



# This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel

By Tahar Ben Jelloun

Download now

Read Online →

## This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun

An immediate and critically acclaimed bestseller in France and winner of the 2004 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *This Blinding Absence of Light* is the latest work by Tahar Ben Jelloun, the first North African winner of the Prix Goncourt and winner of the 1994 Prix Mahgreb. Ben Jelloun crafts a horrific real-life narrative into fiction to tell the appalling story of the desert concentration camps in which King Hassan II of Morocco held his political enemies under the most harrowing conditions. Not until September 1991, under international pressure, was Hassan's regime forced to open these desert hellholes. A handful of survivors—living cadavers who had shrunk by over a foot in height—emerged from the six-by-three-foot cells in which they had been held underground for decades.

Working closely with one of the survivors, Ben Jelloun eschewed the traditional novel format and wrote a book in the simplest of language, reaching always for the most basic of words, the most correct descriptions. The result is a shocking novel that explores both the limitlessness of inhumanity and the impossible endurance of the human will.

 [Download This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel ...pdf](#)

# This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel

*By Tahar Ben Jelloun*

## **This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun**

An immediate and critically acclaimed bestseller in France and winner of the 2004 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *This Blinding Absence of Light* is the latest work by Tahar Ben Jelloun, the first North African winner of the Prix Goncourt and winner of the 1994 Prix Mahgreb. Ben Jelloun crafts a horrific real-life narrative into fiction to tell the appalling story of the desert concentration camps in which King Hassan II of Morocco held his political enemies under the most harrowing conditions. Not until September 1991, under international pressure, was Hassan's regime forced to open these desert hellholes. A handful of survivors—living cadavers who had shrunk by over a foot in height—emerged from the six-by-three-foot cells in which they had been held underground for decades.

Working closely with one of the survivors, Ben Jelloun eschewed the traditional novel format and wrote a book in the simplest of language, reaching always for the most basic of words, the most correct descriptions. The result is a shocking novel that explores both the limitlessness of inhumanity and the impossible endurance of the human will.

## **This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #835042 in Books
- Brand: Brand: New Press, The
- Published on: 2002-05-01
- Original language: French
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .63" w x 5.51" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 195 pages

 [Download This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Based on an incident involving starvation and torture in Morocco, Prix Goncourt-winner Jelloun's latest novel is a disturbing, grisly account of how a prisoner survived a 20-year internment in which he was locked away in a desert tomb. The narrator, Salim, was captured during an unsuccessful 1971 attempt to overthrow Prince Hassan II, who then secretly sent his enemies off to an isolated, makeshift prison. The conditions approached the horror of a concentration camp: the prisoners were confined in dark, cramped chambers, fed a subsistence-level diet and given no medical attention. They were allowed to communicate, however, which helped them cope with such ghastly tortures as having scorpions thrown into their cells. In one particularly hellish incident, a prisoner who breaks his arm is devoured by gangrene and cockroaches. Jelloun writes eloquently and poignantly about the prisoners' various coping tactics, from Salim's recitation of half-remembered stories from *The Arabian Nights* and scripts from American films to a memorable section in which a dove lands in one of the cells and is passed from inmate to inmate. Freedom eventually comes with bribing a guard, resulting in the intervention of activists from Amnesty International, but this harrowing tale of deprivation and degradation is a frightening reminder of man's seemingly boundless capacity for evil. (May 1) Forecast: Jelloun, a high-profile novelist (*Corruption*) and critic in Europe who writes regularly for the major dailies of several countries, will likely be feted by intellectual journals in the U.S., but chances are this novel won't receive the kind of attention it did in France, where it was a bestseller, despite heightened interest in human rights and the Arabic-speaking world.

Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Bookish Salim joins the Moroccan army without enthusiasm and is shocked first to find himself in the midst of an unsuccessful coup against King Hassan II in 1971, then to be imprisoned in what is essentially a tomb. He can't stand upright in his tiny, bitter cold, and utterly lightless cell, and can only communicate through the walls to his fellow sufferers. Years of suffocating darkness and near-starvation grind slowly by as innocent men die in unspeakable anguish. Salim surrenders his cramped, famished body to its fate, and concentrates all his energy on preserving his mind, praying and meditating with such intensity that his lucidity and discipline, along with the stories he tells, infuse his comrades with their only hope. Tragically, renowned novelist and essayist Ben Jelloun based this wrenching yet exquisite tribute to the "supreme light" of the human spirit in the face of "infinite cruelty" on actual events, hoping that by telling this painful tale with respect and empathy, by finding a transcendent beauty in suffering with dignity, resistance, and spirituality, he might combat ignorance and brutality. *Donna Seaman*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

Ben Jelloun is a writer of social and moral acuteness. -- *Los Angeles Times*

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Rosa Tarpley:**

Inside other case, little folks like to read book *This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel*. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. So long as we know about how is important any book *This Blinding*

Absence of Light: A Novel. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can recognize everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we can open a book as well as searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's study.

### **Jane Rich:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel book is readable by simply you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer connected with This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel content conveys prospect easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different as it. So , do you continue to thinking This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

### **Bradley Harshbarger:**

This book untitled This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

### **Luis Morales:**

Beside this This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel in your phone, it might give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from the oven so don't end up being worry if you feel like an old people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel because this book offers for you readable information. Do you often have book but you rarely get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this within your hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss the idea? Find this book as well as read it from currently!

**Download and Read Online This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun #NO3DIQZG524**

## **Read This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun for online ebook**

This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun books to read online.

### **Online This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun ebook PDF download**

**This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun Doc**

**This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun Mobipocket**

**This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun EPub**

**NO3DIQZG524: This Blinding Absence of Light: A Novel By Tahar Ben Jelloun**