

The book was found

# AGE OF IRON



## Synopsis

Mrs. Curren, a retired classics professor dying of cancer in her native Cape Town, writes an extended letter to her daughter in America. She recounts a series of extraordinary events beginning with the discovery of Mr. Vercueil, a homeless man, sleeping beside her garage. The worsening social upheaval and deadly violence of a morally corrupt political order drives Mrs. Curren to contemplate a final shocking act of protest and outrage. She entrusts Vercueil with her letter and her legacy. But is this homeless man who he seems? And is truth more illuminating, or destructive, than fire?

## Book Information

File Size: 465 KB

Print Length: 208 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Best Bet Digital (April 1, 2015)

Publication Date: April 1, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00VKRU40I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #350,485 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #132

inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > African #13378

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction #29195 inÂ Books >

Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

After finishing Coetzee's Booker-prize winning *Disgrace*, I found the *Age of Iron*. This is a moving internal first-person narrative of a cancer victim's final days, filled with graceful and disturbing reflections on a life lived and a death to come. Into the narrative come bursting the untidy eruptions of South Africa in the 1980's--township riots, the anger of blacks finally boiling to the surface, dead children martyred by the state, and homeless alcoholics--driving the tale far beyond a simple exegesis on life and death. Once again, I discovered a disquieting novel written from within the

cramped point of view of a protagonist who knows better but cannot seem to gain the courage or momentum to change how she or he relates to the world. And, once again, I was bowled over by the quiet and simple prose that hurtled the narrative to the end. Coetzee's protagonists are deeply flawed--the attraction of the novel is to see if they find a state of grace or even understanding by the end. They can see the corruption in the world around them, can dispassionately view their own weaknesses as well. But they lack the clarity, or perhaps the courage, to act on what they see and know. Will they learn to act? That is the mystery that drives us to read with them. The narrator, an old, dying woman, a former college professor, becomes one of the few white civilians to experience the Township riots. She sees black teenagers she has known since childhood shot and killed--even one who is murdered in her own home. Yet she does nothing except write a long letter to her daughter (it is sometimes so longwinded that you wish she would move on already!). She contemplates self-immolation as a protest, but this goes nowhere.

In a letter to her daughter in America, Mrs. Curren, the 70-ish narrator of the terrific *AGE OF IRON*, makes a gruesome disclosure: her Cape Town physician has just told her she has an incurable cancer and her time is short. Her letter, which is the *AGE OF IRON*, then declares: "The first task laid on me, from today: to resist the craving to share my death. Loving you, loving life, to forgive the living and take my leave without bitterness. To embrace death as my own, mine alone." While this task may feel right to Mrs. Curren, its fulfillment is undermined by her cancer, which gradually asserts control. "The end comes galloping," she observes. "I had not reckoned that as one goes downhill one goes faster and faster." The fulfillment of this task is also foiled by the apartheid system of South Africa, which Coetzee presents as a form of political and societal cancer. Finally, her own nature makes such a calm and self-contained end impossible. "To be full enough to give and to give from one's fullness: what deeper urge is there? Out of their withered bodies even the old try to squeeze one last drop." These elements--cancer, apartheid, and Mrs. Curren's giving and communicative nature--combine to create a tense and brutal story, in which Mrs. Curren, who is isolated on principle, develops a strange yet appropriate accommodation to her impending death. In doing so, she confronts her cancer and the cancer of her country, while finding comfort in the company of an alcoholic vagrant, who embodies both malfunctioning South Africa and the shortcomings of willed obliviousness. Sounds weird... but it works. As with most elements of this layered novel, the expression "age of iron" has multiple meanings.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Cast Iron Cookware Recipes 4 Books in 1 Book Set - Cooking with Cast Iron Skillets (Book 1) Cast

iron Cookbook (Book 2) Cooking with Cast Iron (Book 3) Paleo Cast Iron Skillet Recipes (Book 4)  
Cast Iron Skillet Cookbook - International Cast Iron Recipe Favorites: Travel The World With Your  
Cast Iron Skillet - Delicious Cast Iron Recipes Age of Iron (Iron Age) Cast Iron Cookbook - The  
Ultimate Guide to Cast Iron Cooking: Delicious Cast Iron Recipes You Can't Resist The Ultimate  
Guide to Cast Iron Cooking: Unlock Over 25 Cast Iron Skillet Recipes - The Only Cast Iron  
Cookbook You Will Ever Need IRON MAN, VOL. 1: 1963-1980: Every Marvel IRON MAN Comic  
Book Cover From 1963 (Tales Of Suspense #39) And The 1968 Series (IRON MAN COMIC BOOK  
COVERS) Cast Iron Cookbook: The Only Cast Iron Skillet Cookbook and Cast Iron Skillet Recipes  
You Will Ever Need The Simple Skillet Cookbook: 15 Elegant and Easy Recipes for Your Cast Iron  
or Electric Skillet (Cast Iron Cooking - Skillet Recipes - Cast Iron Skillet Cookbook) Dutch Oven,  
Cast Iron and Stir-Fry Box Set (5 in 1): Easy and Delicious Dutch Oven, Flat Belly Cast Iron, Paleo,  
Wok Recipes (Creative Recipes & Camp Meals) The 31-Day Paleo Diet Challenge with Cast Iron  
Skillet Recipes: One Paleo Diet Recipe for Every Day of the Month Using Cast Iron Skillets (Weight  
Loss & Diet Plans) MY LODGE CAST IRON SKILLET COOKBOOK: 101 Popular & Delicious Cast  
Iron Skillet Recipes Cast Iron Cookbook: Delicious Cast Iron Recipes for Breakfast, Lunch and  
Dinner CAST IRON COOKBOOK: Vol.3 Dinner Recipes (Cast Iron Recipes) Cast Iron Cookbook:  
The Ultimate Guide to Cast Iron Cooking Easy Low Carb Living Cast Iron Cookbook: 48 Tasty  
Low-Carb Cast Iron Skillet Recipes For Jump-Starting Weight Loss CAST IRON COOKBOOK: Vol.4  
Dessert Recipes (Cast Iron Recipes) (Health Wealth & Happiness Book 54) Cast Iron Cookbook:  
Timeless Cast Iron Skillet Dinner Recipes The Cast Iron Cookbook: 30 Delicious Breakfast, Lunch  
and Dinner Recipes You Can Cook in Your Cast Iron Skillet (The Essential Kitchen Series Book 16)  
Cast Iron and Dutch Oven Cookbook Box Set (2 in 1): Over 60 Easy and Delicious Paleo Recipes  
Using Cast Iron Skillet and Dutch Oven (Crock Pot & Dump Dinner) Pie Iron Cookbook: 60 #Delish  
Pie Iron Recipes for Cooking in the Great Outdoors (60 Super Recipes Book 20)

[Dmca](#)