

The House of Hunger

Dambudzo Marechera

**Heinemann African
Writers Series**

Advance Information

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New Edition of Classic Fiction
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Selling Points:

- Won the Guardian fiction prize on first publication.
- Regarded as the most exciting African writer of his generation

"It is rare to find a writer for whom imaginative fiction is such a passionate and intimate process of engagement with the world. A terrible beauty is born out of the urgency of his vision."

Angela Carter, The Guardian

"Its no good pretending this book is an easy or pleasant read. More like overhearing a scream".

Doris Lessing

The Author:

Dambudzo Marechera was born the son of a lorry driver in rural Zimbabwe in 1955. He was expelled from the University of Rhodesia (as it was then) and escaped arrest and went into hiding for 4 months. He then accepted a scholarship to the University of Oxford, UK. He found it increasingly difficult to cope and after two years was given the option of leaving or submitting to voluntary psychiatric treatment. He then began living rough in London, Oxford and Cardiff he lived what he described as a "cockroach existence" bedding down on people's floors. Troubled by deep depression and drug problems he died a young man in 1987.

The Book:

The House of Hunger describes life in a Zimbabwean township, and says the author, is about

'the brutalization of the individual's feelings, instincts mental processes - the brutalization of all this in such a way that you come to a point where, among ourselves in the black urban areas, that is ordinary reality. We then inflict it on ourselves, husbands on wives, wives upon wives, wives beating up their children, children beating up the cats.'