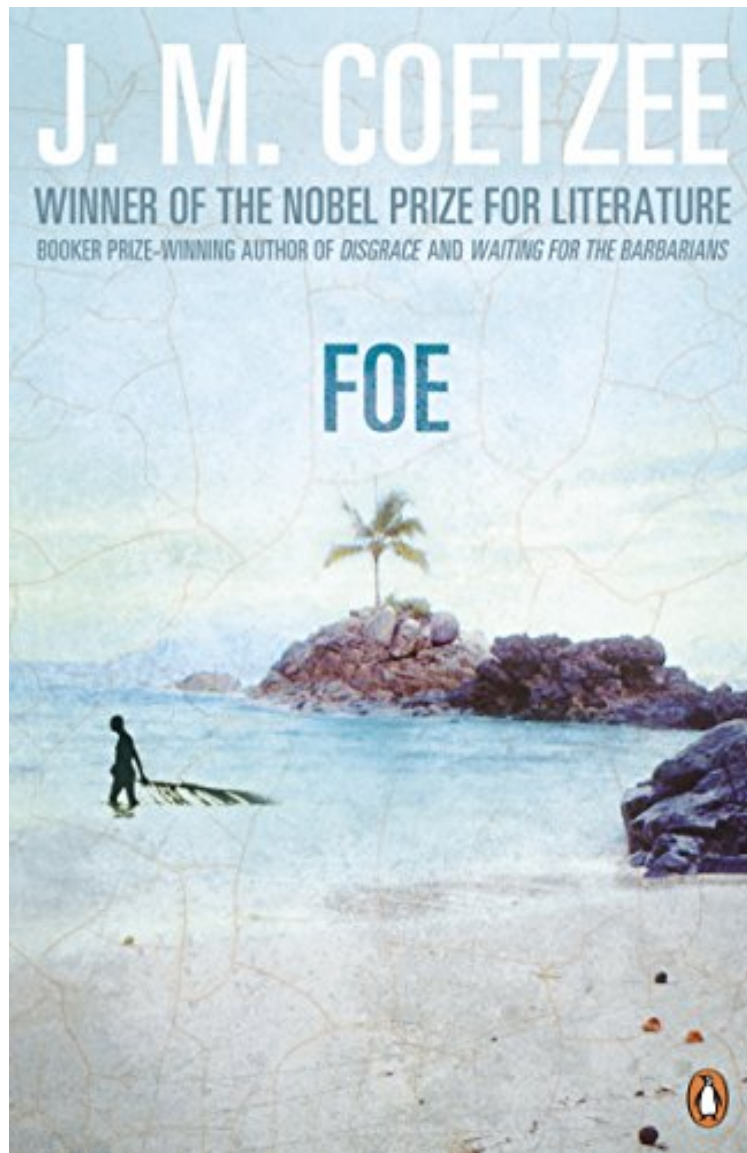


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## Foe (Penguin Essentials)

Von J M Coetzee

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**Von J M Coetzee : Foe (Penguin Essentials)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foe (Penguin Essentials):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A retelling of a classic tale that's actually a reinvention.Von Ein KundeFoe begins as a realistic retelling of Daniel Defoe's classic tale, though names and situations have been sufficiently altered make such a retelling in fact a reinvention. What begins as a straightforwardly realistic narration, ostensibly epistolary in form, becomes, in the end,

