



## Rage

*Wilbur Smith*

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## **Rage** Wilbur Smith

In the second half of the twentieth century, the future bears down on Africa--fueled by the sins of the past and the blood feuds of nations, tribes, and families. For the Courtney family, who have known this continent from the depths of its gold mines to the pinnacle of political power, a time of reckoning is at hand.

Shasa Courtney has lived, fought and loved amongst Afrikaners, Englishmen, and natives. His mother is by his side but the rest of the world around him is exploding. Even his family harbors secrets more dangerous than his own worst enemies.

Now, a continent is convulsed. Streets teem with protestors. Desperate and devious men forge volatile alliances. And Shasa faces shocking revelations amongst traitors, fugitives, and heroes--leading a beloved country into the flames of civil war...

## **Rage Details**

Date : Published March 6th 2007 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published 1987)

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Author : Wilbur Smith

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## From Reader Review Rage for online ebook

### Tittirossa says

Il mestiere non gli manca (anche se è sempre girata la voce che avesse schiere di neri a scrivere per lui, e con neri si intendono altri scrittori di qualsiasi colore che scrivevano le bozze che poi lui rifiniva), gli manca tutto il resto ovvero la capacità di dare una dimensione che non sia tagliata con l'accetta ai suoi personaggi.

Inoltre, visto che spessissimo scrive dell'Africa, si sforza di mascherare quello che pensa realmente dei neri e dell'apartheid ma trapela la concezione ottocentesca del bianco-buon-padre-ma-pur-sempre-padrone, e così i neri o sono fedeli-servitori, o canaglie-ribalde o fieri-rivoluzionari-ma-sempre-un-po'-coglioni.

Lontano da ogni espressione apertamente reazionaria, questo è un tipico libro "centrista" (o cerchiobottista), costruito col bilancino, un po' di azione, un po' di sentimento, un po' di sesso (circa ogni 30 pagine, giusto per mantenere il ritmo e non fare cadere l'interesse).

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### Matt says

In the best of the Courtney series novels to date, Smith weaves more tales of South Africa, using his explosive cast of characters. With the Second World War in the recent past, South Africa moves into a new era, both of politics and racial clashes. Half-brothers Shasa Courtney and Manfred De La Rey both hold seats in Parliament, but sit on opposing sides. The National Party has succeeded at the polls and holds a firm grip on power, seeking to legislate their permanent rule of the country, in which blacks will be subservient under apartheid. When Shasa is lured from the opposition benches to the National Party, he is promised a cabinet post and serves effectively, as South Africa is shunned internationally for its antics. Some may say Shasa has turned his back on his morals, though he would argue that there is a need to work within the system currently in place, trying to turn things around in whatever way he can. The black population of the country will not wait for an outside saviour. Moses Gama works within the military arm of the African National Congress (ANC) to bring about change, no matter the bloodshed. As he rallies the troops, Gama commits the ultimate coup when he lures Shasa's wife, Tara, away from her husband and into his bed. They conceive a son, which Tara has in secret, and Gama is able to use Tara as a pawn in his evolving plot to infiltrate the government. When a major terrorist plot is foiled, Gama faces the ultimate price after a trial in the white courts. Working together, Shasa and Manfred, whose connection has only just been revealed to one another, are able to limit any violence as they quell the ANC protests and keep South Africa strong. In the latter portion of the novel, Shasa finally uncovers the White Sword, the man behind the murder of his grandfather, Garrick Courtney. Manfred disappears from public life in a negotiated deal with his brother, living out his life on the farms while Shasa rises to new powers, representing the Republic of South Africa on the international scene. Powerful in its plot advancements and ever-developing characters, Smith does a masterful job at keeping the reader highly entertained throughout.

One reason that this novel vaults ahead of its predecessors is the thick plots related to the political and social developments within South Africa. It is within the timeframe of this novel that the Smuts morals of governing are turned around and the National Party begins a brutal regime of ostracizing the black population. Smith weaves historical truths within his fictional narrative, as South Africa becomes the abandoned child of the British Commonwealth and soon leaves the comforts of the nest to survive as a republic. Smith is also keen on pushing the multi-generational aspect of the story within this novel, honing the lives of both Manfred and Shasa's children, giving them their own lives and plots that develop throughout

and will, hopefully, continue to expand as the series moves forward. These rich storylines foster more interest for the reader, as the torch is passed from Centaine to her grandchildren with great intrigue, and each grandchild chooses a life path of their own. Smith leaves many threads dangling and must address them, but also makes sure to tie off a number of loose ends, all in the hopes of keeping the reader guessing about what will come next.

