



The Lennon-Ritchie Agency

SPRING List 2023

REPRESENTING INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS & SELLING
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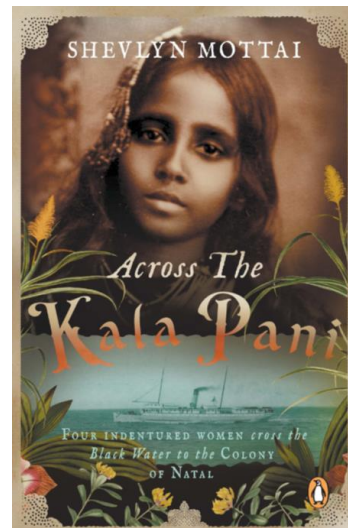
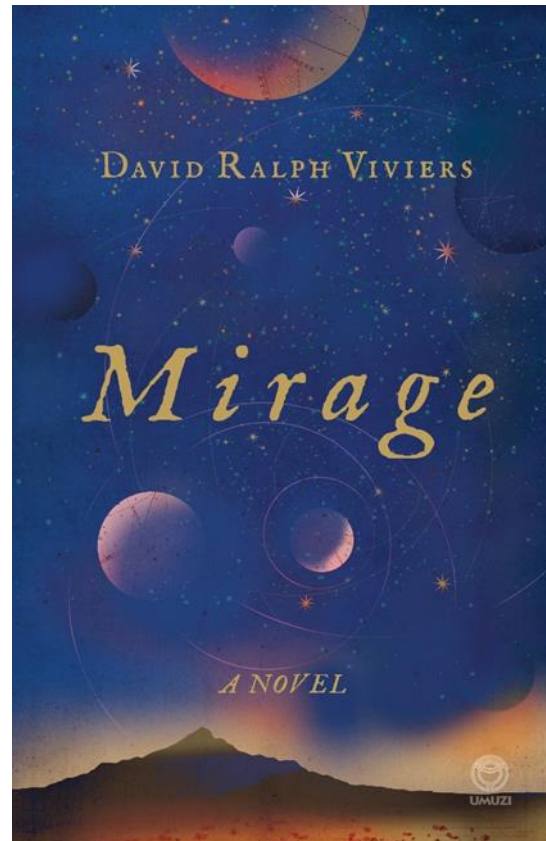
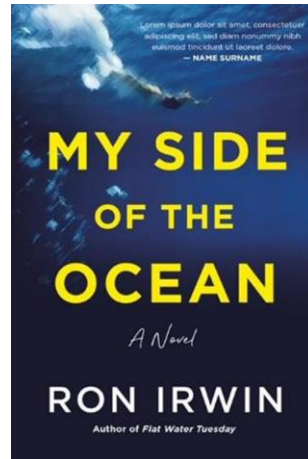
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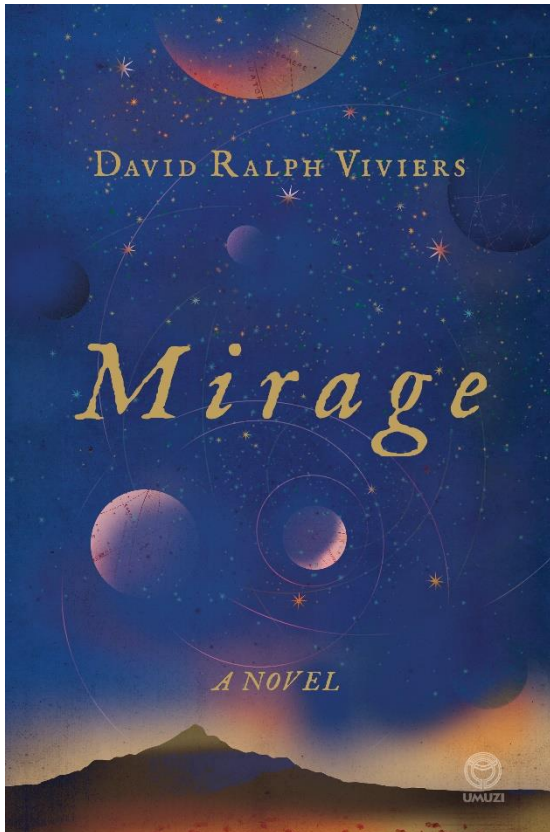
YA AND CHILDREN'S

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Greg Grabianski	BEARENT	Illustrated Middle Grade Fiction
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A grand, ornate library with multiple levels of bookshelves and study tables. The architecture is highly detailed, featuring Gothic-style arches and intricate carvings. The shelves are filled with books, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the architectural details. The word "FICTION" is overlaid in a black box in the center of the image.

FICTION

MIRAGE



'Fascinating and imaginative ... an intriguing blend of the personal and the universal' – Michiel Heyns

A literary mystery that stretches back to Victorian times set on the arid plains of South Africa's Karoo

Out here, the past and the future lie over each other, like the strata of koppies. And in certain places the boundary between the two rubs clean.

A century-old trunk has been dug up near the railway village of Sterfontein. Inside is the lost journal of Victorian author Elizabeth Tenant – and what appear to be the remains of a child.

Michael, a university student recovering from a broken heart, is intrigued by what the journal describes: a scarlet curtain billowing above the desert, covering the entrance to another world. But things become even stranger when a line in the journal seems to be connected to Michael and his cosmologist mother, written a hundred years before their time.

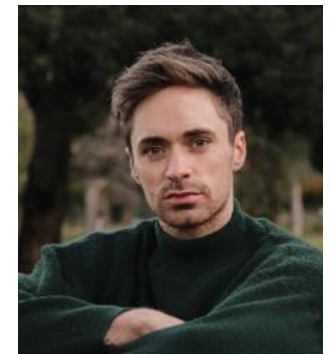
Without much to go on, Michael travels to the old Karoo hotel where Elizabeth wrote her novel *Mirage*. Amid talk of omens in the sky, ancient prophecies and the end of the world, he tries to decipher the journal's secrets. As one mystery leads to the next, constellation-like patterns between his own life and Elizabeth's appear, helped along by Renata, a self-proclaimed medium, and Oom Sarel, the local museum curator. But as time starts to dissolve in the mirages of the Karoo, it becomes more and more difficult to know what is real and what is not.

And why can't he shake the feeling that he's been to the village before?

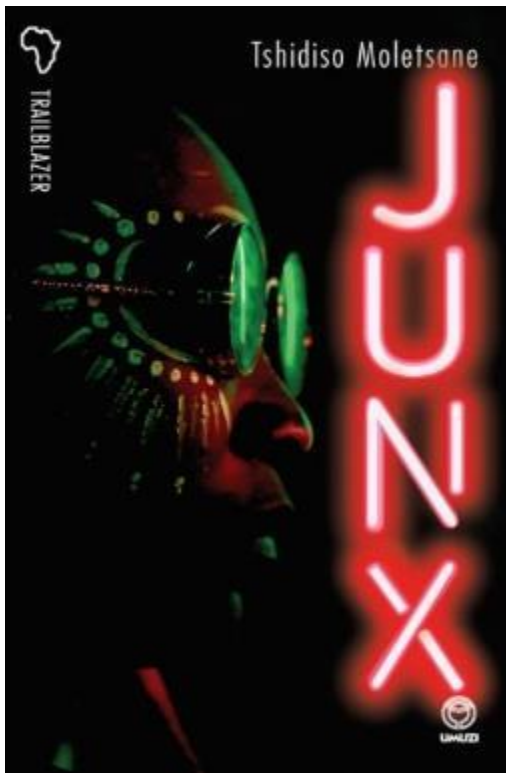
Publication:	February 2023
Publisher:	Umuzi – Penguin Random House
Rights Available:	World, excluding southern African English

AUTHOR BIO

David Ralph Viviers is a Cape Town-based writer and film and theatre actor. He holds a BA in Theatre and Performance, as well as a master's degree in Creative Writing, both with distinction, from the University of Cape Town. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Brett Goldin Bursary award, which allowed him to study with the Royal Shakespeare Company for a month in Stratford-upon-Avon. For his work in both English and Afrikaans theatre, he won a Fleur du Cap Award in 2020 and has received several Kanna and Fiësta nominations. His film/TV work includes *BINNELANDERS*, *TALI'S BABY DIARY*, *KANARIE*, *NO HIDING HERE*, *HOME AFFAIRS 1 & 2*, *RAGE* and *BLACK SAILS*. *MIRAGE* is his debut novel.



JUNX



**Winner of the
Sunday Times Fiction Prize 2022**

It starts normally enough.

In Dobsonville township near Johannesburg, a few hours before the party of the year, a guy shares a joint with his friend Ari. Ari is always right. Ari is also imaginary. And winged.

In a few hours, while Ari plays both angel and demon on his shoulder, our man will end up joyriding to a brothel in a snatched tourist rental car.

But the police – and the burly tourists – are in pursuit. At some point, when you’re a hunted man and there’s a gun tucked in the waistband of your pants, things come to a head. Will he be okay? Ask Ari. Ari never lies.

Prepare for a party night that courses from Soweto to the centre of Johannesburg as Tshidiso Moletsane’s explosive novel serves shots of sex, drugs and anxiety while tearing into life, death, race and politics, with consequences only Ari could have seen coming.

Publication: September 2021
Publisher: Umuzi, PRH SA
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, Arabic

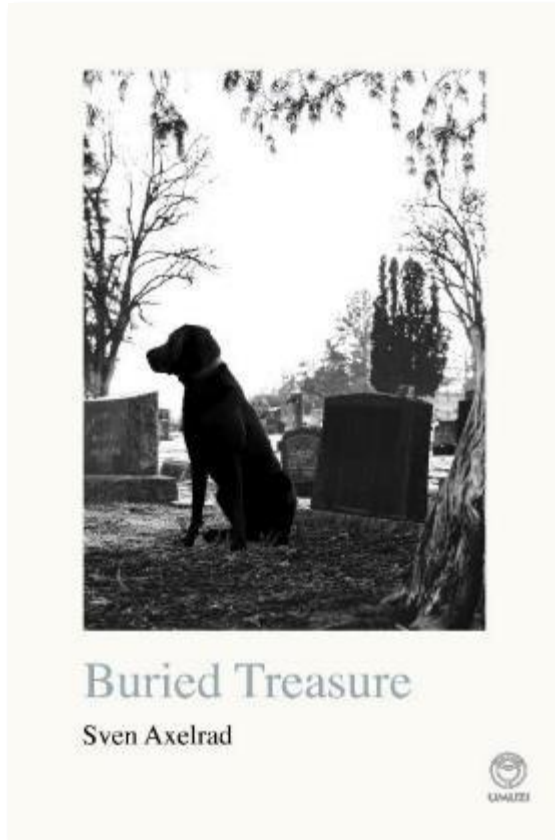
AUTHOR BIO

Tshidiso Moletsane had most of his notes to complete JUNX on his phone, but then he was hijacked and shot (don’t worry, he’s fine). His phone was in the car and he had to start over (he did). He lives in Gauteng, splitting his time between Soweto and Weltevreden Park. JUNX is his first novel and the first novel in the Penguin Books Trailblazer series.



