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Edition of Saturday, March 5

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ARTS & PLEASURE

Book Nook - Timol - A Quest for Justice

March 5, 2005

By Akhona Cira

Title: Timol - A Quest for Justice
Author: Imtiaz Cajee
Publisher: STE Publishers
Review: Akhona Cira

I thought history was my favourite subject and that there was nothing I didn't know about the history of our country. I was disappointed with myself when I realised there was a huge gap in my history knowledge: that of Indians who fought in the struggle.

I had always dismissed the thought of Indians playing any role in the emancipation of our country from the clutches of apartheid. This book - which tells about the life of Ahmed Timol, who died in police detention - was an eye opener.

With a foreword by President Thabo Mbeki, it commands that you sit up and start reading. However, the author - nephew of Timol - conveys an abstract study of one of apartheid's victims rather than a personal journey of a man who wishes to understand the circumstances that led to the death of his beloved uncle who plunged 10 storeys to his death from the notorious John Vorster Square police headquarters.

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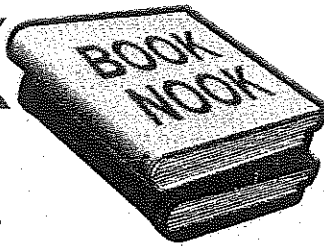
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book nook



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Timol: Quest for Justice

On 27 October 1971, Ahmed Timol plunged ten storeys and hit the ground under bushes at Johannesburg's notorious John Vorster Square police station. His body

was returned to his family in a shamefully bloody and disfigured condition, with evidence of brutal torture and even electric shock burns on his legs. Written by his nephew, Imtiaz Cajee, *Timol: Quest for Justice* tells the story of Ahmed Timol's life and death. The book provides a clear view on the question of whether Timol committed suicide or whether he was indeed thrown out of the window, dead or alive. It reveals the remarkable life of a dedicated underground cadre committed to non-racialism and freedom for his country.

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Terry Brooks

Terry Brooks has been called the heir to Tolkien and the modern day patriarch of fantasy literature. He

finds the most rewarding aspect of writing to be "when someone who never read a book reads (one of mine) and says that the experience changed everything and got them reading".

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