



## Red Earth

*Tony Park*

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***Red Earth* by Tony Park, the author of *An Empty Coast*, is a full-throttle international thriller that will engross fans of Clive Cussler .**

### **On the run, with everything to lose . . .**

On the outskirts of Durban, Suzanne Fessey fights back during a vicious carjacking. She kills one thief but the other, wounded, escapes with her baby strapped into the back seat.

Called in to pursue the missing vehicle are helicopter pilot Nia Carras from the air, and nearby wildlife researcher Mike Dunn from the ground.

But South Africa's police have even bigger problems: a suicide bomber has killed the visiting American ambassador, and chaos has descended on KwaZulu-Natal.

As Mike and Nia track the missing baby through wild-game reserves from Zululand to Zimbabwe, they come to realize that the war on terror has well and truly arrived . . .

## Red Earth Details

Date : Published October 20th 2016 by Pan

ISBN :

Author : Tony Park

Format : Kindle Edition 447 pages

Genre : Cultural, Africa, Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Crime

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## From Reader Review Red Earth for online ebook

### Robert Luke says

One of the characters, Jed, first appears in 'Zambezi', so it might be nice to read Zambezi first? Although not the main character in this one, his previous experience in Zambezi does add another layer to this excellent read. It is fascinating reading this as he so accurately describes the areas - I can picture where all happens (I am South African and lived in Umhlanga and Mtubatuba).

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### Rowena says

A good story to listen to. It was fast-paced and quite well narrated.

This was my first read of Tony Park. He is quite prolific and I was a little worried that I might not get references to previous books, but it was definitely one-off enough for me.

I might read others by this author later.

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### Julie Garner says

This was my first ever Tony Park book. Did I like it? Let's see...I started reading it before bed and finished reading before bed that same night. I could not put this book down! There were so many side stories that all linked in together to create the main story. Holy moly! Everything happened in this book.

Assassination..check. Baby kidnap...check. Romance...check. Action...check. Lives at stake...check. As I said, this book has something for everything. Spies, Park Rangers, Teenagers and Helicopter pilots, all going about their business one day in Africa, when BAM!!! Their world changes and suddenly they are in a literal race to the death.

Well written and keeps you on the edge of your seat.

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### Clare says

An exciting book. Many twists and turns kept me reading !

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### Lucinda Clarke says

#### ALL THINGS AFRICAN

As soon as I find a book about Africa I have to read it. It's the first I've tried by this author and I enjoyed it. Set in a part of SA I know well it took me back a few years. The storyline was good, although the information dump at the end was rather intense. The cast of characters was quite extensive and I'd recommend reading this in two sittings at most. I shall be buying more books by Tony Park.

## Sean Morton says

This was a surprisingly good read. I don't read a lot of action/adventure as I usually leave that for the big screen, and I've never read anything by Tony Park before. Now however, I will definitely consider reading his work again.

Red Earth is a high octane thriller that while still bringing nail-biting tension, also focuses on good character development: something often missing in the action genre. The dynamics between the characters and the little twists and turns really made the story interesting.

What I also enjoyed was that Park incorporated many real life issues and circumstances into his work, raising awareness of poaching and dwindling vulture numbers, as well as not shying away from using ISIS as a political device.

My main criticism is that the book could have been cut a bit shorter, especially in the first half as there were parts which dragged and felt unnecessary. This in turn made it hard to get into at first, other than that I really enjoyed it.

If you have never read Tony Park before I definitely recommend you give him a shot, and Red Earth is a great place to start.

## **Gary Simpson says**

Solid African based thriller. Wilbur Smith lite.....

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### **Christopher Hennessy says**

'Red Earth' is Tony Park's best effort so far.

Settle in for an exciting ride, where nothing is as it seems.

There are more twists and turns in the plot than a big Kudu bull's horns.

Just when you think you have worked out who's who, the dynamics change. I gave up trying to guess how it would end and just sat back and enjoyed the yarn.

The story builds up to climax after climax as the pace quickens.

As I got towards the end of the book, I found myself hoping the climax I was devouring was not "it", so the story would last that bit longer.

Tony's books are three-quarters cracking yarn and one-quarter educational travelogue on Southern Africa, its peoples, landscapes and animals. His descriptions highlight the beauty and irony that is Africa, the amazing little details that the first time traveller might miss.

Tony's first hand knowledge and empathy with military matters adds that essential air of believability, so that you find yourself accepting and enjoying the moment, rather than thinking, "how could this be so?"

Tony is a modest, no frills author. That such a great storyline can come from such an unassuming person is another African mystery, but one we should all be grateful for.

So as someone once said, do yourself a favour and have a look at 'Red Earth'. You won't be disappointed.

