

Out of Darkness, Shining Light (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Maribel Kerluke)

OUT OF DARKNESS, SHINING LIGHT (PAPERBACK)

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FABER & FABER, United Kingdom, 2019. Paperback. Condition: New. Export - Airside ed. Language: English. Brand new Book. Petina Gappah's epic journey through nineteenth-century Africa - following the funeral caravan who bore Bwana Daudi's body - is 'engrossing, beautiful and deeply imaginative.' (Yaa Gyasi) This is the story of the body of Bwana Daudi, the Doctor, the explorer David Livingstone - and the sixty-nine men and women who carried his remains for 1,500 miles so that he could be borne across the sea and buried in his own country. The wise men of his age say Livingstone blazed into the darkness of their native land leaving a track of light behind where white men who followed him could tread in perfect safety. But in Petina Gappah's radical novel, it is those in the shadows of history - those who saved a white man's bones; his dark companions; his faithful retinue on an epic funeral march - whose voices are resurrected with searing intensity. This final, fateful journey across the African interior is led by Halima, Livingstone's sharp-tongued cook, and three of his most devoted servants: Jacob, Chuma and Susi. Their tale of how his corpse was borne out of nineteenth-century Africa - carrying the maps that sowed the seeds of the continent's brutal colonisation - has the power of myth. It is not only symbolic of slavery's hypocrisy, but a portrait of a world trembling on the cusp of total change - and a celebration of human bravery, loyalty and love.

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