

zakes mda heart of redness

Zakes Mda's Heart of Redness: A Deep Dive into Postcolonial Narratives and South African Identity

zakes mda heart of redness is more than just a novel; it's a profound exploration of South Africa's complex history, culture, and ongoing struggles with identity and reconciliation. Zakes Mda, a celebrated South African author and playwright, weaves a narrative that delves into the aftermath of colonialism and apartheid, using a blend of storytelling, folklore, and historical reflection. In this article, we'll explore the key themes, characters, and significance of Heart of Redness, shedding light on why it remains a vital piece of South African literature and an insightful commentary on postcolonial realities.

Understanding Zakes Mda and His Literary Vision

Before diving into the novel itself, it's important to appreciate who Zakes Mda is and what drives his storytelling. Mda is known for his ability to capture the nuances of South African life, especially the tensions between tradition and modernity, the past and the present. His works often address the cultural and political upheavals in South Africa, making him an essential voice in post-apartheid literature.

Mda's writing style in Heart of Redness is notable for its rich use of imagery and incorporation of Xhosa folklore. This approach not only entertains but also educates readers about indigenous perspectives that colonial narratives often marginalized. His storytelling is layered, blending humor, tragedy, and political commentary in a way that invites readers into a deeper understanding of South African history.

The Heart of Redness: Plot Overview and Setting

Set primarily in the rural village of Qolorha-by-Sea in the Eastern Cape province, Heart of Redness juxtaposes the past and the present through a dual narrative. The story oscillates between the 19th-century Xhosa community during the time of the Cattle-Killing Movement and contemporary South Africa, where the village faces the threat of modernization and tourism development.

Historical Backdrop: The Cattle-Killing Movement

One of the novel's central historical references is the Cattle-Killing Movement of 1856-1857, a tragic event in Xhosa history where a prophecy led

to the mass slaughter of cattle, resulting in famine and death. Mda uses this backdrop to explore themes of faith, resistance, and cultural survival. By revisiting this historical moment, the novel questions the consequences of colonialism and internal conflict within indigenous communities.

Contemporary Conflict: Tradition vs. Modernity

In the present-day storyline, the village is divided between those who want to preserve their cultural heritage and those eager to embrace economic development through tourism. This tension reflects broader debates in South Africa about progress, identity, and the preservation of indigenous ways of life. The clash of these perspectives adds emotional depth and political complexity to the narrative.

Key Themes in Zakes Mda Heart of Redness

Heart of Redness is rich with themes that resonate not only within South Africa but also in many postcolonial societies grappling with their histories and futures.

Colonial Legacy and Its Impact

Mda confronts the lingering effects of colonialism, showing how it disrupted traditional societies and sowed divisions that persist. The novel illustrates the struggle to reclaim identity and autonomy in the face of historical trauma and ongoing socio-political challenges.

Myth, Folklore, and Storytelling

The use of Xhosa myths and oral traditions is a powerful tool in the novel. Mda not only preserves and honors these stories but also uses them to frame contemporary issues. This blending of myth and reality enriches the narrative and challenges Western literary conventions.

Community and Conflict

At the heart of the novel is the dynamic of community life—its strength, fragility, and the conflicts that arise when individual desires clash with collective well-being. The village of Qolorha-by-Sea becomes a microcosm of South African society, reflecting its divisions and hopes.

Reconciliation and Healing

Mda's story ultimately points toward the possibility of reconciliation, both within the community and between South Africa's diverse cultural groups. The characters' journeys highlight the difficulty but also the necessity of healing historical wounds.

Characters That Bring Heart of Redness to Life

Mda's characters are complex and vividly drawn, each embodying different facets of the novel's themes.

Camagu: The Bridge Between Past and Present

Camagu, a young man educated in the city, returns to Qolorha-by-Sea and finds himself caught between modern influences and traditional expectations. His character represents the challenges faced by many South Africans trying to reconcile their roots with contemporary life.

Qukezwa: Tradition Personified

Qukezwa, Camagu's aunt, is a staunch defender of the village's customs and history. Through her, Mda explores the importance of cultural memory and resistance to cultural erosion.

Pato and the Businessmen

Characters like Pato symbolize the push toward modernization and economic development, often at odds with preservationists. Their presence in the story highlights the tensions surrounding South Africa's development path.

Why Heart of Redness Matters in South African Literature

Zakes Mda's *Heart of Redness* holds a special place in the canon of South African literature for several reasons:

- **Intersection of History and Fiction:** The novel masterfully interweaves

historical events with fictional narratives, offering readers both education and engagement.

