



Age of Iron

By J. M. Coetzee

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Age of Iron By J. M. Coetzee

Nobel Laureate and two-time Booker prize-winning author of *Disgrace* and *The Life and Times of Michael K*, J. M. Coetzee tells the remarkable story of a nation gripped in brutal apartheid in his Sunday Express Book of the Year award-winner *Age of Iron*. In Cape Town, South Africa, an elderly classics professor writes a letter to her distant daughter, recounting the strange and disturbing events of her dying days. She has been opposed to the lies and the brutality of apartheid all her life, but now she finds herself coming face to face with its true horrors: the hounding by the police of her servant's son, the burning of a nearby black township, the murder by security forces of a teenage activist who seeks refuge in her house. Through it all, her only companion, the only person to whom she can confess her mounting anger and despair, is a homeless man who one day appears on her doorstep. In *Age of Iron*, J. M. Coetzee brings his searing insight and masterful control of language to bear on one of the darkest episodes of our times. 'Quite simply a magnificent and unforgettable work' *Daily Telegraph* 'A superbly realized novel whose truth cuts to the bone' *The New York Times* 'A remarkable work by a brilliant writer' *Wall Street Journal* South African author J. M. Coetzee was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003 and was the first author to win the Booker Prize twice for his novels *Disgrace* and *The Life and Times of Michael K*. His novel, *Foe*, an exquisite reinvention of the story of Robinson Crusoe is also available in Penguin paperback.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A retired South African professor's letters to her daughter in America, telling both of her terminal cancer and of her country's afflictions, constitute a novel that moves with the implacability of a nightmare.

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From Library Journal

This is the South African novelist's most direct indictment of apartheid yet. It takes the form of a letter-diary from Mrs. Curren, a former classics professor dying of cancer, to her daughter in America. She details a series of strange events that turn her protected middle-class life upside down. A homeless alcoholic appears at her door, eventually becoming her companion and confessor. Her liberal sentiments and her very humanity are tested as she experiences directly the horrors of apartheid. She comes to recognize South Africa as a country in which the rigidity of both sides has led to barbarism and to acknowledge her complicity in upholding the system. Less allegorical than Coetzee's previous novels, this is still richly metaphoric. A brilliant, chilling look at the spiritual costs of apartheid. Recommended.

- *Lawrence Rungren, Bedford Free P.L., Mass.*

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Review

It is, quite simply, a magnificent and unforgettable work Daily Telegraph A superbly realised novel whose truth cuts to the bone The New York Times A fierce pageant of modern South Africa ... A remarkable work by a brilliant writer Wall Street Journal Coetzee is one of the greatest writers of our time ... Age of Iron is taut, ironic, grieving and, finally, astonishing Los Angeles Times

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Howard Depriest:

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Laura Dupont:

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