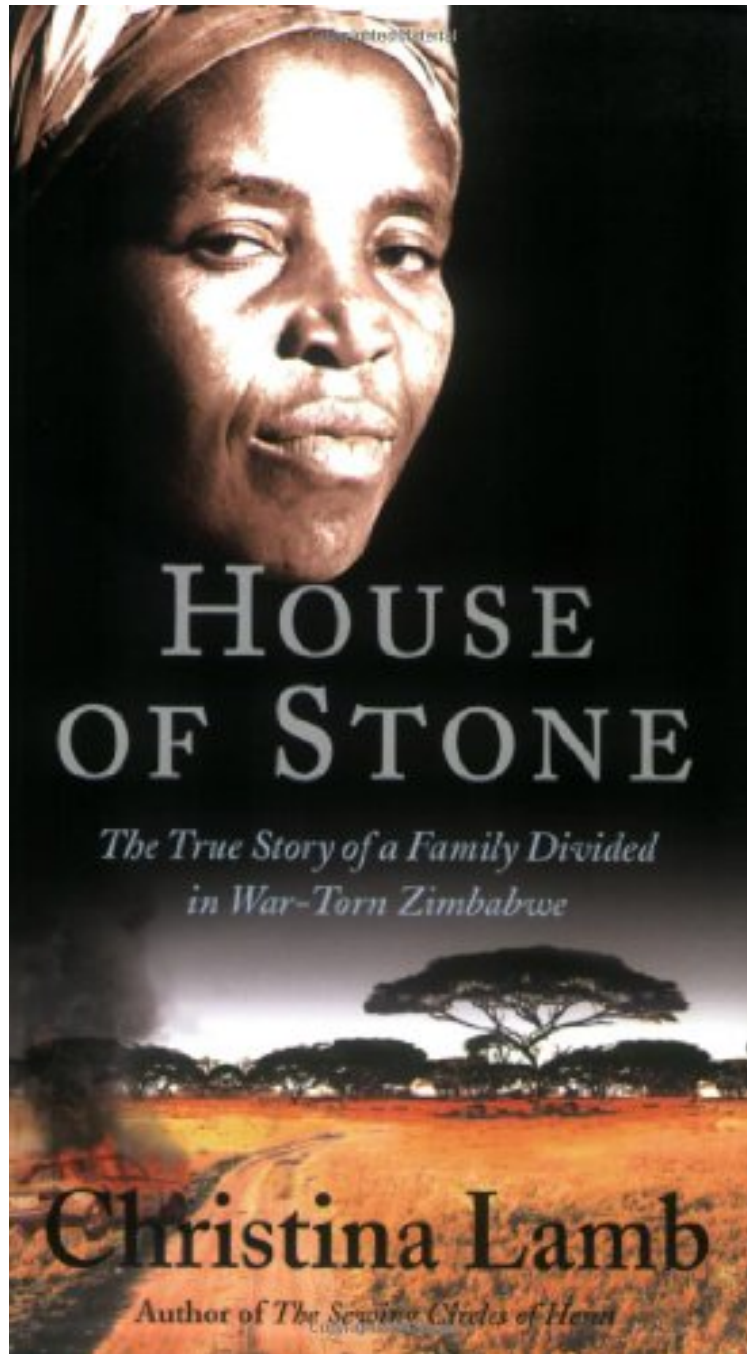


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House of Stone: The True Story of a Family Divided in War-Torn Zimbabwe

Christina Lamb

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Christina Lamb : House of Stone: The True Story of a Family Divided in War-Torn Zimbabwe before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *House of Stone: The True Story of a Family Divided in War-Torn Zimbabwe*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Customer
Great read and well written about life in Zimbabwe from the perspective of someone with and without privilege.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing well written
By David T.
This is a very great book opens peoples eyes to what happened and a touch of what Mugabe has done since his rein of not sure what to call it this book shows you both sides of the story from the mouth of babes as the saying goes
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. TRULY AMAZING!
By Footsy
This book is truly amazing, a must read. What we enjoyed most about this book is how the author showed us life from both the "black" and "white" points of view. Have already passed this book on to our family and friends to read.

Blue mountains, golden fields, gin and tonics on the terrace--once it had seemed the most idyllic place on earth. But by August 2002, Marondera, in eastern Zimbabwe, had been turned into a bloody battleground, the center of a violent campaign. One bright morning, Nigel Hough, one of the few remaining white farmers, received the news he had been dreading. A crowd of war veterans was at his gates, demanding he hand over his homestead. The mob started a fire and dragged him to an outhouse. To his shock, the leader of the invaders was his family's much-loved nanny Aquí. "Get out or we'll kill you," she said. "There is no place for whites in this country." Christina Lamb uncovered the astonishing saga she tells in *House of Stone* while traveling back and forth to report clandestinely on Zimbabwe. Her powerful narrative traces the history of the brutal civil war, independence, and the Mugabe years, all through the lives of two people on opposing sides. Although born within a few miles of each other, their experience growing up could not have been more different. While Nigel played cricket and piloted his own plane, Aquí grew up in a mud hut, sleeping on the floor with her brothers and sisters. They had cars and went shopping in South Africa. We didn't have food and had to walk an hour each way to fetch water, she remembers. *House of Stone* (dzimba dza mabwe or Zimbabwe in Shona) is based on a remarkable series of interviews with this white farmer and black nanny, set against the backdrop of the last British colony to become independent, and the descent into madness of Robert Mugabe, one of Africa's most respected nationalist leaders.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . Two very different lives run in parallel in award-winning British journalist Lamb's riveting account of Zimbabwe's brutal civil war in the 1970s, the elation of becoming the last British colony in Africa to win independence [in 1980]... and then the descent into madness. By alternating chapters from the perspectives of Aquí Shamvi, a poor black woman, and Nigel Hough, a wealthy white man, Lamb (*The Africa House*) brings both the personal and the political home to the reader. Her level tone and everyday language make the dramatic story all the more compelling. Though Aquí and Nigel are linked for a few years by her employment as his children's nanny, their lives mostly move along very separate paths as black Africans are dispossessed by the colonialist Land Acts, urban black quarters are demolished under President Robert Mugabe's orders and violent squatters occupy white-owned land. Lamb's indictment of Mugabe and his African enforcers and European enablers is complete; however, she achieves remarkable balance and demonstrates an extraordinary capacity to take the reader into the racism- and colonialism-torn worlds of two decent people, neither at home in their native land. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
*Starred * Through the parallel accounts of two people in Zimbabwe, one a poor black maid, one a rich white farmer, British journalist Lamb tells the compelling story of a country ravaged first by colonial settlers and now by brutal civil war. There is no simplistic rhetoric. Aquí's dream is to become a nurse, but at 14 she must give up school, and she eventually ends up as nanny to farmer Nigel and his family on their 4,000-acre farm, where black war vets are now camped and threatening to grab the land. Based on interviews with Aquí and Nigel over many years, including 12 undercover trips since 2002, Lamb recounts the country's recent history from both sides, as it has never been told. Nigel remembers his schooldays, ashamed of his racism: "We were little kings. . . . We didn't think they had a culture." Aquí remembers the hut tax that meant losing the men to work in the mines and on the farms of strangers. Now she is lucky to have a job, and Nigel pays for her kids to go to school. He is sorry he cannot go on vacation or buy jewels for his wife. Behind today's politics
President Mugabe's wildly repressive regime, what the UN describes as a country in meltdown
the anguished personal detail, true to the changing viewpoints, makes for a gripping read. Rochman, Hazel "A balanced portrait of emotions, ideologies, and awakenings on both sides of the racial divide." Kirkus s