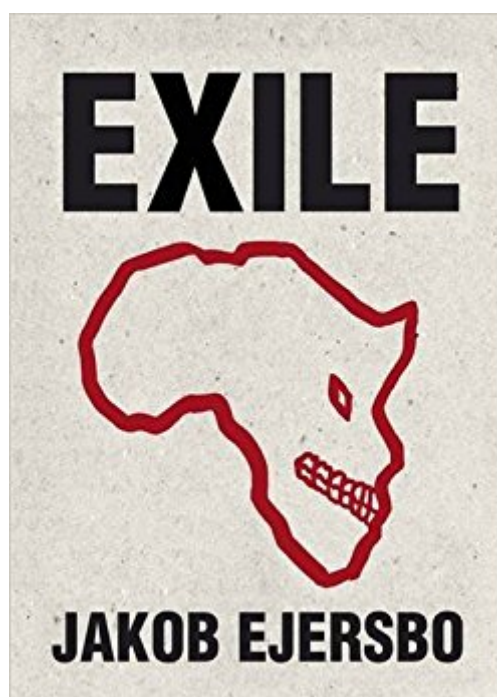


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## Exile (The Africa Trilogy)



## Synopsis

For the vagabond pack of ex-pat Europeans, Indian Tanzanians and wealthy Africans at Moshi's International School, it's all about getting high, getting drunk and getting laid. Their parents - drug dealers, mercenaries and farmers gone to seed - are too dead inside to give a damn. Outwardly free but empty at heart, privileged but out of place, these kids are lost, trapped in a land without hope. They can try to get out, but something will always drag them back - where can you go when you believe in nothing and belong to nowhere? *Exile* is the first of three powerful novels about growing up as an ex-pat in Tanzania. Ejersbo's first novel, *Nordkraft*, the Danish *Trainspotting*, was a phenomenal bestseller. Ejersbo's trilogy, only published after his death in 2008, has proved to be another cult and critical sensation.

## Book Information

Series: The Africa Trilogy (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Welcome to the dark side of human nature. Jakob Ejersbo's *Exile* journeys through a few years with teenager Samantha. Born of British parents, she has spent most of her life in Tanzania. For Samantha and her fellow boarding school peers, life is made bearable through vices like cigarettes, cokes, beer, and one-sided sexual encounters. If the term "international school" conjures up notions of multicultural harmony, Ejersbo smashes this illusion. His reality is of students living together separately, with little respect for other's values, and a deep disdain for the native African population. *Exile* is a study of intrigue, violence, drugs, and African politics. All of these themes are revealed through Samantha's schizophrenic sexuality. We watch her swing from confidence to shame and from seductress to victim. Despite the fact that the author is male, he provides deep

insight into the dance teenage girls perform between owning their sexuality and being exploited. Samantha's journey brings this to the fore as we watch her walk a pivotal line between life and death with her often spontaneous, always outrageous behavior. The book is littered with authentic details. Through Samantha's expert example, readers learn how lighting a fire scares rabid dogs away, how drinking gin and tonic deters mosquitos, and how to hitchhike - African style. If you like books that stick with you - even if it's an icky feeling - Exile is a must read. This is one of those novels that will spin in your mind days after finishing it. This intensifies when you learn that the Danish author died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 40, and Exile - the first of a trilogy just now available in English - is his legacy.

A very interesting work by Danish author Jakob Ejersbo about the upper-middle-class foreign community in Tanzania through the eyes of the sons and daughters of businessmen, politicians and diplomats. The author, though, wastes a lot of time, writing and reader's patience with a long series of small events that distracts from the main plot, which is very interesting and sometimes thrilling. Some editing would be useful. Unfortunately Ejersbo died very prematurely at forty. Anyway, I recommend it as good, interesting reading.

This is all about authentically observed neo-colonial privilege in Tanzania during the late 20th century. Ejersbo's voice has a brisk, intimate rhythm that kept me turning pages. Exile's depiction of inequality, injustice and hypocrisy is both universal and without sanctimony.

I went to ISM from 2001-2010. Jakob's portrayal of it is dishonest, absurd, neocolonial and follows in the same vein as Joseph Conrad. A pathetic attempt at gaining readership through shock value and historical dishonesty.

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