LITERARY FICTION

BURIED TREASURE



One gravedigger with failing eyesight, a motley crew of bodies assigned to the wrong graves, and a dog named God

In the town of Vivo, the only cemetery is run by old Mateus and his dog, God. Mateus's eyes aren't so good any more, which is why he has been burying bodies in the wrong graves and is also why he accidentally trips on a young homeless girl while he is out walking one day with God. On a whim, Mateus decides to appoint the girl as his apprentice. Novo is determined to reorganise the Treasury, but she will have to hurry: buried in the wrong graves, divorced from their names, the ghosts of Vivo are accumulating, unable to proceed to the afterlife without knowing who they are. Also, someone, or something, dangerous seems to be on the streets looking for Novo. *Buried Treasure* is an Up Lit themed exploration of identity, an adventure which explores what our names mean to us and who we are without them – defined and obscured as we are by love, sexual orientation, gender expectation, and hope. The story is erudite but full of fun and a heady dose of Magical Realism. The strong female protagonist is the main focus of the narrative but there is a fun cast of supporting characters, including disgruntled ghosts, pigeons, families and even the town of Vivo itself.

Publication: April 2023
Publisher: Umuzi -Penguin Random House SA
Rights Available: World, excl. southern African English

AUTHOR BIO

Sven Axelrad is 40 years old and lives in Durban. He was born in New Zealand to a French-speaking British father and a South African mother. He is busy teaching himself Spanish because of his great love for the literature that has come from Spanish speaking countries. He believes that his eclectic heritage helps his work to cross genres and borders but he is a South African at heart and always will be. He loves stories of all kinds and can't imagine a life not spent making them up. To add to the contradictions, he is an accountant who reads 65 books a year, plays the guitar and is covered in tattoos.



THE SPARTACUS HALLELUJAH LOSERS CLUB



Geeks? Maybe. Misfits? Hell yes. Losers? No way.

In a dead-end town close to Swaziland, a motley crew of teen oddballs finds camaraderie in each other's company. It's 1970s South Africa and, amid the familiar high-school dramas, a lone wildebeest in an odd location directs the attention of the Spartacus Hallelujah Losers Club to a nearby farm run by a sinister taxidermist. Here, a grim discovery calls for great heroism, but promises high adventure. John Hunt – in prose as fresh as an early morning in the veld – pays tribute to the critters of the African bush and shows that good guys don't always finish last.

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

'A moving evocation of a difficult and different childhood' – WITNESS

Publication:	TBC
Publisher:	TBC
Rights Available:	World

AUTHOR BIO

John Hunt is the author of the novels *THE SPACE BETWEEN THE SPACE BETWEEN*, *THE BOY WHO COULD KEEP A SWAN IN HIS HEAD*, a book shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and translated into Arabic, and *YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW*, all published by Penguin Random House. His book *THE ART OF THE IDEA*, which celebrates the power of ideas to move the world forward, has been translated into several languages. A legendary ad man, he is currently Worldwide Creative Chair of the global advertising agency network TBWA, having previously co-founded TBWA\Hunt Lascaris. He grew up in Hillbrow and still lives and works in Johannesburg.



A SHORT LIFE



Two seemingly unrelated car accidents. The same night. The same stretch of twisting valley road

Nick seeks to protect his best friend Adam from being prosecuted for drunk driving and must convince his wife Franky to keep Adam's car crash a secret. But when Franky learns that her best friend was killed on the same night in a separate accident, she is torn between supporting her husband or her best friend's widower. Set in Cape Town, the story is told from multiple perspectives – each exploring complex, triangular relationships at the heart of the book. Comparative titles might include Liane Moriarty's; NINE PERFECT STRANGERS and BIG LITTLE LIES, as well as Harriet Lane's HER and Liz Feldman's hit Netflix series DEAD TO ME.

Publication: 2024
Publisher: Penguin Random House SA
Rights Available: World, excluding southern African English

AUTHOR BIO

Nicky Greenwall is a former broadcaster, entertainment journalist and television producer. Her multi-award-nominated documentary series THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE – which tracks the lives of a group of foreign fashion models working in Cape Town – has now sold in the UK, Australia, Asia, Europe, Canada, The Middle East and Africa. As a print journalist Nicky has contributed to ELLE, MARIE CLAIRE, MEN'S HEALTH, GLAMOUR, GOOD TASTE and THE SUNDAY TIMES. A SHORT LIFE is her debut novel. She lives in Cape Town with her husband Robin Fryer, and their two children – Georgie and Riley.



THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE



Stupendous African Gothic, by the winner of Yale University's Windham-Campbell Prize

Our heroine, who's name was taken from her, leads a good – even extraordinary – life. She works for the Good Foundation, which belongs to the Good family, and oversees the running of the Good Museum and the Good Library, the Good family members the direct descendants of Captain John Good.

Gone are our heroine's childhood visions of various women – a woman in white with a muddied hem and bloodied hands; a woman in a high-collar dress and matching parasol; a woman with a long tobacco pipe and a throaty laugh.

The Good Museum is filled with artefacts from the family's various expeditions, explorations and stays in Africa. For the past five years our heroine has been in a rather public relationship with the latest John Good, a world-renowned photojournalist.

Our heroine is very happy with her association with the Good family, until one day she comes across a group of people protesting outside the museum. Instigating the protesters is an ancient woman, whom our heroine knows is a vision. After this encounter, our heroine finds herself living first in an attic and then in a haunted castle, her life anything but normal.

THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE explores how the continent's past continues to haunt its present and examines the collusion of colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism in creating and then normalising a certain kind of womanhood.

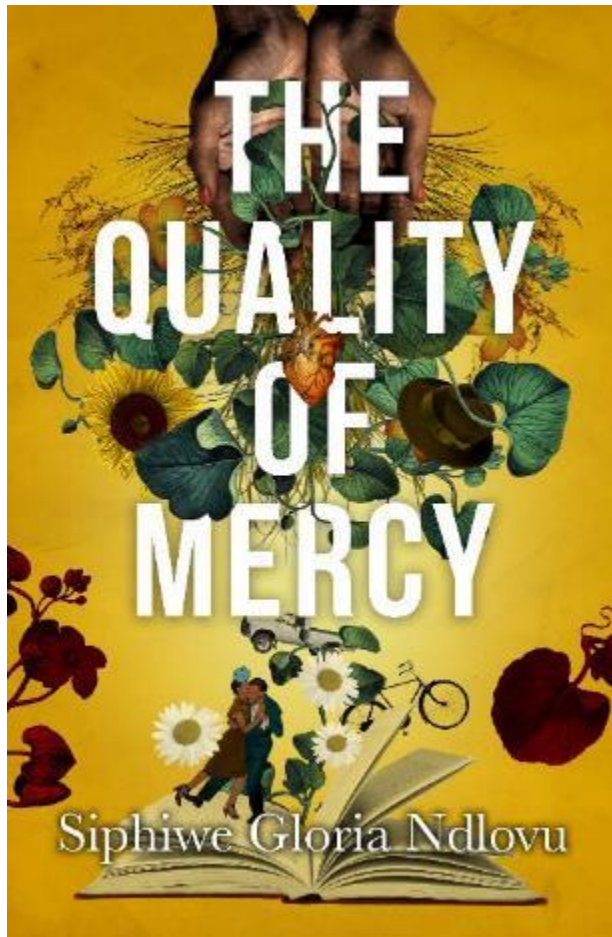
Publication:	TBC
Publisher:	TBC
Rights Available:	World

AUTHOR BIO

Sphiwe Gloria Ndlovu is the author of a trio of novels, the bestselling *THE THEORY OF FLIGHT*, winner of the 2019 Sunday Times Fiction Prize, its follow-up, *THE HISTORY OF MAN*, and her latest *THE QUALITY OF MERCY*. Her work is published in South Africa and the United States, and can also be read in Arabic and Italian translation. A winner of Yale University's 2022 Windham-Campbell Prize. She was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



THE QUALITY OF MERCY



On the eve of his country's independence, Spokes Moloji investigates his first 'white case' and finds a very confusing crime scene. Having recently been promoted to Chief Inspector, it is up to Spokes – a man of impeccable rectitude and spotless moral record who is supported in all things by his exemplary spouse, Loveness – to solve long-standing mysteries. His task now is to unravel the alleged murder of a man, Emil Coetzee, but also the tangled web that his life created.

Following on her award-winning novels *The Theory of Flight* and *The History of Man*, Sphiwe Gloria Ndlovu's *The Quality of Mercy* is a novel of comfort and, indeed, mercy. Ndlovu weaves together elements of social comedy and cosy crime while examining the history of a country transitioning from a colonial to a postcolonial state. From the City of Kings and surrounding villages steps a cast of engaging characters who will criss-cross each other's lives in delightful and poignant ways. Here, where everyone knows everyone else, the ties of kinship and affiliation can never be completely broken.

