

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa

Wilbur Smith: The Courtneys of Africa – An Epic Saga of Adventure, Family, and Power

Wilbur Smith the Courtneys of Africa is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of historical adventure novels, especially those set against the rugged and diverse landscapes of Africa. Wilbur Smith, renowned for his mastery in weaving tales of adventure, family conflicts, and cultural richness, created a compelling series known as The Courtney Series. This series chronicles the lives of the Courtney family, spanning generations and capturing the tumultuous history of Africa from the late 19th century through the 20th century.

In this comprehensive article, we delve into the world of Wilbur Smith's The Courtneys of Africa, exploring the series' plotlines, key characters, themes, historical backdrop, and its significance in African literature. Whether you are a long-time fan or new to Smith's works, this guide aims to provide a detailed overview of one of his most celebrated series.

Introduction to Wilbur Smith and The Courtneys of Africa

Who is Wilbur Smith?

Wilbur Smith (1933–2021) was a South African novelist celebrated for his action-packed adventure novels primarily set in Africa. His storytelling combines historical facts with fictional narratives, creating immersive worlds that explore themes of family, conquest, greed, love, and survival. Over his prolific career, Smith authored numerous bestsellers, many of which have been translated into multiple languages.

The Birth of The Courtneys Series

The Courtneys of Africa series is one of Wilbur Smith's most popular and enduring works. It spans several generations of the Courtney family, illustrating their rise to wealth, influence, and power amidst the continent's political and social upheavals.

The series is renowned for its vivid descriptions of African landscapes, detailed character development, and intricate plots involving business ventures, colonial conflicts, and personal dramas.

Overview of The Courtneys of Africa Series

Series Structure and Books

The Courtney series is composed of multiple novels, each focusing on different generations or key moments in the family's history. The main books include:

1. When the Lion Feeds (1980)
2. The Sound of Thunder (1982)
3. A Sparrow Falls (1983)
4. The Burning Shore (1985)
5. Power of the Sword (1986)
6. Rage (1987)
7. A Time to Die (1989)
8. Golden Lion (2004)
9. Vicious Circle (2006)
10. Assegai (2009)
11. The Triumph of the Sun (2010)
12. Desert God (2014, set in Ancient Egypt but connected to the series' overarching themes)

While each novel can be read independently, together they form a continuous saga that traces the evolution of the Courtney family across key historical events.

Main Themes and Motifs

The series explores themes such as:

- Family loyalty and betrayal
- The clash between tradition and modernity
- Colonialism, apartheid, and independence movements
- Business and economic power struggles
- Personal love stories amidst chaos
- Survival against nature and human threats

Key Characters of The Courtneys of Africa

The Courtney Family Patriarchs

The series features several generations of the Courtney family, each with distinctive personalities and roles:

- Tom Courtney – The original patriarch, a resourceful and ambitious man who seeks success in Africa's wilderness.
- Ellen Courtney – Tom's wife, a resilient woman who supports her family through hardships.
- Sean Courtney – Son of Tom and Ellen, a charismatic and adventurous figure, central to many novels.
- Gordon Courtney – Sean's brother, involved in business and political affairs.
- Brendan Courtney – A later-generation character, representing the new wave of the family adapting to changing Africa.

Supporting Characters

- Mike Courtney – A key figure in later books, representing the younger generation's struggles.
- Maggie Courtney – A strong female character who embodies resilience and independence.
- Antagonists – Various political figures, rivals, and enemies that challenge the family's ambitions.

Historical Context and Settings

Colonial Africa

The series vividly depicts Africa during the colonial period, illustrating the struggles of settlers, native populations, and colonial administrations. Wilbur Smith's portrayal offers both admiration and critique of colonialism, capturing its complexities.

Transition to Independence

As the series progresses, it reflects Africa's decolonization, with characters navigating the upheavals caused by changing political landscapes, including the rise of apartheid in South Africa, civil wars, and independence movements across different nations.

Modern Africa

Later novels explore contemporary issues, technological advancements, and economic development, highlighting the ongoing evolution of the continent.

Themes and Literary Significance

Adventure and Action

True to Smith's style, the series is filled with daring exploits, hunting expeditions, battles, shipwrecks, and survival stories, creating an adrenaline-fueled reading experience.

