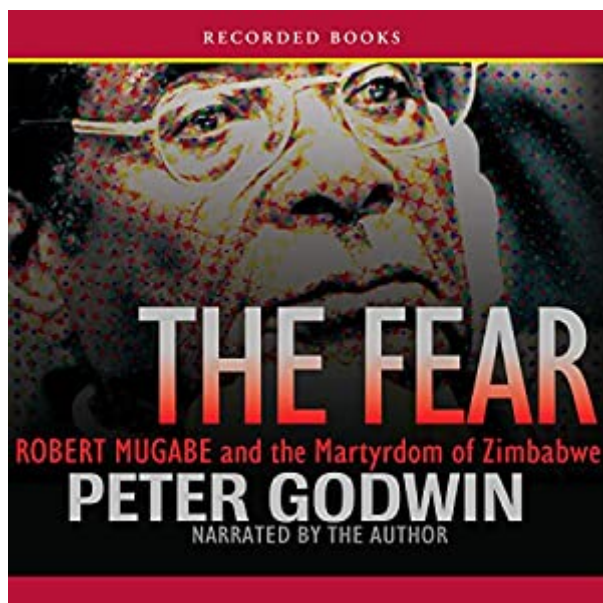


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# The Fear



## Synopsis

Born in what's now called Zimbabwe, journalist Peter Godwin returns to his homeland in 2008 after three decades of Robert Mugabe's brutal economic and human destruction. Hoping to "dance on Mugabe's political grave" in the wake of the tyrant's defeat at the polls, Godwin instead risks his life to secretly chronicle Mugabe's ruthless backlash of torture and terror locals call "The Fear."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a fellow Zimbabwean living on foreign shores, having read Peter Godwin's *The Fear* I am at a loss for words. Partly because the subject matter is so bitterly painful, there is no coherent way to respond to the way the grip of power has squeezed out such a horrendous toll of human suffering, but also, no doubt, by the manner in which, despite harrowing detail, all of which he chronicles with a poignant deftness, the author still manages to transport me, with yearning, to this beautiful land. Despite the political savagery that has taken a similar toll on the wildlife, trees, rivers and mountains, Zimbabwe's haggard remnants are still proudly bursting forth. So much so that my childhood memories are keenly awakened and I feel a solid lump of sorrow for Zim's fateful journey. And I, who live in relative luxury many miles away, aware of the hard times being faced by family and friends, have imagined a subtler version of Godwin's account, probably to quieten my own fear of what has become of my home. They call people like me, one of multitudes of Zimbabweans who live abroad, the diaspora. I knew we were of some assistance to those at home in a way by sending foreign currency and goods from time to time, but reading this book, I fear we have grossly underestimated the conditions faced by our compatriots and our absence and failure to participate is

perhaps an indictment against us? I ask myself why haven't we, as a people, well educated, talented, inherently dignified, though of humble bearing, and here I speak not for myself, but the many Zimbabweans I have encountered in my life, why have we not prevented the outrage that is modern day Zim? This has troubled me over the years as I have gone about raising my children and the daily grind of my comfortable western life. But the answer is really not that complicated, it is black and white as documented in this book. The insane trajectory that took my home from it's sunny post- independence to these dark and treacherous days, is one founded on a bedrock of fear. A groove as deep and ugly as those left by the marauding clear cutters and miners who rob Zimbabwe of its abundant fauna and tear the pristine countryside apart at its seams. I don't despair for Zimbabwe yet. I still have hope. But The Fear has reminded me to re-examine my good fortune and consider what it is I can do to make this world a better place. This is, I think, what any good book should do. For some lighter reading on Zimbabwe, go to: *The Summoner: (The Dominic Grey Novels) (Volume 1)*

This ought to be required reading for every citizen on the planet because until the world understands the depth of the torture that Mr. Goodwin so very bravely sought out to write about, Mr. Mugabe and his co-monsters will continue on to not just kill but mutilate and torture an entire nation while destroying the farms and businesses that were in place when he took the "throne." Yes, Ian Smith had to go as did his racist world view but the very last thing Rhodesia needed was a truly insane tyrant. They in effect traded a migraine for a brain tumor. Though Canadian born, I live in the US and tend to be a pacifist but after hearing - not seeing - the performance of the Navy Seals when they captured bin Laden, one has to wonder why that US is wasting billions of dollars bombing the middle east when the final result will show all we gained was more ill will than we had going in. A prudent use of the Seals to take out Mr. Mugabe and his closest murdering friends, would make so much more sense than Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya put together. No, there is no oil in Zimbabwe but there are human beings who literally are being gored to death every day and if we collectively continue to ignore it, this will be on our plate as a reminder of just what we didn't do when we could have with relative ease. Mr. Goodwin is beyond brave for taking very serious risks day after day as he moved around Zimbabwe to talk with and meet the opposition leaders as well as so many of the maimed. Often they were one and the same person. But Mr. Goodwin shows that rare sort of courage that makes us all feel so inadequate but he is kind enough to suggest ways we can help from afar. Read this book because you will never forget it. It isn't the first example obviously of man's inhumanity toward man but it's a current story that can be addressed right now if we have the will to

see King Mugabe tumble forever from this earth to what after reading this book, I hope will be a berth in hell next to Hitler's and Pol Pot's and Stalin and Mao and all the others.

This book cannot be read in one sitting if you have any empathy with the characters in it. There are members of our church who escaped this tyranny a decade ago. I asked one of them to read it and tell me how accurate it was, based on her experience there. It was too painful for her to finish reading - too many sad memories. Mugabe's reign started like many reformers and turned out like many of them - noble and uplifting at the beginning, corrupt and murderous at the end. Mugabe is depicted as evil incarnate and from the testimony of our church members who lived there, the depiction is no exaggeration.

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