Novelist Christopher Hope was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1944. He was educated at the universities of Witwatersrand and Natal and worked as a journalist before moving to London in 1975. He is a regular broadcaster and contributes articles and reviews to newspapers, magazines and journals. He has also written plays for both radio and television. In some of his later works, Hope brings his South African experience to bear on other situations both actual and fictional. He writes about post Cold War Russia in Moscow! Moscow! (1990), about the United Kingdom in Darkest England (1996), and about Languedoc in Signs of the Heart (1999). The strategies Hope employs for purposes of contemporary satire have more than once been compared to those of Jonathan Swift.