a discursive metaphor for the act of storytelling itself. Susan Barton begins as narrator of the novel but ends it as muse to an author (named Foe) whose own narration has become canonical (even to the point of being widely-known but rarely read). The 1st 40 pages of the book are linear--the shipwreck, the washing-ashore, the meeting of Friday Cruso (sic), and--finally--rescue. But the subsequent parts of the novel, though no less linear, become less about a tale of shipwreck survival than about a tale of narrative survival. Susan Barton begins battling the punningly-named Foe for the survival of her original conception of herself as Cruso's living successor, while Foe, becoming more authoritative than mere scribe of her exploits, posits such possibilities as her daughter's reunion with Susan and those details which actually appear in the Robinson Crusoe we all know. The tension and focus shift (almost imperceptibly) from what is (in Susan's mind) to what could be (in Foe's). Susan is transmogrified from an actual character to merely the muse--the enervating inspiration--that drives Foe to write his book. In the end, what we get is the story of how a story shapeshifts into its final form and how its failed possibilities are no less alive than its successful ones. The novel dives into the wreck of Daniel Defoe's failed alternatives and succeeds by plumbing what depths Robinson Crusoe (probably) did not. <sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A quintessential Postcolonial novel Von Jassu79Coetzee's "against the grain"-reading of Defoe's classic "Robinson Crusoe" resulted in a short but brilliant novel about colonial projections, storytelling and the process of turning real events into fictional tales with beginning, middle and ending. Thus, Robinson's island is a bleak stretch of land rather than a lush paradise. There are no goats to be domesticated, no seeds to grow (which doesn't stop Crusoe from tilling the fields anyway - "for future generations", and Friday is a mute (ex-)slave rather than a tamed cannibal. And then, there's the woman...<sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A beautiful compelling masterpiece. Von Ein Kunde I guarantee that you won't be able to better spend 3-4 hours than to spend it reading this short novel! In this sort-of-retelling of the Robinson Crusoe story in the 'bigger picture', 'as it really happened', Coetzee asks us to think about what storytelling really is-- What liberties can authors take? Who's story can we really trust? Further, who is the real author of any narrative? But his cleverness and insights into his craft should not be the focus of a discussion about this book.. unless you're trying to figure out the mystical ending..

Kurzbeschreibung Nobel Laureate and two-time Booker prize-winning author of *Disgrace* and *The Life and Times of Michael K*, J. M. Coetzee reimagines Daniel DeFoe's classic novel *Robinson Crusoe* in *Foe*. Published as a Penguin Essential for the first time. In an act of breathtaking imagination, J.M Coetzee radically reinvents the story of Robinson Crusoe. In the early eighteenth century, Susan Barton finds herself adrift from a mutinous ship and cast ashore on a remote desert island. There she finds shelter with its only other inhabitants: a man named Cruso and his tongueless slave, Friday. In time, she builds a life for herself as Cruso's companion and, eventually, his lover. At last they are rescued by a passing ship, but only she and Friday survive the journey back to London. Determined to have her story told, she pursues the eminent man of letters Daniel Foe in the hope that he will relate truthfully her memories to the world. But with Cruso dead, Friday incapable of speech and Foe himself intent on reshaping her narrative, Barton struggles to maintain her grip on the past, only to fall victim to the seduction of storytelling itself. Treacherous, elegant and unexpectedly moving, *Foe* remains one of the most exquisitely composed of this pre-eminent author's works. 'A small miracle of a book. . . of marvellous intricacy and overwhelming power' *Washington Post* 'A superb novel' *The New York Times* *Pressestimmen* "A small miracle of a book...of marvelous intricacy and overwhelming power." *The Washington Post Book World* "Foe is a finely honed testament to its author's intelligence, imagination, and skill.... The writing is lucid and precise, the landscape depicted mythic yet specific." Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* Kurzbeschreibung Nobel Laureate and two-time Booker prize-winning author of *Disgrace* and *The Life and Times of Michael K*, J. M. Coetzee reimagines Daniel DeFoe's classic novel *Robinson Crusoe* in *Foe*. Published as a Penguin Essential for the first time. In an act of breathtaking imagination, J.M Coetzee radically reinvents the story of Robinson Crusoe. In the early eighteenth century, Susan Barton finds herself adrift from a mutinous ship and cast ashore on a remote desert island. There she finds shelter with its only other inhabitants: a man named Cruso and his tongueless slave, Friday. In time, she builds a life for herself as Cruso's companion and, eventually, his lover. At last they are rescued by a passing ship, but only she and Friday survive the journey back to London. Determined to have her story told, she pursues the eminent man of letters Daniel Foe in the hope that he will relate truthfully her memories to the world. But with Cruso dead, Friday incapable of speech and Foe himself intent on reshaping her narrative, Barton struggles to maintain her grip on the past, only to fall victim to the seduction of storytelling itself. Treacherous, elegant and unexpectedly moving, *Foe* remains one of the most exquisitely composed of this pre-eminent author's works. 'A small miracle of a book. . . of marvellous intricacy and overwhelming power' *Washington Post* 'A superb novel' *The New York Times*