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### **Marylyn says**

Well!!!

It was action packed, but I just couldn't really get into it, I felt a little let down as I have waited to read this. I found it rambled on a bit in places 3 out of 4 Mr Park...

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### **Jenny says**

Red Earth is the first book that I have read of Tony Park. In the beginning, I was not sure if I would continue

to read Red Earth with all different plots and characters that entwine throughout the book. At first, I did not understand how all the characters Mike, Angus, Nia, Suzanne, Hassan, Simon, Jed, Bandile, Lerato, Themba, Chris and Franklin all fit into the plot of Red Earth. However, has you continue to read you realise how gifted Tony Park is in the way he can intertwine all the characters and plots into one amazing conclusion. Red Earth is an action pack and moving story you never know what going to happen next. I recommend this book.

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### **Paul and Lynn Bower says**

Excellent. Fast moving, lots of turns

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### **Tony Nielsen says**

Based mostly in South Africa, Tony Park's Red Earth is a rollicking read, full of danger and action. The story begins with an activity that's apparently all too common in the Republic, notably a car-jacking. Unfortunately the outcomes create mayhem, as a young baby was in the car-jacked vehicle, and the vehicle also belonged to a female terrorist leader.

From there the action escalates as the mother seeks to reclaim her car and baby, and brings into the picture an unlikely partnership between a wildlife expert Mike Dunn and a helicopter pilot Nia Carras. As a backdrop the American ambassador to South Africa has just been assassinated and the local police and American agencies are relentlessly trying to catch the other members of the terrorist cell that the suicide bomber belonged to.

Mike and Nia combine their local knowledge to track down the vehicle with the baby on board, not initially aware of its link to Suzanne Fessey, the baby's mother, and the brutal terrorist leader. Fessey is a take-no-prisoners type and the body count mounts as she tries to find her baby. But there's another reason for wanting to locate the baby, as a digital device has been implanted into the child's neck, and contains details of a multi million dollar Swiss bank account.

Red Earth is an exciting read as the good versus evil story-line plays out across South Africa and into neighbouring territories. Tony Park delivers.

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### **Phillip Harben says**

Suzanne Fessey pulls her car into a rest stop to deal with her vomiting baby. She is carjacked and before she can react, the thief drives off in her car with her baby, triggering an epic manhunt across scorching Kwazulu-Natal.

The US ambassador is killed in Durban, leaching manpower and resources from the police who would've searched for the missing baby. The task then falls to feisty helicopter pilot Nia Carras and bushranger Mike Dunn, who team up to track the missing baby but they encounter a web of intrigue, poaching and terrorism that embroils not just Africa, but the US as well.

It is difficult to continue with a precis of this book without spoiling the storyline's natural twists and turns, which flow evenly and logically throughout the novel, so I'm not going to!

This is the first Tony Park book I've read and am impressed by his rejection of stereotypes and use of believable characters. The storyline is pacy without feeling frantic and delivers on the promises of action and peril.

Early on in the book, Mike Dunn is attending the site of some dead vultures and I've learnt more about vultures in one chapter than my whole life to date. Perhaps I'm not the only one, but I would be happy reading a Mike Dunn story, where nothing extraordinary happens, he's just going about his business in the bush.

The wildlife are characters in their own right and just as deadly as the terrorists. In the temperate UK, there's no reason to be wary of wildlife – a squirrel is just not going to be dangerous to you. It was interesting to read a book where mankind is not at the top of the food chain in other places of the world. There is a gripping reminder of that truth midway through the book, involving the baby and a leopard.

I do have a couple of minor gripes with the book though and they're just enough to stop it from receiving top marks.

Some of the characters are thinly sketched and could've used more backstory to flesh them out into living, breathing people, with nuanced histories and motivations.

The other main gripe is that the author assumes that the reader is familiar with the geography and terminology used in Africa, which I'm certainly not. More than once I found myself googling both words to understand colloquial terms and maps to try and get a greater sense of where the action was happening. It was a minor annoyance, Google is only a click away, but a few descriptive words for the uninitiated would've prevented being dragged out of the story to do a little research.

These are minor moans, though and don't detract too much from my enjoyment of the story.

Red Earth is very much in the same mould as classic Jack Higgins and conjures images of searing, beautiful, deadly Africa. It's so authentic, you can almost taste the dust in your mouth and the blazing sun on your neck.

Four out of five laughing hyenas.

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### **Boolarong Press says**

It is easy to read, predictable, light entertainment. Old man gets the girl after lots of gunfire and characters with little depth. The author seemed uncomfortable writing about men's weaknesses and "expert" sexual abilities.

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