pengarangnya adalah aktivis anti-Aparteid yang mengasaskan Parti Liberal Afrika Selatan, Alan Paton. Apatah lagi cerpen pertama dalam kumpulan ini, *Life for a Life* seolah-olah bakal menguak sejarah hitam dan celaka yang menyula manusia kulit hitam di Afrika Selatan.

Bagaimanapun, cerpen yang menyorot pembunuhan tuan tanah kulit putih yang menuntut darah ditumpahkan

secara melulu itu, tidak membawa kita untuk terus teraba-raba dan dicucuk-cucuk duri Aparteid itu. Sebaliknya sebahagian besar cerpen dalam Tales from a Troubled Land ini membawa komentar sosial berdasarkan latar pengalaman pengarang dalam mentadbir pusat pemulihan juvana bagi kanak-kanak dan remaja kulit hitam.

Kumpulan cerpen ini boleh dianggap karya sosial daripada politikal meskipun cerpen terakhirnya *A Drink in a Passage* menutupnya secara ironik terhadap seniman kulit hitam yang memenangi pertandingan arca yang arcanya lebih diraikan daripada kemanusiaan senimannya.

Namun, dua cerpen pemula dan penutupnya memberikan pemahaman yang baik untuk melihat cengkaman Aparteid terhadap manusia desa dan manusia bandar dari kaca mata politikal dan kemanusiaan, manakala di tengah-tengahnya kita sebenarnya didedahkan dengan komentar sosialnya terhadap masalah remaja yang disaring daripada pengalamannya yang benar tetapi pahit.

Jesse Workman says

These short stories seemed a bit different from Paton's larger works. They were, however, very moving and not too difficult to digest. The themes and morals were very near the surface, but the beauty of Paton's writing and his conveyance of emotion are perhaps my favorite aspect of his work. This collection is not nearly as long as I had hoped, but it would be a great way for someone to get acquainted with Paton's writing before starting one of his larger works, i.e. a great way to get hooked.

Kathy says

Stories set in South Africa in the 1950s-1960s. Several are from the point of view of a white director of a reformatory for young black boys, and focus on a particular inmate who is clever and memorable. There is an obvious delight in those who most respectfully break the rules, and humor is often present, but every story ends in tragedy, as it must for such a person in such a place and time. I can't help but wonder what stories Paton would tell about South Africa today.

Virgilio Machado says

One might assume from a knowledge of Paton's work and the title that the ten stories, Tales of a Troubled Land, will be ten variations on the theme of apartheid in South Africa. But this is not the case, for both the stories of "The Worst Thing in His Life" and "The Elephant Shooter" are concerned with the behavior of people which does not have anything to do with apartheid per se.

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-28047...>

"I should like to write books about South Africa," said Alan (Cry, the Beloved Country) Paton a dozen years ago, "which would really stab people in the conscience." That is what he has succeeded in doing from the first. A tough and fearless little man who loves his country and its people, black and white (he is the leader of the Liberal Party in South Africa), Paton does not rank as a major writer. But for his purposes, he may be something even better

Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/art...>

Samantha Williams says

Paton's short stories in this collection paints a troubled time. He shows readers the troubles that plague a country through some of its most innocent souls. For example, Spike in the story Death of a Tsotsi, or Jacky in The Divided House. The roar of South Africa is heard loud and clear in these short stories. Paton's skill to turn these tales into short stories, instead of actual novels themselves, highlights his craftiness.

I loved reading the tales. Paton makes it so that you're right there in the room with the characters.

Lisa says

Short stories about S. Africa during apartied. Interesting insight.

Jackson Matthews says

Troubling! I am very happy that we are moving past this old way of doing things, and that the arc is leaning toward equality -- the next thing to conquer is the bullies, of which there are a sad number here ... but many of the stories are still to give one hope.

Longfellow says

Paton is gifted with the ability to write about South Africa insightfully while in the midst of its turmoil and immoral governance. His insights are indictments yet remain compassionate.

All these things plus the stories are beautifully written and a pleasure to read.