- **Representation of Indigenous Voices:** By incorporating Xhosa folklore and perspectives, Mda amplifies voices that have often been marginalized or silenced.
- **Exploration of Postcolonial Identity:** The story reflects the ongoing journey of South Africa as it navigates its colonial past and strives for a united future.
- **Relevance to Global Postcolonial Discourses:** Themes in Heart of Redness resonate beyond South Africa, making it a significant work for understanding broader issues of colonialism and cultural survival.

Reading Heart of Redness: Tips for Engaging Deeply with the Novel

To fully appreciate the richness of Zakes Mda's Heart of Redness, consider the following approaches:

1. **Research Historical Context:** Understanding the Cattle-Killing Movement and South African colonial history enhances the reading experience.
2. **Pay Attention to Folklore Elements:** The myths and stories embedded in the narrative are key to unlocking its deeper meanings.
3. **Reflect on Contemporary Parallels:** Consider how the novel's themes relate to current debates about development, identity, and reconciliation.
4. **Discuss with Others:** Engaging in conversations or book clubs can open up new interpretations and insights.

The Enduring Legacy of Zakes Mda's Work

Zakes Mda's Heart of Redness is not just a novel to be read once and shelved; it's a work that invites repeated reflection. Its intricate portrayal of South African history, culture, and the human spirit makes it a compelling study for anyone interested in postcolonial literature, African studies, or the power of storytelling to heal and transform.

By blending historical tragedy with contemporary challenges, Mda prompts readers to think critically about the cost of progress and the value of cultural heritage. In doing so, *Heart of Redness* remains a vibrant and relevant contribution to conversations about identity, memory, and the future of South Africa.

Whether you're a student, literary enthusiast, or simply curious about South African narratives, exploring Zakes Mda's *Heart of Redness* offers a rewarding journey into the heart of a nation's soul and the resilience of its people.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Zakes Mda's 'Heart of Redness'?

The main theme of 'Heart of Redness' is the clash between traditional Xhosa culture and modernity, exploring issues of identity, heritage, and the impact of colonialism.

Who is the protagonist in 'Heart of Redness' by Zakes Mda?

The protagonist is Camagu, a young man who returns to his ancestral village and becomes involved in the community's struggle to preserve their heritage.

How does Zakes Mda incorporate Xhosa history in 'Heart of Redness'?

Mda weaves Xhosa history into the novel by referencing the Cattle-Killing Movement of 1856-57 and its aftermath, highlighting its lasting effects on the community and cultural memory.

What role does the supernatural play in 'Heart of Redness'?

The supernatural is significant in the novel, with the spirit of the prophetess Nongqawuse influencing events and symbolizing the tension between faith, tradition, and change.

How does 'Heart of Redness' address environmental concerns?

The novel addresses environmental issues through the conflict over land development, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural and cultural landscapes against commercial exploitation.

What narrative style does Zakes Mda use in 'Heart of Redness'?

Mda employs a multi-layered narrative style, blending historical accounts, folklore, and contemporary storytelling, often shifting perspectives to enrich the narrative.

In what ways does 'Heart of Redness' explore post-apartheid South Africa?

The novel explores post-apartheid South Africa by examining social and political changes, land restitution debates, and the challenges of reconciling tradition with progress.

Why is the title 'Heart of Redness' significant?

The title symbolizes the cultural and historical bloodline of the Xhosa people, referencing both the physical landscape and the passionate struggle to maintain identity and heritage.

What impact has 'Heart of Redness' had on contemporary African literature?

'Heart of Redness' is acclaimed for its rich storytelling and cultural insight, contributing to contemporary African literature by spotlighting indigenous history and postcolonial themes in a nuanced way.

Additional Resources

****Zakes Mda's Heart of Redness: A Profound Exploration of Colonialism and Cultural Identity****

zakes mda heart of redness stands as a compelling literary work that delves deeply into the complexities of South African history, colonialism, and cultural identity. Authored by acclaimed South African writer Zakes Mda, the novel offers a nuanced narrative that intertwines the past and present, exploring the ongoing implications of colonial encounters on indigenous societies. Through a blend of magical realism, historical fiction, and cultural critique, Mda crafts a story that challenges readers to reconsider the legacy of colonialism and the enduring spirit of resistance among the Xhosa people.

