



## Kaveena

*Boubacar Boris Diop , Bhakti Shringarpure (Translation) , Sara C. Hanaburgh (Translation) , Ayo A. Coly (Foreword)*

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This dark and suspenseful novel tells the story of a fictitious West African country caught in the grip of civil war. The dispassionate and deadpan narrator, Asante Kroma, is a former head of Secret Services and finds himself living with the corpse of the dictator, a man who once ruled his nation with an iron fist. Through a series of flashbacks and letters penned by the dictator, N Zo Nikiema, readers discover the role of the French shadow leader, Pierre Castaneda, whose ongoing ambition to exploit the natural resources of the country knows no limits. As these powerful men use others as pawns in a violent real-life chess match, it is the murder of six-year-old Kaveena and her mother's quest for vengeance that brings about a surprise reckoning."

## Kaveena Details

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## From Reader Review Kaveena for online ebook

### John says

A very straight forward novel about the fate of the leaders of a small African country. It might be a mystery novel, it might be a speculative history of post-colonial deals made with the devil, it may just be a straight forward narrative told through diaries and letters.

Asante Kroma is a strong and likable character, possibly a fair and uncorruptible agent of law enforcement; or more likely he is forgetting and glossing over his own atrocities. His complicity is secondary to the investigation he is embroiled in - to solve the murder of a little girl, Kaveena. So while the state breaks down, while the dictator, literally, rots in the other other room, Korma pours over documents, decoding ciphers, and piecing together the events of the child mutilation.

The child is a metaphor. The child's mother too. But they aren't.  
Everyone is lying. And the codes Kroma discovers tell him nothing.  
What is left out, the brutality, the bloodthirsty return of colonial projects.  
The Devil as a Frenchman.

In the end, the art project is all that matters.

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