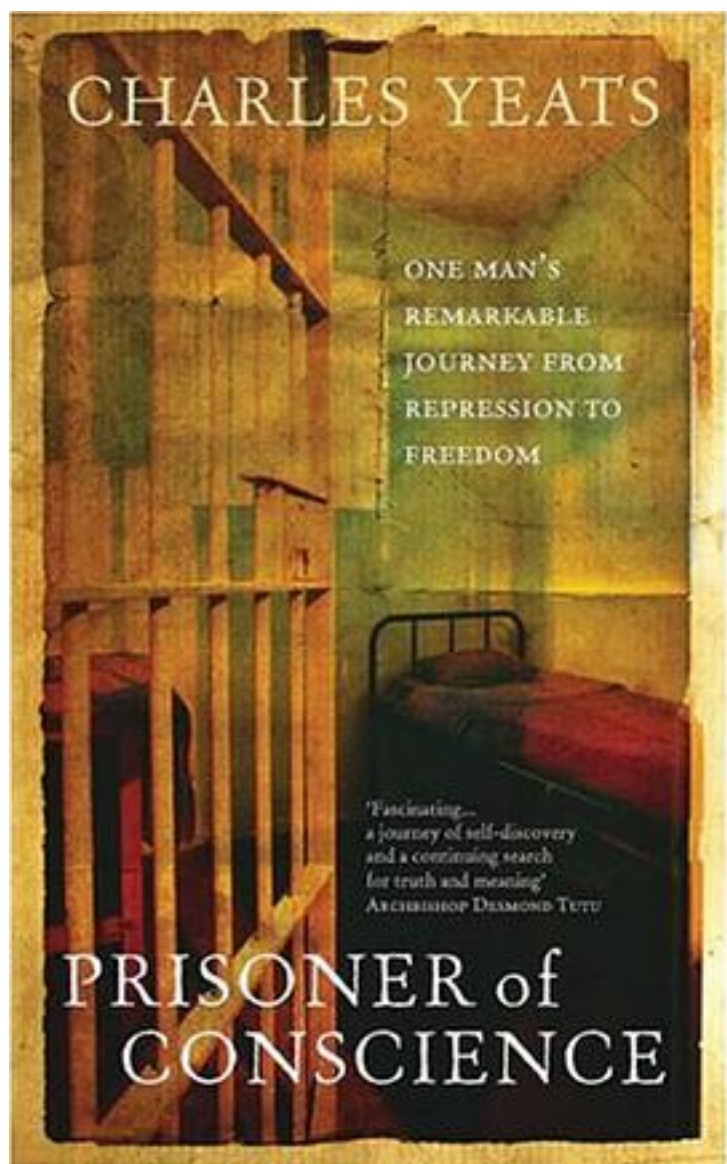


Prisoner of Conscience



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出版者:Trafalgar Square

出版时间:2006-4

装帧:HRD

isbn:9781846040016

Charles Yeats had a privileged upbringing as a White South African in the late 1970's and early 80's, and seemed destined to remain one of the social elite. However he felt increasingly uncomfortable with the Apartheid regime and came to London for a while to escape military service at home. Later, though, he felt compelled to return and face inevitable arrest as a conscientious objector. He was court martialled and sentenced to the now well-known Detention Barracks, where he refused to wear military uniform, and was put in solitary confinement five times. All this led to an unprecedented second court martial and a further year's Incarceration in the notorious Pretoria Central Prison. During this period he was adopted by Amnesty International as one of their Prisoners of Conscience. After the release (in February 83) he studied Theology at Oxford, and was also married to the English doctor who he'd met many years before in London. Today he teaches Business Ethics at Durham University and retains strong links with Africa. He also advises corporations on their social, environmental and moral responsibilities. 'Prisoner of Conscience' is a fascinating slice of history from one man who lived it in the front line. But, much more than that, given his experiences in southern Africa as well as his contemporary concerns, the author also makes trenchant comments about Western imperialism, and the way the Church (the Anglican one in particular) is losing all sorts of opportunities in today's world.

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