



# The Devil's Breath

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## **The Devil's Breath** David Gilman

WHEN AN ASSASSIN bursts from the shadows to try to kill him on the dark, windswept grounds of his boarding school in England, Max Gordon realizes his life is about to change forever.

After learning that his explorer father is missing, Max is determined to find him, no matter what dangers may lay in his path. A secret clue his father left behind leads Max to the inhospitable wilderness of Namibia, where he soon discovers a potentially massive ecological disaster masterminded by Shaka Chang, a very powerful and completely ruthless man—a man Max fears may have put his father in mortal danger. Max needs all the help he can get. Because whoever is behind his father's disappearance is determined to get rid of Max, too. For good.

## **The Devil's Breath Details**

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## From Reader Review The Devil's Breath for online ebook

### P. says

Ok, I haven't finished this yet. I probably will tonight. Right now I'm fascinated by how bad it is. I can read a series about a spook's apprentice fighting witches etc. and swallow it hook line + sinker, but the relentless derring-do of a 15 year old boy who is being hunted by assassins and must travel to Namibia in search of his dad, an ecological spy-warrior, gains a spirit animal and shapeshifting/earthmagicalfuture-telling abilities while visiting the village of his new best friend !Konga, part of a tribe of Bushmen known for their ability to run, and then is able to OUTFIGHT !Konga. Who narrowly escapes drowning while stuck in a natural geyser trying to find his way into a fortified castle built by an insane german count, which is now the stronghold of an african-chinese warlord and then immediately is beset by ALBINO CROCODILES... etcetera. The narrative is pretty awesome in its ridiculousness, which is why I want to finish it. But can I call what I'm doing *liking* it? I don't know.

Objectively I can see its appeal, and I so wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to middle-school aged kids who are into action/adventure.

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### Thomas says

The two words to describe this book: Pure Action.

Seriously, if you want a teenage version of James Bond or Alex Rider, then this book is a must-read for you. But if you're a drama/romance fan like me, then you will struggle to complete this book. It was event after event after event with no time to let the reader digest the information. The character's didn't develop at all, and when they did change motive it seemed to be a split second change. The plot spun around a lot and was never really established until the resolution was reached. The action scenes were richly described though, so if you want a pure action novel then this is the one for you.

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### Myfriendsarefiction says

Actionreiche Befreiungsaktion mitten im Herzen Afrikas

Mit einem actiongeladenen Einstieg in die Geschichte um Max Gordon gelingt dem Autor David Gilman der Beginn einer Trilogie mit vielen faszinierenden und wissenswerten Lektionen über Afrika, seine menschlichen und tierischen Bewohner sowie über die afrikanische Natur und Kultur selbst.

Der fünfzehnjährige Max Gordon lebt in einem englischen Eliteinternat, während sein Vater Tom Gordon unentwegt auf Forschungsreisen ist. Max selbst weiß nicht genau, was sein Vater macht, doch als dieser spurlos verschwindet und ein Auftragskiller versucht, Max zu töten, ändert sich plötzlich alles. Nun steckt Max mitten in einer Such- und Rettungsaktion mitten in Afrika, darf niemandem vertrauen und ist auf sich allein gestellt. Nur sein treuer Freund Sayid aus dem Internat, Kallie van Reenen, eine weiße Farmerstochter und junge Pilotin und ein junger afrikanischer Buschmann namens !Koga unterstützen Max auf der Suche nach seinem Vater. Dabei durchleben alle verschiedene Gefahren, seien es Schusswechsel, Wüstenstürme und andere Naturgewalten, wilde Affen und Büffel, ein skrupelloser Milliardär etc.

Für Max beginnt somit das Abenteuer seines Lebens in Afrika auf der Suche nach seinem Vater, der ihm verschlüsselte Nachrichten vor seinem spurlosen Verschwinden mit Hilfe von Buschmännern usw. hatte zukommen lassen. Kaum ist Max in Afrika gelandet, begibt er sich mit dem jungen Buschmann !Koga auf die Suche nach seinem Vater und gerät immer mehr in den Kreis einer großen Verschwörung, deren Ausmaß ungeahnte Folgen haben könnte. Seine Reise führt Max mitten in die Festung des Teufels, die im Kreise der Buschmänner „Atem des Teufels“ genannt wird und die Festung eines afrikanischen und skrupellosen Milliardärs Shaka Chang ist. Dieser geht buchstäblich über Leichen, nur, um seine machthaberischen Ziele zu erreichen...

Dieser Jugendroman setzt vor allem auf spektakuläre Action, wobei man als Leser den Eindruck bekommt, dass der Autor, fast alles einbaute, was an Action- und Abenteuer auf solch einer Afrikatour möglich wäre. Da wären u. a. wilde Tiere, giftige Skorpione, Löwen, Menschen fressende Alligatoren, Naturgewalten, Verfolgungsjagden, Explosionen, Geheimdienstmitarbeiter etc. Als Leser hatte ich den Eindruck, als befände ich mich mitten in einem Actionfilm aus James Bond und Indiana Jones. Wobei die Action manchmal auch übertrieben dargestellt und teilweise auch zu viel des Guten war, so dass es unrealistisch wirkte. Besonders als der 15-jährige Max zwei riesige muskulöse Angreifer allein überwältigt und heil davonkommt.