Kudos, Mr. Smith for taking the time to bring South Africa to life. This is a series I have been looking for and you deliver it with such ease.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:  
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

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### **Roemel says**

I am a great fan of Wilbur Smith, his stories are epic and you can't help but be swept away... I liked *Rage*, its interesting to reflect on our situation today and the time in which this novel was written. I'd love to see an follow up book from the author set against the backdrop of the current situation in South Africa.

One thing about the book bothered me and that is the affair between Isabella Courtney and Lothar de la Rey - aren't they related? Of course they did not know, but both Centaine Courtney-Malcomess and Manfred de la Rey knew... Mmm, but perhaps this is part of the reason why Lothar broke it off.

I was shocked by the murder of Moses Gama by his own nephew and the depths to which such radicalism stretches. Oh the treacherous deceit of the act!

I felt that the end was rather rushed, but all in all I was satisfied to know the fate of all the characters in the book.

This book definitely enlightened me to see the struggle from both perspectives. It also proves that it only takes a few instigators to make a tragedy... The Sharpeville massacre is aptly and accurately described but more than this, it adds the depth of feelings to it.

A good read, I would recommend it...

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### **Marnie Sluman Somers says**

I am a huge fan of author Wilbur Smith, his many historical fiction books, most of them about the continent of Africa, are very well written and enlightening.

This particular book, part of his 'Courtney' series, is a masterly epic of love, hatred and revenge, as the long enmity between two brothers explodes as South Africa herself is swept by the fires of racial hatred and apartheid. Both men must confront the ugly reality of apartheid and their country's growing isolation in a cynical and hostile world.

*Rage*, set in the 1950's to 1960's displays all of Wilbur Smith's most powerful skills of storytelling in a

sweeping adventure full of passion and danger and the march of historic events, illuminating those turbulent years from the early 1950s to the mid 1960s in which the crisis of the present day was formed.

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### **Mick says**

I really liked this book. There are so many stories going at once it can get a bit difficult to keep track of things, but it all ties together in the end.

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### **Jennifer says**

Very good continuation of the Courtney saga. This author continues to keep me interested and entertained while also learning a bit.

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### **Dark-Draco says**

I did enjoy reading this, but not as much as some of the earlier books in the series. I think it was because it was set so firmly amongst real events and real people, so always in the back of your mind you had to remind yourself that this is a fictional account of what really happened. I prefer to lose myself completely in the story. Still, it was a good adventure and Shasa finally finding out about his brother was a good end to it. I have the next one in the series ready to go and will get round to it ASAP.

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### **Erika says**

This book was amazing! There were some sexual encounters that were a little explicit, but they defined the character in this way, so if you are sensitive to this you will want to glance over it. This isn't a romance novel! The title is perfect for this book.

The book is set during a time of turmoil in South Africa, when apartheid is taking its toll on those that are being controlled and that are trying to take control. It shows the many faces of those affected by this policy, and the rage burns on all sides, for there are many.

I myself was forced to share a book report with several friends because of the intensity of this book, and they shared similar excitement as I shared the details with them.

ej

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### **John Wattie says**

Both sides of Apartheid presented. Well developed characters. Plenty of interesting information and action to

make this a long book, which is just what I wanted - a good meaty read.

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### **John Hales says**

Sympathetic view of racial beliefs, struggles, and sacrifices bourn by both the blacks and the whites of South Africa.

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### **Mike says**

I would rate this book a 3.5 out of 5. This is a classic Wilbur Smith book and I enjoyed it very much. I enjoyed it more than the 3 stars would indicate. The story always moves at a fast pace, the plot lines are always interesting and not always what you think, and he does a great job of making the reader feel like they are a part of South Africa and the culture. The part of this book that I had a really hard time with is Smith's portrayal of women. All of his books have sex scenes, but in this book, it seemed as if every female character was obsessed with sex. The conservative religious women, upper class and lower class women, even progressive women, could think of nothing but sex. I am not a prude or conservative at all, but the attitudes in the book that the menfolk simply dominate by being masculine and the women can barely contain themselves wore on me after a while. I don't remember it being quite like this in the previous books I read by Smith. There were always characters like this, but I remember female characters that had more dimensions to them.

With all of that said, I still really enjoyed the book.

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### **Rita Chapman says**

How do you rate an author like Wilbur Smith? I loved The Seventh Scroll, quite liked River God and enjoyed Rage. Do you rate according to how much you enjoy the book or how well it is written? Wilbur Smith is an amazing writer and would always earn five stars on that basis. However, I think most people rate according to enjoyment so I have given Rage four stars.

