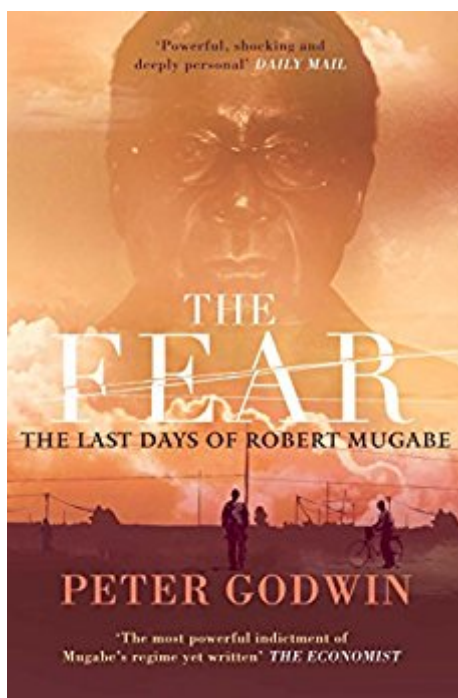


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The Fear: The Last Days Of Robert Mugabe



Synopsis

“The most powerful indictment of Mugabe’s regime yet written” The Economist “A brave, sensitive and observant account of Zimbabwe’s tragedy, exposing the cruelty of Mugabe’s regime and the remarkable courage of those who have defied it” Financial Times In mid-2008, after thirty years of increasingly tyrannical rule, Robert Mugabe lost an election. Instead of conceding defeat, his supporters launched a brutal campaign of terror – Zimbabweans called it, simply, The Fear. Peter Godwin travels, at considerable risk, to see the havoc raging at the heart of his country, but what emerges from the brutality are the heartbreaking tales of resistance and survival, the astonishing moments of humour and goodwill, and the unforgettable characters who will not be subdued. “A beautifully written chronicle of his journey through his ravaged but still achingly beautiful homeland” Independent “An important book detailing the violent realities, the grotesque injustices, the hunger, the sadness, and a portrait of Mugabe, the tyrant who is the cause of it all” Paul Theroux

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Customer Reviews

An excellent book. I read Godwin's first two books, Mukiwa: A White Boy in Africa and When a

Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa, both of which I particularly enjoyed because they stirred memories of a time when I lived in Zambia and when, after 1980, we first ventured into the liberated Rhodesia. Our first visit involved crossing the bridge from Livingstone to the town of Victoria Falls and our first destination was a small supermarket where we stood in awe at the full shelves. Our souvenirs of that visit included chocolate bars, laundry powder and few other equally exotic items. We witnessed first hand Zambia's economy slide during the 20 years following independence. We had roads that were more potholes than tarmac, a once excellent hospital that was later renamed "the departure lounge" by locals because anyone admitted was assumed unlikely to survive the experience, and a thriving black market develop in both currency and basics like cooking oil, soap and medical supplies. Crime rose dramatically and people rarely ventured out of their securely burglar-barred homes after sunset. So I thought I had a pretty good idea of what things must be like now in Zimbabwe. Peter Godwin's excellent reporting of his experiences during his last visit was truly shocking and appalling. I was of course saddened, but not surprised, at the destruction of infrastructure, businesses and farms. What was so shocking was the brutality and especially the willing complicity of so many people in the brutality... and that that brutality was even visited on the elderly and children as well as able-bodied adults. As stunning as I found the brutality, even more impressive was the bravery of so many people. From the people at the top of the MDC, to the American ambassador, to the author, but especially to the countless average people, both Black and White, who were/are so willing to continue to confront the brutality despite the horrific consequences for themselves ... amazing. I hope I live long enough to read Peter Godwin's fourth book detailing the end of the repressive regime and the rebirth of a united Zimbabwe, but I'm not very optimistic. Removing the criminals at the top of the power structure and rebuilding the infrastructure will be exceedingly difficult. Repairing the damage to the social structure will take a very long time if ever. It also amazes me that the West is so willing to rush in to "help" in places such as Libya or the Falklands or Afghanistan, but so blind to what's been going on in places like Zimbabwe or in the past in Apartheid South Africa. Of course considering the results of western intervention in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, maybe it's just as well they don't get involved. Great book on an overwhelmingly sad subject.

Following on 'Mukiwa' and 'When a crocodile eats the sun' the author brings us up to date on Zimbabwe and the ruin is almost complete. At every level of society the despair is the same yet the human spirit clings to hope and the majority wait for the dictator to fall off his perch. The corruption that is so prevalent throughout African politics is at its most blatant in Zimbabwe yet the dictator

continues to enjoy VIP treatment on the world stage, such is the reality of international politics where justice and human rights receive only lip service. The Rhodesia in which I grew up is dead. If a functional country should emerge on day where Rhodesia once stood it is unlikely to bear much resemblance to that once beautiful country.

I have read most of Peters books and he speaks from the heart. I had the great privilege to live in Rhodesia for two years and went on to visit Zimbabwe many times. This book, like all of his shoots from the hip, a great writer who is telling a very sad factual story of a country which the world has decided to ignore. Peter you are the last hope please keep us informed. Harry Monks Durban South Africa 7/10/2015.

Excellent written documentary about ordinary people struggling every moment for survival against the brutal, raw, and cruel violence perpetrated by Mugabe and his hench men and the world watches. Peter Godwin, you are a brave man!!! I admire your courage to document the truth, to describe these genocidal circumstances as they really are, to take the risks you did for the world to know. So painful to read but so important to know the truth. I give this book 5 stars.

I wouldn't say that I loved the book but reading it gave me insight into what is actually happening in Zimbabwe. It is horrendous to think that Mugabe has been allowed to get away with the torture, and destruction of so many of his own people. This book opened my eyes to the truth. Peter Godwin has named and shamed many of the perpetrators and made the world aware of what is happening in Zimbabwe. It is a must read for South Africans so that the same thing doesn't happen in our country.

Wonderful expose of what is going on in Zimbabwe written by someone who really is knowledgeable about the country. Mugabe's reign of terror unfortunately is not getting enough coverage in the U.S. Perhaps this book, if enough people read it, will help to bring some relief to those living under the rule of this dictator. I would also recommend The Last Resort by Douglas Rogers, another Zimbabwe native, which shows the travails of his parents who are still living in Zimbabwe.

An frightening story about a despicable regime

Horrrifying makes one feel hopeless. Can there be an end to this misery?

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