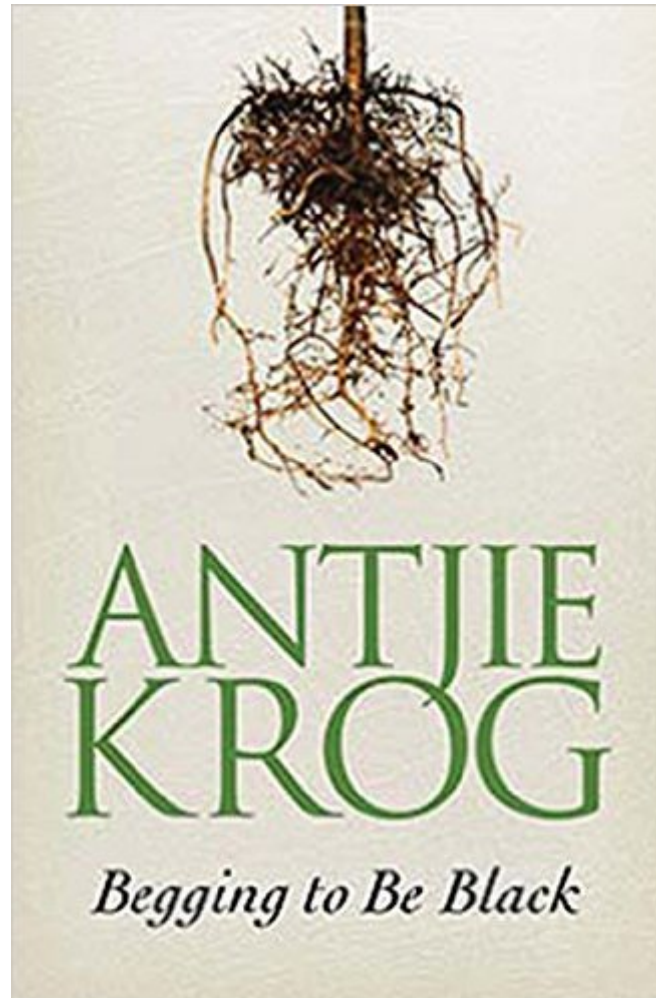


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# Begging To Be Black



## Synopsis

In 1992, a gang leader was shot dead by an ANC member in Kroonstad. The murder weapon was then hidden on Antjie Krog's stoep. In *Begging to Be Black*, Krog begins by exploring her position in this controversial case. From there the book ranges widely in scope, both in time – reaching back to the days of Basotho king Moshoeshoe – and in space – as we follow Krog's experiences as a research fellow in Berlin, far from the Africa that produced her. *Begging to Be Black* is a book of journeys – moral, historical, philosophical and geographical. These form strands that Krog interweaves and sets in conversation with each other, as she explores questions of change and becoming, coherency and connectedness, before drawing them closer together as the book approaches its powerful end. Experimental and courageous, *Begging to Be Black* is a welcome addition to Krog's own oeuvre and to South African literary non-fiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book disturbs me. I am sure it was meant to and should. The cover has a root; not just a root but an uprooted, out-of-soil root. The implications would seem to be a representation of a society and peoples who have been uprooted from their bedrock soil. Is this not true of most/all societies? Is it not a bi-product of globalisation and modernity that we all both are and feel less rooted in both our old traditional ways and the society we believe we come from? The book, with its running through theme of the "Wheetie" killing, and Antjie Krog's role in that, has a strong "confessional" element with Antjie both battling with her, and particularly her family and specifically her mother's role in the old, vicious Afrikaner regime's enforcement of Apartheid as well as her direct role in this killing. Not

that the shooting per se seems to have given Antjie to much cause to wonder, more the feeling that she somehow let down her ANC colleagues and thus damaged both her self-image and her "street credentials". It is important to say upfront where I am coming from; this book and its topic are all about nuance. I am a white, university educated over 50 male, from a poor background who grew up and was educated in England, the only one of my family to go to university, going there at a time of huge global social awareness. I, and most other students with whom I associated were politically aware, very much anti-war, for social justice in America, class equality at home in England and vociferous in the "Free Nelson Mandela" campaign. Whilst now living in South Africa, I have no familial roots here and no connections at all with the pre-release of Nelson Mandela South Africa.

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