



This is the story of a man born in Berlin in 1925, the son of a German mother and a Cameroonian father. When his father came to Germany, Cameroon was still a German colony, but after the First World War the Empire was lost and the atmosphere grew increasingly hostile. Black people were reduced to being displayed in the highly popular *Völkerschauen*—the “human zoo”, where they were exhibited as “aliens” of “Negroid extraction.” During the Nazi era they appeared as extras in colonial films, only to end up in concentration camps or in forced labour. Theodor Michael survived all that. At the time he would never have dreamed he would go on to become a high ranking officer at the BND—Germany’s secret service agency. Today he is recognized as a leading specialist on Africa.

Theodor Michael
The Black German
Witnessing history through the
eyes of a German-African
200 Pages

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Rights
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