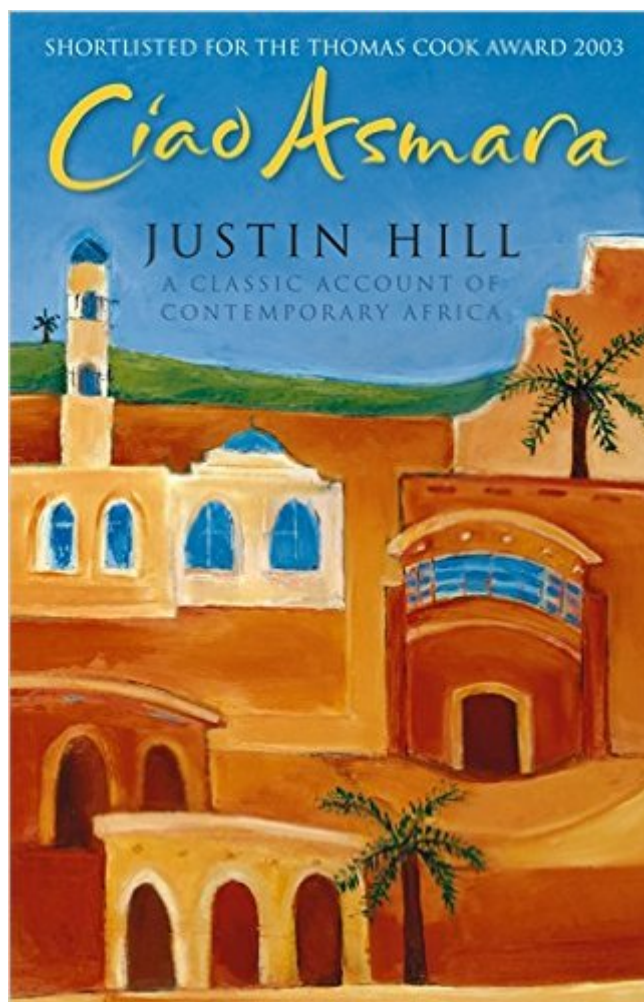


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# Ciao Asmara



## Synopsis

Asmara is the capital of Eritrea - a surreally Italian city at the centre of an ex-Italian colony that has been at war with its neighbour Ethiopia (who claim sovereignty over Eritrea) for over ten years. Amidst broken palaces (built by the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie), nomadic desert encampments and war-torn towns, Hill found a god-fearing people remarkably resistant to everything fate has thrown at them. This book is a tribute to their resilience and will stand beside Philip Gouravitch's Rwandan book, *WE WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT TOMORROW YOU WILL BE KILLED WITH YOUR FAMILIES*, as a classic account of contemporary Africa.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,228,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Travel > Africa > Eritrea](#) #1808 in [Books > Travel > Africa > General](#) #6219 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel](#)

## Customer Reviews

Author Justin Hill has written a compelling book on his time and experiences as a teacher in Eritrea prior to the 1998-2000 Border war with Ethiopia. He travelled to Eritrea to work as an English teacher and while the book mentions the capital of the State of Eritrea, he also spent some time travelling in Eritrea, working in the beautiful mountain top town of Keren, as well as Massawa on the Red Sea coast. He describes his encounters with everyday people in Eritrea and the places he visits elaborately and the reader can picture these places he visits quite vividly, plus the people with whom he relates with. He writes with a very observant eye and this detail manifests itself throughout the book, making the story all that more interesting, from the first page to the last page. He describes people, places, cafes, rooms and the surrounding countryside so vividly. This I feel captivates the reader and for anyone who has travelled to Eritrea and experienced its contrasts between urban Asmara and the countryside within, it is a great read. I particularly liked this book, as I

spent 6 years living and working in Eritrea and was able to experience the country and its people in the aftermath of the Border war. The serene beauty of the mountain town of Keren and the heavy stifling heat of Massawa, contrast with the capital, Asmara and its fascinating array of period buildings and architecture. Justin's account of his time in Eritrea probably best describe why people who visit this timeless land tend to fall in love with the country and its people. The beauty of its countryside and the difference between urban living in the main towns and the countryside. It tends to cast a spell over the visitor.

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Ciao (On the Runway)

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