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# Maru Bessie Head

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Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction

A Question of Power

Bessie Head's Maru

A Study Guide to be Used in Conjunction with 'Maru' by Bessie Head

Race, Nation, Translation

Teaching Bessie Head's Novel Maru

A Gesture of Belonging

When Rain Clouds Gather And Maru

A Novel

Thunder Behind Her Ears : Her Life and Writing

A Bewitched Crossroad

Letters from Bessie Head, 1965-1979

An African Saga

Bessie Head

The Road of Peace of Mind : a Critical Appreciation

Maru by Bessie Head

Subversive Identities in Exile

Maru

The Collector of Treasures and Other Botswana Village Tales

Maru

Autobiographical Writings

The Creative Vision of Bessie Head

When Rain Clouds Gather

When Rain Clouds Gather

Gender and narrative in the postcolonial nation

Maru  
Bessie Head and the Trauma of Exile  
A Study Guide  
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The Cardinals, with Meditations and Short Stories  
Life  
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Room 207  
A Question of Power

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## **ALISSON LARSEN**

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### **Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction**

Heinemann  
"Monumental a wonderful read."--  
Stephen Gray, Mail & Guardian, South Africa  
"Eilersen's account of Head's childhood is a gift to admirers of Bessie Head for it offers a fascinating insight into the events and circumstances that

shaped Bessie Head's sense of self and her strong political identity. Eilersen's book is invaluable and represents a long-awaited study of Bessie Head that manages to undo much of the enigma that has surrounded her and her ideas." --Kwame Dawes, African Affairs  
In July 2007, the acclaimed writer Bessie Head would have turned seventy years old. Her friends, colleagues and literary critics will honor her

with a series of conferences, new books and theses, re-namings, tree-plantings, writing prizes, composing music inspired by one of her novels, *Maru*, and the founding of a permanent Bessie Head Heritage Trust to guarantee the future of her house and literary papers. Wits University Press takes this opportunity to repackage and republish this excellent biography. It will appear with new-- never before published-- photographs of Bessie Head's life. Gillian Stead Eilersen studied at the former University of Natal (South Africa) and Odense University (Denmark), where she now lectures in the Department of English.

### **A Question of Power**

University of Virginia Press

A collection of autobiographical writings, sketches, and essays that covers the entire span of Bessie Head's creative life.

*Bessie Head's Maru* Nb Pub Limited

An African love story and statement on racial & tribal prejudice, set in mid-twentieth century Botswana. First pub. 1971.

### **A Study Guide to be Used in Conjunction with 'Maru' by**

**Bessie Head** Yale University Press

This is an anthology of stories, personal observations and historic legends. It reflects the author's fascination with Africa's people and their history as well as her identification with

individuals and their conflicting emotions. Race, Nation, Translation Fairleigh Dickinson Univ Press

The Cardinals--thought to be the first long piece of fiction Head produced and the only one she ever set in South Africa--is an exciting literary event. *Teaching Bessie Head's Novel Maru* Manchester University Press

"When Elizabeth learns the devastating truth about her mother, locked away for defying Apartheid, she flees South Africa and begins a new life in Botswana, at Motabeng, the village of the rain-wind. But Elizabeth is tormented by two men, Dan and Sello, who represent for her a private vision of hell into which she sinks deeper and deeper. This novel

interweaves one woman's terrifying experience of insanity with the madness and cruelty of life in a divided society. A Question of Power is the unforgettable study of an individual - and a race - whose identity has been annihilated, and their resulting struggle to endure"-- Publisher's description.

**A Gesture of Belonging** Heinemann

The Lovers collects Head's short fiction of the 1960s and 70s, written mainly in Serowe, Botswana, and depicting the lives and loves of African village people pre- and post-independence. An earlier selection called Tales of Tenderness and Power was published in the Heinemann African Writers Series in 1990, but this expanded and

updated volume adds many previously unavailable stories collected here for the first time. Anthology favourites like her breakthrough 'The Woman from America' and 'The Prisoner who Wore Glasses' are included, leading up to the first complete text of her much translated title story. Stephen Gray is a noted South African scholar and novelist.

