

## The Dark Child Camara Laye

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at the beginning of this masterpiece of african literature clarence a white man has been shipwrecked on the coast of africa flush with self importance he demands to see the king but

the king has just left for the south of his realm traveling through an increasingly phantasmagoric landscape in the company of a beggar and two roguish boys clarence is gradually stripped of his pretensions until he is sold to the royal harem as a slave but in the end clarence s bewildering journey is the occasion of a revelation as he discovers the image both shameful and beautiful of his own humanity in the alien splendor of the king

what does it mean to be a child in africa in the detached western media narratives of penury wickedness and death have dominated portrayals of african childhood the hegemonic lens of the west has failed to take into account the intricacies of not only what it means to be an african child in local and culturally specific contexts but also african childhood in general challenging colonial discourses this edited volume guides the reader through different comprehensions and perspectives of childhood in africa using a blend of theory empiricism and history the contributors to this volume offer studies from a range of fields including african literature afro centric psychology and sociology importantly in its eclectic geographical coverage of africa this book unashamedly presents the good the bad and the ugly of african childhood the resilience creativity pains and triumphs of african childhood are skilfully woven together to present the myriad of lived experiences and aspirations of children from across africa as an important contribution to african childhood studies this book has the potential to be used by policymakers to shape sustain or change socio cultural economic and education systems that accommodate african childhood dynamics and experiences at different levels

african authors have consistently returned to childhood to find their personal as well as their racial roots far from being merely nostalgic yearnings for a lost paradise many of the treatments of childhood as shown in articles in this issue have exposed a grim reality of cruelty harshness parental particularly paternal egocentrism and extraordinary bruising of the vulnerable child psyche camara laye may have portrayed a paradise state but yvonne vera has treated one of the cruelest features of childhood anywhere african authors generally have been sternly responsible in their portrayal of childhood publisher s description

french novels such as madame bovary and the stranger are staples of high school and college literature courses this work provides coverage of the french novel since its origins in the 16th century with an emphasis on novels most commonly studied in high school and college courses in world literature and in french culture and civilization

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