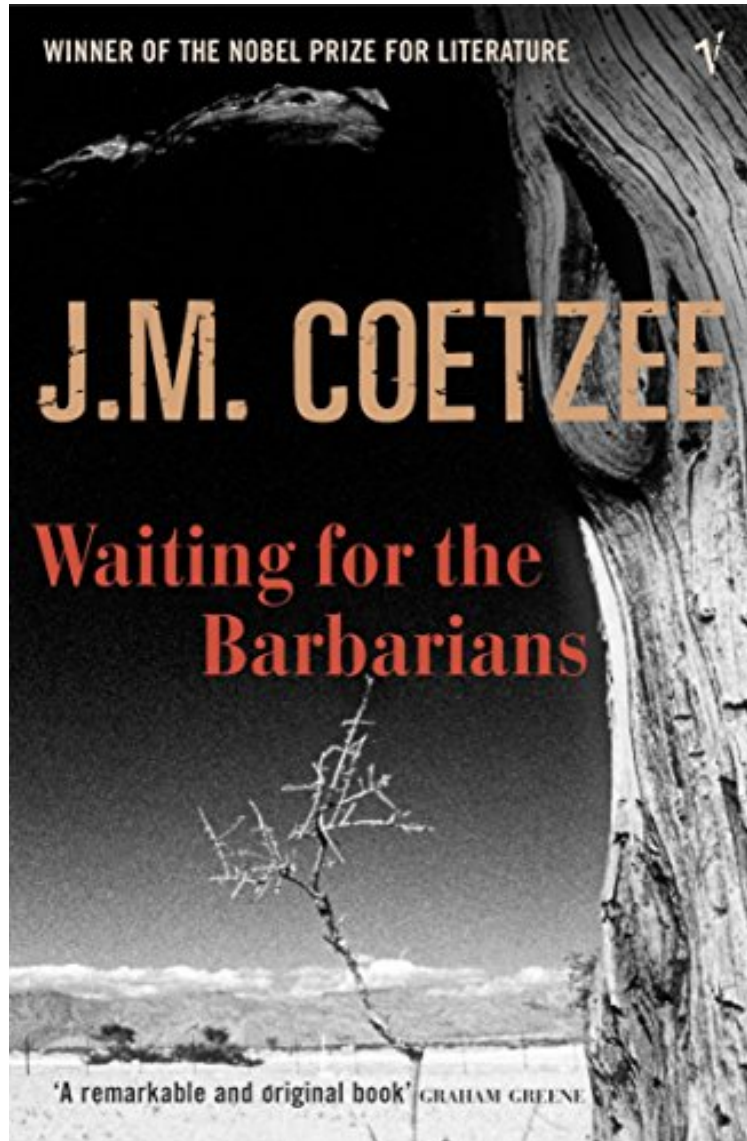


(Download) Waiting For The Barbarians

## Waiting For The Barbarians

Von J.M. Coetzee

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**Von J.M. Coetzee : Waiting For The Barbarians** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waiting For The Barbarians:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Joseph Conrad meets Franz Kafka Von AJ Ashcroft Though it's less than 160 pages, this book is not light reading. It's an extremely moving and powerful book, a mixture of Conrad and Kafka. It's a dark look into the heart of mankind, a moral and psychological study of an aging magistrate in an African frontier settlement who over time, becomes more

and more sympathetic to the indigenous "barbarians" that the colonial empire's forces brutalize. This book resonates with anyone who is concerned about complicity to oppression and prejudice justified by political power. His prose is visceral, and you can't help but be upset and moved by the events that take place. This is my first J.M. Coetzee novel, but I'm looking forward to reading more.<sup>3</sup> von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a brilliant analysis of human nature at its worst

Von lazza

On the surface, *Waiting for the Barbarians* is a short novel on the life of a magistrate stuck in a remote outpost of an "empire" (the author does not disclose the location of this outpost, nor identify this empire). His life is completely turned upside-down with the arrival of a superior officer who takes a brutal hand to "tame" the already docile native population ("the barbarians"). However Coetzee, without being heavy-handed, peels back the human drama about all the people involved. The overall effect is devastating, and it is oh-too-easy to believe how such a nightmare is probably being re-played in life somewhere in the world everyday. *Waiting for the Barbarians* is very similar, almost too similar, to *Heart of Darkness* (by Joseph Conrad). However, in my opinion, Coetzee's story is much more accessible - it should appeal to a wider audience. I'm looking forward to reading other works of Coetzee. He is clearly a very talented writer.<sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Profoundly disturbing

Von HORAKA

An old magistrate waiting to retire is serving out his last days on a lazy frontier in South Africa. He has jurisdiction over the garrison. But with the arrival of Colonel Joll from the Third Bureau - the most important division of the Civil Guard - the peaceful life is about to end for the magistrate. The arrival of Joll and his troops is justified by the fact that in the capital there is some concern about the barbarian tribes of the north uniting with those of the west, which may lead to unrest. Joll's methods of interrogation are brutal, his evidence against the native prisoners based on thin air. "Prisoners are prisoners" is enough of an accusation to lead a man or a woman to death. When the magistrate decides to take a twenty year old girl with whom he had a relationship back to her tribe of barbarians, he is accused of having treasonously conspired with the enemy and the treatment inflicted on him thereafter is no less inhuman than that endured by the barbarians themselves. This is the price the magistrate has to pay for giving up his "alliance with the guardians of the Empire" and setting himself into opposition, thus becoming an enemy of the state. Mr Coetzee's book shows all the suffering that the apartheid regime used to inflict on native South Africans. Furthermore, it shows that this regime was capable of committing the same atrocities against people of their own kin.

Kurzbeschreibung

For decades the Magistrate has run the affairs of a tiny frontier settlement, ignoring the impending war between the barbarians and the Empire, whose servant he is. But when the interrogation experts arrive, he is jolted into sympathy with the victims and into a quixotic act of rebellion which lands him in prison, branded as an enemy of the state. *Waiting for the Barbarians* is an allegory of oppressor and oppressed. Not just a man living through a crisis of conscience in an obscure place in remote times, the Magistrate is an analogue of all men living in complicity with regimes that ignore justice and decency.

Pressestimmen

"A real literary event" Irving Howe, *The New York Times*

Book (front-page review) "I have known few authors who can evoke such a wilderness in the heart of a man.... Mr. Coetzee knows the elusive terror of Kafka." Bernard Levin, *The Sunday Times* (London)

Werbetext

A remarkable and original book

Graham Greene