Family Saga and Legacy

At its core, the series is about the enduring bonds of family, legacy, and the sacrifices made to preserve their name amid turbulent times.

Historical Accuracy and Cultural Representation

Wilbur Smith's meticulous research lends authenticity to his depiction of African history, cultures, and environments, making the series both entertaining and educational.

Literary Impact

The Courtneys of Africa has cemented Wilbur Smith's reputation as a master storyteller. The series is influential in shaping perceptions of Africa's history in popular culture and literature.

Impact and Reception of The Series

Reader Appreciation

Fans praise the series for its immersive storytelling, compelling characters, and vivid descriptions of African landscapes. It appeals to readers interested in adventure, history, and family drama.

Critical Reception

While some critics have noted the series' romanticized portrayals, overall, it is celebrated for its narrative depth and engaging storytelling.

Adaptations and Legacy

Although there have been limited screen adaptations, the series continues to inspire readers worldwide, maintaining Wilbur Smith's legacy as a literary giant.

Conclusion: Why Read Wilbur Smith's The Courtneys of Africa?

The Courtney series by Wilbur Smith is more than just a collection of adventure novels; it's a sweeping saga that captures the spirit of Africa through the eyes of a resilient family. Its blend of historical detail, action, and emotional depth makes it a must-read for anyone interested in African history, family dynamics, or compelling adventure stories.

Whether you are exploring the series for the first time or revisiting old favorites, Wilbur Smith's The Courtneys of Africa offers a rich tapestry of storytelling that celebrates the continent's rugged beauty and complex history. Dive into these pages to experience the adventures, struggles, and triumphs of the Courtney family – a true epic of Africa's legacy.

Key Takeaways:

- Wilbur Smith's The Courtneys of Africa is a multi-generation saga set against Africa's landscapes and political upheavals.
- The series combines adventure, family drama, and historical insights.
- Characters face challenges from nature, rival families, and political regimes.
- Themes include loyalty, power, survival, and legacy.
- The series remains a significant contribution to African literature and adventure fiction.

Embark on this epic journey today and discover why Wilbur Smith's portrayal of Africa continues to enthrall readers around the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Courtney Novels' by Wilbur Smith, specifically in 'The Courtneys of Africa'?

'The Courtneys of Africa' chronicles the adventurous and tumultuous lives of the Courtney family, highlighting their struggles, romances, and conflicts as they build a legacy across Africa through multiple generations.

Which historical events are depicted in 'The Courtneys of Africa' by Wilbur Smith?

The novel covers significant events such as the Boer War, the discovery of diamonds and gold in Africa, and the political upheavals during the early 20th century, providing a rich historical backdrop for the family's saga.

Who are the main characters in 'The Courtneys of Africa,' and how are they connected?

The story features key members of the Courtney family, including Sir Hal Courtney, his descendants, and their associates, all interconnected through family ties, business ventures, and shared adventures across Africa.

How does Wilbur Smith portray Africa in 'The Courtneys of Africa'?

Wilbur Smith vividly depicts Africa's diverse landscapes, cultures, and challenges, portraying it as both a land of opportunity and danger that shapes the lives and destinies of the Courtney family.

Is 'The Courtneys of Africa' part of a series, and should I read other books by Wilbur Smith to understand it better?

Yes, it is part of Wilbur Smith's Courtney series, which spans multiple novels. Reading other books in the series can provide a broader understanding of the family's history and the recurring themes of adventure and legacy.

What themes are central to 'The Courtneys of Africa'?

Key themes include family loyalty, adventure, colonialism, greed, love, and the resilience of the human spirit amidst Africa's tumultuous history.

How has 'The Courtneys of Africa' been received by

readers and critics?

The novel has been praised for its vivid storytelling, rich historical detail, and engaging characters, making it a beloved part of Wilbur Smith's adventure series among fans of historical fiction.

Where can I find 'The Courtneys of Africa' to read or purchase?

The book is available in most major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and digital platforms such as Kindle and audiobook services. Check local libraries as well for borrowing options.

Additional Resources

Wilbur Smith's *The Courtneys of Africa* is a compelling addition to the extensive body of work by Wilbur Smith, one of Africa's most celebrated authors. Renowned for his vivid storytelling, rich historical detail, and dynamic characters, Smith's novel "The Courtneys of Africa" offers readers an immersive journey into the heart of the continent's complex history and vibrant cultures. This novel stands out as a significant piece that explores themes of family, colonialism, adventure, and the relentless spirit of resilience that characterizes Africa. As we delve into this review, we will explore the narrative structure, character development, thematic depth, and overall impact of the book, providing a comprehensive understanding for both longtime fans and newcomers alike.