Contextualizing Zakes Mda's Heart of Redness

Zakes Mda, a renowned novelist and playwright, has made significant

contributions to contemporary African literature with works that often dissect post-apartheid South Africa's social and political fabric. **Heart of Redness**, published in 2000, is situated within this literary movement, addressing the lingering shadows of colonialism while foregrounding indigenous perspectives. The novel is set in the village of Qolorha-by-Sea in the Eastern Cape, a location charged with historical significance as the site of the Xhosa cattle-killing movement of the 1850s.

This historical backdrop is essential to understanding the novel's thematic concerns. The cattle-killing movement, led by the prophetess Nongqawuse, resulted in devastating consequences for the Xhosa people but also symbolizes a profound act of spiritual and political resistance against colonial oppression. Mda's narrative oscillates between the 19th century and contemporary times, allowing for a comparative examination of how history, memory, and identity are negotiated across generations.

Plot Overview and Narrative Structure

Heart of Redness follows two intertwined timelines. The historical narrative recounts the events surrounding Nongqawuse's prophecies and the resultant cultural upheaval, while the contemporary storyline focuses on Camagu, a young man returning to his ancestral village from Johannesburg. Camagu's journey embodies a search for belonging and reconciliation with his heritage, mirroring the broader societal struggle to come to terms with a fractured past.

The novel's structure is notable for its use of multiple narrators and shifting perspectives, which enrich the storytelling by providing diverse viewpoints. This narrative technique also underscores the theme of contested histories—how different communities remember and interpret events in varying ways.

Thematic Depth and Literary Devices

At the core of **Heart of Redness** is an exploration of the tension between tradition and modernity. Mda juxtaposes the indigenous worldview with the encroaching forces of Western modernity, illustrating the challenges faced by communities attempting to preserve their cultural identity amid rapid social change. This theme resonates widely in postcolonial literature, but Mda's treatment is distinguished by his intricate portrayal of Xhosa cosmology and belief systems.

Colonialism and Cultural Resistance

The novel interrogates the destructive impact of colonialism beyond mere

political domination, highlighting its psychological and cultural ramifications. Through the figure of Nongqawuse and the cattle-killing movement, Mda presents resistance as both a tragic and transformative event. The prophecy, while leading to immense suffering, also symbolizes a desperate assertion of agency in the face of colonial subjugation.

Moreover, Mda critiques the lingering effects of colonial rule on contemporary South African society. The modern characters grapple with issues such as land rights, development, and cultural preservation, reflecting ongoing debates in post-apartheid South Africa. The tension between economic progress and respect for indigenous traditions is a persistent motif, inviting readers to consider the costs of modernization.

Magical Realism and Symbolism

Mda employs elements of magical realism to bridge the past and present, infusing the narrative with a mystical quality that reflects African oral traditions. Spirits, prophecies, and ancestral voices permeate the story, enhancing its spiritual dimension and emphasizing the interconnectedness of time and memory.

Symbols such as the red heart, representing both the land and the emotional core of the community, recur throughout the novel. This imagery reinforces the theme of rootedness and the profound bond between people and place. The title itself, **Heart of Redness**, evokes passion, blood, and the earth's vitality, encapsulating the novel's emotional and cultural intensity.

Critical Perspectives and Reception

Heart of Redness has been widely acclaimed for its rich narrative texture and its insightful treatment of South African history. Critics praise Mda's ability to weave complex historical material into a compelling fictional framework that is both educational and evocative.

Some analyses focus on the novel's postcolonial critique, emphasizing how Mda challenges dominant historical narratives and centers indigenous voices. The depiction of the cattle-killing movement, once dismissed as irrational, is reconsidered as a profound cultural response to colonial trauma.

However, the novel's density and layered storytelling can pose challenges for readers unfamiliar with South African history or Xhosa culture. The intermingling of myth, history, and contemporary issues requires attentive reading but ultimately rewards with a multifaceted understanding of the region's past and present.

Comparison with Other Works

When compared to other postcolonial novels such as Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* or Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*, Mda's *Heart of Redness* shares thematic concerns about colonial disruption and cultural survival. However, Mda's narrative uniquely integrates magical realism and a dual timeline to explore the cyclical nature of history.

The novel also resonates with the broader African literary tradition of reclaiming indigenous history and challenging Western historiography. In this way, *Heart of Redness* contributes to an ongoing literary conversation about identity, memory, and postcolonial recovery.

Relevance in Contemporary Discourse

In the context of ongoing debates about land reform and cultural heritage in South Africa, *Heart of Redness* remains highly relevant. The novel's portrayal of land as a central element of identity and conflict echoes current struggles over ownership, restitution, and development.

