

# 《THE RIGHTS OF DESIRE》

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## 内容简介

Andre Brink's *The Rights of Desire* concerns a retired librarian's infatuation with his young lodger. Ruben Olivier, as the ageing lecher, is resolutely unsympathetic. He pathetically spends weeks sifting through the dust in his basement because the beloved's navel ring has fallen through a crack in the floorboards. When Tessa, the lodger brings home a black man, Zolani, he nearly has a heart attack, musing after he has recovered his breath: "It was unworthy and I knew it. Yet how could I not wonder about it?--Zolani is welcomed into her bed but I am still denied ... her exasperating and prodigal beauty, distributed like alms among the poor. Only I remained denied." His relationship to literature and music is similarly self-aggrandizing and precious: "I went to Spain with Don Quixote--I still go every year in the summer--and to St Petersburg with Dostoevsky every winter. In between, I go to Paris with Balzac, or with Zola if I feel up to it." It is as difficult to like Tessa, who, in addition to being a little bit slutty and nutty is also a compulsive liar. Cluttered around their doomed but mutually sustaining love affair is the atrocious exhibition of the white post-apartheid narration of the suburbs. Olivier's best friend is brutally murdered and failing to recognise the crumpled pile of rags on the side of the road Olivier drives by. Tessa narrowly escapes being gang raped in the Newlands forest. The novel equivocates between claiming that all this sex and violence is a function of contemporary social collapse or may simply be an expression of the timeless beauty and violence of Cape Town. Woven into the story of Ruben and Tessa is the story of Antje of Bengal, a 17th-century slave girl, whose ghost haunts the house and the story of Magrieta, Olivier's housekeeper, who is forced to flee her home after an episode of township violence. At times over-ripe, this novel is at its most compelling in its characterisation of this pair. --Neville Hoad --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**作者简介：** Andre Brink was born in South Africa in 1935. He is the author of thirteen novels in English, including *An Instant in the Wind*, *A Dry White Season*, *A Chain of Voices*, *An Act of Terror*, *On the Contrary*, *Imaginations of Sand* and *Devil's Valley*. He has won South Africa's most important literary prize, the CNA Award, three times and has twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize. He has been awarded the Prix Medicis Etranger in France and the Premio Mondello in Italy. His novels have been translated into thirty languages. Andre Brink is Professor of English at the University of Cape Town.

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