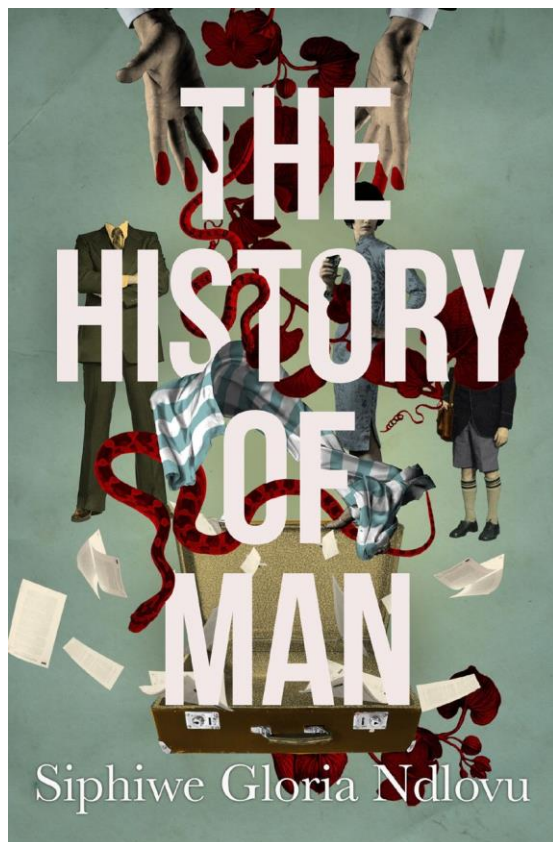
The final book in the City of Kings trilogy of three overlapping but standalone novels, preceded by *The Theory of Flight* and *The History of Man*. Ndlovu is the winner of the Windham Campbell Prize and the 2019 Sunday Times Fiction Prize.

Publication: September 2022
Publisher: Penguin Random House (SA), Catalyst Press (US)
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, North American, and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Sphiwe Gloria Ndlovu is the author of the bestselling novel *The Theory of Flight*, winner of the 2019 *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize and currently a school set work, and its follow-up, *The History of Man*. A Winner of Yale University's 2022 Windham Campbell Prize, she is a writer, filmmaker and academic who holds a PhD from Stanford University as well as master's degrees in African Studies and Film from Ohio University. She has published research on Saartjie Baartman and she wrote, directed and edited the award-winning short film *Graffiti*. She was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

THE HISTORY OF MAN



BY THE WINNER OF THE SUNDAY TIMES FICTION PRIZE 2019
Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize 2021

THE
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AGENCY

LITERARY FICTION

Emil Coetzee, a civil servant in his fifties, is washing blood from his hands when the truce is announced. Like everyone else in this battle-weary land, he will be unmoored by the war ending, his sense of purpose fading by the hour.

But why is Emile Coetzee's life so different from his parents', who spent cheery Friday evenings flapping and flailing the Charleston or dancing the foxtrot? What happened to the Emil who used to wade through the singing elephant grass of the savannah, losing himself in it?

From boyhood to manhood, Emil Coetzee's life is traced. From the privileged boarding school with its motto 'It is here that boys become the men of history', to falling in love with the free-spirited Marion whose open marriage gives him a glimpse of passion – with dire consequences for his heart.

Set in a southern African country that is never named, this tale of human fallibility, told with generosity and a light touch, interrogates – the coloniser, the oppressor, the perpetrator – from within.

Publisher: 2021 Penguin Random House, South Africa; 2022 Catalyst Press USA; 2022 Aseer Al-Kotob, Egypt; Trinta Zero Nove, Mozambique; 2023 Brioschi Editore, Italy.

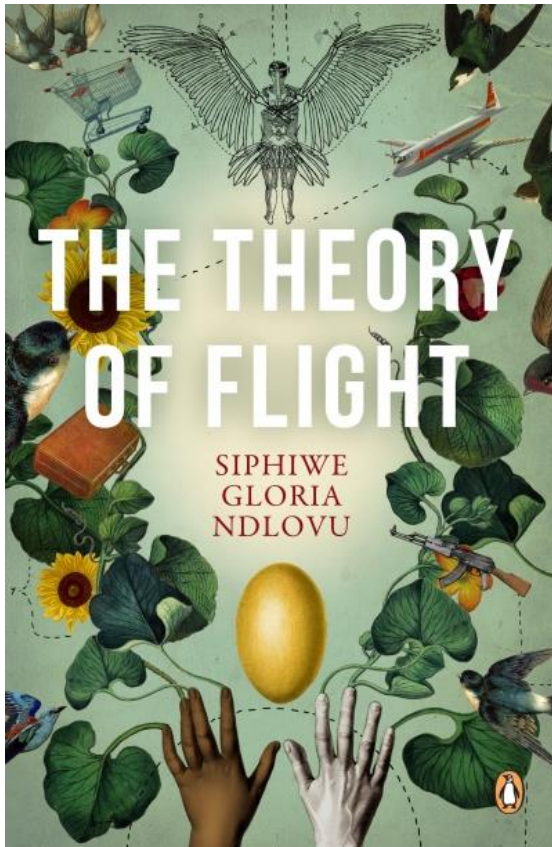
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, North American, World Arabic, Palop (African Portuguese-Speaking Countries), Italian, and Film/TV.

AUTHOR BIO

Sipiwe Gloria Ndlovu is the author of *The Theory of Flight*, winner of South Africa's most prestigious literary award, the 2019 Sunday Times' Barry Ronge Fiction Prize. She is a writer, filmmaker and academic who holds a PhD from Stanford University, as well as master's degrees in African Studies and Film. She has published research on Saartjie Baartman and she wrote, directed and edited the award-winning short film *Graffiti*. She was born in Zimbabwe.

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THE THEORY OF FLIGHT



WINNER OF THE SUNDAY TIMES FICTION PRIZE 2019

Said to have hatched from a golden egg, Genie spends her childhood playing in a field of sunflowers as her country reawakens after a fierce civil war.

Genie's story stretches back much further: it tells a story of her grandfather, who quenched his wanderlust by walking into the Indian Ocean, and of her father, who spent countless hours building model aeroplanes to catch up with him. It is the tale of her mother, a singer self-styled after Dolly Parton, with a dream of travelling to Nashville, and of her grandmother, who did everything in her power to raise her children to have character.

With the lightest of touches, a cast of unforgettable characters, and moments of surreal beauty, *The Theory of Flight* sketches decades of history in this unnamed Southern African nation. It does not dwell on what has been lost in its war, but on the daily triumphs of its people, the necessity of art, and the power of its visionaries to take flight.

Publication: 2018 Penguin Random House, South Africa; 2020 Catalyst Press, North America; 2022 Aseer Al-Kotob, Egypt; Trinta Zero Nove, Mozambique

Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, North American, World Arabic, Palop (African Portuguese-Speaking Countries) and Film/TV.

AUTHOR BIO

Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu is a writer, filmmaker and academic who holds a PhD from Stanford University, as well as Masters degrees in African Studies and Film. She has published research on Saartjie Baartman. She wrote, directed and edited the award-winning short film Graffiti. Born in Zimbabwe, she currently lives and works in Johannesburg. *The Theory of Flight* is her first novel.

HELL OF A COUNTRY



PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

LIKE IT MATTERS is magnificent in its scope, heart-wrenching in its depth, and beautifully elegant throughout. If you read nothing else from the South African canon this year, read this' –AERODROME

In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences.

Seventeen-year-old Lorraine van Niekerk despises the fact that her boss and lover, middle-aged André Bekker, won't leave his hateful wife for her.

Driver Alfie Geemooi is horrified when he wakes up in Groote Schuur's Non-White wing after a car crash with one leg missing.

Alfie and Lorraine's lives intersect fatefully in André's consultation rooms. André is an orthopaedic technician, and Lorraine can grant access to the prosthesis Alfie so desperately needs.

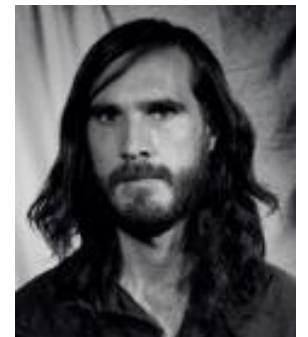
But at a price.

HELL OF A COUNTRY is a fictionalised retelling of the Scissors Murder – a famous true-crime story from early 1970s South Africa. A pacy and poetic work told in the third person from multiple points of view, it focuses on the meeting-point between political machinery and personal desire, and uses the true-crime genre to tell a fresh and original story about South Africa's turbulent past in a deeply human and engaging way.

Publication:	TBC
Publisher:	TBC
Rights Available:	World

AUTHOR BIO

David Cornwell's debut novel, LIKE IT MATTERS, was published by Penguin Random House in South Africa to critical acclaim. The book was longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and shortlisted for the gmobile Award for Best African Fiction Debut. David's short film, DIE ONDERSPIT, was developed as part of KykNET's Silwerskermfees festival program. He also co-wrote a screenplay with Damon Galgut. David's feature film POU (Peacock) were shown at Idyllwild, the Buffalo International Festival, the Winter Film Awards, Razor Reel and at SA Horror Fest. Born in Grahamstown, he currently lives in Johannesburg.



LITTLE SECRETS



Monique and Ben Cohen have been married for 25 years. They both know that they didn't get married for the right reasons, but they're happy with the decision they made. They have a good life, in a beautiful house, with three children that they adore. It all worked out in the end. Or did it?

Monique has become obsessed with being the perfect wife and mother. Her sense of self is attached to the compliments she receives from friends and relatives. From her appearance to her home to her children – nobody will be allowed to see the cracks.

Ben knows that he gave up on a part of himself and his dreams when he married Monique. He's an actuary, working for a corporate, and not the artist that he longed to be. If anyone asks, he's happy.

Their daughter Rose is struggling with her friendships and the daunting world of teenage parties. But she knows that even if she gets frustrated, Monique's rules will keep her safe.

Until Ben meets Daisy. And Rosie meets Margie. And everything starts to fall apart.

