



# The Eye of the Tiger

*Wilbur Smith*

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## **The Eye of the Tiger** Wilbur Smith

An action-packed thriller from global bestseller Wilbur Smith

"It takes one to recognise one. This was a man trained to live with and by violence. He was muscle, a soldier, in the jargon. I had hoped never to see this kind of barracuda cruising St Mary's placid waters. It gave me a sick little slide in the guts to know that it had found me out again." He left that life behind. But that life hasn't left him... Harry Fletcher lives a quiet life these days, running a tourist fishing boat from the quiet island of St Mary's, off the South African coast. Then his next group arrives, with very specific instructions for Harry -instructions that suggest they know exactly who he is. Before he knows it, Harry has been swept back into a world of greed and violence, of men who will do anything to get their hands on the treasure under the sea, and of women who are too beautiful to trust. But when the Great Mogul diamond is the prize, all Harry knows is that he'll do anything to get there first...

## **The Eye of the Tiger Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2018 by Zaffre (first published December 31st 1974)

ISBN :

Author : Wilbur Smith

Format : Kindle Edition 404 pages

Genre : Fiction, Adventure, Thriller, Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery

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# From Reader Review The Eye of the Tiger for online ebook

## Graham says

Hard to fault this one: it's slick, lean and ruthlessly efficient, quite unlike any other Wilbur Smith novel I've read to date. The setting is St Mary's Island, in the Indian Ocean, and there's none of the game hunting or African history that provides the background of the author's other books.

The story is action-focused and one of those ones in which everyone other than the hero and his companions seems to be a bad guy. Harry Fletcher, the protagonist, is a chap who makes his living by taking tourists out to hunt various sea creatures, but of course soon events take a darker turn as he gets caught up with some very murky clients.

The novel reminded me of Bernard Cornwell's seafaring thrillers and this one's even better. The action scenes, when they come, are superbly described and the tension builds throughout, leading to a nailbiting climax. There are the requisite twists, turns, romantic interludes and a little globetrotting, all brought to life by the author's inventive turn of phrase. I loved it.

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## Elaine says

Facts Relating to this book:

1 carat = 0.2 grams

In London in the mid-1870s, 25 shillings-about \$85 in today's terms-went a long way. You could buy 7 grams of gold, 40 liters of rum, or about a half kilogram of opium. Where you couldn't get a bargain, however, was the jewelry store. That same amount of money bought just 1 carat, or 0.2 gram, of a gem called tiger's-eye. When rich sources of that precious stone were found in western South Africa in the 1880s, prices plummeted. By 1900, tiger's-eye was considered merely semiprecious. Today, a savvy shopper can purchase the gem for about \$1.50 per carat.

In its natural state, tiger's-eye is an unremarkable rock with a dull sheen. When polished and illuminated, however, the stone reflects a narrow band of light that changes position as the gem is turned back and forth. This effect, called chatoyancy, gets its name from the French phrase for "cat's eye" because of its resemblance to a feline's slitted pupil. Chatoyancy occurs when light reflects from minute, parallel ridges, fibers, or tubes within a transparent material.

Great Mogul Diamond is believed to have been discovered around 1650 most probably around Kollur Mine in the Golconda region of southern India. Tavernier described the diamond as "The stone is of the same form as if one cut an egg through the middle.

Fabled 280-carat (56 g) mogul-cut diamond, now lost, although presumed by historians to have been re-cut as the Orlov. An Indian mogul cut rumored to have served as the eye of a Hindu statue, and currently is part of the Kremlin diamond fund, weighing approximately 190 carats (38 g).

The rough diamond was gifted by Emir Jemla to Shah Jahan, The Emperor Of India as part of diplomacy between the two families.

Jemla described it as “that celebrated diamond which has been generally deemed unparalleled in size and beauty.”

A Venetian lapidary named Ortensio Borgio was assigned to cut the stone. It is believed that the Great Mogul Diamond exhibited several inclusions. Rejecting the idea of cutting the diamond into several fine stones, Borgio decided to address the inclusion problem by grinding away at it until the unwanted flaws were gone. Much to the horror of the Emperor, Borgio’s work yielded very poor results, including a great loss of weight. Showing great restraint, Shah Jehan spared Borgio’s head, instead fining him 10,000 rupees (all the money he had) for his ineptitude.

Around 1665 the Shah’s son, Shah Aurangzeb, showed the stone to the famous jeweler and world traveler Jean Baptiste Tavernier. At that time Tavernier wrote in his Six Voyages: “The first piece that Akel Khan(Chief Keeper of the King's jewels) placed in my hands was the great diamond, which is rose cut, round and very high on one side.

