

## Heart of the Hunter: A Novel

*Deon Meyer*

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## **Heart of the Hunter: A Novel** Deon Meyer

When Johnny K is kidnapped and held to ransom, his daughter turns to the only man she knows can help her - his old friend - Tiny. The kidnappers want a disk from her safe that contains extremely sensitive data, and she has seventy-two hours in which to deliver, or her father will die. But there are those watching Tiny's every move, monitoring, waiting for him trip up and lead them to what they want. Two warring factions with innocents caught in the middle It is only a matter of time...

## **Heart of the Hunter: A Novel Details**


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Author : Deon Meyer

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

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# From Reader Review Heart of the Hunter: A Novel for online ebook

## Roland says

A whopper of an 'on the run' novel set in South Africa

Former KGB assassin Thobela Mpaypheli is now a lowly errant runner with a motorcycle dealer in Cape Town. Mpaypheli is brought out of retirement when a friend asks him to deliver a computer hard-drive to Lusaka, some 2500 km to the north, within 72 hours.

This classic "can he make it?" (of course he can/could, sort of, but with a twist, of course) also involves an agent / double-agent set-up which can sometimes get rather confusing. Everything seems to work out in the end though, Deon Meyer is a careful writer and a conscientious researcher.

There are unlikely coincidences (Koos Kok in that hut) but without them, life wouldn't be life, would it?

Characterization is often astute, Thobela, his best friend Van Heerden, Cape Times journalist Allison Healy are believable and fun. However, Tiger Mazibuko with his rage would hardly have reached the position he has. Or would he in South Africa? Corruption certainly seems fairly ripe, the way Allison Healy is freely fed news through a police acquaintance is incredible, but not unbelievable.

This is a good read if you like crime / on the run stories and Meyer has the accuracy and the ruthlessness (with his own characters, if need be) to keep you turning those pages.

This was my second Deon Meyers after "Devil's Peak" and I certainly hope to come back to him again.

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## Kgwhitehurst says

This is an excellent espionage thriller that takes the reader on a roller coaster ride through the recent history of South Africa. Like all of Meyer's books, he uses multiple POV to set up the story. That takes roughly 40% of the book; then, it takes off like an impala. The multiple POV allows Meyer to develop some terse and tense intercutting; he handles it like Hitchcock. And the hints for the twists he drops neatly, and the reader rolls right over in the speed of page turning. Pay attention, catch the hints, then salivate until the meaning is clear.

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## Justine says

Dit boek 'Proteus' is in 2006 al eerder verschenen onder de naam 'De proteus diskette'. Maar ook in 2015 is het een schitterend verhaal en helaas ook nog steeds actueel. Een spannende politieke thriller, waarin in ook spionage niet wordt geschuwd. We gaan dwars door het mooie Zuid Afrika heen met spannende achtervolgingen. We maken kennis met Tobela Mpayipheli, met de bijnaam Tiny. Een Xhosa krijger van bijna twee meter lang. Vroeger een huurmoordenaar voor de regering nu een rustige man die samenwoont met zijn vriendin en zoontje. Dan wordt Tiny zijn hulp ingeroepen en een oude belofte moet worden ingelost. Tiny heeft 72 uur om zijn vriend van de dood te redden, daarvoor moet hij wel een pakje bezorgen. Het pakje bevat een diskette met belastend materiaal over de geheime dienst van Zuid Afrika.

De schrijfstijl is boeiend, als geen ander weet de schrijver het mooie Zuid Afrika neer te zetten. Het ruige landschap maar ook de townships worden prachtig beschreven. Je waant je midden in het land en je voelt de spanning rustig oplopen. De politiek wordt op de achtergrond meegenomen, maar ook de apartheid en de afschaffing hiervan. Hoe er toch veel mensen zijn geweest die het er helemaal niet mee eens zijn geweest en

alles dwarsbomen. Het is geen gemakkelijk verhaal, zeker als je niet bekend met spionage en politiek. Je moet echt je aandacht erbij houden. Toch wordt het duidelijk uitgelegd. Via de dikgedrukte verhoren van de CIA krijg je een mooi beeld van wat er zich nu werkelijk afspeelt.

Niets gaat de schrijver uit de weg. Dit maakt het verhaal boeiend, spannend maar ook soms saai, doordat de schrijver zich laat meeslepen met de maatschappelijke achtergronden. Toch is het alles bij elkaar een mooi spannend geheel geworden waarin je toch wel onder de indruk achterblijft. Want laten we eerlijk zijn, vandaag aan de dag worden dezelfde spelletjes nog altijd gespeeld

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## **Koulla says**

Yay! I love Deon Meyer. He is my favourite new author (not so new as it turns out.. sorry Deon, I should have woken up to your talents MUUUUCH sooner). Fast paced crime writer whose stories are set in SA with totally believable characters. I could identify with all of them as if I'd met them along my travels through the old... and especially the new South Africa. Now for the next one...

