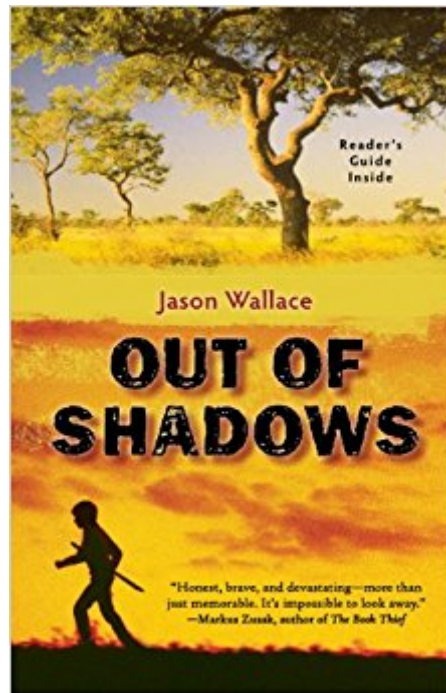




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# Out Of Shadows



## Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Robert Jacklin comes face-to-face with bigotry, racism, and brutality when he is uprooted from England and moves to Zimbabwe with his family. Robert is enrolled in one of the country's most elite boys' boarding schools. Newly integrated, the school is a microcosm of the horrible problems faced by the struggling new country in the wake of a bloody civil war. The white boys want their old country back and torment the black Africans. Robert must make careful alliances. His decision to join the ranks of the more powerful white boys has a devastating effect on his conscience and emerging manhood.

## Book Information

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Prejudice & Racism

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up Unhappy in a new country and a new boarding school in recently independent Zimbabwe in the late 1980s, Robert Jacklin joins class leaders whose bullying games become increasingly violent and anti-black as they fight to regain their lost country, culminating, in his senior year, in a plan to assassinate Mugabe. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Honest, brave, and devastating-more than just memorable. It's impossible to look away."In this novel set in 1980s Zimbabwe, bullies, victims, and bystanders in a boys' boarding school form the drama, and white British high-school student Robert Jacklin plays all three roles. Rooted in the

author's personal experience, the story describes school conflict that echoes the unrest of national politics. The local whites hate President Mugabe for taking their land, but Robert's dad at the British embassy is thrilled that the blacks are getting back the land they lost. Or are they? With a huge cast of students and teachers, it is not easy to keep the characters straight. Wallace never romanticizes either side, though. The racist insults and the constant violence extend from the dormitory and classroom to the local villages, and as the students join the turmoil, Robert must confront his own shame. The story's climax is over the top, but the fast-paced school drama, with issues about guilt, survival, and responsibility, will pull older teens, and adults, too. "This novel excels, bringing readers up to the grim, uncertain present with mastery."

This book is almost always in action so it is good for readers who love to be reading exciting books. The only objection I have to this book is all the cussing. If you have a rule against cussing then I strongly advise that you don't read this book. Although it's a great book and fun too.

It is a sad commentary on humans. Interesting to see how people of that time period and that place (Zimbabwe) thought & lived.

What would I have done in that situation? Take a good look at yourself and wonder. Very well written; compelling story.

A devastating story that pulled at the depths of my compassion. Wallace explored the human ability to survive against the odds and the ways we devise to cope. When pushed far enough humans are capable of doing things we wouldn't imagine. Wallace brings this all out in the painful story of youths placed in an impossible, but plausible environment. I could taste the depression. There seemed no relief. The time was during the political shift of power from white supremacy to a black president following the 1980's war in Zimbabwe. The county's culture didn't change fast enough and the effects of the war devastated the psyche of a boarding school there. Alliances built between young men, naturally and due to the war, had consequences no one should be required to confront. It's a story of the dark side of humanity. I hurt for protagonist and antagonist. It depicts a painful, but educational experience of the effects of racism on both sides of the divide and down the middle. It reminds us we are acting in compliance by not acting at all. I hated knowing, but was compelled to read. It left me informed, introspective and sad. I only gave it four stars, because I

couldn't stand to feel the pain rereading it and five stars is my indicator of what I may reread.

I picked up this book looking for something light, having just ploughed through "Pilgrim's Progress". But in fact, no. This book was heavy for a different reason altogether. It follows a teenager as he grows up in a private high school in the newly independent Zimbabwe. Son of a British diplomat, his father sees Robert Mugabe as a great and magnanimous leader. The Zimbabwe born friends in school have different opinions. This book is a tense novel, set in frightening times. There are plenty of racist attitudes on display by characters in the book, but in fact it is about much more than racism. This is a book about power and politics but more especially about hatred and strife in all walks of life, and where it leads. This is definitely a book to make you think. I found it in the young adult section, but it is just as much a book for old adults too. Too heavy for younger children though.

A boy (the protagonist) who becomes an expert shooting guns and pistols the very first time he tries it is pure fantasy. That he at the same time learns to ride a motorbike without any training, also not to believe. Though a readable drama with engaging characters. Good beginning and dramatic end.

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