

## Ian Thomson

### Author

Ian Thomson - 'a chronicler of formidable power' (*Guardian*) - is the author of *BONJOUR BLANC*, an acclaimed book about Haiti, and of *PRIMO LEVI* ("one of the best literary biographies of the year", *Observer*).

He lives in London with his wife and children. His latest book *THE DEAD YARD* won The Royal Society of Literature's 2010 Ondaatje Prize.



**Forthcoming publication SHOT FROM BOTH SIDES - Faber & Faber**

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## Publications

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### Non-Fiction

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**Publication  
Details**

**Notes**

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**PRIMO LEVI** The extraordinary biography of a major twentieth-century literary figure and  
2002 scientist; an Auschwitz survivor who more than any other revealed the truth about  
HUTCHISON Nazi genocide. Levi's account of Auschwitz, *IF THIS IS A MAN* is now recognized as  
one of the essential books of mankind. No other work conveys the horror of the Nazi  
genocide more directly and profoundly. Ian Thomson spent over five years  
researching this book in Italy and elsewhere. His rich and fascinating biography  
draws on Fascist documents, police reports, autopsies and other archive material  
hitherto unknown. Vital information has been uncovered on the writer's premature  
death, and this biography of Primo Levi is destined to become a classic.

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**BONJOUR  
BLANC** Haiti: one thinks of voodoo, Papa Doc, political violence and desperate poverty. In  
1992 *BONJOUR BLANC*, Thomson explores all of the dread demons and eccentricities of  
VINTAGE this unhappy republic. He is initiated into the feared Bizzango religion, an African  
animist cult whose associates venerate a coffin and human skulls; he talks to  
zombies, the walking dead. Part history, part personal travelogue, Thomson  
introduces us to a lively gallery of eccentrics; a Russian Cossack, a Swiss chess  
champion who studied Einstein and an ancient voodoo priest. Yet Haiti is also noted  
for its history as a retreat for writers, Anthony Trollope, Ian Flemming, Alexandre  
Dumas, Graham Greene and Eugene O'Neill - and Thomson wonderfully explores  
their Haitian adventures.

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