Overview of "The Courtneys of Africa"

Wilbur Smith's "The Courtneys of Africa" is part of his broader collection of stories set across the African continent, blending historical fiction with adventure and personal saga. The novel traces the lives of the Courtney family across generations, set against the backdrop of Africa's tumultuous history—from the colonial era through independence movements and beyond. Smith masterfully weaves personal stories with broader historical events, creating a tapestry that captures the essence of Africa's dynamic evolution.

This novel is distinguished by its panoramic scope, covering multiple decades and countries, and providing a detailed portrayal of the socio-political landscape that shapes the characters' destinies. The story is not just about individual ambitions but also about the collective resilience and adaptability of the African people and their descendants.

Plot Summary and Narrative Structure

The narrative is structured across different timelines, shifting between the early 20th century and later decades, which allows Smith to depict the evolution of the Courtney family and the continent itself. The story begins with the founding of a family enterprise in South Africa, highlighting the challenges faced by early settlers and entrepreneurs. As generations pass, the novel explores their descendants' adventures, struggles, and personal growth.

Smith employs a third-person omniscient narrative style, providing insight into multiple characters' perspectives. This multi-layered approach enriches the story, allowing readers to understand the motivations, fears, and hopes of each family member. The plot is filled with adventure scenes—ranging from safaris and conflicts with local tribes to political upheavals—intertwined with moments of introspection and family drama.

Some of the key plot points include:

- The establishment of a trading empire in Africa's interior.
- Encounters with indigenous tribes and colonial authorities.
- Personal conflicts and romantic entanglements.
- The impact of colonialism and the fight for independence.
- The subsequent challenges faced by the family during post-colonial transitions.

Overall, the plot is engaging, fast-paced, and richly detailed, keeping readers invested from start to finish.

Character Development

One of Wilbur Smith's strengths lies in his ability to craft memorable, multidimensional characters. In "The Courtneys of Africa," characters are vividly drawn, each with unique personalities, motivations, and arcs.

Key Characters:

- Sir Tony Courtney: A visionary entrepreneur whose ambition drives much of the family's success. His leadership and moral dilemmas reflect the complexities of colonial enterprise.
- Catherine Courtney: A strong-willed woman navigating a male-dominated world, balancing family loyalty with personal ambition.
- Paul Courtney: A later-generation descendant, embodying the modern African spirit, torn between traditional values and contemporary challenges.
- Supporting Characters: Indigenous leaders, colonial officials, and family friends, each adding depth and perspective to the story.

The characters evolve across the decades, influenced by historical events and

personal experiences. Smith's portrayal of their internal struggles—such as the tension between progress and tradition, loyalty and independence—adds emotional depth and realism.

Themes and Messages

"The Courtneys of Africa" explores a multitude of themes that resonate deeply with readers interested in African history and human resilience.

Major Themes:

- Colonialism and Its Impact: The novel examines both the opportunities and devastations brought by colonial rule, highlighting the complexities faced by settlers and indigenous populations alike.
- Family and Legacy: The importance of family bonds, heritage, and the enduring impact of past generations are central to the story.
- Adventure and Exploration: Smith's narrative underscores the allure and dangers of adventure, emphasizing human courage and curiosity.
- Resilience and Adaptability: Characters often face adversity—political upheaval, personal loss, societal change—and must adapt to survive and thrive.
- Cultural Interactions: The novel explores the interactions between Europeans and indigenous peoples, offering nuanced portrayals that avoid simplistic stereotypes.

Messages:

Smith's work often emphasizes that Africa's history is one of resilience, complexity, and ongoing transformation. The novel encourages readers to appreciate the continent's diversity and the enduring human spirit that persists through hardships.

Writing Style and Literary Quality

Wilbur Smith's prose in "The Courtneys of Africa" is characterized by its clarity, vivid descriptive passages, and cinematic quality. His language vividly paints the landscapes—from sweeping savannahs and dense jungles to bustling cities—bringing Africa to life on the page.