Angenehm empfand ich die Darstellung von Afrika mit seiner Kultur, seinem Glauben, seinen Bewohnern und der etwas anderen Lebensart, als man sie in Europa kennt. Dies machte den Reiz des Buches für mich aus, denn der Autor David Gilman legte viel Wert auf die ausführliche Beschreibung verschiedener natürlicher Begebenheiten Afrikas, dessen Kultur und den Globalisierungsfolgen und der damit verbundenen Not der Buschmänner.

Mit der Hauptfigur Max konnte ich mich nicht identifizieren, was mir das Lesen des Buches erschwerte, dennoch empfand ich eine große Sympathie für !Koga, den jungen Buschmann und treuen Freund von Max. !Koga setzte jedes Mal sein Leben immer wieder aufs Spiel, nur um seinem Freund zu helfen und somit eine an eine Höhlenwand gemalte Prophezeiung zu erfüllen und seinen Freund zu beschützen.

„Devils Breath“ ist ein actionreiches Abenteuer, in dem man viel über Afrika mit seiner Kultur und dessen Lebensart und –weise erfährt, was man sonst nur selten geboten bekommt. Dennoch ist viel zu viel Action vorhanden, die die Suchaktion nach dem Vater unrealistisch wirken lassen.

Deshalb erhält dieses Buch maximal 3 von 5 Sternen.

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## **Lynn says**

The Devil's Breath is an exciting adventure story featuring fifteen year old Max Gordon, a high school student at Dartmoor High in England. Dartmoor isn't a normal boys' school. Running, throwing, shooting, fighting, and other skills are taught there along with the regular high school curriculum.

Max rarely sees his father, but he knows he is a dangerous man who often finds trouble investigating crimes in other countries. After Max is out for a run and attacked, he discovers that his father has gone missing. When Max starts getting clues as to where his dad might be, he decides to try and find him, leading him to an adventure in Africa and a possible ecological disaster.

This was an action packed story with lots of twists and turns. There are a few mystical elements to the story that aren't explained in detail, but they do add depth. Anyone who likes mystery and adventure will love this story.

### **Susan says**

If you are interested in African culture, history, current issues, and a terrific adventure, you should read this book.

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### **Grace Cooper says**

Basically teenager James Bond with slightly less gadgets but compensated by special abilities. I listen to the audio book which definitely made it more enjoyable as there's a lot of action and shifting perspective but not much plot. I won't be continuing in the series because action stories don't really appeal to me, but it wasn't a bad book; just a bit too writing by numbers.

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### **Emily Richards says**

A quick, easy read with a style similar to Dan Brown. Adventure takes you into the African wilderness with crocodiles and lions, running away from assassins and following the clues to a secret location and unearthing a deadly plot. The most irritating thing about this book was the name 'Koga', but otherwise a snappy read with a good twist in who to trust and a satisfying ending.

## Summer says

I'm not sure why this is in the young adult section of the library. I guess because the protagonist is 15 years old.

The story's been done before - special boy now orphaned, magic prophecy, special powers, yada yada..... well, that's not what it was billed to be which is my biggest complaint with the book. The book is billed as a thriller about a teenager boy who has an assassin after him who just recently might or might not have taken out his only family member, his dad..... but no, we get a super special kid who lives at a super special boarding school next to a super special military training center and a super special environmental superhero/super-spy dad who taught him super special survival skills and kung fu who have an unspoken super special code between them and he goes super special traveling the world super special everywhere. And he's able to do things easily and he has a super special hacker friend who's like amazing with computers and only twelve and....

ARGH! it just screams Gary-Stu all over the place! So frustrating, boring, and not even lulzy :(

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## Katlyn says

Not my kinda book. I bought it a few years ago because it was on sale and I've become much pickier with my books since then. The writing was decent. The problem was that it was pure action. No character development in the slightest. It's hard to care about the deadly situations the characters get in when you don't know anything about them. Max is pretty much a Gary Stu. He can even fly a plane with no prior training because of his awesome memory! Also, it seemed more like JF to me. Just the genre coupled with the writing style and lack of any romance. I would probably recommend this to a 12 year old looking for an adventure.  
2/5

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## Lalallamastephen says

The book, *The Devil's Breath*, written by David Gilman, was an amazing fiction action book about a boy, Max Gordon, whose father is captured by a man Shaka Chang. Max must then go to the namibian desert and find Shaka Chang, but he gets twisted up in an adventure including a 1000 year old prophecy and a namibian tribe that will help him throughout his journey. Max has blue eyes, blond hair, and he is 14 but "with the height to pass off as a 17 year old". His companion, !Koga is from the Namibian tribe, the bushmen. !Koga is dark skinned, brown haired, has brown eyes, and due to the fact that he lives in the desert, is stick and bones.