Later, the Great Mogul Diamond became part of the spoils of war when India was invaded and Delhi sacked by the Persian ruler Nadir Shah. Nadir Shah returned with the stone to his home in Isfahan in 1739. However, Nadir Shah’s ownership proved shorted-lived. He was assassinated in 1747 and the stone disappeared.

There are many legends regarding its fate. Some believed it to be the stone from which the Koh-i-noor was cut, or perhaps the Darya-ye-Noor, but most popularly it is speculated to be the Orlov Diamond because its bluish tinge and rose cut are similar to the Great Mogul Diamond. A more probable explanation is that it was stolen and cut into smaller gems to disguise its origin.

Some of the most famous diamonds mined in the Kollur mines are:

Koh-i N?r (186ct) - in the British Crown Jewels, London

The Great Moghul Diamond (787ct) (uncut) - Lost after N?dir Sh?h sacked Delhi

The Pitt or Regent Diamond (410ct) - in the Apollo Gallery, Louvre Museum, Paris

The Orloff Diamond (300 ct) - in the Diamond Treasury, Kremlin, Moscow

Niz?m Diamond (340ct) - in the Niz?m's Treasury, Hyderabad

Dary?-ye N?r (182 ct) - in the Iranian Crown Jewels, on display Central Bank of Iran, Tehran

The Hope Diamond (67ct) - in the American Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution, Washington

The Golconda (135ct) - belonging to Dunklings Jewellers, Melbourne, Australia.

The Kolluru Diamond (63ct) - Purchased by Tavernier and present location unknown.

Dresden Green Diamond (41 ct) - The New Green Vault" in the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

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## **Chrisl says**

Really liked Wilbur's first book about the brothers. After that he started slipping below attention holding ... though remaining entertaining for two more. This one, and the African anthropological time-travel piece, Sunbird.

There is an old tenuous link in my memory bank connecting scenes herein to the opening scene in "God Is An Englishman" ... English soldier finds Indian rich man's jewels. Lot more depth in Delderfield trilogy opener.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Sun...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sunbird)

The Sunbird

God Is an Englishman

When the Lion Feeds

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## **Nancy McConahay says**

**Another page turner by the man who is one if not my favorite authors . He keeps you guessing right up to the last page.**

This book quickly grabbed me and led me down the path of several late nights reading when I should have been sleeping. He writes about contemporary Africa as well as the wild country of previous centuries. The plots he creates keeps me wondering what could possibly happen next but he doesn't disappoint . New readers of this author will swiftly join the food of his avid readers.

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## **Leslie Crawley says**

Harry Fletcher makes James Bond look like an anemic schoolboy.....Actually a really good adventure yarn, but remember, this was written in the 70's when the leading men were chauvinistic and the women easy, so be warned.

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## **Jackie says**

A friend recommended this author to me - said she loved his series books and the families that he writes about. Not sure about getting involved in another series I specifically went looking for a stand-alone book. (My friend also recommended one of the earlier books.)

I enjoyed it. I might prefer to give it 3 1/2 stars rather than four but considering that I stuck with it even though I was having difficulty finding time to read (and how does that happen? I LOVE reading!) and was engaged through to the end - well then, I'll stick with 4 stars.

Sure, Harry Fletcher is a bit over-the-top-perfect in a lot of ways. I still liked him. (And I grew very fond of Chubby and Angelo.) The plot was pretty all-inclusive, wasn't a whole lot of action type things that were left out.

I enjoyed the writing. I liked that the story didn't include lots of modern day technology but rather focused on being a good old fashioned yarn. One that was just complicated enough for interest but not hard to follow. I liked that it was clean and fairly free from objectionable language and that the violence was mostly restrained (i.e. not so graphic that it was bothersome - knowing as I say this that everyone's level of tolerance for both the language and graphic violence is different).

I enjoyed this enough that I loaned it to my husband to read. I'll be anxious to see what he has to say about it when he's turned the last page.

And next time I'm at the library, I'll find another book by Mr. Smith to see if I like it as well.

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### **Rick Brindle says**

Harry Fletcher is, let's face it, an on the run criminal who has set up on an island in the Indian Ocean as a boat owner, hiring himself and his crew out for big game fishing. He gets drawn into a treasure hunt, looking for buried gold, and in doing so, crosses paths with some of his old criminal cronies, who aren't entirely happy to see him again.

That's pretty much the story, and as far as it goes, it's pretty good. There's plenty of action, thrills, spills, and a great plot twist at the end.

So why only three stars? Well, the book is now over forty years old, and starting to show its age. If you look at it as a story of its time, fine, but over time, as even Friends fans are finding out, attitudes change, and even if you don't mean for things to be offensive, sometimes it gets that way all by itself. Suffice to say, the book was written in the seventies, and it comes complete with seventies attitudes. Enough said.