Furthermore, Mda's exploration of spiritual and cultural resilience offers insights into the ways communities negotiate change without erasing their heritage. This aspect of the novel encourages reflection on the importance of preserving cultural diversity amid globalization and socio-political upheavals.

Educational and Cultural Impact

Heart of Redness is frequently included in academic curricula focusing on African literature, postcolonial studies, and cultural history. Its multifaceted narrative makes it a valuable resource for understanding the complexities of colonial legacies and indigenous responses.

The novel's rich incorporation of Xhosa language, proverbs, and traditions also serves as a means of cultural preservation, introducing readers worldwide to aspects of South African heritage that might otherwise remain marginalized.

- **Historical insight:** Provides a detailed reconstruction of the Xhosa cattle-killing movement and its aftermath.
- **Cultural representation:** Highlights Xhosa cosmology and oral traditions with authenticity.
- **Literary innovation:** Blends magical realism with historical fiction to

create a unique storytelling approach.

- **Social critique:** Engages with issues of land, identity, and modernity in post-apartheid South Africa.

The novel's layered approach encourages readers to engage critically with history and consider the lasting effects of colonialism beyond political narratives. Its contribution to African literature is significant, offering a textured understanding of a people's attempts to heal and redefine themselves amidst historical trauma.

Zakes Mda's **Heart of Redness** stands as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling to illuminate the complexities of cultural identity and historical memory. By weaving together past and present, myth and reality, Mda crafts a narrative that challenges simplistic interpretations of history and invites deeper reflection on the intertwined destinies of land, people, and spirit. As South Africa continues to navigate its postcolonial challenges, **Heart of Redness** remains a vital touchstone for understanding the ongoing dialogue between tradition and transformation.

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zakes mda heart of redness: The Heart of Redness Zakes Mda, 2007-05-15 A South African man returns to a divided village in pursuit of lust, redemption, and identity in this "humorous, mythic, and complicated novel" (San Francisco Chronicle). Having left for America during apartheid, Camugu has now returned to Johannesburg. Disillusioned by the problems of the new democracy, he follows his "famous lust" to Qolorha on the remote Eastern Cape. There in the nineteenth century a teenage prophetess named Nongawuse commanded the Xhosa people to kill their cattle and burn their crops, promising that once they did so the spirits of their ancestors would rise and drive the occupying English into the ocean. The failed prophecy split the people in two, with devastating consequences. One hundred fifty years later, the two groups' decedents are at odds over plans to build a vast casino and tourist resort in the village, and Camugu is soon drawn into their heritage and their future—and into a bizarre love triangle as well. "Brilliant . . . A new kind of novel: one that combines Gabriel García Márquez's magic realism and political astuteness with satire, social realism and a critical reexamination of the South African past." —The New York Times Book Review
Shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize A New York Times Notable Book

zakes mda heart of redness: Local Natures, Global Responsibilities Laurenz Volkmann, 2010
Laurenz Volkmann is Professor of EFL Teaching at Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, where Nancy

Grimm and Katrin Thomson also teach. Ines Detmers is a lecturer in English literature at the Technical University of Chemnitz. --Book Jacket.

zakes mda heart of redness: Translation of Cultures Petra Wittke-Rüdiger, Konrad Gross, 2009 The contributors to this collection approach the subject of the translation of cultures from various angles. Translation refers to the rendering of texts from one language into another and the shift between languages under precolonial (retelling/transcreation), colonial (domestication), and postcolonial (multilingual trafficking) conditions.

zakes mda heart of redness: Literary Expressions of African Spirituality Carol P. Marsh-Lockett, Elizabeth J. West, 2013-04-11 With a focus on the connected spiritual legacy of the black Atlantic, *Literary Expressions of African Spirituality* leads the way to more comprehensive trans-geographical studies of African spirituality in black art. With essays focusing on African spirituality in creative works by several trans-Atlantic black authors across varying locations in the Ameri-Atlantic diaspora, this collection reveals and examines their shared spiritual cosmology. Diasporic in scope, *Literary Expressions of African Spirituality* offers new readings of black literatures through the prism of spiritual memory that survived the damaging impact of trans-Atlantic slaving. This memory is a significant thread that has often been missed in the reading and teaching of the literatures of the African diaspora. Essays in this collection explore unique black angles of seeing and ways of knowing that characterize African spiritual presence and influence in trans-Atlantic black artistic productions. Essays exploring works ranging from turn-of-the-century African American figure W.E.B. DuBois, South African novelist Zakes Mda, Haitian novelists Edwidge Danticat and Jacques Roumain, as well as African belief systems such as Voudoun and Candomble, provide a scope not yet offered in a single published volume. This collection explores the deep and often unconscious spiritual and psychosocial connectedness of people of African descent in the African and Ameri-Atlantic world.

