

## BOOK REVIEW



# *The Cleansing* by Michael Connor

**Author statement** - THE CLEANSING was first published in 2012 under the title ROMANCE. Despite regular communications with the distributor and a number of media organisations, made by myself and the publisher, it seemed impossible to convey the fact that the work is not of the romantic novel genre.

With my full approval, this work is now being published under the title THE CLEANSING. **MC**

### What readers have said

*“It is powerfully illustrated with a convincingly realistic and thrilling story.” 4 star review - amazon*

*“Very well written and an absorbing novel, could not put it down!! One cannot help but be completely taken by the story and characters.” 5 star review - amazon*

*“Just finished reading it .... Wow, heavy! Cleansing .... never knew of its existence , so it's good you're letting the world know about it...Great read ...Very enjoyable and now have insight into a horrendous ancient ritual.”*

**Dr Mark V.**

### Overview

A shy, but quietly determined young woman, working in a small southern African town – Romance is saving furiously for the future but living a day's journey from her village and her husband. Life appears routine.

As the start of the new millennium approaches, the tension builds. She receives unwanted advances from male acquaintances, a visit by her husband becomes problematic, and her young English boss with whom she has established an uneasy friendship, finds himself in a situation where he is being accused of a heinous crime of which he denies all knowledge.

Whilst she is facing up to the trials and sadness a lonely New Year brings, the consequences and implications of the traditional rites of the past, still practised throughout her country and more apparently around where she lives, force her to make some life changing decisions.

We are taken into towns where western values and aspirations encroach, into townships where the black economy and old rituals persist and through shanty towns on city boundaries where tsotsi gangs run vice and drugs.

Connor weaves a powerful plot, full of vivid encounters and fascinating characters. He depicts the harsh reality that still faces many, particularly the women, in Africa today, but never missing those opportunities for touches of humour and moments of gentleness that allow for hope to survive in desperate circumstances. A well deserved read.



For further details of the author –  
see [www.michael-connor.co.uk](http://www.michael-connor.co.uk)

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