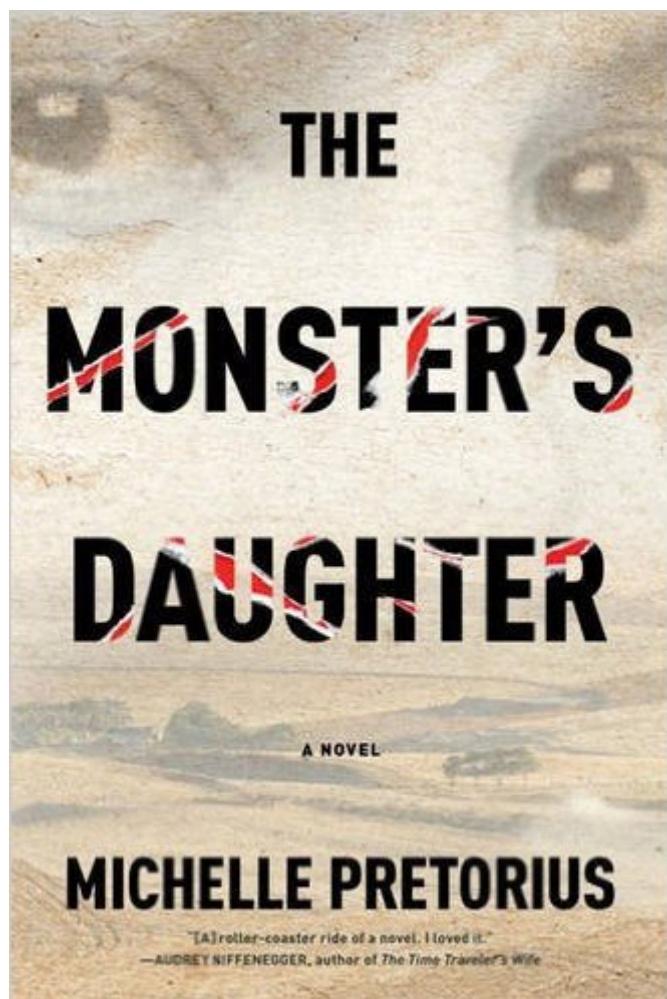


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The Monster's Daughter



Synopsis

Somewhere on the South African veld, 1901: At the height of the Boer War, a doctor at a British concentration camp conducts a series of grim experiments on Boer prisoners. His work ends in chaos, but two children survive: a boy named Benjamin, and a girl named Tessa. One hundred years later, a disgraced young police constable is reassigned to the sleepy South African town of Unie, where she makes a terrifying discovery: the body of a woman, burned beyond recognition. The crime soon leads her into her country's violent past—a past that includes her father, a high-ranking police official under the apartheid regime, and the children left behind in that long ago concentration camp. Michelle Pretorius's epic debut weaves present and past together into a hugely suspenseful, masterfully plotted thriller that calls to mind Lauren Beukes's *The Shining Girls* and Tana French's *The Secret Place*. With an explosive conclusion, it marks the emergence of a thrilling new writer.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

"The Monster's Daughter" opens in 2010 in Unie, a South African town that "was flat and dusty with only two tarred roads." Constable Alet Berg was banished there in disgrace six months earlier for violating departmental guidelines during her previous posting as a member of an elite task force. Alet thinks, "Unie was what she believed purgatory would be like." In spite of her demotion, she remains defiant, impulsive, and rebellious. When a murder case falls in her lap, she steps on important toes in her eagerness to learn who killed and immolated a female victim. Instead of going

through the usual chain of command, Alet launches her own investigation, and uncovers terrifying facts that reveal a long-standing pattern of racism, police corruption, and blatant cover-ups. In addition, a vicious serial killer ("He alone stood as the judge and jury, the Angel of Death, hiding in plain sight.") has been taking innocent lives with impunity for years. Why is he able to operate freely and who will bring him down? Sergeant Johannes Mathebe is Alet's frustrated superior; he tries to keep her in line to no avail. Michelle Pretorius has written a sprawling saga that stretches back to 1901 and makes liberal use of flashbacks. We revisit the bloody Boer War between the Dutch settlers and their British antagonists. The author describes horrendous atrocities and a strange series of experiments that left children marked for life. In addition, we follow the long odyssey of a courageous and resourceful woman, Tessa Morgan, who keeps moving from place to place in order to survive. Along the way, we encounter Nazi-like thugs and black South Africans who refuse to relinquish their dreams of independence.

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