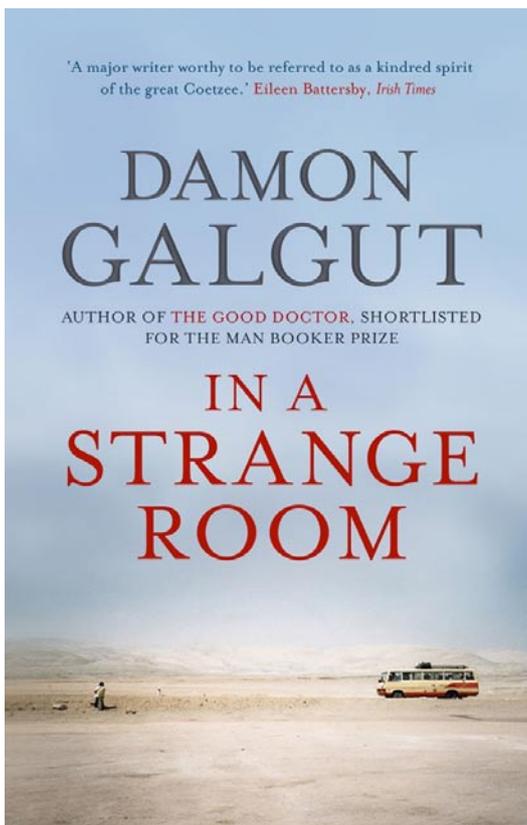




Reader's Guide



Other books by Damon Galgut

A Sinless Season (1984)
The Beautiful Screaming of Pigs (1991)
The Quarry (1995)
The Good Doctor (2003)
The Impostor (2008)

In a Strange Room Damon Galgut

Grove Atlantic
Price £15.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

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About the author

Damon Galgut was born in Pretoria in 1963. He wrote his first novel, *A Sinless Season*, when he was seventeen. His other books include *Small Circle of Beings*, *The Beautiful Screaming of Pigs*, *The Quarry*, *The Good Doctor* and *The Impostor*. *The Good Doctor*, published in 2003, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Dublin/IMPAC Award and was published in eighteen countries. Damon Galgut lives in Cape Town.

In a Strange Room

A novel of longing and thwarted desire, rage and compassion, *In a Strange Room* is a hauntingly beautiful evocation of one man's search for love and for a place to call home.

A young man makes three journeys that take him through Greece, India and Africa. He travels lightly, simply. To those who travel with him and those whom he meets on the way - including a handsome, enigmatic stranger, a group of careless backpackers and a woman on the edge - he is the Follower, the Lover and the Guardian. Yet, despite the man's best intentions, each journey ends in disaster. Together, these three journeys will change his life.

Discussion points

In a Strange Room is written in the third person but occasionally changes to the first person, why do you think Damon Galgut used this device and what did it achieve?

Do you agree with Jan Morris' review of *In a Strange Room* when she said, "It is a very beautiful book for one thing, strikingly conceived and hauntingly written, a writer's novel par excellence without a clumsy word in it"?

In what ways are the different roles played by the narrator, in each of the three sections of the novel, used to explore intimate human relationships?

Would you agree that for Galgut the maxim holds true 'when travelling, the sky changes, but the mind does not'?

Did you enjoy one of the three stories more than another, and if so, why?

Themed reading

JM Coetzee *Disgrace*
Nadine Gordimer *The Conservationist*
Giles Foden *The Last King of Scotland*
Christopher Hope *My Mother's Lovers*

Useful links

www.themanbookerprize.com
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