When Rain Clouds Gather And Maru Sa Writers

One of the foremost African writers of our time, who dispelled the silence between colonial and feminist discourses by "talking back", Bessie Head at last gets her due in this first book-length, comprehensive study of her work. This book locates Head's

unquestionable importance in the canon of African literature. Author Huma Ibrahim argues that unless we are able to look at the merging of women's sexual and linguistic identity with their political and gendered identity, the careful configurations created in Head's work will elude us. Ibrahim offers a series of thoughtful readings informed by feminist, diasporan, postcolonial, and poststructuralist insights and concerns. She identifies a theme she calls "exilic consciousness" - the desire to belong - and traces its manifestations through each phase of Head's work, showing how "women's talk" - a marginalized commodity in the

construction of southern Africa - is differently embodied and evaluated. Bessie Head's works are frequently featured in courses in African literature, third-world literature, and fiction writing, but there is little critical material on them. Ibrahim offers readings of Head's novels *When Rain Clouds Gather*, *Maru*, and *A Question of Power*, as well as the collections *Tales of Tenderness and Power*, *A Collector of Treasures*, *A Woman Alone*: Autobiographical Writings, and *The Cardinals*, the histories *Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind* and *A Bewitched Crossroad*, and her letters to Robert Vigne collected in *A Gesture of Belonging*. In Head's

exploration of oppressed people, especially women and those in exile, Ibrahim finds startling insights into institutional power relations. Head not only subverts Western hegemonic notions of the third-world woman but offers a critique of postcoloniality.

**A Novel** Ingram

Read worldwide for her wisdom, authenticity, and skillful prose, South African-born Bessie Head (1937–1986) offers a moving and magical tale of an orphaned girl, Margaret Cadmore, who goes to teach in a remote village in Botswana where her own people are kept as slaves. Her presence polarizes a community that does not see her people as human, and condemns

her to the lonely life of an outcast. In the love story and intrigue that follows, Head brilliantly combines a portrait of loneliness with a rich affirmation of the mystery and spirituality of life. The core of this otherworldly, rhapsodic work is a plot about racial injustice and prejudice with a lesson in how traditional intolerance may render whole sections of a society untouchable. Thunder Behind Her Ears : Her Life and Writing Heinemann Educational Books "Bessie Head's short stories have an extraordinary simplicity and breadth of vision," heralded a review in The Tribune after publication of Head's first collection of short stories, *The Collector of Treasures*.

Regarded today as one of Africa's best-known woman writers in English, Head draws on the rich oral tradition of southern Africa and masterfully applies storytelling's language and imagery. Carefully sequenced, the anthology gives special focus to village people from independence-era Botswana and the status, position, and plight of African women.

### **A Bewitched**

**Crossroad** Heinemann In 'When Rain Clouds Gather' a South African political refugee and an Englishman join forces in Botswana to revolutionize the villager's traditional farming methods, but their task is fraught with hazards. 'Maru' is the moving tale of an orphaned Masarwa girl who goes to teach in a

remote village in Botswana.

Letters from Bessie Head, 1965-1979 Viva Books

This book investigates themes of exile and oppression in Southern Africa across Bessie Head's novels and short fiction. An exile herself, arriving in Botswana as a South African refugee, Bessie Head's fiction serves as an important example of African exile literature. This book argues that Head's characters are driven to exile as a result of their socio-political ambivalence while still in South Africa, and that this sense of discomfort follows them to their new lives. Investigating themes of trauma and identity politics across colonial and post-colonial contexts, this

book also addresses the important theme of black-on-black prejudice and hostility which is often overlooked in studies of Head's work.

