



Cry, the Beloved Country

By Alan Paton

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Cry, the Beloved Country By Alan Paton

An Oprah Book Club selection, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, the most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, was an immediate worldwide bestseller in 1948. Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty.

Cry, the beloved country, for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing, nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or valley. For fear will rob him of all if he gives too much.

The eminent literary critic Lewis Gannett wrote, "We have had many novels from statesmen and reformers, almost all bad; many novels from poets, almost all thin. In Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* the statesman, the poet and the novelist meet in a unique harmony."

Cry, the Beloved Country is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In search of missing family members, Zulu priest Stephen Kumalo leaves his South African village to traverse the deep and perplexing city of Johannesburg in the 1940s. With his sister turned prostitute, his brother turned labor protestor and his son, Absalom, arrested for the murder of a white man, Kumalo must grapple with how to bring his family back from the brink of destruction as the racial tension throughout Johannesburg hampers his attempts to protect his family. With a deep yet gentle voice rounded out by his English accent, Michael York captures the tone and energy of this novel. His rhythmic narration proves hypnotizing. From the fierce love of Kumalo to the persuasive rhetoric of Kumalo's brother and the solemn regret of Absalom, York injects soul into characters tempered by their socioeconomic status as black South Africans. (May)

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Review

"One of the best novels of our time." --New Republic

"A beautiful and profoundly moving story, a story steeped in sadness and grief but radiant with hope and compassion." --Orville Prescott

About the Author

Alan Paton, a native son of South Africa, was born in Pietermaritzburg, in the province of Natal, in 1903. Paton's initial career was spent teaching in schools for the sons of rich, white South Africans. But at thirty, he suffered a severe attack of enteric fever, and in the time he had to reflect upon his life, he decided that he did not want to spend his life teaching the sons of the rich. He got a job as principal of Diepkloof Reformatory, a huge prison school for delinquent black boys, on the edge of Johannesburg. He worked at Diepkloof for ten years, and at the end of it Paton felt so strongly that he needed a change, that he sold his life insurance policies to finance a prison-study trip that took him to Scandinavia, England, and the United States. It was during this time that he unexpectedly wrote his first published novel, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. It stands as the single most important novel in South African literature. Alan Paton died in 1988 in South Africa.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Froelich:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled Cry, the Beloved Country can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Mandi Rice:

This Cry, the Beloved Country is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it facts accurately using great coordinate word or we can point out no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Cry, the Beloved Country in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen tiny right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

Kevin Miller:

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David Dabbs:

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