




DISGRACE

J.M. COETZEE




J.M. Coetzee Biography

- Birth 2-9-1940
 - Cape Town, South Africa
 - Parents Afrikaner
 - Language English
 - Education
 - 1963, masters degree at the University of Cape Town
 - 1969, Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin
 - 1984, as professor of general literature at the University of Cape Town
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J.M. Coetzee Works

- ▶ As an Afrikaners writer, Coetzee is introspective and concerned about the surroundings of the colonized.
 - ▶ Coetzee's important works *Life and Times of Michael K* (1983), *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980) and *Disgrace* (1999), etc..
 - ▶ His most works themes are about racial difference resulting in racial conflict and misunderstanding.
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Prizewinning Works

- ▶ 1974 Dusklands His first novel.
- ▶ 1980 Waiting for the Barbarians
- ▶ Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize
- ▶ James Tait Black Memorial Prize
- ▶ 1999 Disgrace won the Nobel Prize in 2003



Plot

- ▶ In *Disgrace* - the mind of a twice-divorced academic David Lurie
- ▶ He wrestles with the impediments that societal standards place on the fulfillment of his sexual desire.
- ▶ Fired from his position in Cape Town because of sexual misconduct with a student, the professor goes to live with his daughter, Lucy.
- ▶ Lurie, a specialist in Romantic literature, is catapulted into a rural South Africa much different from the scenes described in Wordsworth.
- ▶ Crime, poverty, and rape fill the landscape of Salem, and Lurie and his daughter must salvage what they can of their relationship after violence strikes.



Animal Treatment



- ▶ One of David Lurie's greatest transformations - his attitude towards animals.
- ▶ David meets Bev Shaw, the owner of the animal shelter.
- ▶ Reluctantly, he agrees to volunteer at the shelter.
- ▶ His experience assisting with the treatment and etherisation of animals changes his perspective.
- ▶ Lurie - his purpose in life - not to write a famous opera on Byron
- ▶ He finds solace in the humble task of disposing of the dogs' bodies with dignity




Father and Daughter

- ▶ David Lurie and his daughter Lucy Lurie have a unique father-daughter relationship
- ▶ Lucy was raised in a home of two academics, she has chosen the life of a farmer.
- ▶ Her livelihood comes from the sale of flowers and vegetables and the housing of dogs on her farmland.
- ▶ Lurie on the other hand lives in Cape Town. His livelihood comes not from the work of his hands but from the generation of ideas.






Father and Daughter

- ▶ Lurie has written three books
 - ▶ The two - father and daughter are both caught in devastation that forever changes their lives.
 - ▶ Disgrace unites them.
 - ▶ Lurie has been fired from his position as professor because of sexual misconduct with a student.
 - ▶ Lucy has been raped by three Africans and must bear the shame and humiliation the crime carries with it in her community
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Rape

- ▶ Lucy is raped by three men as they rob her house.
 - ▶ Lucy makes the critical decision not to report the rape because to her it is a private matter.
 - ▶ In the context of modern South Africa, no true justice will be served.
 - ▶ The rape forever changes her relationship with her father. Her father also involved in the same crime with his student.
 - ▶ David Lurie stands helpless disgraced completely when the same crime is done towards his daughter.
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CRY THE BELOVED COUNTRY

ALAN PATON



Author: Alan Paton

Time and Place Written: Various parts of Europe and US


Date of First Publication: 1948

Narrator: The third person narrator is omniscient, or all knowing and temporarily inhabits many different points of view.

Point of View: Books I and III are from Kumalos point of view

Books II told from Jarvis point of view

Things are shown from other characters perspective from time to time.

