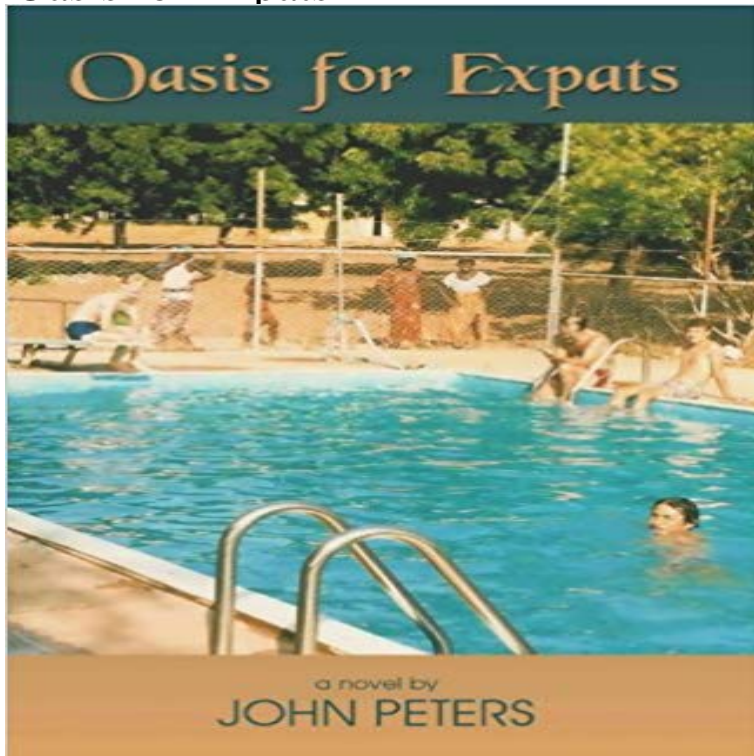


## Oasis for Expats



A group of Canadians from Calgary find themselves working on a water project in a remote part of West Africa. Being isolated, they instinctively become a close social unit. A Club with a swimming pool and tennis court becomes their place to meet - their oasis. Here they can gripe about the heat and dust, the unreliable power supply and problems that plague the water project. It is also a place of refuge when civil unrest within the country threatens them. This novel draws its source from the twenty-five year period Peters spent working as an engineer in Africa and Asia. A keen observer of culture and human behaviour, Peters characters both African and Canadian are honestly and endearingly related. Peters writes with a wry humour that strips away the pretensions and earnestness of development work to show different cultures encountering the same conflicts and challenges, albeit in a setting that sometimes turns the outcome on its head! Set in the drought-ridden Sahel of West Africa, in the fictional country of Damboni, the African side of the story unfolds through the eyes of the local water engineer. Balu is hopeful that the Canadian water project will improve the lot of his people, however, he is often perplexed when the Canadians complain about lack of power and water - compared to himself, they are living in luxury. Larry, the Canadian team-leader, is the first to arrive in Africa and spends his initial period meeting the various project players and organizing the housing for his team. Every situation he meets is new and exciting but he is frustrated by his wife's reluctance to join him. On the other hand, Herta, the wife of one of the Canadian drilling inspectors, eagerly embraces the new situation. She quickly adapts to the lack of amenities, lets servants perform the household chores while she volunteers at a local clinic which provides basic health care to the African community. Greg, a

young hydro-geologist running away from a relationship in Calgary, enthusiastically falls in love with Africa. He soon has many African friends including some exciting young women. However, as Larrys second in command, Greg often has the misfortune of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. As the borehole project proceeds, inter-relationships amongst the Canadians are tested, social activities take on major importance, and interaction with the African community at large becomes ever more complex. Wives and children must cope with servants and home-schooling. All must learn to adjust to the heat, the fierce storms, the dust and strange new insects. Unexpected events keep happening, testing the nerves of the weak and fanning the flames of excitement for the adventuresome. This novel covers the first six months of the project. A sequel, entitled Beyond the Oasis, covers the ongoing adventures of the team. Both novels were initially published in soft cover format in 2009 and 2010. Now they are republished without change in ebook format.

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