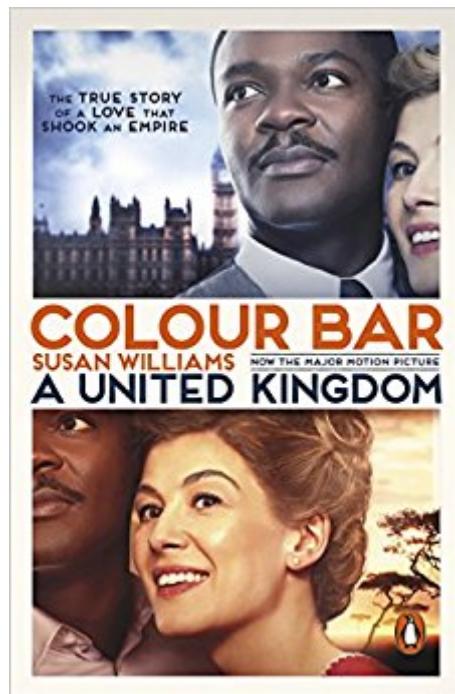


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# Colour Bar: A United Kingdom



## Synopsis

London, 1945: the heir apparent to the kingship of Bechuanaland (later Botswana) arrives in Britain to complete his legal studies. Seretse Khama, an urbane 24-year-old, educated like Mandela at Fore Hare, is welcomed into the elite world of the Inner Temple in London. But then, in 1947, he does something that will change the course of his life, and that of his country, forcing him into six long years of exile: he falls in love with a white British woman, Ruth Williams. Drawing on a mass of previously classified records, Susan Williams tells Seretse and Ruth's story—an astonishing account of how the British Government conspired with apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia to prevent the mixed-race royal couple returning home. This is a shocking account of a shameful period of British history: overt racism on the streets of London and the corridors of Whitehall, and of appeasement to apartheid South Africa. But it is also an inspiring, triumphant tale of hope, courage, and true love, as with tenacity and great dignity Seretse and Ruth and the Bangwato people overcome prejudice in their fight for justice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A story of forgiveness and healing . . . as relevant today as when the whole drama was being played out." —Alexander McCall Smith "A gripping, heroic and darkly comic story of fading imperium." —Sunday Times "Elegantly written . . . Williams has done a masterly job." —Guardian "An inspiring story . . . [an] excellent and shaming book." —Literary Review "Wonderful . . . Deeply researched and grippingly written." —Independent "A splendid book." —Spectator "A pacy but judicious writer . . . her portrait of a love affair exposes the

madness of the racial bar more effectively than a thousand anti-apartheid pamphlets."   
"A hugely readable book. I couldn't put it down."   
Independent"As exciting as any detective story."   
"A fantastic love story of modern times, one that is almost Shakespearian in its drama, intrigue and pathos."   
Susan Williams is a historian and the author of many books, including *Spies in the Congo* and *Who Killed Hammarskjöld?: The UN, the Cold War and White Supremacy in Africa*, which triggered a new UN investigation in 2015 into the death of the Secretary General. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

This was marketed as a love story, but it was really a history book. The history of how Bechuanaland became Botswana, and how African countries were ruled under the British empire was very interesting, but that's not what you thought you were getting when you bought the book. You never felt the deep love they had for each other, and thus understood why they went through what they did. I believe it was the writing, that it never captured you and never fully let the reader into their relationship. It was very historical with lots and lots of names and dates and events leading up to Botswana's independence, but that's not what you thought by reading the jacket cover.

The book is better than the movie. However, in both instances the story could have been told better. I enjoyed the read, and learning about a part of history that isn't talked about here in The States.

The moral arc of the universe is long but it bends toward justice. Wonderful book. I buy extra copies as gifts.

Excellent book. Found it very interesting and enjoyable. The patience of Seretse was incredible through his unfair treatment by others.

Really interesting piece of history. The British were so hypocritical .

What a challenge, what a life. So interesting. I learned some history and enjoyed reading it

AN EXCELLENT TREATMENT ON THE EARLY DAYS OF BOTSWANA.

Excellent...more a british colonial history book than a love story...and that part is great too!

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