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- ▶ Tone: Lyrical , grieving, elegiac, occasionally bitter
 - ▶ Tense: Past
 - ▶ Setting : Ndotsheni and Johannesburg, South Africa
 - ▶ Protagonist: Stephan Kumalo and James Jarvis
 - ▶ Major Conflict: Stephan Kumalo struggles against the forces that destroy his family and his country
 - ▶ Rising Action: Kumalo travels to Johannesburg search for his son
 - ▶ Climax: Absalom is arrested for the murder of Arthur Jarvis


Falling Action: Absalom is sentenced to death, Jarvis works with Kumalo to improve the conditions in the village, Absalom is hanged

- ▶ Themes: Separation and reconciliation between fathers and sons; impact of social injustice on individuals; crime and punishment; Christian love as a response to injustice
- ▶ Motifs: Descriptions of nature; anger and repentance; repeated phrases
- ▶ Symbols: The Church, brightness, sunrise



Language

- ▶ Paton invented special style for the book
- ▶ Simple vocabulary
- ▶ Use of biblical patterns
- ▶ Use of Zulu other Bantu languages
- ▶ Symbols like light darkness
- ▶ Short clauses connected by but or and
- ▶ Repetition
- ▶ Used to represent speech or thoughts translated from Zulu give comments from the omniscient narrator
- ▶ Both styles are seen in Chapter 22 where prosecutors style contrasts with Absaloms



Theme Reconciliation between fathers sons

- ▶ Search of 2 fathers for their sons
- ▶ Kumalos is in physical search for his son and Jarvis does not know much of the work done by his son Arthur Jarvis.
- ▶ When Kumalo Absalom are reunited they are strangers to each other
- ▶ Trial brings them closer but verdict allows Kumalo to understand his son
- ▶ Letters from prison show repentance



Jarvis his son

- ▶ Not a physical search
- ▶ Realizes knows nothing about his son
- ▶ Arthur was an advocate for South Africa's black population
- ▶ Reconciliation with a dead man occurs
- ▶ Jarvis finds the way through Arthur's writings.
- ▶ Jarvis feels very proud about his son's activities



Inequality Injustice

- ▶ Massive inequalities towards non-whites
- ▶ Black Africans can only own limited amounts of land , poor quality life and are overworked
- ▶ Land wont support young adults they must leave their hometowns and work in the mines of Johannesburg
- ▶ Absalom Gertrude examples
- ▶ Economic - lure of city leads to danger
- ▶ Limited opportunities to earn money separated from family and tradition
- ▶ They end up as criminals
- ▶ City life is full of slums and gangs



Anger and Violence

- ▶ These conditions lead to anger and violence
- ▶ Rob white homes
- ▶ Whites become afraid and loose sympathy for the blacks
- ▶ More injustice occurs and this makes situation worse
- ▶ Absaloms lawyer claims Absalom is society's victim
- ▶ Whites get government troops to crack down and the situation explodes

Christianity and Injustice

- ▶ Kumalos main source of strength is God
- ▶ Christianity also aids in resisting oppression
- ▶ Arthur Jarvis calls the mine policies un-Christian
- ▶ Religion is seen as a way to bring social justice without violence
- ▶ Christian ideologies are referred to
- ▶ Black priests paid less than white ones
- ▶ Religion says to suffer not fight back
- ▶ Arthur Jarvis also discusses that religious figures claim God wants whites to rule blacks



Depiction of Nature

- ▶ Contrasts the beauty of Natal against the ugliness of South Africa
- ▶ Hills Rivers of the whites more fruitful lovely
- ▶ Land of the black farmers barren, dry, hostile
- ▶ Contrast between beauty of the land vs. ugliness of society shows necessity of change
- ▶ Also, offers hope
- ▶ Land can be restored
- ▶ Titihoya bird represents the land has been deserted the barren land around Ndotsheni, but still around the white farms higher up agriculture is done



Repentance

- ▶ Many characters lose their temper in novel
- ▶ Msimangu - when learns Absalom abandoned his girlfriend
- ▶ Young man at reformatory is mad at Absalom
- ▶ Kumalo loses temper at wife, sons girlfriend, his brother and sister
- ▶ Pattern demonstrates power of caring to overcome bitterness