Smith's storytelling is swift and engaging, with a balance of action, dialogue, and introspective narration. His attention to detail enhances the authenticity of historical settings, making readers feel immersed in each scene.

Strengths of his writing include:

- Rich Descriptions: Vivid imagery that captures the essence of African landscapes and cultures.
- Pace: Well-paced plot that maintains suspense and interest.
- Authenticity: Accurate depictions of historical events and cultural practices.
- Emotional Depth: Ability to evoke empathy and emotional engagement with characters' journeys.

Some critics note that Smith's focus on adventure and action occasionally leads to simplifications in character depth or overly dramatized scenes. However, these elements tend to serve the overall storytelling effectively.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Engaging, fast-paced narrative with a strong sense of adventure.
- Rich historical detail and authentic portrayal of African life.
- Well-developed characters with compelling arcs.
- Themes of resilience, family, and cultural complexity.
- Vivid descriptive language that transports readers to Africa.

Cons:

- Some characters may appear stereotypical or lack depth.
- The plot occasionally relies on dramatic tropes.
- Historical events are sometimes simplified for narrative pacing.
- As part of a broader series, some readers may find it less standalone than other Smith novels.

Target Audience and Reception

"The Courtneys of Africa" appeals primarily to fans of historical adventure fiction, especially those interested in African history and culture. It also attracts readers who enjoy family sagas spanning multiple generations and those seeking stories of resilience amid adversity.

Reception of the novel has generally been positive, with readers praising Smith's evocative storytelling and immersive settings. Critics have appreciated the depth of historical context and the engaging character dynamics. Some, however, have pointed out that the novel's focus on adventure may overshadow nuanced character development at times.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

Wilbur Smith's "The Courtneys of Africa" is a captivating saga that offers a panoramic view of Africa's history through the lens of one family's journey. It exemplifies Smith's signature style—blending adventure, history, and family drama into a compelling narrative. Whether you are a longtime admirer of Smith's work or a newcomer eager to explore African stories, this novel provides a richly textured, emotionally resonant experience.

In summary, "The Courtneys of Africa" is a testament to Wilbur Smith's storytelling prowess, capturing the complexity, beauty, and resilience of Africa and its people. It invites readers to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future shaped by perseverance and hope.

Overall Rating: 4.5/5

Note: For those interested in a broader understanding of Wilbur Smith's work, this novel is best enjoyed as part of his extensive series on Africa, each contributing to a larger tapestry of storytelling that celebrates the continent's diverse history and culture.

[Wilbur Smith The Courtneys Of Africa](#)

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Courtneys of Africa Wilbur Smith, Wilbur A. Smith, 1988

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Courtneys Wilbur A. Smith, 1988 Combines three novels featuring South African Sean Courtney in a saga that chronicles the Zulu threat to Sean's farm, his hard-won wealth, fierce family conflicts, and his final triumph as soldier and statesman

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Courtneys of Africa Wilbur Smith, 1998

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *Assegai* Wilbur Smith, 2018-01-01 From directly overhead he heard the loud flapping of heavy wings and another vulture rose from beyond the screen of banana plants. Leon felt the chill of dread. If the brutes are settling that means there's meat lying out there, dead meat. King and Country. No matter the cost. With the backing of his uncle, General Penrod Ballantyne, young Leon Courtney joins the King's Rifles of Nairobi. When he becomes discouraged by the dishonesty of army life, his uncle recruits him for a special mission - spying on the Germans in East Africa, whom the General suspects are preparing for the Kaiser's war. Posing as a professional game hunter Leon is tasked with gathering information on one of his clients, wealthy industrialist Otto Von Meerbach. Leon finds himself falling for Von Meerbach's beautiful mistress, but never forgets that his real mission is to destroy the enemy. But how easy will he find his task when his true enemy is closer to home than Leon ever expected? A Courtney Series adventure - Book 1 in the Assegai sequence

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *Monsoon* Wilbur Smith, 2003-05-16 Monsoon, a

