

No Ordinary Killing by Jeff Dawson

5 Stars

Who is Moriarty?

Captain Ingo Finch is in the thick of the battle at Magersfontein. He left his medical practice in England to join the Royal Army Medical Corps. We first hear of him as he is desperately trying to save his own life and a fellow medic. They are in the thick of the fighting trying to bring an injured officer back to the hospital that has been set up near the sieged town of Kimberley. Finch is furious when he discovers that the officer he was sent to rescue and patch up was immediately arrested after his wounds had been attended to and no-one will tell him what the charges are against the man.

Mbutu Kafelese had arrived in Kimberley ten years earlier. He had left his homeland, Basutoland, to work at the Kimberley Diamond Mine. British officers command him to help one of them skirt around the Boers so that he can reach another contingent fighting closer to Bloemfontein.

Nurse Annie Jones is Australian. She is part of a contingency of nurses who have volunteered to work in the British Field.

Ingo Finch, Mbutu Kafelese and Annie Jones may think that their lives will never cross paths, but the rescue of the British officer, and the death of Major Cox will throw them all together in a plot that is so barbaric and secret the people responsible for this deed will stop at nothing to keep their work a secret.

What a brilliant storyline! Jeff Dawson has brought a diverse group of people together. What unfolds in the plot is a story of a cover-up of a war crime with devastating consequences for the tribal people living in the arid Karoo and nearby Kalahari.

I do have one gripe; Jeff Dawson has somehow managed to find baobab trees growing in the Karoo/Free State. Wrong! These trees are only found growing in the Limpopo region, many hundreds of kilometres north of the Karoo area.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.