



The Crack

Christopher Radmann

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Gentle but highly strung, Janet must support her Afrikaner husband in his new job as a plain-clothes policeman and specialist interrogator. Hector-Jan heads off to work on New Year's Day, aware that he is unbearably close to a bloody drama about to unfold. As Janet's world tightens and threatens to fracture, she must look to her children and cling to the support of Alice, her black maid, and Solomon, her ever-faithful gardener. All too conscious of her own emotional fragility, Janet watches her mother slip into the folds of "Old Timers" disease, and next door, the lurking, unfathomable Doug is up to no good. As the crack in the swimming pool widens, can Janet bridge the gaps that threaten them all? Written with tenderness and disquieting power, *The Crack* exposes a brutal center that cannot hold, revealing how, in apartheid South Africa, things must crack and fall apart.

The Crack Details

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Author : Christopher Radmann

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Genre :

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From Reader Review The Crack for online ebook

Hannah Rae says

Woah this book was good. I don't know what I was expecting from it but I really wasn't disappointed at all. The writing is really good and the family was intriguing.

Sue Davis says

THE CRACK was listed for a First Reads giveaway by 45th Parallel Communications.

The novel begins on New Years Day, 1976 in South Africa so although the reader already knows, the author repeatedly reminds us that this is not going to be a good year. What does the crack in the swimming pool represent? I initially assumed that it symbolized the destruction that apartheid--the cracking of society into two separate groups--wrought. But by the end of the novel the crack has grown to encompass the breakdown of a family, the "crack up" of at least one character, serious physical injuries and death, and the splitting open of the body in more than one sense, as well as a crack in personal relations caused by an evil Iago-like character. The increasing enormity of cruelty and evil on the part of the Afrikaner police officer, who initially is just doing his job, is nearly unbearable and, of course, is not something he can limit to his place of work. A powerful novel, definitely worth reading.

Bookread2day says

I found this book hard to get into with the first day of a new year in South Africa 1976 when a crack appears at the bottom of a swimming pool. I gave up half way through.

Bonnie says

Unexpectedly tense novel overburdened with symbolism that will likely resonate best with South African nationals and Comp Lit majors.

Ann Tonks says

I was interested in reading a book on apartheid South Africa by a new writer but I just couldn't get into this one. There were some interesting moments to start with but as a number of other reviewers have said, it was just too slow and nasty.

Alex Rogers says

Interesting premise, but the book quickly got me to screaming point with how slow and frustrating it was. I liked how well the atmosphere was established, and the details of suburban South African life were true and evocative of aspects of my own upbringing there, but the book never took off - all atmosphere, no plot. I gave up about half way in

Linda says

Great writing, but overly drawn out (although interesting) tale.

Graham says

I won this book through a goodreads giveaway.

Although this book is well written I found it very boring. The book is about the mental break down of a woman and her husband. The majority of the book is written about the woman, who spends the majority of the book at home, worrying about a crack in her pool and walking around the house. The book only started to get interesting towards the end when both Janet and Hektor-Jan had lost their minds.

I'm still a little confused over the ending. What happened to Doug and Hektor-Jan and why did they all fall down the Crack?

Judge says

Not an easy read, but worth while.

Trevor Pearson says

<https://bindblottyandcajole.wordpress...>