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## **Leslynn says**

I literally had to hide my kindle in a different room at night so that I could get some rest and not read this novel in one go! My almost-crush on this author's works has become full-blown, and the worst part of it is that I told him so -- he must think me such a fangirl!

Well, Deon Meyer:

Anyway, about this book.... Sjo, what a journey across Africa!

I finally was granted my wish of being a fly on the wall while Tiny was.....

And I was just like

And Tiny was just like:

Sadly, people had to die.

This caused Tiny to

BTW:

Why aren't you reading this awesome book yet?

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### **Bev Taylor says**

tiny has a past littered with violence and death

he has put all that in the past and is now living with a woman and her son. h/e that is all to change when a note from an old friend asks for his assistance

set in south africa this is a thrilling mix of all the troubles in this country between the various govt parties plus all those from other countries

who is to blame for what is to happen? all is not as it seems and some lives are going to be changed forever

wonderful characterisation and also a thrilling yet disturbing history story

bev

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### **Helen says**

Heart of the Hunter by Deon Meyer is a suspense thriller. Suspense because it's packed with twists and turns and you're not sure who's showing their true colors and who's not what they seem. Thriller because it's non-stop action.

Mpayipheli, despite his past, is the character I rooted for. Despite his past, he is the hero. But because of his past, he is not just delivering a package, he is being ruthlessly hunted.

When I first started reading Heart of the Hunter, I had difficulty with the names. A great many of them are names that I didn't know how to pronounce: "Mpayipheli" for one. But once I assigned them names in my head (for Mpayipheli, I dropped the M), I got into the story, even though I have no idea if that's the way it is correctly pronounced.

As a reader, you are primarily in Mpayipheli's head, which is a very interesting place to be since he is quite fascinating. I started reading to learn more about him and to find out if he would get the package where it needed to be in time to save his friend. I kept reading to find out if he would survive the trip when he is being hunted via land and air. I finished it to find out if Mpayipheli would revert to the man he used to be or grow into the man whom the woman who loves him believes him to be.

There is nothing ordinary about this man or the trip he takes.  
I give Heart of the Hunter by Deon Meyer a rating of Hel-of-a-Protagonist.

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## Orsodimondo says

### THE HEART OF THE HUNTER - PROTEUS

Questo è il romanzo che mi ha introdotto al personaggio di Thobela Mpayipheli, *Umzingeli*, il Cacciatore, il possente xhosa alto oltre due metri, scherzosamente soprannominato Tiny, una macchina da guerra che durante la guerra contro l'Apartheid fu addestrato dai russi e dal KGB diventando un temibile terminator. L'ho poi ritrovato in *Devil's Peak-African Blues*.

Nonostante sia un eccellente tiratore, preferisce usare l'arma bianca, l'assegai, la tradizionale corta lancia del suo popolo: vuole vedere il nemico negli occhi mentre uccide. E, soprattutto, lasciare che la vittima guardi i suoi occhi e non se li dimentichi.

Thobela, nel Sudafrica postapartheid, che non ha saputo ricompensarlo per gli anni di lotta impegno e dedizione assoluta, che si è dimenticato di lui, dopo aver lavorato qualche anno per un importante spacciatore, ha deciso di appendere la lama al chiodo per dedicarsi alla pace e all'amore familiare.

Ovviamente, però, il suo progetto esistenziale è interrotto: per debito d'amicizia deve compiere un'ultima missione, che lo porterà ad attraversare il suo paese da sud a nord, fino ad arrivare in Botswana, duemila chilometri in sella a una BMW R 1150 GS. Il viaggio deve durare al massimo tre giorni, 72 ore (Meyer è uno specialista della corsa contro il tempo già nei suoi titoli, vedi Tredici ore, Sette giorni).

A questo proposito, ecco qualcosa che connota Meyer differenziandolo dalla maggior parte degli scrittori di genere (almeno da quelli di lingua non inglese): per scrivere questo romanzo, Meyer cerca e trova una borsa di studio, che gli permette di percorrere lo stesso itinerario del suo personaggio, sulle stesse strade, in sella alla stessa motocicletta. Meyer scrive di cose che conosce, di cui ha cognizione, spesso esperienza, e nelle sue pagine si sente, si apprezza, si respira e si legge una 'verità' che altrove non si trova.

Meyer scrive crime story dalle trame complesse e accurate, ricche di personaggi ben delineati e sfaccettati. Però, il personaggio che io preferisco fra tutti, quello che secondo me è il vero protagonista di ognuna delle sue storie, è il Sudafrica, nazione antica giunta a seconda nascita con la fine dell'apartheid (1994), che da vent'anni cerca di ricostruirsi, rigenerarsi, con il suo incredibile intreccio di razzie, etnie e lingue. Thobela è un personaggio speciale, e lo si può considerare un simbolo della forza e della sofferenza dell'Africa e degli africani: è come se attraverso di lui Meyer ci mostrasse il cuore del continente nero.

*Madiba era il Mosè che ci ha condotto alla Terra Promessa, ma non vi abbiamo trovato né latte né miele.*

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## Col says

Blurb....

