



Bones (African Writers)

Chenjerai Hove

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Bones is a poetic novel about the guerilla fight for freedom in Zimbabwe, but unlike a conventional novel, all the action is interior monologues -- some by specific characters, others by representatives of certain types produced by colonial history, or by spirits. The story involves a mother's love, and a lover's yearning, for a young man who has joined the freedom fighters. Hove captures the ambivalence and conflicts of loyalties in the attitude of the peasants towards the guerillas, and underscores the state's indifference to the lives of ordinary people.

Bones (African Writers) Details

Date : Published July 1990 by Heinemann (first published January 1st 1988)

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Author : Chenjerai Hove

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Genre : Cultural, Africa, Fiction, Eastern Africa, Zimbabwe, Literature, African Literature

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From Reader Review Bones (African Writers) for online ebook

Franzi So says

Read it for university and really enjoyed the beautiful writing style!

Chris says

I love the way this "story" lyrically portrays the horror that the people involved are facing. It is sort of written like an epic poem, describing the sadness and misery involved in war and revolution. The central storyline is sort of soul-crushing, but also beautiful in its display of family bonds in the face of real, serious danger.

Tiffany says

Hove worked impressive depth and beauty into this heartbreaking 113 page novel. There is so much I want to say about this, but the layers that must be sifted through to produce a coherent and worthy thought are seemingly infinite. I absolutely loved this!

Hamza Azam says

Whilst the form of the novel can be a little confusing at times the overall narrative works well. And it's also quite short so you can read this in about an hour.

Matt Hunt says

very dense and slow to read for me, but worthwhile.

Lunga says

... you can torture me.
spread my bowels for the jackals to eat
and tear them to pieces,
mutilate my body with your anger,
throw my brains to the vultures,
leave the remains of my body in the playground
for your children to play with,
cut my ears to decorate your own ears,
cut my fingers
use them to wipe your own sweat...

my bones will rise in the spirit of war. They will
sing war-songs
with the fire of battle. They will compose new
war-songs and fight on
until the shrine of the land of their birth
are respected once more. My bones will rise
with such power
the graves will be too small
to contain them.
The ribs of the graves
will break when my bones rise,
and you stare in disbelief,
not knowing if your hunger for war
can stand up to it. Then the locusts will not be seen again
and strangers will not think that
he who accepts them is full of foolishness... - Chenjerai Hove, Bones.

Lindsey Taylor says

Lovely book that gives a depiction of what life in Zimbabwe is like for people during this time.