Courtney Family Adventure from Wilbur Smith One man. Three sons. A powerful destiny waiting to unfold. Monsoon is the sweeping epic that continues the saga begun in Wilbur Smith's bestselling *Birds of Prey*. Once a voracious adventurer, it has been many years since Hal Courtney has dared the high seas. Now he must return with three of his sons - Tom, Dorian, and Guy - to protect the East India Trading Company from looting pirates, in exchange for half of the fortune he recovers. It will be a death or glory mission in the name of the crown. But Hal must also think about the fates of his sons. Like their father before them, Tom, Dorian, and Guy are drawn inexorably to Africa. When fate decrees that they must all leave England forever, they set sail for the dark, unexplored continent, seduced by the allure and mystery of this new, magnificent, but savage land. All will have a crucial part to play in shaping the Courtneys' destiny, as the family vies for a prize beyond any of their dreams. In a story of anger and passion, peace and war, Wilbur Smith evinces himself at the height of his storytelling powers. Set at the dawn of eighteenth-century England, with the Courtneys riding wind-tossed seas toward Arabia and Africa, *Monsoon* is an exhilarating adventure pitting brother against brother, man against sea, and good against evil.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Golden Fox Wilbur Smith, 2018-01-01 BOOK 8 IN THE EPIC HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE COURTNEY FAMILY, FROM INTERNATIONAL SENSATION WILBUR SMITH 'Smith will take you on an exciting, taut and thrilling journey you will never forget' - Sun 'With Wilbur Smith the action is never further than the turn of a page' - Independent 'No one does adventure quite like Smith' - Daily Mirror THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL. THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. Beautiful and headstrong Isabella Courtney enjoys all the freedoms London in the sixties can offer. So when a beautiful, charming man appears and sweeps her off her feet, why would she resist? But her lover is no simple admirer - he is Ramon de Santiago y Machado, a KGB operative known as Golden Fox, and his mission is to recruit her as an agent and uncover her father's secret business dealings. Isabella, already pregnant with Ramon's child and deeply in love, is caught in his trap. With an impossible choice to make, Isabella must decide who she will betray - her father and her country, or the man she loves and their unborn son . . . A Courtney Series adventure. Book 5 in The Burning Shore sequence. Golden Fox is the thrilling final novel in the second sequence in the Courtney family saga from Wilbur Smith, one of the best and most beloved authors of the century. The Courtney series continues with the *Birds of Prey* sequence. Book 9 in the Courtney family series, *Birds of Prey*, is available now.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Courtneys Wilbur Smith, 1992

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Blue Horizon Wilbur Smith, 2003-05-13 The New York Times bestselling author and one of the greatest adventure writers of our time once again creates a lost era and a truly exciting tale of danger, courage, and suspense.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Burning Shore Wilbur Smith, 2018-01-01 BOOK 4 IN THE EPIC HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE COURTNEY FAMILY, FROM INTERNATIONAL SENSATION WILBUR SMITH 'Smith will take you on an exciting, taut and thrilling journey you will never forget' - Sun 'With Wilbur Smith the action is never further than the turn of a page' - Independent 'No one does adventure quite like Smith' - Daily Mirror LOVE IN A TIME OF WAR. HOPE IN A TIME OF CRISIS. One of the greatest fighter pilots of the Great War, Michael Courtney, is saved by the French noblewoman Centaine de Thiry when he crashes near her home. A wild love affair begins, but as the war still rages, tragedy strikes. Centaine is left on her own, heartbroken, homeless and pregnant with Michael's child. Desperate, she determines to travel across the ocean to join his family in South Africa. But no journey is ever simple, and Centaine finds herself shipwrecked off Africa's notorious Skeleton Coast, a deadly swim away from the sun-bleached desert that will see her left defenceless and alone. When hope arrives, she has no way of knowing if she will be saved - or left in greater danger than ever before . . . A Courtney Series adventure - Book 1 in The Burning Shore sequence The Burning Shore is the exceptional and inspiring first title in the second sequence of the Courtney family saga from Wilbur Smith, one of the best and most beloved authors of the century. Book 5 in the Courtney family series, *The Power of the Sword*, is available now.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Golden Fox Wilbur Smith, 1993-11-01

Fascinating...Stunning...Seduction and betrayal. Politics and treachery. Wilbur Smith's THE GOLDEN FOX combines these elements and more with the beauty and violence of the African continent.... Compelling. THE FREE LANCE-STAR (Fredericksburg, VA) The Courtney family blood has long run hot--as hot as the passion and turmoil boiling in war-torn South Africa. When one of their own succumbs to the worst kind of evil, those ties are put to the ultimate test. Isabella Courtney, dazzling daughter of South Africa's ambassador to England, is passionately obsessed with Ramon, the Marques de Santiago y Machado--also known as the Golden Fox, one of the world's most ruthless terrorists. When she secretly bears his child, Ramon kidnaps the boy and persuades powerful, yet reluctant, Isabella to betray South Africa and her beloved family...until the truth at last comes out, and the explosive Courtneys rally to her side and strike back with a raging vengeance....

