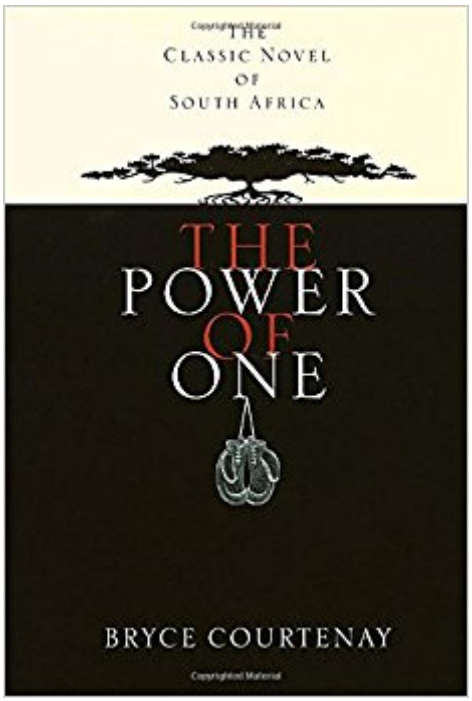
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The Power Of One: A Novel



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Power of One has everything: suspense, the exotic, violence; mysticism, psychology and magic; schoolboy adventures, drama.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œThe New York TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Unabashedly uplifting . . . asserts forcefully what all of us would like to believe: that the individual, armed with the spirit of independenceÃ¢â ¬â œÃ¢â ¬Ëœthe power of oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬â œcan prevail.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œCleveland Plain DealerIn 1939, as Hitler casts his enormous, cruel shadow across the world, the seeds of apartheid take root in South Africa. There, a boy called Peekay is born. His childhood is marked by humiliation and abandonment, yet he vows to survive and conceives heroic dreamsÃ¢â ¬â œwhich are nothing compared to what life actually has in store for him. He embarks on an epic journey through a land of tribal superstition and modern prejudice where he will learn the power of words, the power to transform lives, and the power of one.Ã¢â ¬Å“Totally engrossing . . . [presents] the metamorphosis of a most remarkable young man and the almost spiritual influence he has on others . . . Peekay has both humor and a refreshingly earthy touch, and his adventures, at times, are hair-raising in their suspense.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œLos Angeles Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Marvelous . . . It is the people of the sun-baked plains of Africa who tug at the heartstrings in this book. . . . [Bryce] Courtenay draws them all with a fierce and violent love.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œThe Washington Post Book WorldÃ¢â ¬Å“Impressive.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œNewsdayÃ¢â ¬Å“A compelling tale.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œThe Christian Science Monitor

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Customer Reviews

"Episodic and bursting with incident, this sprawling memoir of an English boy's lonely childhood in South Africa during WW II pays moderate attention to questions of race but concerns itself primarily with epic melodrama," noted PW. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Power of One has everything: suspense, the exotic, violence; mysticism, psychology and magic; schoolboy adventures, drama in the boxing ring.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œThe New York TimesFrom the Hardcover edition.

This is a classic in my eyes. I love the poetry of this novel, and the word pictures Courtenay paints. This is a shining example of the 'power of positive thinking'.

This is one of the best books I've ever read. I first got it in 1989, when it was first published, and I have loved it ever since. I lost my first copy, so I needed a replacement. I think that this wonderful writer is so underrated, and it was so sad when he passed away within the past two years. You can finally buy his books on US, as opposed by going to UK or Canada. I HIGHLY recommend this book, and all of the rest of his books.

An amazing novel written brilliantly by Bryce Courtenay, it is the story of Peekay a young boy growing up in South Africa WWII. To say that I could not put this book down is an understatement.Courtenay has produced rich characters that come to life on the page. You cheer, cry and cringe in horror as you follow the life of Peekay and the people he interacts with. In addition, the lush, inspiring, beautiful and harsh descriptions of South Africa make the reader feel as if they are there and is not only the background of the story but Africa is the story of Peekay. The novel begins with Peekay being shipped off to a boarding school at age five. He is haraassed, tortured, and abused by the "judge" and his posse but is a survivor who is determined to live. On a semster break he encounters a man who is a boxer and shows him kindness, dignity and begins to explain the power of one. This has such a profound influence on Peekay that his life obsession after this meeting is to be the welterweight champion of the world. The power of one is really the power of believeing in yourself. To follow your dreams and to be authentic. Through a series of moving freindships with the adults in Peekay's life he begins to understand this. Doc, a brilliant musician and botanist plays a central role in his life and urges him to be himself and to show others his

extraordinary intellect. He teaches him and shares in his love of Africa. As Peekay emerges from merely surviving to fully inhabiting his person he begins to understand more fully the power of one. He meets Geel Piet a man in prison who is more tortured than Peekay was in boarding school simply because of the color of his skin. He teaches Peekay how to box and Peekay in return accepts him for who he is and loves him. As Peekay finds his place through his acceptance of others he gains a mythical status with the African people in the community. He becomes the "tadpole angel" who can unite the black and white races together. His friendship with Morrie, who is Jewish, and also feels like an outsider has a profound effect on Peekay. At prep school for the first time he has a friend of his own age. Morrie finds that Peekay's immediate acceptance of him although he is Jewish amazing and the two find that they have much in common including their equal brilliance. Not only does Peekay's life change because of these friendships, but what he finds is that he has a profound impact on these people's life as well. There are many other people in Peekays life who influence it and move it and the reader is held spellbound as they watch the fine web that Cortenay has woven and marvels in the intricacies of life that can be conveyed through writing. This is a life changing book and the reader will be the better for having read it.

This book was highly recommended to me, and it has not disappointed. My heart went out to Peekay from the beginning. The accurate description painted vivid landscapes and the excitement and tension drew the reader inescapably into the story. Each character was unique, colorful, and left distinct impressions on my memory. I highly recommend this to any reader, especially those who enjoy learning about how World War II changed our world and particularly Africa. .

One of my favorite books. Some language, lots of unsettling events (racism, bullying, etc). But love the characters in the book, and Peekay's life improves a lot as the story goes on. I love how he somehow does the right thing through all of his struggles...he somehow knows how to trust and admire the "good" people instead of all the bad that he encounters. I really enjoyed Bryce Courtenay's writing. I actually listened to the audiobook version of this story and it was amazing...terrific narration!

A good novel, but the author is somewhat predictable in the story. It's a decent airplane read because of the length, but it doesn't engage you too much that I wouldn't say "couldn't put it down."

This was an excellent novel. And it was good on many levels. First, the protagonist, known as

"Peekay" was interesting and inspirational, granted to a level a bit beyond believable. But he was still very easy to connect with. He began the novel with problems that were very real and we saw how these small events early is his life really had an effect on just about ever aspect on the rest of his life. This perhaps was one of my favorite aspects of the novel, just how well this was captured in the novel.The effect of Peekay's various mentors in the novel were also interesting to witness. As each new mentor picks up on different aspects of his life and molds various aspects of his personality in different ways and for different reasons, he almost becomes a collage of the various people that helped him along the way.The novel also really had the coming of age aspect working well for it. We see the protagonist at few different age groups, and the effect of his own growth and the effect of his mentors is really apparent when time is shifted a bit. There are also some very interesting observations about the world due to his lack of information. Like when he aspires to become a Jewish person when he grows up because of a few people that he met along the way, not understanding the aspect of religion.Overall, this was an excellent novel. The only real negative in the novel, is that it is not realistic that a single person like Peekay would be lucky enough to meet the amount of amazing people and them all take such a passionate interest in helping him grow. But once you move on from that, it is a real pleasure to read.

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