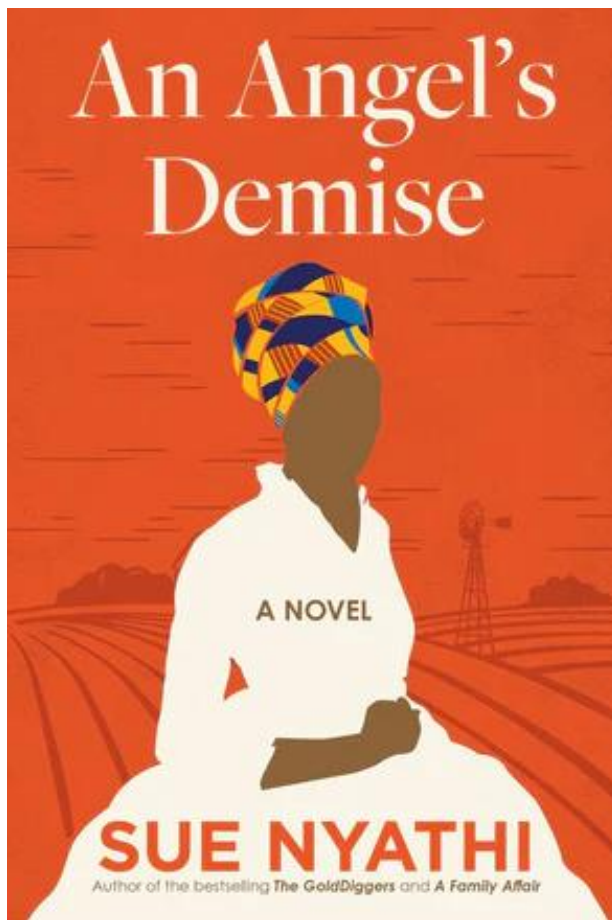
Publication: 2024
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights, excluding southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Gail Schimmel is the author of seven novels including *THE AFTERMATH* (2019) and *NEVER TELL A LIE* (2021). She writes domestic noir and pacy thrillers that feature women and characters with secrets. Gail also writes cosy crime as part of writing duo Katie Gayle.



AN ANGEL'S DEMISE



An Angel's Demise is an epic saga that explores a contested legacy and the heartrending destiny of a family.

The year is 1977 and the story begins on a farm in Somabhula with the birth of Angel. The farm is run by Paul Williams, an outwardly harsh and bigoted man who holds the livelihoods of many in his hands.

When Angel's parents join the liberation struggle, she is left in the care of her grandmothers, who have been in service to the Williams family for generations. Angel grows up on the farm over three momentous decades that see a complex past and inheritance unfold into an equally complicated present. Through her, we see a woman's quest to unearth her identity and assert her independence. In the process of self-discovery, Angel realises that sometimes you need to be uprooted before you can grow.

An Angel's Demise, Sue Nyathi's fourth novel, is a gripping tale infused with spirituality. It recounts an explosive story of love, war, bloody massacre and betrayal that encompasses a harrowing history, the cruel caprice of politics, gender-based violence and what happens when ordinary people get caught up in lies.

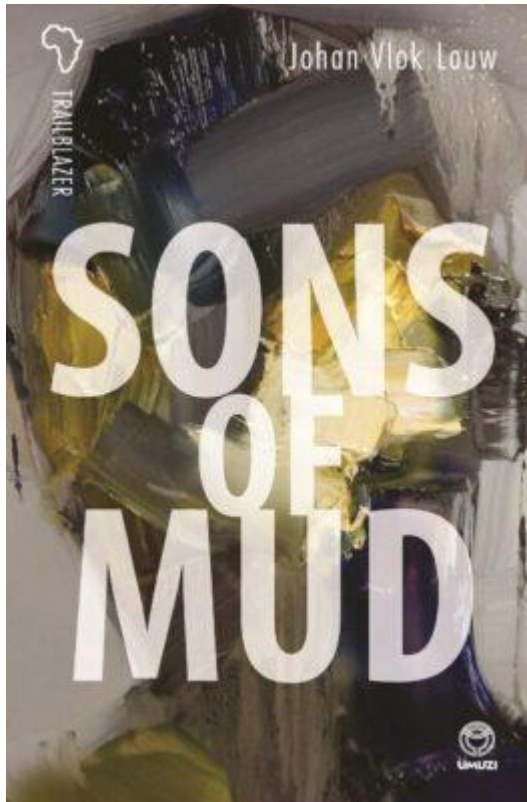
Publication: October 2022
Publisher: Pan Macmillan South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and French

AUTHOR BIO

Sue Nyathi was born and raised in Bulawayo and lives in Johannesburg. She has previously published three bestselling novels to much reader and critical acclaim: *The Polygamist* (2012), *The Gold Diggers* (2018) and *The Family Affair* (2020).



SONS OF MUD



LITERARY FICTION

Military conscription, toxic masculinity, bloody consequences

At an army base, at the height of summer and South Africa's Border War, 18-year-old recruits endure an appalling drill sergeant bent on turning them into killing machines for the South African Defence Force. They are sleep deprived, and tension mounts in this group of disparate individuals – boys from all walks of life – expected to function as a unit.

Andrew Howard-Smythe, a surfer, is the first to notice the giant boy Riejardt Jurgens, whom he describes as a cross between a heavyweight wrestler and an orangutan. After a particularly gruelling training session on a shooting range, it is Riejardt who snaps, severely injuring three officers before he is restrained.

The investigation that follows is suspicious right from the start. It turns out that, instead of being prosecuted, Riejardt will be recruited for a sinister military outfit when his propensity for violence is recognised. Thus, this short, hard-hitting novel tracks the making of a henchman.

Written in staccato, pointillist prose, *SONS OF MUD* is deeply poetic and original, and a powerful anti-war manifesto.

Publication:	April 2023
Publisher:	Umuzi – Penguin Random House
Rights Available:	World, excluding southern African English

AUTHOR BIO

Johan Vlok Louw is the author of the novels *ERIC THE BRAVE*, *A GAP IN THE HEDGE* and *KAROO DUSK*, which was shortlisted for the University of Johannesburg Prize for Creative Writing and translated into Afrikaans. Born in Cape Town, he studied Fine Art and Design after his military service. He has worked as an art lecturer and held various managerial positions in the corporate world. Today he writes, paints and teaches these disciplines privately and online. www.johanvloklouw.com



ACTION ADVENTURE / ESPIONAGE

WHISPER OF LOVE, WHISPER OF DEATH



Paul Morgan is a washed-up novelist in Zanzibar, where he's writing an article on dhows for a travel magazine. Here he meets two intriguing characters: the elderly ex-spy Amadeo Sandollar and his charge Angelika, a striking young girl with white-blond hair and tribal incisions on her cheeks, whose lion conservationist parents were murdered by poachers. Paul is hooked by their story and gets entwined into their lives, ultimately acting as a surrogate father to Angelika.

The narrative shifts between Sandollar's glamorous, dangerous days as an upper-crust MI5 operative posing as an elephant hunter in Mozambique during the run-up to World War II, and the present day as Paul becomes involved in avenging the deaths of Angelika's parents. He ends up attempting to crack a 60-year-old plot, in which Sandollar's past and the dark motives of the thugs trying to kill Angelika converge.

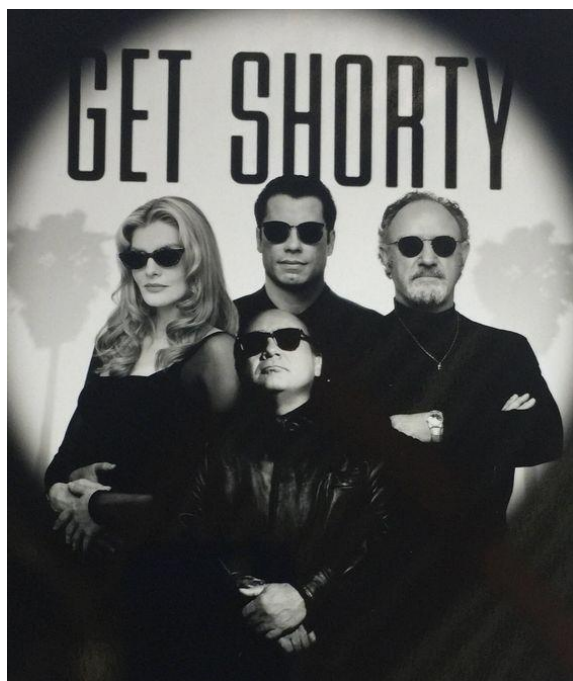
In the present day, the plot revolves around environmentalism, a weaponized Ebola virus used as a tool by terrorists, and vaccine development. A thread of romance and poignant loss runs throughout. Paul Morgan's former lover died of cancer, and he's been unmoored since then. He's a man looking for love, and, in 007 style, having plenty of sex with powerful, intelligent, bombshell women along the way. A rollicking African adventure and the perfect escapism for a holiday read.

Publication: 2024
Publisher: Penguin Random House South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

David Lambkin was born in England but has spent many years in Africa. He divides his time between running his own advertising agency and his pursuit of solitude in the wilder parts of east, central and southern Africa. A keen amateur naturalist, clay pigeon shot and fisherman, he is also a wine lover addicted to Bach and Beethoven, and an enthusiastic but untrained cook.

CHAIN OF CAUSE



Fast paced blackly-comic thriller about a group of four friends who attempt to commit insurance fraud worth millions. Unfortunately, the friends make one mistake and poor decision after another putting them on a collision course with a relentless Ukrainian fraud investigator, a psychopathic American hitman, a ruthless local drug lord, and an Eastern European mobster.

Gabriel, passed over for promotion, decides to set up his own business. The business is a spectacular failure and he loses everything. Desperate and furious, he enlists his best friend Skellie, a conman, drug addict and drug dealer, to help him strike back at the institution that he feels has wronged him. Forced to enlist help on the inside, the mistakes come thick and fast and as the bodies pile up, Gabriel and Skellie do their best to make it out of their scheme alive.

A novel about injustices – historical, racial, gender, economic, and social - and an indictment of the practices in the financial industry in which Ellis has almost two decades of experience. This dark caper is for fans of IN BRUGES, GET SHORTY and A SERIOUS MAN.

Publication: April 2024
Publisher: Penguin Random House South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

WGSA Muse Award winner **Kurt Ellis** is a screenwriter and novelist. Ellis is the author of the Johannesburg-set thrillers BY ANY MEANS (NB Publishing) and IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES (Penguin Books). Winner of the Harry Oppenheimer Creative Writing Award, Ellis has an MFA from the University of the Witwatersrand. Nominated for four 2021 WGSA Muse Awards, Ellis - a master at building tension through pacy plotting and nuanced characterization - won with his original pilot script RAINBOW'S END.