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Power of the Sword: a Courtney Novel 5 Wilbur Smith, 2014-05-08 Across the goldfields of South Africa to the 1930s Olympics in Berlin, this is an astonishing novel of adventure. They were half-brothers, raised in different worlds in the same country, and destined to be lifelong enemies. Manfred De La Ray and Shasa Courtney, sons of Centaine de Thiry, were blood enemies from their very first boyhood encounter. Caught up in the tumult of South Africa's history through two decades, they found themselves adversaries in an age-old war of savagery to seize the sword of power in their land. This astonishing story sweeps from the teeming goldfields of the highland to the secret citadels of Afrikaaner power, from the clamouring stadiums of Hitler's Berlin Olympics to the raging war over Abyssinia.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: The Quest Wilbur Smith, 2007-05-15 A stunning, heart-pounding, journey into the lost world of the Pharaohs. Wilbur Smith has earned international acclaim for his bestselling River God, The Seventh Scroll, and Warlock. Now, the unrivaled master of adventure returns with the eagerly awaited sequel to his thrilling Egyptian series with his most fantastic story yet. The Quest continues the story of the Warlock, Taita, wise in the lore of the gods and a master of magic and the supernatural. Egypt has been struck by a series of terrible plagues, killing its crops and crippling its people. Then the ultimate disaster befalls the kingdom. The Nile fails. The waters that nourish and sustain the land dry up. Something catastrophic is taking place in the distant and totally unexplored depths of Africa, from where the mighty river springs. In desperation the Pharaoh sends Taita, the only man who might be able to find his way through the hazardous territory to the source of the Nile and discover the cause of all their woes. But not even Taita can have any idea of what a terrible enemy waits in ambush in those dark lands at the end of their world. No other author can conjure up the violence and mystery of Ancient Egypt like Wilbur Smith. The Quest marks his stirring return to the acclaimed series and proves once again why fans such as Stephen King praise him as the world's best historical novelist.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Warlock Wilbur Smith, 2001-05-22 Wilbur Smith, one of the world's most acclaimed adventure writers, returns to the world of ancient Egypt with Warlock, the stunning sequel to the New York Times bestselling River God. In the wake of a sixty-year war over the reign of the kingdoms of Egypt, two young pharaohs have risen to claim power, but only one can succeed, deciding the fate of his empire forever... The mission of Prince Nefer, rightful heir to the throne, is to rebuild a magnificent kingdom in the stark and tumbled ruins of the embattled city of Gallala. The desire of Lord Naja is to destroy his rival and rule the land with unholy supremacy. But Nefer has on his side the warlock Taita, a matchless ally and legendary priest of notorious powers... To see their dream come true, Nefer and Taita must stay one step ahead of the depraved assassin, survive the tortuous shadow of her ever-pursuing armies, and outwit the shocking betrayals of his own flesh and blood. As Nefer's courage increases, and as Taita's magic grows more beguiling, so grows stronger the power of their tireless enemies.... Now, with the threat of tyranny and blood thundering closer and closer toward the vulnerable gates of Gallala, the ultimate battle for Egypt will begin...

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: Blue Horizon Wilbur Smith, 2013-10-24 At the close of Wilbur Smith's bestselling Monsoon, Tom Courtney and his brother Dorian battled on the high seas and finally reached the Cape of Good Hope to start life afresh. In this spellbinding new novel, the

next generation of Courtneys are out to stake their claim in Southern Africa, travelling along the infamous 'Robber's Road'. It is a journey both exciting and hazardous, that takes them through the untouched wilderness of a beautiful land filled with warring tribes and wild animals. At heart a story of love and hatred, vengeance and greed, *Blue Horizon* is an utterly compelling adventure from one of the world's most celebrated novelists. 'Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared' *The Times* 'A masterstory teller' *Sunday Times*

