

(Free read ebook) Cry, the Beloved Country

Cry, the Beloved Country

From Caedmon

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From Caedmon : Cry, the Beloved Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cry, the Beloved Country:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. You Should Read This BookBy Anne MillsA wonderful, profound, and very beautiful book. As other reviewers have noted, it was written by a white South African in the late 1940's, and is set in that time and place, just before apartheid was officially imposed. It tells the story of Stephen Kumalo, a black minister from the countryside, who travels to Johannesburg to find his sister, and his son, both of whom have have vanished into the great city. He finds them, but his son has killed a white man, and his sister is a prostitute. The full story is described elsewhere; suffice it to say that it ends tragically, but with redeeming grace.The language of this book is amazing, poetic but also critical in the development of character. In large part the book is a love song to the land of South Africa, a place of great natural beauty which has been badly treated by man. But the language is also wonderful in expressing different personalities, different experiences, and different ways of thinking -- it changes and shifts with the subject.The plot and characterization are very powerful. The people are rounded, neither all good nor all bad, and each speaks with his or her own voice. The story pulls one forward with the minister on his journey -- I read this almost without stopping. To a degree, some elements may be jarring for some readers today, particularly readers of color. The book was written almost seventy years ago, and it was written by a white South African, perhaps with the intention of reaching other white South African.The ideas are compelling, and go far beyond the political. For me, the novel as a whole is about many things, about forgiveness and redemption and the tragedy of death and the miracle of new life The politics, of course, can't help but dominate the foreground. It is sad to think that the subjugation of South Africa's blacks continued for most of the next 50 years. But it is also inspring to remember that apartheid ended

without a civil war, and with reconciliation rather than revenge. A great book, worthy of its subject..2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A true classic as powerful as the day it was writtenBy Al AustinThis is an amazing book, and well deserves to be a classic. It moved me on all levels, emotional and intellectual. It is as powerful today as the day that it was written. I read this in preparation for a trip to South Africa. Now, I need to read more about this country's more recent history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My ReviewBy Stefan YatesCry, the Beloved Country is a wonderfully written and powerful novel that takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of emotion. From the depths of despair, Paton shows his readers a nugget of hope. From utter desolation, Paton gives us a measure of courage. His story is utterly devastating and demoralizing, yet his beautiful language and vision lead the reader to end up feeling energized and encouraged.Overall, I was shocked by the power of this novel and while it's not along the lines of things that I would normally read, I am immensely glad that I decided to read it. Following Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu pastor from the wilds of South Africa, in his seemingly hopeless search for his son in the "civilized" metropolis of Johannesburg was a challenge at times, but Paton's writing and the courage of his character carried me through even the deepest and darkest points of his story and helped me to see the wonder of the human spirit regardless of the challenges and trials that it is put up against.May not have been my favorite novel of all time, but I am glad that I disregarded my inhibitions and picked this up to actually read it. It may not be everybody's cup of tea, but I would recommend giving Cry, the Beloved Country a chance. You may find something here that you never expected.

Abridged on one cassette. Read by the author.