COMMERCIAL THRILLER

THE SLIDES OF MARCH / CUTTING THE HEADCOUNT



'Keeton Foley isn't just a strategy consulting firm, it's a family'. And Madeline O'Hara wants out.

Burnt out from six years of impossible deadlines, the guilt of time away from her daughter, and phrases like 'catalytic synergy', she needs to resign. But she can't afford to - not with her debt, not in this economy, not unless that long-awaited bonus finally comes through. So when the firm's co-founder, Veronica, asks her to do something reprehensible on the eve of their company retreat to Bermuda, she knows she can't refuse. It's a real 'step-up opportunity', after all.

Madeline searches desperately for ways to appease Veronica and the other Partners without becoming a villain herself, but in the process stumbles across an even greater threat to her moral compass. Someone is planning to kill the Partners. All of them. On the last night of the retreat. Madeline has four short days to figure out how to stop the murder plot. But as the Partners push her ever further to do their dirty work, and as years of exhaustion, stress, and 'pls send edits by Sunday EOD' finally begin to unravel her, she begins to wonder... why should she?

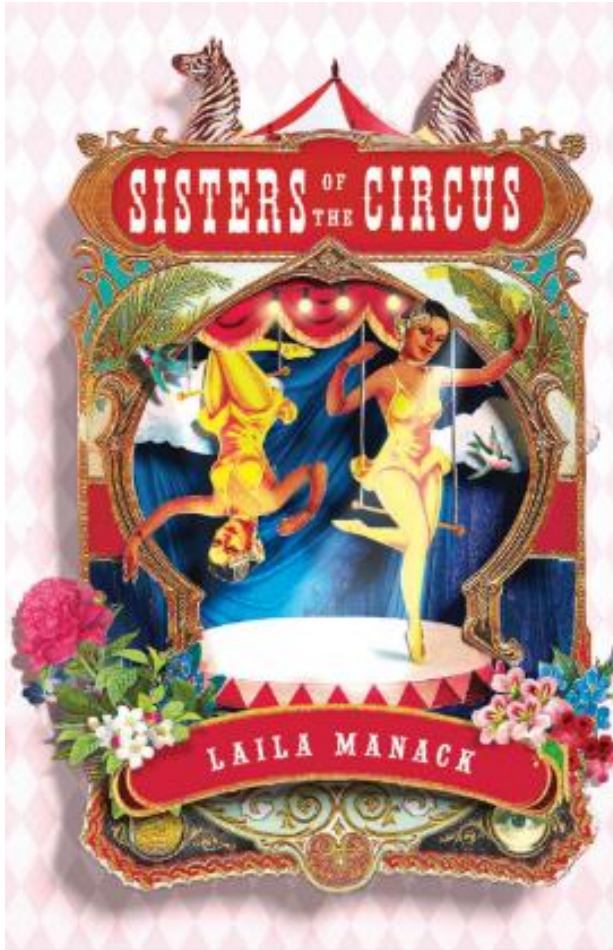
Rights Available: All rights

AUTHOR BIO

Matthew MacDevette studied in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, and Oxford before settling in Johannesburg where he happily remains with his wife and two terrible/wonderful cats. He spends most of his time on international development projects that try to make the best use of foreign aid in sub-Saharan Africa, and the rest writing novels that have nothing to do with that. Matthew is drawn to dark stories told with hope and humour, and can often be found trying to convince people to listen to The Offspring and watch Lord of the Rings movie marathons.



SISTERS OF THE CIRCUS



Trapeze-artist twins Kahina and Noor are one of a kind. Kidnapped from their home in India, they were sold to a travelling circus in Europe at four years old. Now it's the Roaring Twenties, the girls are twenty-one, and they want to escape their circus trailer and abusive ringmaster and make their way to India to find their birth parents.

The circus world is all they know: the daily drills in technique; the fittings for sumptuous costumes that will make their dark complexions shine and keep customers rolling up to buy tickets; the blue-and-white striped tent with its coloured lights and the smell of popped kernels and melted caramel wafting through the stands; and their renowned double act: two young women leaping, tumbling and soaring above the audience.

Yet beyond its glamour, Garrett's circus is rife with cruelty. You're only as good as your last trapeze act, and secrets behind the curtain are sinister enough to kill. When Kahina is forced to train a handsome new recruit in the art of trapeze work, his disdain for rules pushes her out of her comfort zone and ignites a sequence of events that threaten to force the sisters apart. Laila Manack's debut novel is a vivid tale of the power of sisterhood and womanhood, trust and self-worth, flying and falling and getting up again, no matter what.

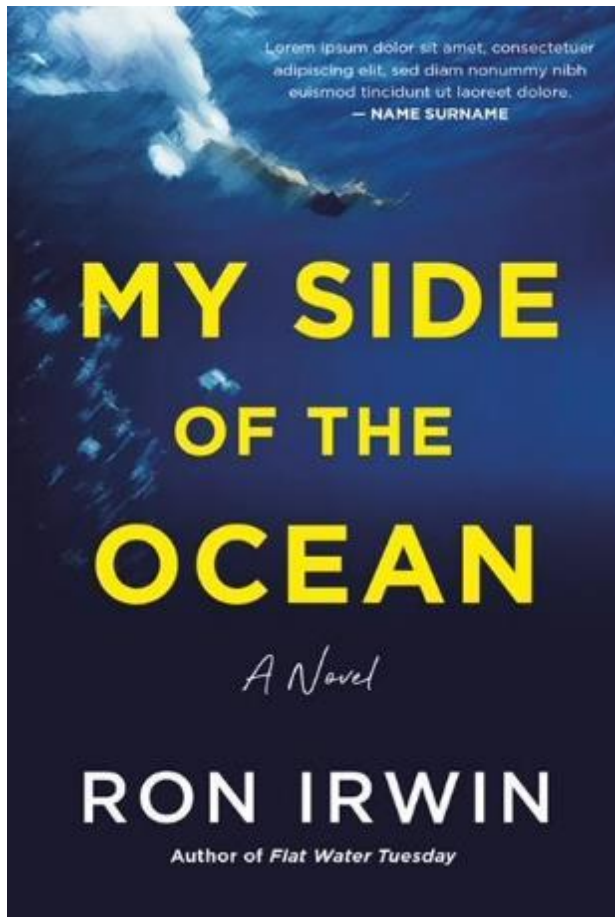
Publication: October 2022
Publisher: Penguin Random House South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Laila Manack is a South African education student currently teaching English in South Korea. She has written for online publications, mostly on intersectional feminism in movies and media.



MY SIDE OF THE OCEAN



When accomplished American artist and UCT lecturer Stella Wright takes an afternoon swim in the ocean in front of her home in Bakoven, Cape Town, she is unprepared for the drama that will quickly unfold in her life.

She and a surfer who had been swimming close to her tiny beach are suddenly tracked by a giant great white shark that pushes over the surfer and swims close enough so she can look it in the eye. The shark swims away, leaving the two of them stunned upon the shore. Deeply traumatized, Stella invites the surfer, Ben Hume, into her home to dry off and recover.

Ben is much younger than Stella, a waterman who paints trawlers for a living. There is an almost instant attraction between the two but Stella is married to American financier Jack Barlow and she and her husband are preparing to leave the country. But Stella is torn. Stella and Ben, bonded by trauma, begin a passionate affair despite Stella's better judgment. Jack finally confronts Stella over Ben and asks her to dump him, stay with him and leave Cape Town. Stella must choose one of the men, or to let them both go and to rebuild her home, her life, and her art on her own terms.

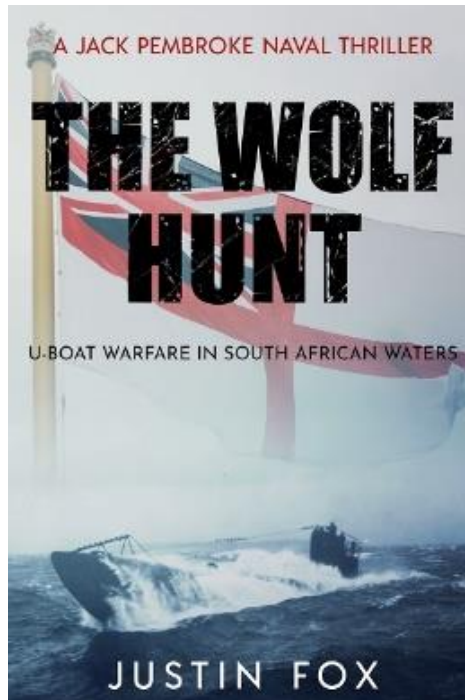
Publication: 2023
Publisher: Pan Macmillan South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Ron Irwin is the author of the Kirkus reviewed *FLAT WATER TUESDAY* (St. Martin's Press, 2013). An American living in South Africa, Ron teaches at the University of Cape Town.



THE WOLF HUNT (THE CAPE RAIDER BOOK 2)



July to Oct 1941. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is placed in command of a small, anti-submarine flotilla at the Royal Navy base of Simon’s Town. But he has precious little time to train his officers and men, and prepare his ships, for the arrival of the Nazi wolf packs – U-boats sent by Admiral Donitz from bases in France to cripple the Cape convoy route. With the Mediterranean all but closed to maritime traffic, and Rommel’s Forces rampaging through North Africa, this sea route is vital to supplying allied forces in Egypt at a critical point in World War II.

Meanwhile, Jack has found a new love at the Cape, but everything will hang in the balance with the arrival of the enemy in the South African waters. Gruppe Savanne carries on board a South African spy (and ardent Nazi) to be landed on the coast near Cape Town and begin a campaign of sabotage, assassination and rebellion bent on toppling the pro-British government of Prime Minister Smuts.

With the spy safely ashore, and the Cape Peninsula successfully attacked, Jack now has to escort a vital convoy from Cape Town to Durban. But Savanne’s U-boat pack is lying in wait in the storm-ravaged waters off the southern tip of the continent ...