When I first read Wilbur Smith's books, I thought the man could do no wrong. But things change, people change, and sure enough I've changed. So if you're reading Wilbur Smith, you have to remember that the hero and his female leads will always be white, and the supporting but somehow always flawed in some way secondary characters, are black. Wilbur Smith is South African, enough said.

And finally, it wouldn't be worth even mentioning if the front blurb to all of Wilbur Smith's novels didn't say that he meticulously researches all his books, but it does, so let's consider that.

Harry Fletcher is a Brit, and his history is military special forces. No real detail there, but you assume SAS. Fair enough, but he saw combat in Biafra and Vietnam? Really? Change that to Malaysia, Borneo, Aden, Oman, even Northern Ireland, and maybe it would have been better. And while the FN is many things, most of them good, at 43 inches in length, the last thing you could ever call it is a carbine, and if the safety is on, then no rate of fire has been selected.

The older a book gets, the easier it is to pick holes, but on the whole, this one still entertains.

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### **Doug Oudin says**

Another excellent read my Wilbur Smith. An intriguing story of adventure. Not Smith's normal genre, which is usually historical fiction set in Africa or Egypt, this tale is instead a seafaring treasure hunt packed with plenty of danger, mystique, and an unusual touch of romantic interest.

For someone that loves the ocean and all its vagaries, as I do, this book took me to places I've never explored, and introduced me to another fascinating tropical realm.

As always with Wilbur Smith, this work does contain some graphically descriptive passages depicting human suffering, but those events only add to the story that he weaves.

Highly recommended for Smith followers.

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### Pat Delga says

Good read even if a little predictable with the end

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### Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Eye of the Tiger, Wilbur Smith

The Eye of the Tiger is a 1975 novel by Wilbur Smith set among the islands of the Indian Ocean and in England and the waters offshore.

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### Bettie? says

Read By: Andrew Timothy

Duration: 12:58

Description: *Harry Fletcher, a man with a chequered past, has reformed and is making an honest living as a charter skipper fishing for big game in the seductive waters of the Indian Ocean. Suddenly, men from the world of violence Harry has put behind him overturn his good intentions, involving him in a hectic race to recover a fabulous treasure from an ancient wreck.*

St. Mary's Island, Indian Ocean. According to folk legend, in the year 1498, Vasco da Gama landed at St. Mary's Islands on his voyage from Portugal to India.

Best line: Harry was never one to run for cover when the knickers were off.

Good enough for a midweek mid 3\*

#52 TBR Busting 2013

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### Brian Trinder says

Another great Wilbur Smith adventure novel. The only detraction for me was the over done heroism of Harry

Fletcher, James Bond has got nothing on him!

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### **Paulo Goulart says**

Um típico livro / filme americano de acção, com alguma emoção à mistura...passa-se junto à nossa antiga colónia de Moçambique, mas infelizmente é aspecto pouco explorado...

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### **pinknantucket says**

I was kind of enjoying The Eye of the Tiger until it was rooned by the appearance of A WOMAN. Before she showed up, it was all about Harry Fletcher, a good man with a Chequered Past, now running chartered fishing trips from St Mary's island (somewhere in the Indian ocean), which is Paradise on Earth. He gets involved with some Bad Guys, who are looking for Sunken Treasure. There are a lot of great sailing scenes, fight scenes, Improbable Escapes from Death and so forth.

But after that WOMAN showed up, I couldn't help but be continually annoyed by the somewhat misogynistic tone that crept in whenever any woman was present. E.g. "She was speaking carefully, and her choice of words was odd, too technical for a woman".

It's quite a good adventure novel really, but perhaps a product of its time? Certainly not aimed at the ladies. (Unless it is to swoon over Harry). Also, hold grave fears for the safety of anyone who is not Harry Fletcher.

NB I read this book because of a chance encounter with a group of young men on a train, youths who seemed perhaps a bit rough, but one of them was holding a coverless, battered copy of a book called "The Eye of the Tiger". One of his fellows said "Why are you carrying that book?!" in a tone that suggested he shouldn't be, to which he replied "So I don't get bored on the train!" in a tone that implied "duh!". I was very impressed by him and wished I'd been brave enough to ask if he'd ever tried Kurt Vonnegut. When I got home I googled the title and assumed it was this one he was reading and not the Silhouette Desire romance novel of the same name. (I decided to read them both, just in case).

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### **J. Ewbank says**

This is an older book by Smith that I picked up from the Open Doors Thrift Store in Mobile, Alabama, and am surely happy that I did. Tlhis is a sold mystery and a very enjoyable one. The characters are interesting and the plot has enough twists and turns for anybody. Enjoyed it.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the Isms" "Wesley's Wars" and "To Whom It May Concern"

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