zakes mda heart of redness: Ecoambiguity, Community, and Development Scott Slovic, Swarnalatha Rangarajan, Vidya Sarveswaran, 2014-02-19 *Ecoambiguity, Community, and Development* takes stock of cultural and environmental contexts in many different regions of the world by exploring literature and film. Artists and scholars working in the social ecology, environmental justice, and postcolonial arenas have long recognized that as soon as we tug on a thread of "ecodegradation," we generally find it linked to some form of cultural oppression. The reverse is also often true. In the spirit of postcolonial ecocriticism, the studies collected by Scott Slovic, R. Swarnalatha, and Vidya Sarveswaran emphasize the impossibility of disentangling environmental and cultural problems. While not all the authors explicitly invoke Karen Thornber's term "ecoambiguity" or the concepts and terminology of postcolonial ecocriticism, their articles frequently bring to light various ironies. For example, the fact that Ukrainian environmental experience in the twenty-first century is defined by one of the world's most infamous industrial disasters, the Chernobyl nuclear accident of 1986, yet Ukrainian culture, like many throughout the world, actually cherishes a profound, even animistic, attachment to the wonders of nature. The repetition of this and other paradoxes in human cultural responses to the more-than-human world reinforces our sense of the congruities and idiosyncrasies of human culture. Every human culture, regardless of its condition of economic and industrial development, has produced its own version of "environmental literature and art"—but the nuances of this work reflect that culture's precise social and geophysical circumstances. In various ways, these stories of community and development from across the planet converge and diverge, as told and explained by distinguished scholars, many of whom come from the cultures represented in these articles.

zakes mda heart of redness: Precarious Eating Ben Jamieson Stanley, 2024-12-10 The role of food and hunger in contemporary South African and Indian environmental writing From GMOs to vegetarianism and veganism, questions of what we should (and shouldn't) eat can be frequent sources of debate and disagreement. In *Precarious Eating*, Ben Jamieson Stanley asks how recentring global South representations of food might shift understandings of environmental precarity. *Precarious Eating* follows the lead of writers and thinkers in South Africa and India who

are tracing the production and consumption of food, exploring ways to reconnect our narratives about climate change, global capitalism, and social justice. Taking up a diverse range of novels, films, scholar/activist writings, intellectual histories, and cookbooks, Stanley connects the ethics of eating to histories of empire and apartheid, uneven globalization, gender and sexuality, and global South experiences of climate change. They shift the lens of environmental humanities from climate-focused paradigms developed in the global North to food-focused environmental culture and activism in the South, addressing topics that range from foraging and farmer suicides to disordered eating and queer intimacy. By highlighting authors, activists, and environments of the global South, *Precarious Eating* joins with scholarship from postcolonial, decolonial, Indigenous, and Black studies to underscore how capitalism and empire shape our planetary environmental crisis. Retail e-book files for this title are screen-reader friendly with images accompanied by short alt text and/or extended descriptions.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Beyond Alterity: Contemporary Indian Fiction and the Neoliberal Script* Shakti Jaising, 2023-09-15 *Beyond Alterity* contests a core tendency in postcolonial studies as well as emerging critiques of neoliberalism—to assume that nations of the Global South are categorically distinct from their counterparts in the North and that they provide an alternative, or even an antidote, to the competitive and individualistic cultures of the advanced capitalist world. Through a textured analysis of cultural production from contemporary India, Shakti Jaising argues that neoliberal capitalism has produced significant continuities in class dynamics and subjective experience across the North-South divide—continuities that are at least as worthy of our consideration as differences arising from colonialism and its aftereffects. The book engages an array of political, economic, and cultural narratives, while focusing in particular on widely circulating Indian English-language novels and their audio-visual adaptations that demonstrate the growing currency of a neoliberal script extolling values like privatization and deregulation as conduits to both individual growth and national development, as well as freedom from poverty. With their potent enactments of personal and national maturation, contemporary Indian novels and films offer striking illustrations of the imaginative means by which the neoliberal script proliferates— even as economic precarity and inequality worsen in India, much like elsewhere in the world. Whereas literary scholars tend to approach the Indian English novel as an exemplar of resistance from the formerly colonized world, *Beyond Alterity* contends that far from inevitably modelling resistance, this genre's contemporary examples instead encapsulate the challenges of disentangling literature from the all-pervasive logics and narratives of neoliberal capitalism.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Readings of the Particular* , 2007-01-01 The present collection aims at throwing light on transculturality and the identities and masks that people put on, in writing as much as in life, in an age of global levelling and the struggle for a particular place in a postcolonial world. Topics covered include: North African identity in France; cultural citizenship and the Asian diaspora; novels of beur self-identity by Maghrebi immigrants in France; Scottish fiction, Britain and Empire; memory, amnesia, and the re-invention of the past in South Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere; borders, necrophilia and history in Southern African fiction; encodings of female control; spectating in black documentary cinema; theatre, performance, and the Western presence in Africa; masks, history, transtextuality, and other aspects of Irish poetry and drama; the masking and unmasking of identity in the African-American novel; violence and Titus Andronicus in black Nova Scotian poetry; notions of the national and of indigeneity in contemporary Canadian drama; Native Canadians, space, and the city. Authors and artists treated include: William Boyd; André Brink; George Elliott Clarke; David Dabydeen; Ralph Ellison; Bessie Head; Seamus Heaney; Tomson Highway; Isaac Julien; Daniel David Moses; Paul Muldoon; Albert Murray; Jean Rhys; Sir Walter Scott; Robert Louis Stevenson; Richard Wright; and W.B. Yeats.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Animals and Desire in South African Fiction* Jason D. Price, 2017-07-15 This book considers the political potential of affective experiences of desire as reflected in contemporary South African literature. Jason Price argues that definitions of desire deployed by capitalist and colonial culture maintain social inequality by managing relations to ensure a steady