Covering Head's shorter fiction as well as her major novels *When Rain Clouds Gather* (1969), *Maru* (1971), *A Question of Power* (1973), *Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind* (1981), and *A Bewitched Crossroads: An African Saga* (1984), this book will be of interest to researchers of African literature and postcolonial history. *An African Saga* Waveland Press 'When Rain Clouds Gather and *Maru* are fairy tales about the transformations that love can wreak. And they transform love into a force to be



thankful for' HELEN OYEYEMI In two powerful novels of belonging, one of Africa's most important writers explores village life and the traditions of Botswana. When Rainclouds Gather: Escaping South Africa and his troubled past, Makehaya crosses the border to Botswana, in the hope of leading a peaceful, purposeful life. In the village of Golema Mmidi he meets Gilbert, a charismatic Englishman who is trying to modernise farming methods to benefit the community. The two outsiders join forces, but their task is fraught with hazards: opposition from the corrupt chief, the pressures of tradition, and the unrelenting climate ever threaten to bring tragedy. Maru:

Margaret, an orphan from a despised tribe, has lived her life under the loving protection of a missionary's wife. She has only to open her mouth to cause confusion, for her education and English accent do not fit her looks. When she accepts her first teaching post, in a remote village, Margaret is befriended by Dikeledi, sister of Maru the chief-in-waiting. Despite making influential friends, Margaret faces prejudice even from the children she teaches, and her presence causes Maru and his best friend - also Dikeledi's lover - to become sworn enemies.

Bessie Head

Associated University  
Presse

This book is an

exploration of the way in which Head's writing is her idiosyncratic response to her personal life. Her desire to portray and yet subvert oppression-political, racist, and sexist- that she encountered in South Africa and Botswana, led to a Romanticism born of her need to create an antithesis to what she perceived to be the reality around her. Her eagerness to discover a haven in her adopted rural Botswana led to a Utopia of her own making, a literary resolution imagined, not actual. A mental breakdown led to the creation of her greatest novel, *A Question of Power*, one which examines the depths of evil, but allows also for the dawning of the heights of goodness.

The appendix contains many heretofore unpublished letters that help to explain the personal compulsion that provided for Head's creativity.

**The Road of Peace of Mind : a Critical Appreciation**

Waveland Press

This work provides an insight into the Serowe village community and its history.

**Maru by Bessie Head**

Witwatersrand

University Press

This book is a selection from the letters Bessie Head wrote Randolph Vigne, a politician and literary friend from her Cape Town days.

**Subversive Identities in Exile**

Pearson South Africa

The first collection of nonfiction critical writings by one of the leading literary figures of post-apartheid South

Africa The most significant nonfiction writings of Zoë Wicomb, one of South Africa's leading authors and intellectuals, are collected here for the first time in a single volume. This compilation features essays on the works of such prominent South African writers as Bessie Head, Nadine Gordimer, Njabulo Ndebele, and J. M. Coetzee, as well as on a wide range of cultural and political topics, including gender politics, sexuality, race, identity, nationalism, and visual art. Also presented here are a reflection on Nelson Mandela and a revealing interview with Wicomb. In these essays, written between 1990 and 2013, Wicomb offers

insights into her nation's history, politics, and people. In a world in which nationalist rhetoric is on the rise and right-wing populist movements are the declared enemies of diversity and pluralism, her essays speak powerfully to a host of current international issues.

Maru Routledge  
Crimes from the past erupt into the present, splintering Silas Ali's fragile peace of mind, in the tale of a brittle South African family on the crossroads of history. Reader's Guide available. Original. 25,000 first printing.  
The Collector of Treasures and Other Botswana Village Tales Princeton University Press  
Set in a block of dilapidated apartments

in Hillbrow, an inner-city neighborhood in Johannesburg, this novel tells the story of six young men who will do anything—including hustling and conning anyone they can—to survive. Painting an engrossing portrait of the friends, it shows the hopelessness and despair of a group stuck in their position in life, having to compromise themselves to make a living and reach for their dreams.

*Maru Maru*

This book investigates the entire spectrum of techniques for portraying the mental lives of fictional characters in both the stream-of-consciousness novel and other fiction. Each chapter deals with one main technique, illustrated from a wide range of nineteenth- and twentieth-century fiction by writers including Stendhal, Dostoevsky, James, Mann, Kafka, Joyce, Proust, Woolf, and Sarraute.

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