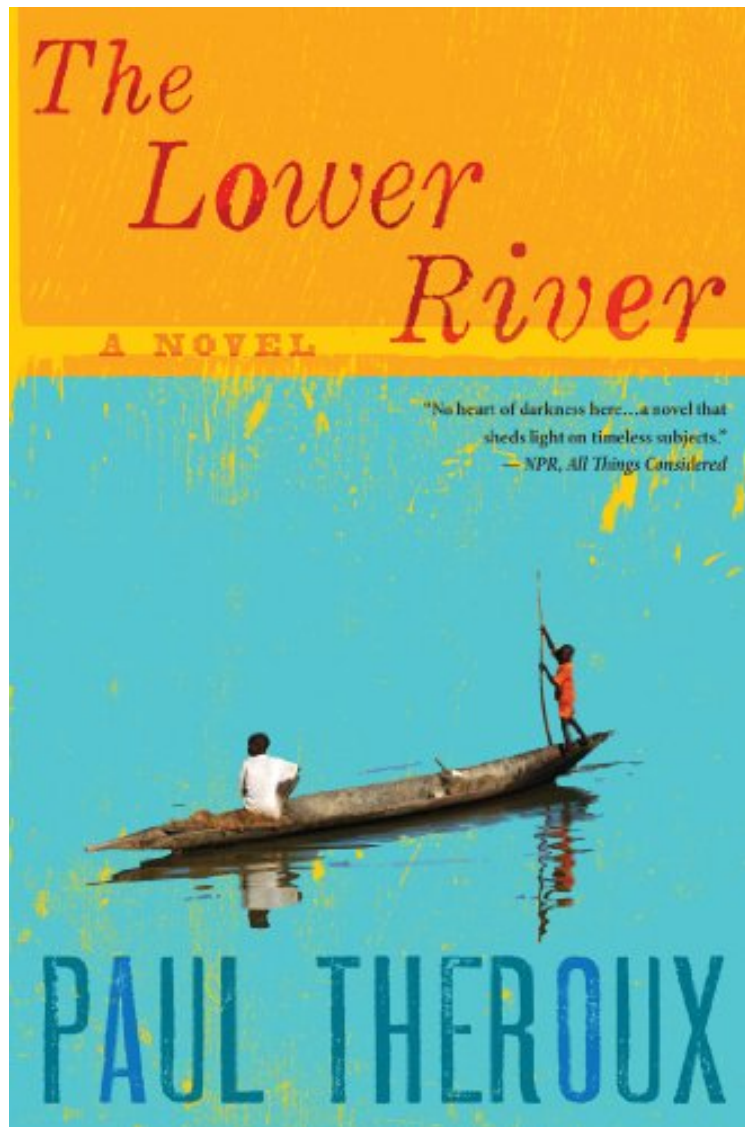


# The Lower River

Von Paul Theroux

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**Von Paul Theroux : The Lower River** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lower River:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mixed messagesVon Alfred J. KwakThis novel has deep roots, going back to when Paul Theroux (PT) worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi in the 1960s. He described his experiences there in stories that became his first novels. A recent collection of all PT's early short stories contains four (4) early novels originally published as such. Plus three more stories, maybe never published before. One of them from the early 1960s, I found terrifying reading: it was

situated in Zambia where a very young PT is charmed and taken to a remote bar and an adjoining place to sleep. He pays for round after round, day after day, held captive in a sphere of false respect, praise and friendship. When the false light shining on him darkens and becomes threatening, PT manages to escape from this African embrace. PT returns to this early 1960's theme some 50 years later. He introduces Ellis Hock, a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s who found eternal bliss working 4 years in the worst part of Malawi, teaching the Sewa people, building things and becoming famous for not fearing but catching snakes. Notified that his father is dying, he flew home and takes charge of his dad's business. Over a 33-year period he marries, has a daughter and becomes totally bored with running a man's wear shop near Boston. All the time he dreams about his years in Africa. Having broken with his ex and daughter and sold his business, he wants to relive the only time in his life he truly felt happiness and fulfillment...He returns to Malawi's Sewa region, aged 62 to find his imagined paradise in ruins and himself soon a captive of the local chief. Read this: 'The days burned by, and on some smoldering late afternoons of suffocation aimlessness he felt that if he had a gun, he'd march Festus Manyenga to the creek and, in front of the whole gaping village, riddle him with bullets, then kick his bleeding corpse into the water'. This is a real thriller full of bush intelligence and escape attempts, a story of deep personal drama, about only a few caring and many picking the white man clean, dreams of being loved, and an amateur ethnographic study, all conceived by PT. Full marks for his cruel portrayal of a man at the end of his wits, falling deeper and deeper. This reader objects to the following content: PT should not have named the ethnic group in question on almost every page. They really exist and number 300.000 and are likely to become the butt of ridicule, rubbished for years to come in their own country. Also, PT's description of a fictional European NGO called 'Agence Anonym' working with helicopters and pop stars, doing "food dumps" rather than orderly distributions, will enrage many serious NGOs working in Malawi and beyond. 1 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. So ein schnes Buch! Von Vera Hill Ich habe das Buch noch nicht fertig gelesen, aber das, was ich bis jetzt gelesen habe, ist sehr unterhaltsam und schn zu lesen.

Kurzbeschreibung[Hock] knows he is ensorcelled by exoticism, but he cant help himself. And, as things go from bad to worse and the pages start to turn faster, neither can we. A. Entertainment Weekly When he was a young man, Ellis Hock spent four of the best years of his life with the Peace Corps in Malawi. So when his wife of forty-two years leaves him, he decides to return to the village where he was stationed in search of the happiness hed been missing since he left. But what he finds is not what he expected. The school he built is a ruin, the church and clinic are gone, and poverty and apathy have set in among the people. They remember Ellis and welcome him with open arms. Soon, however, their overtures turn menacing; they demand money and refuse to let him leave the village. Is his new life an escape or a trap? Theroux's bravely unsentimental novel about a region where he began his own grand career should become part of anybody's education in the continent. Washington Post The Lower River is riveting in its storytelling and provocative in its depiction of this African backwater, infusing both with undertones of slavery and cannibalism, savagery and disease. New York Times Book