flow of capital and pleasure for the dominant classes, whereas affective encounters with animals reveal the nonhuman nature of desire, a biopower that, in its unpredictability, can frustrate regimes of management and control. Price wonders how animals' different desires might enable new modes of thought to positively transform and resist the status quo. This book contends that South African literary works employ nonhuman desire and certain indigenous notions of desire to imagine a South Africa that can be markedly different from the past.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Re-Reading Tragic Africa* Amy Rushton, 2024-05-31 Grounded in world-systemic analysis, this book revisits the literary and social implications of 'tragedy' in relation to global narratives about Africa and within fiction by writers from the continent. It argues that working through the full complexity of 'tragedy' helps to identify and challenge plots that depict Africa as reaching a tragic impasse. Instead, reconsidering tragedy allows for further, related interventions including the implications of narratives of development, the argument for formally engaging with literary texts that present challenging material, reformulations of African political and cultural agency, and the possibilities to be found in utopian thinking. It claims that contemporary fiction helps to scrutinise the familiar big picture of Africa and create space for discussions about wider political and historical commonalities between the continent and the rest of the world. As such, the novels discussed in this study are not simply 'about' Africa: these fictional narratives position Africa as a central actor within the global history of late capitalism.

zakes mda heart of redness: *New Directions in Ecofeminist Literary Criticism* Andrea Campbell, 2009-03-26 As ecofeminism continues to gain attention from multiple academic discourses, the field of literary criticism has been especially affected by this philosophy/social movement. Scholars using ecofeminist literary criticism are making new and important arguments concerning literature across the spectrum and issues of environment, race, class, gender, sexuality, and other forms of oppression. The essays in *New Directions in Ecofeminist Literary Criticism* highlight the intersections of these oppressions through the works of different authors including Barbara Kingsolver, Ruth Ozeki, Linda Hogan and Flora Nwapa, and demonstrate the expansion of ecofeminist literary criticism to a more global scale as well as important connections with the field of environmental justice. This collection offers fresh insight and expands the important discussion surrounding the field of ecofeminism and literature.

