



# The Life and Times of Michael K

By J. M. Coetzee

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In a South Africa torn by civil war, Michael K sets out to take his mother back to her rural home. On the way there she dies, leaving him alone in an anarchic world of brutal roving armies. Imprisoned, Michael is unable to bear confinement and escapes, determined to live with dignity. **Life and Times of Michael K** goes to the centre of human experience -- the need for an interior, spiritual life, for some connections to the world in which we live, and for purity of vision.

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## **The Life and Times of Michael K** By J. M. Coetzee Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"A strong and memorable novel" \* Guardian \* "It strikes deep inside the heart...The story is clean, clear, straight, the work of a mature imagination at full power...here is a book that will be celebrated for a long time" \* Mail on Sunday \* "This is a trule astonishing novel... I finished Life & Times of Michael K in a state of elation, for all the misery and suffering it contains. I cannot recommend it highly enough" \* Evening Standard \* "Beautifully written in a strong, plain, unpretentious style...distinguished by grim humour and powerful understatement" \* Sunday Express \* "The quality of Coetzee's writing lies in his inner vision: dark, passionately compassionate, concerned with the nature of man" \* Financial Times \*

### From the Back Cover

In a south Africa turned by war, Michael K. sets out to take his ailing mother back to her rural home. On the way there she dies, leaving him alone in an anarchic world of brutal roving armies. Imprisoned, Michael is unable to bear confinement and escapes, determined to live with dignity. This life affirming novel goes to the center of human experience-the need for an interior, spiritual life; for some connections to the world in which we live; and for purity of vision.

### About the Author

J.M. Coetzee is a professor of general literature at the University of Cape Town. He is the author of seven novels, including **The Master of Petersburg**, and of the memoir **Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life**. His many awards include the Booker Prize in 1983 for **The Life & Times of Michael K**, the Prix Femina and the *Irish Times* International Fiction Prize. J.M. Coetzee is the first author ever to be awarded two Booker Prizes.

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#### **Steven Anderson:**

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