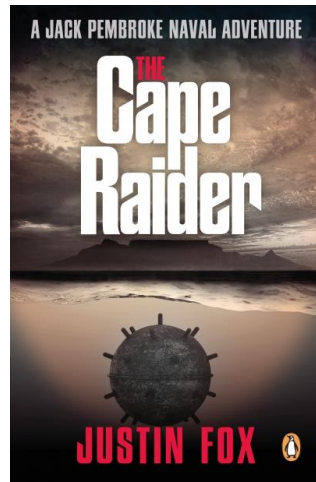
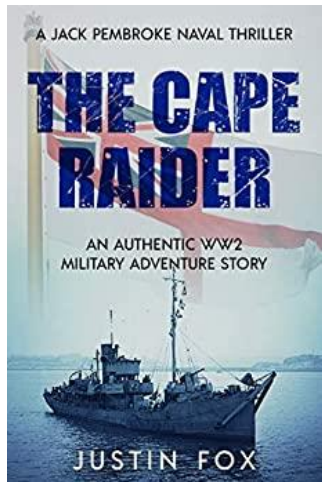
Publication: 2023
Publisher: Sapere Books, Al Rabie
Rights Available: All rights excluding World English; Audiobook; World Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Justin Fox was a Rhodes Scholar and holds a PhD in English from Oxford University. He was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town after his doctorate, where he still teaches part-time. Justin’s articles and photographs have appeared internationally in a number of award-winning publications and his short stories and poems have appeared in multiple anthologies.



THE CAPE RAIDER



The first in a thrillingly authentic WW2 naval thriller series. For fans of Dewey Lambdin, Patrick O'Brian, Chris Durbin, Douglas Reeman and Max Hennessy

NUMBER 1 BESTSELLING WWII HISTORICAL FICTION

Scarred – physically and emotionally – by the brutal warfare at Dunkirk, Jack Pembroke decides to leave his home in England to join his father, Admiral Pembroke, in the South African Cape.

A fledgling naval force is preparing to fight the coming onslaught of German raiders, and Jack is soon thrust back into action when he is appointed commander of a minesweeping flotilla. Unknown to Jack, a Nazi commerce raider has left Germany for the Cape intending to wreak havoc on Allied shipping. And it's heading straight for him...

Under Jack's command are an eclectic bunch of men who are unsure of their foreign captain. But he must unite them into a powerful fighting unit if he has any chance of defeating the dangerous enemy.

Can Jack overcome his demons and lead his men to victory? Or will his first battle off the South African coast be his last?

Publisher: 2021 Penguin Books, (Southern Africa); 2021 Sapere Books (World English and Audio); 2023 Al Rabie (World Arabic).

AUTHOR BIO

Justin Fox is a Cape Town-based travel writer, novelist, and editor. Justin was a Rhodes Scholar and holds a PhD in English from Oxford University. He was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town after his doctorate, where he still teaches part-time. Justin's articles and photographs have appeared internationally in a number of award-winning publications and his short stories and poems have appeared in multiple anthologies.



THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER



The Ghost of Sam Webster is at once a murder mystery, a war novel and a moving investigation into what it is to be human. Daniel Hawthorne is drawn to Zululand by the ghost of Sam Webster, a seventeen-year-old girl who went missing from her family's luxury lodge and whose body was seen a week later on the Buffalo River.

As Daniel tries to get to the truth of what might have happened to Sam, he also starts to write the story of his disgraced ancestor, Lieutenant Charles Hawthorne, the notorious coward who was accused of three times abandoning his fellow men at the height of the conflict during the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879.

Nothing is as it seems, however. As Daniel gains access to the carefully concealed secrets of his ancestor and of the whole Webster family, the lines between betrayal and loyalty, love and hate, cowardice and moral courage become blurred. Written in Craig Higginson's stark and indelible prose, THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER is a novel that plunges into the darkest recesses of human endeavour and emerges with an irrepressible humanity and hard-won hope.

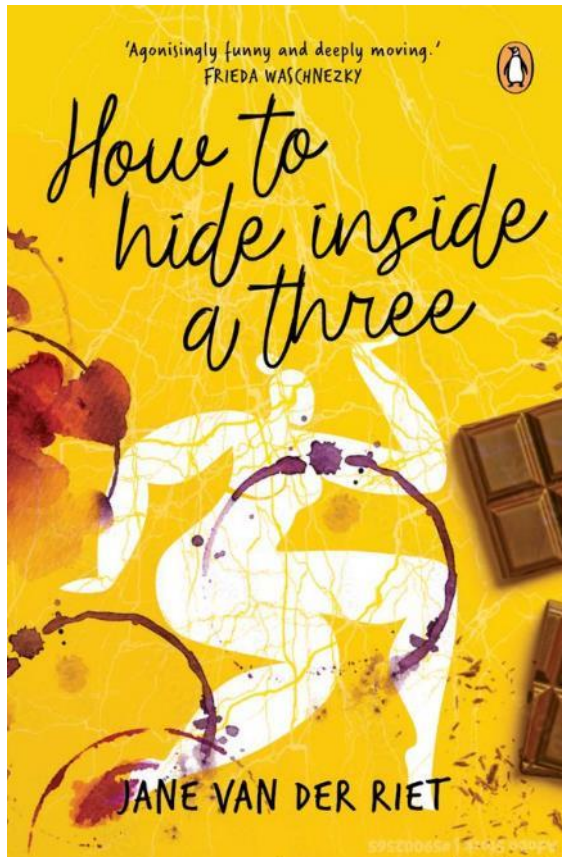
Publication: 2023
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Craig Higginson is an internationally acclaimed playwright and novelist. His plays have been performed and produced in many theatres and festivals around the world. His novels include LAST SUMMER (Picador Africa, 2010; Mercure de France, 2017), THE LANDSCAPE PAINTER (Picador Africa, 2011), THE DREAM HOUSE (Picador Africa, 2015; Mercure de France, 2016) and THE WHITE ROOM (Picador Africa and St Martin's Press (ebook), 2018). Craig has won several national awards in South Africa and Britain for his writing.



HOW TO HIDE INSIDE A THREE



Adulting - it's tough out there

It's hard enough being an adult, let alone a functional one. Leigh-Anne feels like neither. A white woman from Cape Town's Southern Suburbs, she's gradually unravelling as wife, mother, sister, daughter and office manager. The story opens in winter with Leigh-Anne lost at midnight on Rondebosch Common. Three losses are preying on her. First, there's her relationship with her ageing dad, who seems to be hiding a secret. Secondly, Leigh-Anne's desire for Samuel, her thin and distracted psychiatrist husband, has run dry, and she can't help thinking about her colleague Omar at NGO Phambili – Omar with the hairy wrists and warm jacket. The third area of loss is through a perceived betrayal of her activist best friend, Gwendal, whose increasing battiness alienates her teenage daughter.

Leigh-Anne's children, Tom and Jamie, pipe up from the sidelines. They are oblivious as their mother grows fatter and drunker, her clandestine bingeing a backdrop to their lives. She seeks refuge by ordering her world into threes and multiples of threes, which are presented as lists – quirky, funny and often poignant. Her lists corral her worries and failures but can't fix them. Looming large is the loss of a national dream, evident in the poverty all around them, and personified in Mr Hoody, who lives on the pavement outside Leigh-Anne's local Spar.

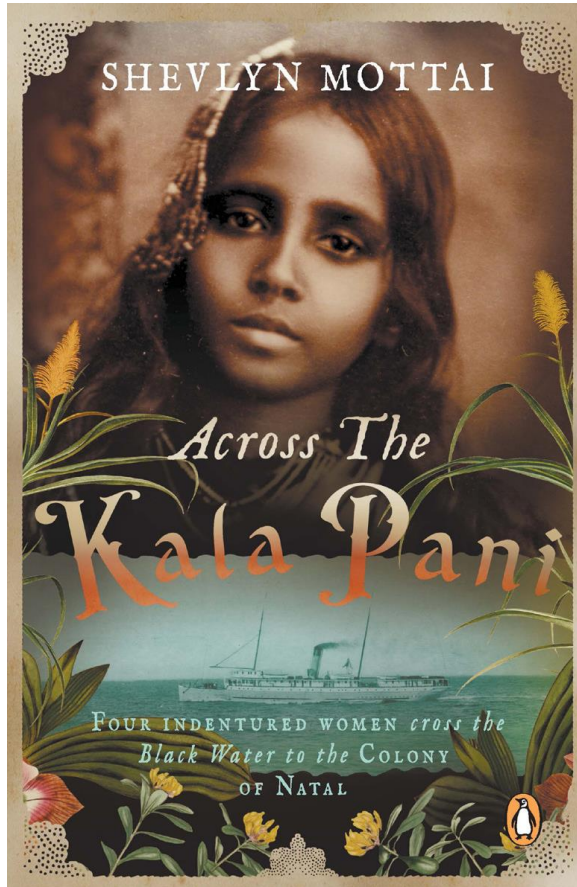
Leigh-Anne and her siblings discover the sordid secret their parents have been hiding: her father had an affair with the teenage sister of a nurse who worked at his abortion clinic on the Cape Flats during the apartheid years. The girl became pregnant, and Leigh-Anne has a sister, whom she tracks down. Eventually, Leigh-Anne's husband moves out and she starts rebuilding her life – with the possibility that Omar (whose attempted reconciliation with his ex-wife has failed) might be a part of it.

Publication:	August 2023
Publisher:	Penguin South Africa
Rights Available:	World, except southern African English

AUTHOR BIO

Jane van der Riet Jane van der Riet is a psychotherapist and armchair activist living in Cape Town. This novel began as the dissertation for her MA in Creative Writing at the University of the Western Cape from 2017 to 2019.

ACROSS THE KALA PANI



Based on the experiences of the author's great-grandparents, this sweeping historical novel is an epic saga about four women who become part of the Indian diaspora ending up on the plantations of Natal South Africa.

Lutchmee, a young widow, escapes her vengeful mother-in-law and self-immolation on her husband's funeral pyre; she resorts to a marriage of convenience in the Madras 'coolie camp', marrying Sappani, who is grieving the death of his wife.

Vottie is from the brahmin caste, an educated young woman who must contend with an abusive husband, Sarju.

Chinmah, heavily pregnant when she boards the ship in Madras, is married to an older man as part of an unpaid debt.

Gorgeous, shy Jyothi is single. On board ship these women form friendships and alliances and help each other through various trials and tribulations. Once in Port Natal, the women are separated and sent to various farms, but their lives will be forever intertwined.