zakes mda heart of redness: *"Wilderness Into Civilized Shapes"* Laura Wright, 2010 This study examines how postcolonial landscapes and environmental issues are represented in fiction. Wright creates a provocative discourse in which the fields of postcolonial theory and ecocriticism are brought together. Laura Wright explores the changes brought by colonialism and globalization as depicted in an array of international works of fiction in four thematically arranged chapters. She looks first at two traditional oral histories retold in modern novels, Zakes Mda's *The Heart of Redness* (South Africa) and Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Petals of Blood* (Kenya), that deal with the potentially devastating effects of development, particularly through deforestation and the replacement of native flora with European varieties. Wright then uses J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* (South Africa), Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* (India and Canada), and Joy Williams's *The Quick and the Dead* (United States) to explore the use of animals as metaphors for subjugated groups of individuals. The third chapter deals with India's water crisis via Arundhati Roy's activism and her novel, *The God of Small Things*. Finally, Wright looks at three novels--Flora Nwapa's *Efuru* (Nigeria), Keri Hulme's *The Bone People* (New Zealand), and Sindiwe Magona's *Mother to Mother* (South Africa)--that depict women's relationships to the land from which they have been dispossessed. Throughout *Wilderness into Civilized Shapes*, Wright rearticulates questions about the role of the writer of fiction as environmental activist and spokesperson, the connections between animal ethics and environmental responsibility, and the potential perpetuation of a neocolonial framework founded on western commodification and resource-based imperialism.

zakes mda heart of redness: *African Cultures and Literatures* Gordon Collier, 2013 Besides searching book reviews, an interview with the writer Tijan M. Sallah, a full report on the 6th Ethiopian International Film Festival, and a stimulating selection of creative writing (including a

showcase of recent South African poetry), this issue of *Matatu* offers general essays on African women's poetry, anglophone Cameroonian literature, and Zimbabwean fiction of the Gukurahundi period, along with studies of J.M. Coetzee, Kalpana Lalji, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Aminata Sow Fall, Wole Soyinka, and Yvonne Vera. The bulk of this issue, however, is given over to coverage of cultural and sociological topics from North Africa to the Cape, ranging from cultural identity in contemporary North Africa, two contributions on Kenyan naming ceremonies and initiation songs, and three studies of the function of Shona and Ndebele proverbs, to national history in Zimbabwean autobiography, traditional mourning dress of the Akans of Ghana, and the precolonial origins of traditional leadership in South Africa. Contributors: Jude Aigbe Agho, Nasima Ali, Uchenna Bethrand Anih, Aboneh Ashagrie, Francis T. Cheo, Gordon Collier, Abdel Karim Daragmeh, Geoffrey V. Davis, Nozizwe Dhlamini, Kola Eke, Phyllis Forster, Frances Hardie, James Hlongwana, Pede Hollist, John M. Kobia, Samuelson Freddie Khunou, Mea Lashbrooke, María J. López, Brian Macaskill, Evans Mandova, Richard Sgadreck Maposa, Michael Mazuru, Corwin L. Mhlahlo, Zanoxolo Mngqobi Mkhize, Kobus Moolman, Thamsanqa Moyo, Felix M. Muchomba, Collins Kenga Mumbo, Tabitha Wanja Mwangi, Bhekezakhe Ncube, Christopher Joseph Odhiambo, Ode S. Ogede, H. Oby Okolocha, Wumi Raji, Dosia Reichhardt, Rashi Rohatgi, Kamal Salhi, Ekremah Shehab, Faith Sibanda, John A Stotesbury, Nick Mdika Tembo, Kenneth Usongo, Wellington Wasosa.

zakes mda heart of redness: Afropolitan Literature as World Literature James Hodapp, 2020-01-23 African literature has never been more visible than it is today. Whereas Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o defined a golden generation of African writers in the 20th century, a new generation of "Afropolitan" writers including Chimamanda Adichie, Teju Cole, Taiye Selasi, and NoViolet Bulawayo have taken the world by storm by snatching up prestigious awards and selling millions of copies of their works. But what is the new, increasingly fashionable and marketable, Afropolitan vision of Africa's place in the world that they offer? How does it differ from that of previous generations? Why do some dissent? Afropolitanism refuses to reinforce images of Africa in world media as merely poor, war-torn, diseased, and constantly falling into chaos. By complicating the image of Africa as a hapless victim, Afropolitanism focuses on the wide-ranging influence Africa has on the world. However, some have characterized this kind of writing as light, populist fare that panders to Western audiences. *Afropolitan Literature as World Literature* examines the controversy surrounding Afropolitan literature in light of the unprecedented circulation of culture made possible by globalization, and ultimately argues for expanding its geographic and temporal boundaries.