Throughout his journey, Max encounters lions, and almost goes through the blades of a large water-powered generator. When Max and !Koga are going through a plain, they notice the carcass of an animal. !Koga recognizes that the lions had brought it down, and they run but not after Max trips and alerts the lions. Luckily (for Max and !Koga), there were 2 men sent by Shaka Chang to find and kill Max. The lions find the 2 men instead of Max and !Koga and they are killed instead. For Max to be able to even get remotely close to a large water-powered generator, he must be doing some very dangerous things. To start off, Max climbs down a guiser so he could get into Shaka Chang's castle to get his father. It erupts while he is in it and he is thrown down a smaller tunnel which just so happens to lead to one of the largest water-powered generators

ever.

Max's journey is all in the name of finding his dad and he does so in Shaka Chang's fort. He was drugged heavily, beaten, and locked in a 'dungeon'. When Max finds his father, he is then forced to leave without him so he could get 'reinforcements' from the army and take the castle by storm.

This book was interesting for many reasons. First of all, the story was a new twist in some aspects of it. There was a 14 year old boy just living his life until his father mysteriously disappears. He is then brought to the Namibian desert and turns out to be what a 1000 year old prophecy told about to save the bushmen. The descriptions of the settings and the metaphors used to describe those settings were amazing. One example was when h Max was in a cave and the stalagmites and stalactites were the teeth of the alligator of fate. Even with all of these amazing aspects, the author was flawed in other aspects of his story. Some of it was cliché in the sense that Max was raised in a super expensive school, studying super handy martial arts, and many other super great things that seemed to appear in many other stories.

If I had to recommend this to someone, i would. I would recommend this to a person who likes to read action packed stories, and ones with a little bit of mystery. This book was full of action, and fit the description for mystery amazingly.

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## Stephanie says

Max Gordon somehow always finds himself in some sort of trouble yet manages to just barely get out of it. Either he's extremely lucky or extremely talented. Out of all of the three books in this series, I think the first one was actually the weakest one. I didn't feel drawn into it as much and if it wasn't for the fact that I didn't realize that I had originally picked up the second book and was getting into it then realize that it wasn't the first book, I might not have even finished Devil's Breath. I still think the second book, Ice Claw, was the most intriguing one with the last book a close second.

While I have definitely more action-packed and "keeping my butt at the edge of my seat" kind of books, I do think Max Gordon and his adventures are quite interesting as well. The main reason is because he always finds himself in a crazy situation (i.e. finding himself at the mercy of a lion/tiger or trying to escape or enter a compound by getting through some whirling blades, etc.) yet somehow always gets out of it. Especially in the first book where he was in the safari in Africa and got poisoned by a scorpion which literally has like zero chance of survival, he somehow survives. Or the part where he was able to turn himself to a jaguar or bear to get out of situations. I mean, it was mentioned how he was able to do that but it wasn't particularly clear. It was just crazy to see how a teenage boy was able to overcome such tough situations or outsmart a professional killer (multiples times!).

The one thing I have to say that I didn't particularly enjoy was the writing style. For the most part, it was fine but there were multiples times when the author would purposely be like "Max was in the river and was not paying attention to what was lurking behind him. A crocodile was slowly sneaking up on him and suddenly its jaws sprang open and tear into flesh." And that's how he ends the chapter. So obviously when you read that, you're like "oh shit! The crocodile totally bit into Max." And then you turn the page and it's like "JK, the crocodile bit into the dead body that JUST SO HAPPENED to be floating next to Max." I mean, what are the chances of that? It was just so annoying and such a letdown half the time not because I wanted Max to get hurt but I wanted to know what would happen if he did get hurt because that would seem a lot more realistic.

The one thing I can say about Max is that he is extremely resourceful and intelligent. There were times he had to get himself out of tight places or he had to help his friend get out of tight places and he would come up with an idea that I think that most people would not have thought of. It also helped that he spent the last few years at that private school where the students were taught a lot of survival skills and basic training.

Though it was never really described what exactly they were training for or why the school thought these skills were necessary. To be honest, the school that he went to sounded like one of those spy schools where they train the students to become spies or whatever.

Overall, I did find the series to be interesting. There were just a few things about the overall series that could have been better and would therefore have made the books so much better. However, if you have time and you're into survival/adventure/thriller books, give these books a chance.

Click here to view entire review: <http://holedupinabook.blogspot.com/20...>

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### **Colby says**

the book was okay, could have had more better story

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### **Alexandria says**

Action Packed. Reminded me of Alex rider which I loved reading when I was younger. The devils breath kept me interested all the way thru. I can't wait to read the rest of the series!

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### **Kayleigh says**

It was okay in places but was mostly rubbish with entirely mad plot points that made minimal sense and just served to make it worse. I didn't like it at all but forced myself to read it in the hopes that it would get better. Maybe read it if you like books that have some action and some weird spiritual bits that are mostly confusing.

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### **Claudia Dragneel says**

Cuando compre el libro pensé que seria un libro de puro terror pero me encanto que mostrara lo mejor de Africa y sus habitantes y los problemas a los que se enfrentan, el peor enemigo en este libro es la naturaleza salvaje maravilloso libro. Espero muy pronto leee el siguiente libro y saber mas de las aventuras de Max.

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