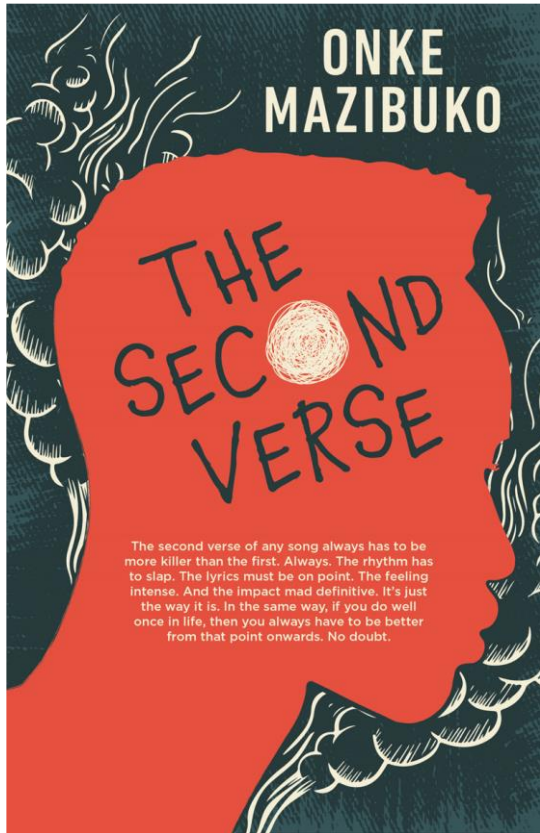
Publication: October 2022
Publisher: Penguin South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Shevlyn Mottai works as an English teacher in a secondary school in England. Born in Pietermaritzburg in 1976, she descends from the fourth generation of Indians who were part of the Indian diaspora in South Africa, her forefathers having arrived in Natal through Indian indenture in 1906.



THE SECOND VERSE



The second verse of any song always has to be more killer than the first. Always. The rhythm has to slap. The lyrics must be on point. The feeling intense. And the impact mad definitive. It's just the way it is. In the same way, if you do well once in life, then you always have to be better from that point onwards. No doubt.

Bokang Damane is a dreamer and an outsider with mad problems In this African CATCHER IN THE RYE. Things go from bad to mad dicey when everyone thinks he wants to off himself just because he wrote an essay on suicide. Really? Talk about D.R.A.M.A.

Life at the moment is just a sorry son-of-a-checklist of insolvable problems. Problem #1: Not black enough for the black kids and too black for the white kids. Yep. That's what happens when you attend a mad pompous all boys' college and live in the burbs. Problem #2: Family finances are a joke – they can't even afford Bokang's initiation. Now he can't get props like any decent Xhosa man. Problem #3: An alcoholic, gambling attorney for a father who expects the world to bend to his will.

What's a man gotta do? Apart from freak the hell out?

Bokang just wants to rap, sketch, and be left alone. Everyone keeps yacking on about Bokang reaching his true potential and then getting in the way.

So what happens? Boy meets girl. It wouldn't be much of a story otherwise.

Publication: June 2022
Publisher: Penguin South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and Arabic

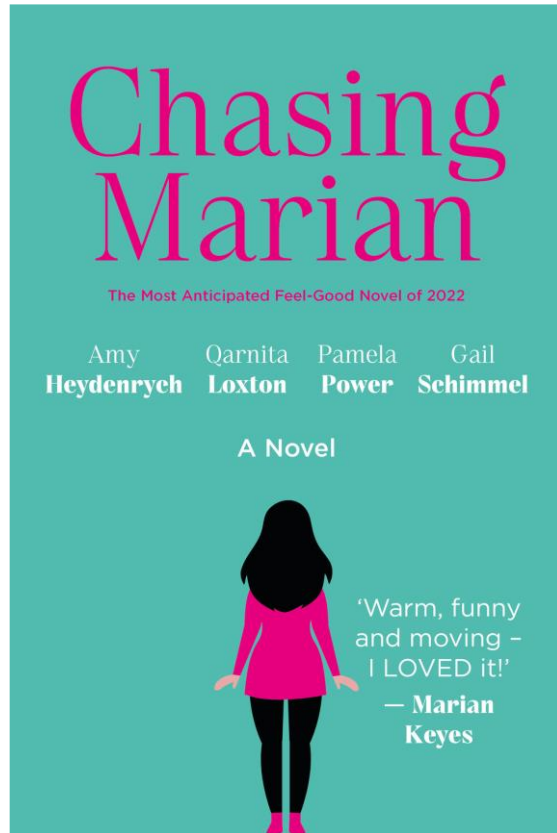
AUTHOR BIO

Onze Mazibuko is a psychologist working in private practice. He also dabbles in astrology, palmistry and tarot. He loves learning from young people and does a little writing to secretly fuel his dreams. He is working towards a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Pretoria.



COMMERCIAL WOMEN'S FICTION

CHASING MARIAN



Four strangers, two cities, one chance online meeting.

Jess is a yummy mummy of two whose life is slowly unravelling and who has recently separated from her husband. Ginger is a happily widowed granny with a salty tongue and wicked sense of humour. The gorgeous and sensitive Matt is an almost-qualified psychologist, who still lives with his parents. And Queenie, a librarian from Cape Town, has an absent boyfriend and a secret writing habit.

What could these four strangers possibly have in common?

They are all die-hard Marian Keyes fans. And when they hear that Marian is due to visit South Africa to attend a literary festival, they are all desperate to meet her. Together they come up with a mad-cap plan. Will they succeed – or will life intervene?

With a cover shout from Marian Keyes herself, this is a pacy, fun, and moving commercial novel in the vein of the very Keyes novels that inspired the authors and the characters.

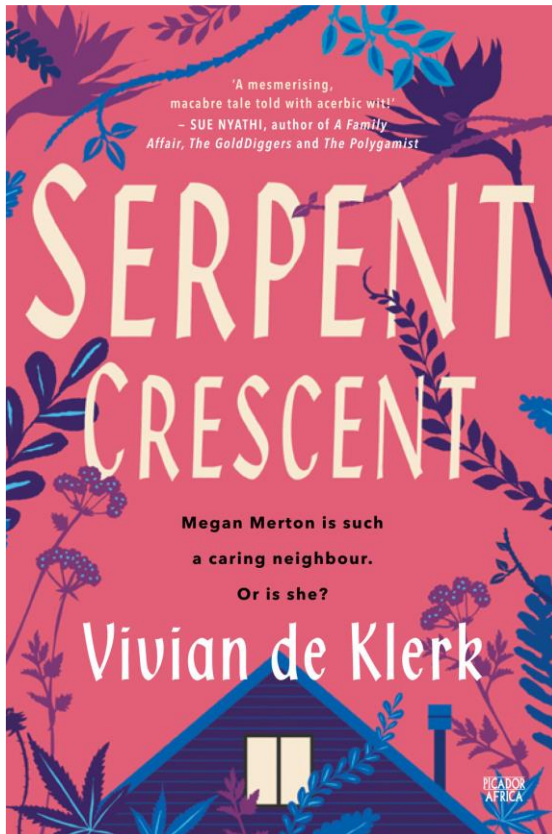
Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Amy Heydendrych, Qarnita Loxton, Pamela Power and Gail Schimmel are all established authors of commercial fiction. They are also all friends. When 2020 and 2021 saw all in-person literary festivals cancelled, they decided to channel their disappointment at not seeing one another IRL into writing a novel together.



SERPENT'S CRESCENT



In the small rural town of Qonda, South Africa, the power and water supplies are unreliable, property prices are down, and citizens are slowly suffocating in the acrid smoke from the municipal dump. Recently retired English teacher Megan Merton has lived here all her life, most of it at No. 8 Serpent Crescent. So who better than this self-styled pillar of society to shine a spotlight on the decline and dysfunction, not to mention the dubious activities, past and present, of her neighbours.

Nefarious deeds and bad behaviour deserve retribution and harsh treatment, if not consignment to one of Dante's fiendish nine circles of hell. At least that's what Megan believes – in fact she's been taking matters into her own hands, unnoticed, for years. And now she has decided to write it all down, to shake all of the skeletons loose, and rejoice in the inventive punishments she devised and personally delivered to the wicked.

Then her neighbour Elizabeth Cardew, a lecturer in Classical Studies, suffers a stroke and Megan is entrusted with the keys to No. 9. While Elizabeth begins a long recovery at the local care facility, Whispering Pines, Megan relishes the chance to snoop. Curious as to 'what a stroke victim looks like', she decides to visit and see for herself.

A bond develops between the two women – one a cold and calculating sociopath, the other a courageous and lonely academic – something that takes both of them by surprise.

Vivian de Klerk's sharp observations and brilliantly acerbic satirical wit make this multi-layered novel at once horrifying, shocking, poignant – and very, very funny.

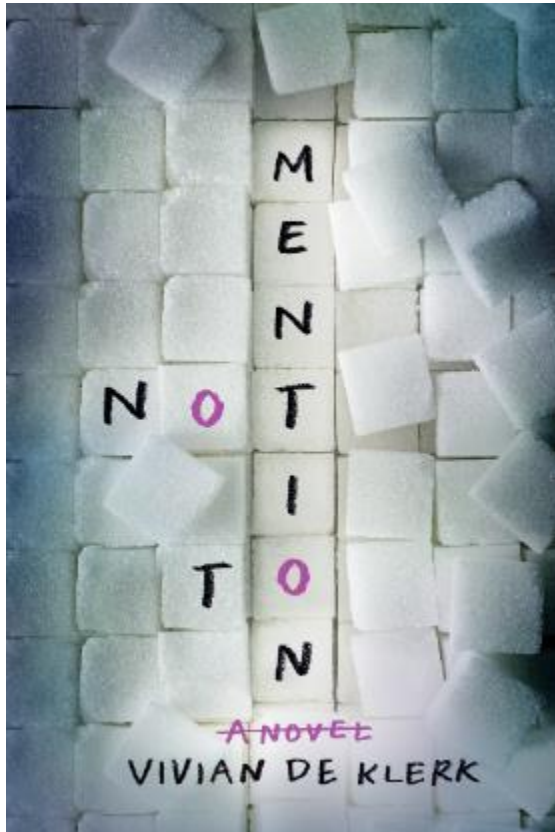
Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Vivian de Klerk has a distinguished academic career in Linguistics and then as Dean of Students at Rhodes University for over 30 years. In 2020, her debut novel, *Not to Mention*, was released to much critical acclaim. Married to a palaeontologist, Vivian currently lives in Gqeberha, where, along with writing fiction, she enjoys playing tennis, walking on the beach and the occasional game of bridge. *Serpent Crescent* is her second novel.



