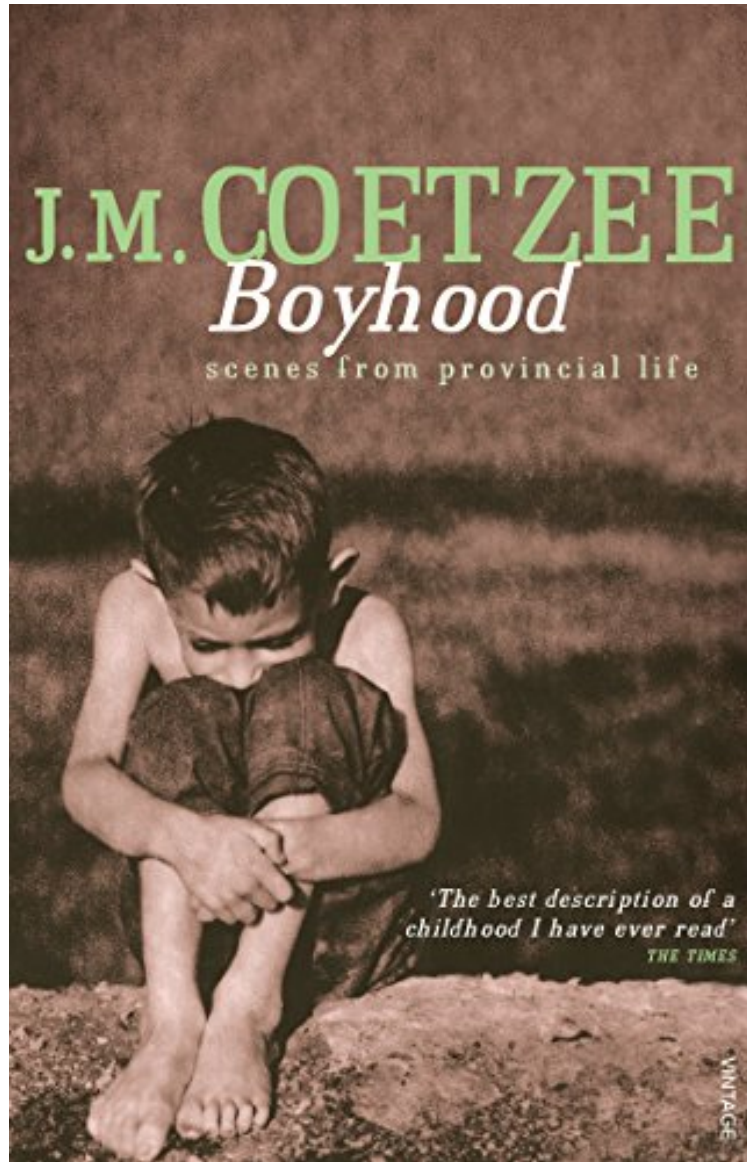


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Boyhood: Scenes from provincial life

Von J.M. Coetzee

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Von J.M. Coetzee : Boyhood: Scenes from provincial life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boyhood: Scenes from provincial life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dark and incisiveVon HORAK"Dusklands" consists of two very different parts. In "The Vietnam Project", Mr Coetzee tells the story of Eugene Dawn, a specialist in psychological warfare whose task it is to establish a document called the Vietnam Project dealing with the so-called Phase IV of the Vietnam conflict in the years 1973-1974. To give his

imagination a helpful impulse, Dawn carries with him photographs that will illustrate the report. They show gruesome scenes of the war like for example sergeant Clifford Houston copulating with a Vietnamese woman or two other sergeants, Berry and Wilson, posing with several severed Vietnamese heads as trophies. But soon Dawn is driven to breakdown and madness by the stress of this macabre project to win the war in Vietnam. After having been driven to a nearly fatal assault on his child Martin, Dawn is placed in an institution. The text closes with Dawn reflecting as follows: "I have high hopes of finding whose fault I am." "The narrative of Jacobus Coetzee" is actually a translation from Afrikaans by J.M. Coetzee of a text published in 1762. It is the account of a hideous vengeance of a frontiersman on a tribe of Hottentots in South Africa. Both Eugene Dawn in the 1970s and Jacobus Coetzee in the 1760s are dealers in death who claim their humanity and impressively express their feelings of guilt.

Kurzbeschreibung In *Boyhood*, J. M. Coetzee revisits the South Africa of half a century ago, to write about his childhood and interior life. *Boyhood*'s young narrator grew up in a small country town. With a father he imitated but could not respect, and a mother he both adored and resented, he picked his way through a world that refused to explain its rules, but whose rules he knew he must obey. Steering between these contradictions, *Boyhood* evokes the tensions, delights and terrors of childhood with startling, haunting immediacy. Coetzee examines his young self with the dispassionate curiosity of an explorer rediscovering his own early footprints, and the account of his progress is bright, hard and simply compelling. **Pressestimmen** The best description of a childhood I have ever read. -- *The Times* As funny, cruel and terrifying as life itself. It is also intense and elegant, clearly the product of the complex, subtle imagination which shapes Coetzee's outstanding fiction. As austere as beautiful as would be expected of Coetzee the artist its aloof, edgy grace and seething passion ensure the narrative is both truthful and mysterious. -- *Irish Times* A deeply-felt and utterly compelling account of a South African childhood: the narrative style is as spare and lean as the Karoo flatlands which form its backdrop. -- *Daily Telegraph* **Werbetext** The first volume of memoir from one of the world's greatest living writers: Coetzee examines his young self with dispassionate curiosity and an unflinching eye.