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Diamond Boy



Synopsis

My father says that a journey should always change your life in some way. Well, when you have nothing, I suppose a journey promises everything."Diamonds for everyone." That's what fifteen-year-old Patson Moyo hears when his family arrives in the Marange diamond fields. Soon Patson is working in the mines along with four friends, pooling their profits for a chance at a better life. Each of them hopes to find a girazi, a priceless stone that could change their circumstances forever. But when the government's soldiers come to Marange, Patson's world is shattered. Set against the backdrop of Zimbabwe's brutal recent history, *Diamond Boy* is the story of a young man who succumbs to greed but finds his way out through a transformative journey to South Africa in search of his missing sister, in search of freedom, and in search of himself. A high-stakes, harrowing adventure in the blood-diamond fields of southern Africa, from the critically acclaimed author of *Now Is the Time for Running*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At the insistence of his wife, Patson's father has packed up the family and moved them to Marange, where the diamond fields promise riches for everyone willing to dig for them. Patson is eager to devote himself to mining, positive that his girazi awaits, and that someday soon his family can leave Marange and start a new life. But when President Mugabe's soldiers arrive to take control of the mines, Patson's family is ripped apart and life changes forever. Now, as Patson struggles to heal from the violence and cruelty of Mugabe's soldiers, he is desperate

to escape Marange and go find his sister, who seems to have been kidnapped. Michael Williams's "Diamond Boy" is one of the most intense novels I've read in a long, long time, and I mean that in the best way possible. This story offers readers a fascinating glimpse into the recent history of Zimbabwe, and if it seems a bit slow at first, get ready to get sucked in for quite a ride. Your heart will break as Patson's life shatters, and you will be on the edge of your seat as he follows his sister into South Africa, desperate to rescue her from an uncertain future. This is an amazing book! Originally written for San Francisco Book Review.

Fast read. I hadn't realized when I got this book that I had read this author previously (Now Is the Time For Running). I enjoyed this book quite a bit. The author has a beautiful, unique African voice (fascinating seeing a white South African writing with a black southern African voice). The writing is thus quite lyrical. This book highlights the terrors of Zimbabwe under Mugabe rule, with a focus on the diamonds fields, told through the voice of the main character, Patson. Patson travels to the fields with his father and sister, finding an environment quite unlike he had expected (opportunity, yes, but not unfettered and opportunity at likely high costs) . First, he works under the eyes of local tyrants/businessmen. Next, he works under military rule. And lastly, he runs for South Africa, seeking safety and better opportunities. This book is a good introduction to those with little experience with South Africa, in a novel form, and it's also a nice "back door" for those who have experience with southern Africa and would like something to remind them of their memories to/in it.

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