zakes mda heart of redness: Deleuzian Fabulation and the Scars of History Ronald Bogue, 2010-07-05 The concept of fabulation makes a late appearance in Deleuze's career and in only limited detail, but by tracing its connections to other concepts and situating them within Deleuze's general aesthetics, Ronald Bogue develops a theory of fabulation which he proposes as the guiding principle of a Deleuzian approach to literary narrative. Fabulation, he argues, entails becoming-other, experimenting on the real, legending, and inventing a people to come, as well as an understanding of time informed by Deleuze's Chronos/Aion distinction and his theory of the three passive syntheses of time. In close readings of contemporary novels by Zakes Mda, Arundhati Roy, Roberto Bolano, Assia Djebar and Richard Flanagan, he demonstrates the usefulness of fabulation as a critical tool, while exploring the problematic relationship between history and story-telling which all five novelists adopt as a central thematic concern. This is an original and exciting project by a highly respected specialist in the field.

zakes mda heart of redness: Place Justin Fox, 2023-10-20 *Place* is a moving love letter to South Africa, merging literature and landscape, and taking the reader on a breath-taking journey - into the heart of South Africa's spectacular landscape and the inner-worlds of its most celebrated authors.

zakes mda heart of redness: Global Matters Paul Jay, 2014-02-15 As the pace of cultural globalization accelerates, the discipline of literary studies is undergoing dramatic transformation. Scholars and critics focus increasingly on theorizing difference and complicating the geographical

framework defining their approaches. At the same time, Anglophone literature is being created by a remarkably transnational, multicultural group of writers exploring many of the same concerns, including the intersecting effects of colonialism, decolonization, migration, and globalization. Paul Jay surveys these developments, highlighting key debates within literary and cultural studies about the impact of globalization over the past two decades. *Global Matters* provides a concise, informative overview of theoretical, critical, and curricular issues driving the transnational turn in literary studies and how these issues have come to dominate contemporary global fiction as well. Through close, imaginative readings Jay analyzes the intersecting histories of colonialism, decolonization, and globalization engaged by an array of texts from Africa, Europe, South Asia, and the Americas, including Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*, Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, Vikram Chandra's *Red Earth and Pouring Rain*, Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke*, and Zakes Mda's *The Heart of Redness*. A timely intervention in the most exciting debates within literary studies, *Global Matters* is a comprehensive guide to the transnational nature of Anglophone literature today and its relationship to the globalization of Western culture.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Canis Africanis* Lance Van Sittert, Sandra Scott Swart, 2008 The role of the dog in human society is the connecting thread that binds the essays in *Canis Africanis*, each revealing a different part of the complex social history of southern Africa. The essays range widely from concerns over disease, bestiality, and social degradation through gambling on dogs to anxieties over social status reflected through breed classifications, and social rebellion through resisting the dog tax imposed by colonial authorities. With its focus on dogs in human history, this project is part of what has been termed the 'animal turn' in the social sciences, which investigates the spaces which animals inhabit in human society and the way in which animal and human lives interconnect, demonstrating how different human groups construct a range of identities for themselves (and for others) in terms of animals. So instead of conceiving of animals as merely constituents of ecological or agricultural systems, they can be comprehended through their role in human cultures.

zakes mda heart of redness: *Ecoambiguity* Karen Thornber, 2012-03-02 Delving into the complex, contradictory relationships between humans and the environment in Asian literatures

zakes mda heart of redness: *Humanitarian Fictions* Megan Cole Paustian, 2024-01-02 Humanitarianism has a narrative problem. Far too often, aid to Africa is envisioned through a tale of Western heroes saving African sufferers. While labeling white savior narratives has become a familiar gesture, it doesn't tell us much about the story as story. *Humanitarian Fictions* aims to understand the workings of humanitarian literature, as they engage with and critique narratives of Africa. Overlapping with but distinct from human rights, humanitarianism centers on a relationship of assistance, focusing less on rights than on needs, less on legal frameworks than moral ones, less on the problem than on the nonstate solution. Tracing the white savior narrative back to religious missionaries of the nineteenth century, *Humanitarian Fictions* reveals the influence of religious thought on seemingly secular institutions and uncovers a spiritual, collectivist streak in the discourse of humanity. Because the humanitarian model of care transcends the boundaries of the state, and its networks touch much of the globe, *Humanitarian Fictions* redraws the boundaries of literary classification based on a shared problem space rather than a shared national space. The book maps a transnational vein of Anglophone literature about Africa that features missionaries, humanitarians, and their so-called beneficiaries. Putting humanitarian thought in conversation with postcolonial critique, this book brings together African, British, and U.S. writers typically read within separate traditions. Paustian shows how the novel—with its profound sensitivity to narrative—can enrich the critique of white saviorism while also imagining alternatives that give African agency its due.

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