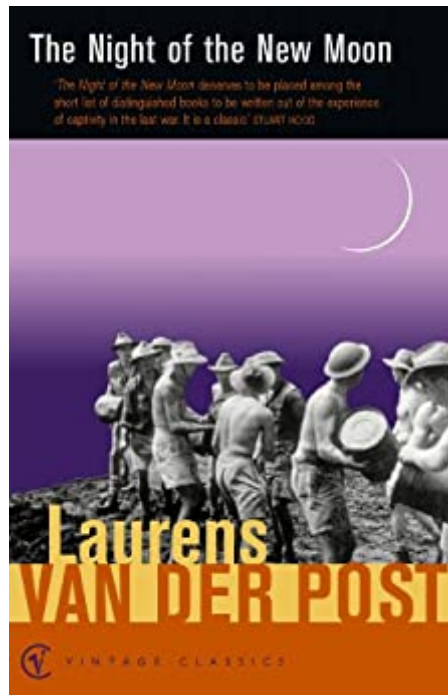




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# The Night Of The New Moon (Vintage Classics)



## Synopsis

This book is the remarkable story of his experiences in the prison camp, but it is also a meditation on the morality of the Bomb, a compassionate and moving contemplation of human violence.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My father was as prisoner of War in Japan. He was captured in Java and was sent to Japan to a work in the coal mines. Like Laurens Van Der Post I have a different view of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While it was dreadful, if it had not happened, I would never have known my father, because he and hundreds and thousands of others would never have returned to their homelands alive. My father never spoke much about his experiences but he did say to me, that the Japanese culture was so different and that the worst thing that could happen to them was to be taken prisoner. They needed to die. This was the reason they so despised their prisoners. For everything he suffered, he was a wonderful man, never ran the Japanese race down and taught me to see the best in everyone and I was very proud of him. Everyone should read this book, it is part of history and shows another side of war. Dreadful though it was it was necessary.

An amazing human's perspective that may help us all be a little more what we humans would like to be. A fascinating perspective on what is surely one of the very dark chapters in human history.

Sir Lauren's van der Post's account of his final months of incarceration by the Japanese during the Second World War is a deeply sensitive and intuitive insight of the ancient psyche of the Japanese that underpinned one of the most murderous periods of their history. Van der Post was obviously a very special human to have managed everything he did under such extreme and constant duress. From initiating and coordinating educational classes to investigating and developing additional food supply channels and arranging intelligence networks all whilst suffering horrible physical and nutritional abuse is evidence of the unique strength and sensitivity of one of the world's contemporary prophets. An utterly engaging read and the perfect sequel to another van der Post masterpiece - *The Seed and The Sower*.

A stunning and emotional book about the experiences of prisoners of the Japanese and the cultural gap between the prisoners and their captors. It offers a perspective on the bombing of Hiroshima that anyone interested in the topic should read. Two separate issues- the horror of war against civilians and the use of the atomic bomb- are usually confounded. World War II was a time when all sides butchered civilians. Japanese civilians were going to die in large numbers, either fighting in the streets with bamboo poles against invading tanks or in the horrific fires resulting from incendiary bombing. As many people burned to death or asphyxiated in the Tokyo firestorm as the immediate casualties in Hiroshima. Van der Post believes that the use of a totally new weapon and the timing of the bombing on the night of the new moon allowed the Japanese to surrender and that a continuation of conventional warfare would have led to a much lengthened war.

Having really enjoyed the movie "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" I was interested to see the books that made up the story. This is better than "The Seed and The Sower" but not by a lot

I have not read the book, but have been trying to locate a copy. One of the main characters, Stan Donaldson, was my paternal Uncle. This book is not a work of fiction. For those who have read the book, my Uncle Stan remained in Singapore and Malaysia for the rest of his life. He married, although he had no children. He became a racehorse jockey, and upon retiring, went on to manage a "racehorse spelling station," a kind of rest home for race horses. Uncle Stan died in Malaysia in the

mid-1990's in a car accident; while his driver was negotiating down the mountain the brakes failed. Stan was in perfect health until then...Sir Laurens van der Post and Stan remained in touch through the years up until Stans death, visiting Sir Laurens whenever Stan went back to England. For the record, Stan Donaldson was not a Scot as the book says, but an Englishman.

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