



# The Stone Virgins: A Novel

*Yvonne Vera*

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# The Stone Virgins: A Novel

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**The Stone Virgins: A Novel** Yvonne Vera

**Winner of the Macmillan Prize for African Adult Fiction**

**An uncompromising novel by one of Africa's premiere writers, detailing the horrors of civil war in luminous, haunting prose**

In 1980, after decades of guerilla war against colonial rule, Rhodesia earned its hard-fought-for independence from Britain. Less than two years thereafter when Mugabe rose to power in the new Zimbabwe, it signaled the beginning of brutal civil unrest that would last nearly a half decade more.

With *The Stone Virgins* Yvonne Vera examines the dissident movement from the perspective of two sisters living in a small township outside of Bulawayo. In a portrait painted in successive impressions of life before and after the liberation, Vera explores the quest for dignity and a centered existence against a backdrop of unimaginable violence; the twin instincts of survival and love; the rival pulls of township and city life; and mankind's capacity for terror, beauty, and sacrifice. One sister will find a reason for hope. One will not make it through alive.

Weaving historical fact within a story of grand passions and striking endurance, Vera has gifted us with a powerful and provocative testament to the resilience of the Zimbabwean people.

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