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *The Triumph of the Sun* Wilbur Smith, 2007-04-01 They've come from out of the shifting sands and down from ancient mountains. Mounted on horse and camel, carrying gleaming swords and plundered rifles, the sons of Allah are led by a holy warrior imbued with jihad, driving his army of thousands to wipe out the last Englishmen from the isolated Nile city... Along with hundreds of others, British trader and businessman Ryder Courtney is trapped in the capital city of Khartoum. In Khartoum, the fates of a legendary British general, a brilliant, mercenary trader, a beautiful woman and a courageous soldier will become one. They know that time is running out and rescue is improbable. So they prepare for one last stand--and the beginning of an epic journey of survival... From a passionate rivalry for a woman to an unforgettable face-off between warriors, Wilbur Smith's *The Triumph of the Sun* is adventure fiction writ large--alive with the sounds of throngs, the terror of battle, and the mystical fire of human courage in the darkest moments of all.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *The Diamond Hunters* Wilbur Smith, 2005-11-29 The Van Der Byl Diamond Company, willed by its founder to his son Benedict, daughter Tracey and estranged foster-child Johnny Lance, turns out to be a bequest not of love, but of hatred. For it is couched in such terms as to offer Benedict an instrument of destruction of his bitterest rival. 'Destroy Johnny' was the old man's implacable message to his son, and, obsessively jealous of his foster-brother, Benedict sets out in ruthless pursuit of this goal. In a desperate bid to support Johnny, Tracey acquires for him the concession in the diamond-rich seabed round the coral islands of Thunderbolt and Suicide off the savage South West African coast, and Johnny throws all his resources into the construction of a vessel that will recover the stones from the ocean floor and repair his fortune at last. But Benedict, already involved in illegal diamond-dealing as a sideline, seizes this chance to attack his rival and, with a network of accomplices and some ingenious electronic tampering, plots to syphon off the diamonds. Johnny will not only be ruined by his liabilities, he will also be a laughing stock. However, Benedict's obsessive jealousy is his undoing. He cannot resist stripping his rival of his beautiful but bitchy wife Ruby as well, and when he then discards her, she takes her revenge, precipitating a climax of murder and destruction that consumes Benedict at last. Narrated with Wilbur Smith's irresistible driving thrust, *The Diamond Hunters* is a tale of brotherly hatred, redeemed only by the deepening love between Johnny and Tracey. It is set in London, Cape Town, on the thunderous seas around the ocean diamond fields and ends in a final confrontation between Johnny and Benedict in the blistering hyena-infested desert.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness* Wilbur Smith, 2006-11-28 *The Leopard Hunts in Darkness* by Wilbur Smith: In Manhattan, Craig Mellow is the toast of the literary world, a young writer whose bestselling novels and larger-than-life adventures are fueled by natural-born charisma. But Craig lost a limb and a legacy in Africa. And his heart still clings to the land. A representative of the World Bank recruits Craig to return to his war-torn homeland--to use his knowledge of Zimbabwe's people, languages, and wildlife to stabilize its future. But once he sets foot on the continent, Craig cannot resist what runs in his blood... Soon, this scion of a legendary family is caught in a new era of massive ivory poaching, of tribal warfare waged with modern killing tools, and international politics hardwired directly to Washington and Moscow. With a woman by his side and a traitor behind his back, Craig is about to learn a lesson of a brutal new age--if he can survive Africa one more time.

wilbur smith the courtneys of africa: *The Burning Shore* Wilbur Smith, 2007-02-06 *The Burning Shore*, another gripping installment in Wilbur Smith's Courtney Family Adventure series Centaine de Thiry grew up with privilege, wealth, and freedom on a sprawling French estate. Then

war came crashing down around her, and a daring young South African aviator named Michael Courtney stole her heart amidst the destruction. But the tides of fate and battle sent the young woman on a journey across a dangerous sea to the coast of Africa. When Centaine's ship is torpedoed and sunk, she is plunged into a shark-filled sea miles from the unseen shore. And when she reaches land, Centaine puts foot not in the lush world that Michael Courtney described to her, but on the edge of a burning desert--alone and fighting for her life. In a strange world, under a great rushing sky, Centaine sets forth in the company of wandering Bushmen--and then into the arms of a renegade white soldier who may be her savior or destruction. As Michael Courtney's family searches for Centaine, she comes near her promised land--and the untold tragedy and riches that it holds...

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