When Johnny K is kidnapped and held to ransom, his daughter turns to his old friend Tiny. She has 72 hours to deliver a disc with sensitive data on it to the kidnappers. But some people are watching Tiny's every move – waiting for him to trip up and lead them to what they want.

Phew..... 420-odd pages of pure adrenaline filled, roller-coasting rocket fuel. I managed to read this in less than a day over the weekend, when I might typically read on average about 100-odd pages a day over the course of a month.

There must be something in the water in South Africa as Meyer and his fellow countrymen, Mike Nicol and Roger Smith have churned out some of the best crime fiction I've read in the past 6 months.

Heart Of The Hunter is one of Meyer's earlier books originally published back in 2003. Since then he has attracted a wider audience with 13 Hours, Trackers and his latest book 7 Days. Of his 3 most recent books, I have only read Trackers which if I'm totally honest didn't blow me away like this and last month's reading highlight- Blood Safari. 13 Hours is on mount TBR along with his earlier stuff.

Meyer gives us Thobela Mpayipheli – former fighter in the struggle for equality in South Africa. Thobela has a checkered past; previously loaned out by the ANC resistance, as a favour to operate for the KGB as an assassin; but now post-apartheid surplus to requirements. Thobela after a few years as an enforcer in the drugs trade has gone straight. With an ordinary Joe job and his love for a woman and her son he has a dream of a farm where they can bring up the boy away from the dangers and temptations of the crime-ridden city; a place where he can learn to grow crops and see life flourish from his efforts, instead of choking it off at the core.

Tiny's plans are on track, until a former friend is kidnapped and he's sucked back into the vortex. To save his friend he has to deliver a disc to Lusaka within 3 days. Before too long he's fallen foul of the intelligence services seeking to recover the disc and stop the data falling into enemy hands. Thebola fleeing on a stolen motor-bike becomes a fugitive in a massive man-hunt organised by the authorities and fueled by the media which has broken the story.

Does the interests of the state, over-ride the basic rights of her citizens? Can you be loyal to the state but retain your principles and behave according to your conscience? Can people fundamentally change and out-grow their past and become more?

Sometimes you start reading a book that starts out in a promising fashion, but along the way loses its edge and ultimately crawls to an unsatisfactory conclusion. Not this book, and from the evidence of the last month or two, not this author. Pedal to metal from first page to last

5 from 5

Borrowed from my local library.

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02...>

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## **Ubik 2.0 says**

### **Inseguimento su strada**

Deon Meyer è un autore sudafricano emergente che già vanta alcuni recenti riconoscimenti internazionali.

In questo "Codice cacciatore" dimostra un'ottima capacità di impostare un thriller con originalità e con la giusta quota di misteri che poi verranno risolti nel corso della narrazione con una parte finale altrettanto strutturata.

Il problema di questo romanzo è che tutta la parte centrale del libro (si parla di oltre 200 pagine!) viene impiegata nella descrizione dell'inseguimento del protagonista da parte di servizi segreti iperaddestrati e tecnologizzati che alla prova dei fatti si rivelano degli incapaci. Quindi abbiamo il nostro eroe armato solo della sua forza fisica e psichica che attraversa città, regioni e stati beffando sistematicamente i "cattivi" con tutti i cliché di questo tipo di situazione letti in molti romanzi e visti in moltissimi film: gli incontri con chi

vuole aiutarlo, chi sembra tradirlo, mentre i mass-media prendono le parti del fuggitivo inducendo gruppi di popolazione a schierarsi dalla sua parte.

Niente di male nell'aver inserito questo tema, ma il guaio è che qui occupa tanto spazio, ed anche in modo ripetitivo, da fagocitare la trama dell'intero romanzo.

A titolo di esempio, ben diversa è la prova di Caryl Ferey (francese ma buon conoscitore della realtà sudafricana) che in "Zulu" parte dalla stessa realtà di Cape Town e dintorni ma se ne serve per costruire una storia originale e densa di eventi e svolte narrative degne di un vero thriller coi fiocchi. In questo senso Meyer deve fare ancora un bel po' di strada per raggiungere risultati paragonabili.

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### **Max Coggan says**

An excellent suspense thriller frequently highlighting the apartheid and problems in South Africa.

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### **Sandi says**

Another wow thriller from Deon Meyer. Great characters (especially loved learning Tiny's backstory), lots of action, and interesting look at South Africa's security forces and the various factions within.

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### **jo says**

this book is fantastic.

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### **Kyrie says**

This book is his first published in the States. It tells the story of Tiny (who I came across in one of his later novels). I really liked the pace, the guessing who was the good guy, who was the baddie. The bits of philosophy - what makes a person good or bad - were intriguing. I also liked the insights into South Africa's political situation. I'm surprised these books haven't been made into a film or a TV series.

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### **Belinda says**

4,75 sterren - Nederlandse paperback - Ik heb dyslexie - ??? - recencie volgt later.

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