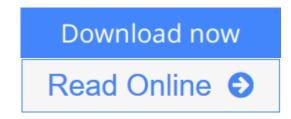


Tsotsi: A Novel

By Athol Fugard



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Athol Fugard is renowned for his relentless explorations of personal and political survival in apartheid South Africa — which include his now classic plays *Master Harold and the Boys* and *The Blood Knot*. Fugard has written a single novel, *Tsotsi*, which director Gavin Hood has made into a feature film that is South Africa's official entry for the 2006 Academy Awards. Set amid the sprawling Johannesburg township of Soweto, where survival is the primary objective, *Tsotsi* traces six days in the life of a ruthless young gang leader.

When we meet Tsotsi, he is a man without a name (tsotsi is Afrikaans for "hoodlum") who has repressed his past and now exists only to stage and execute vicious crimes. When he inadvertently kidnaps a baby, Tsotsi is confronted with memories of his own painful childhood, and this angry young man begins to rediscover his own humanity, dignity, and capacity to love.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In lean yet lyrical prose ... [Athol Fugard] uncannily insinuates himself into the skins of the oppressed majority and articulates its rage and misery and hope."

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