This is a long book, with many different characters, set in South Africa during the apartheid/Mandela years. It took me a long while to get in to this book but once I did I eagerly followed each of the Courtney family members on their life's journey. This is a story of love, passion, money, power and of course apartheid.

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### **Dustin Dye says**

Wilbur Smith deftly navigates the worlds of South Africa in Rage, although his worldview as a white English-heritage South African shows. He gives a sweeping account of modern South African history, but I always feel pessimistic after reading one of his books (admittedly, this is only the second of his books I've read). His characters, while flawed, are rarely sympathetic. Everyone has an ulterior motive and can only be expected to act selfishly. Characters are either despicable or stupid. For this reason, I don't think I'll be reading any more of his books.

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## **Linda says**

Great. The continuing Saga of the Courtneys and history of South Africa. This one follows in chronology The Power of the Sword. Faster paced it tells the story of social and political upheaval during the Fifties and early Sixties and mirrors the racial and political conflicts occurring in the US at that same time. On one side are the millions of blacks and the young lions that emerge as leaders, including Nelson Mandela and more radical types intent on destruction of the system through terrorism and influenced by the Russian Communists and KGB and on the other side you have the white English and Afrikaeners and corporations who for self preservation have formed a coalition and are attempting to resolve differences with law and order and the apartheid-separate but equal solution. Intrigue, betrayal and subterfuge throughout. Next is Golden Fox.

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## **Checkman says**

Wilbur Smith has been turning out novels since the 1960's. He has lived in most of the southern nations of Africa and experienced many of the turbulent times that he has written about. Though he sometimes uses cliches ranging from broad shouldered heroes to sophisticated, intelligent, and evil villains his novels deliver one to Africa.

*Rage* begins in the late 40's and concludes in the sixties with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa reaching violent levels. The other books in this generational series are engrossing, but like all good recreational reads their intellectual content are minimal. However in *Rage* Smith takes a hard look at his country and it's tragic past. While not an intellectual masterpiece it reaches up to a little higher level than Smith's standard potboilers. It 's obvious that this book was more personal for him. Mandella was still in prison when this book was written and Apartheid was the law of the land in 1987. This book must have been a difficult venture for the author, but he accomplishes the task very well.

I strongly recommend not just this work, but all his novels. They are exciting and just plain fun. Give him a try next time you are at your local bookstore. You won't be sorry.

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## **MR Quinn says**

So much politics and a fast pace. Very intriculy woven novel. I enjoyed the pacing and jumping between different characters and the story and struggles it told. Sasha comes into the spot light and I'm glad. I can finally confirm that I appreciate the character of Centaine. Her character has grown and changed over the past three novels. Sasha's children aside from Michael have all captivated me and I want to read more. oh and how I hate the character of Tara! Well done Wibur Smith!

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## **Adina says**

Another good book by Wilbur. I thought this book had the most political content out of all the ones I've read

so far. No, it was not boring, so don't let that deter you from reading it if politics aren't your thing. It was still a nice book. It covered a long period of time, and included several generations.

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### **Sam says**

This is my first Wilbur Smith novel having grown up with them gracing the shelves (my dad is a big fan) without getting around to reading them myself (good things the parents had a clear out!) and I was greatly impressed. I wasn't sure about it at first as I didn't realise when the book was set (I'm missing the dust jacket) so the traditional nature of the roles the men and women were playing was a little off-putting. Then the timing dawned on me and it began to fit together properly. From then on I was swept away on the intrigues and conspiracies, business dealings and personal difficulties of all the characters, whether I liked them or not. Smith weaves together the stories of his fictional characters with those from the real world really well, rather like Ken Follett who I have also been reading recently. This combination makes for a more realistic feel to the story and allows the reader to have a bit of familiarity with the people and events, drawing them in even more. I can't wait to start trawling through the others I have, might need to rest the arms first though!

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### **Jeremy Hopkins says**

Approximate dates

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### **Henri says**

This book was an enjoyable read but the ending was really sort of rushed in my opinion. The book tells a few different stories, all linked to one another in some way, and all the stories links through the struggle during apartheid in South Africa.

We follow the Courtney's, who the book is all about, through their business ventures and the political adventure.

We follow the De La Rey's and Manfreds political rise.

We follow the black struggle and their leader Moses Gama. A few of the big names in African politics gets a mention, Mandela, Mbeki, Sisulu, Thambo just to name a few.

My favorite part of the book was when Gary, the least liked of Shasa's sons, shot his first lion, and from there on, starting to stand up for himself. I do nominate him as my favorite character in the book.

All in all, a well written story, with a decent flow. Well Done

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