NOT TO MENTION



Katy Ferreira, about to turn 21, has not left her bedroom in two years. In fact, she has not left her bed – at 360 kg/800 lbs, she physically can't.

Katy tries to make the best of a bad situation. She does the crossword in the Herald newspaper her mother brings home, consumes the food she craves – biscuits, pies, doughnuts, litres of fizzy drinks – and waits in hope for insulin and a solution to her plight.

To pass the time she begins to compile her own crossword in one of the Croxley notebooks that have been unused since she dropped out of school. Within each cryptic clue is a message, an attempt to explain how it feels to be 'the fat girl', how taking comfort in sweet things as a grieving and lonely child escalated into a deadly relationship with food and a psychological and physical disease.

The process triggers splintered memories of dark family secrets and hints of culpability. As Katy finds her voice – quirky, macabre, devastatingly astute and viciously funny at times – the notebooks fill up.

NOT TO MENTION is part diary, part love-hate letter to the mother who fuelled her daughter's addiction as steadily as the world ostracised her.

Publication: September 2020
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Vivian de Klerk is Professor *Emeritus* of Linguistics at Rhodes University, where she devoted 30 years to teaching and research before becoming Dean of Students in 2008. She received the VC's Senior Distinguished Research Medal and, in 2019, was the recipient of the Kraak Writing Grant. *Not to Mention* is her first novel.



CRIME FICTION / PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

ONE FINE DAY



When Louw Roodt vanishes after a work function, Kristien Liebenberg’s worst fear comes true: her lover isn’t coming home.

Has Louw been in an accident? Is she having an affair? Has she been hijacked, assaulted, or worse, left for dead in the bushes and sand dunes of the Cape Flats? Or has it got something to do with their argument that morning?

Then news breaks of a murdered man found in a Cape hotel – the same hotel Louw was last seen in, on the same night. And it’s the very man who was the speaker at her work function.

Was Louw involved in the murder? Is she on the run? That’s what the police say. Or is there a connection to her mother’s hijacking 21 years ago, an event which left Louw psychologically scarred?

Amid all these questions and a rising sense of dread, Kristien knows Louw is in trouble, and she needs her help.

This is a bingeable standalone psychological thriller with an cast of LGBTQ+ characters.

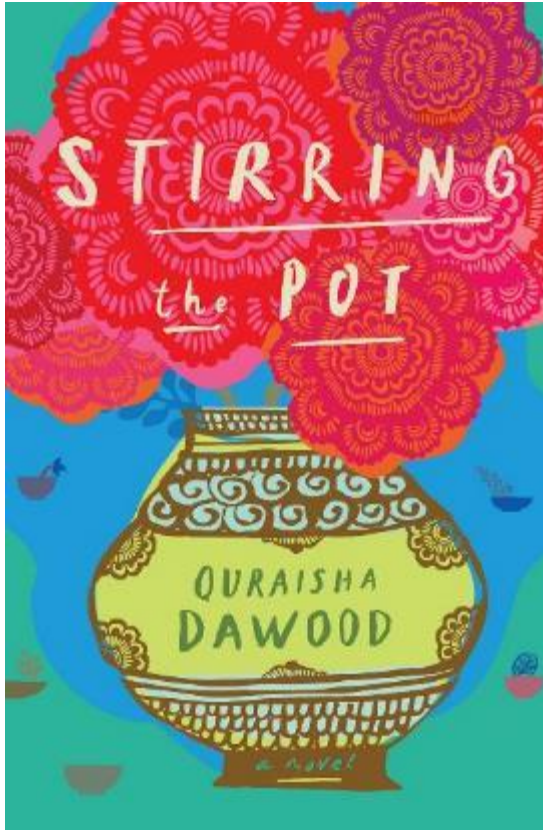
Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Penguin South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African and film/TV rights

AUTHOR BIO

Irna van Zyl is the author of the popular thrillers *BLOODSTONE*, *DEAD IN THE WATER* and *DEATH CUP*. She is an award- winning journalist and media entrepreneur who headed up the magazines *De Kat*, *Insig* and *Boeke-Insig*. Before becoming a full-time writer, she was the executive director of a leading marketing agency. Irna was awarded the Order of Tafelberg for her business achievements. She lives in Cape Town.



STIRRING THE POT



A glimpse into the private lives of Durban's Muslim women, for fans of Avarind Adiga's *LAST MAN IN TOWER*.

At Summer Terrace, a block of flats in Durban's North Beach, the dynamics between its female residents are as intricate as the curling patterns of henna tattoos. Quraisha Dawood's debut novel opens a window on the relationships between madams and maids, between women and their husbands, their children, grandchildren and in-laws, come to life amid judgements and forgiveness, secrets and lies, expectations and disappointments.

Old Aunty Ruki lives with her domestic worker, Joyce, an arrangement that ruffles many feathers since other domestics live in separate quarters at Summer Terrace. Zaina, an architecture master's student, lives with her mother, Rabia, a florist and single parent who carries the shame of being a divorced woman in Muslim society. Zaina has a secret that could cause a rift in their relationship: she's dating Imraan, and dating simply isn't allowed in Islam.

Prepare for a wedding, a theft, Ramadaan, and eventually a death, while delicious recipes and descriptions of traditional cuisine bring a culture to life.

Publication: March 2022
Publisher: Penguin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Dr Quraisha Dawood is a South African sociologist and writer. In 2002, she published an anthology of poems entitled *Jewels of Faith*, poems for Muslim youth. She writes a monthly column for the *Al-Ummah* magazine and has been published in *Reader's Digest*, *Irtiqqa Magazine*, the *Al-Qalam*, the *Sunday Tribune* and *Riding the Samosa Express*.



COMMERCIAL THRILLER / DOMESTIC NOIR

THE WOMAN WITH A SECRET



White separatists open fire on a college campus, killing hundreds of civilians. In a post-Trump world, the new administration won't sweep this under the rug. As Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's new domestic terrorism unit, Aalia Nair is under pressure to deliver suspects to her boss and to the media.

Becca Abrahamson and her husband grew up in the secretive community responsible for the massacre. They broke away long ago to live a normal life in suburban Monterey. Now the past is back to haunt them as the FBI believes they know more about the shooting than they're willing to admit.

Meshach the son of Abraham is a young boy growing up in the Patriot Fathers community. His life falls apart when his baby sister disappears – stolen away and disposed of like unwanted livestock. Meshach dedicates his life to reuniting his mother with her lost daughter.

Past and present collide as long-buried secrets threaten to destabilize American domestic security.

Part domestic noir, part FBI thriller, THE WOMAN WITH A SECRET keeps the reader guessing. This standalone novel is the first in a series featuring SAC Aalia Nair and her elite team of investigators.

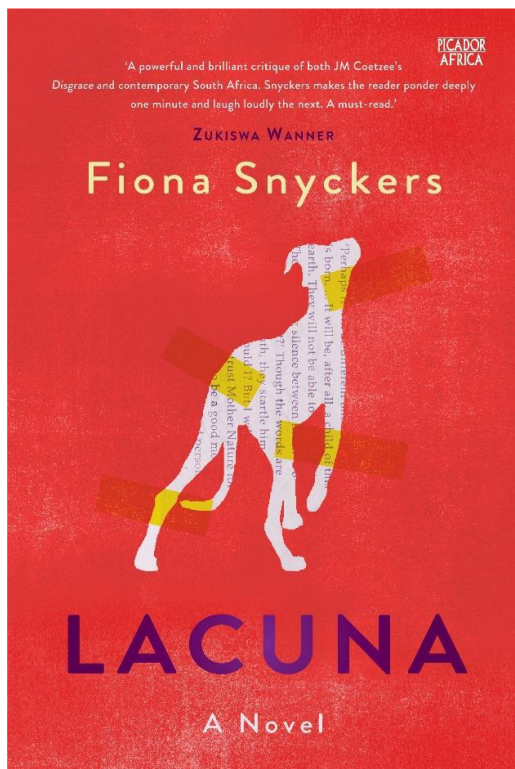
Rights Available: All rights are available except Southern African (Pan Macmillan SA) and Film/TV rights.

AUTHOR BIO

Fiona Snyckers is the author of the TRINITY series of young adult novels, the EULALIE PARK series of mystery novels, and two thrillers, NOW FOLLOWING YOU and SPIRE. She has been long-listed four times for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and the literary novel LACUNA won the SALA prize 2020 and the HSSA 2020. Her gripping and immersive style makes for compulsive reading.



LACUNA



Winner of the Humanities and Social Sciences Award for Best Novel 2020

Winner of the SALA (South African Literary Award) for Best Novel 2020

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize 2021

THE
LENNON-RITCHIE
AGENCY

BOOK CLUB FICTION

Lucy Lurie is struggling through PTSD following a gang rape at her father's farmhouse. She becomes obsessed with the author John Coetzee, a colleague of hers from the University, who has made a name for himself by writing a celebrated novel that revolves around the attack on her. Lucy lives the life of a celibate hermit, making periodic forays into the outside world in her attempts to find and confront the author, to make sense of what happened to her, and to find a way to claim her life.

Lacuna is, in part, a response to JM Coetzee's Booker Prize winning novel *Disgrace*, written from the point of view of Coetzee's character Lucy Lurie. The Lucy of Coetzee's fiction is a passive, peaceful creature, almost entirely lacking in agency. She is the lacuna in Coetzee's novel—the missing piece of the puzzle.

The Lucy Lurie of Fiona Snyckers' imagination is no one's lacuna. Her attempts to claw back her life, and her voice after being gang raped may be messy and misguided, but she won't be silenced. Her rape is not a metaphor. This is her story.

Publisher: 2023 Round Robin ITA; 2022 Europa Editions UK/NA; 2022 Textofilia Mexico; 2019 Picador Africa.

Rights Sold: Southern African, North American, UK/ROI, Italian, Mexican, Arabic, and Film/TV

AUTHOR BIO

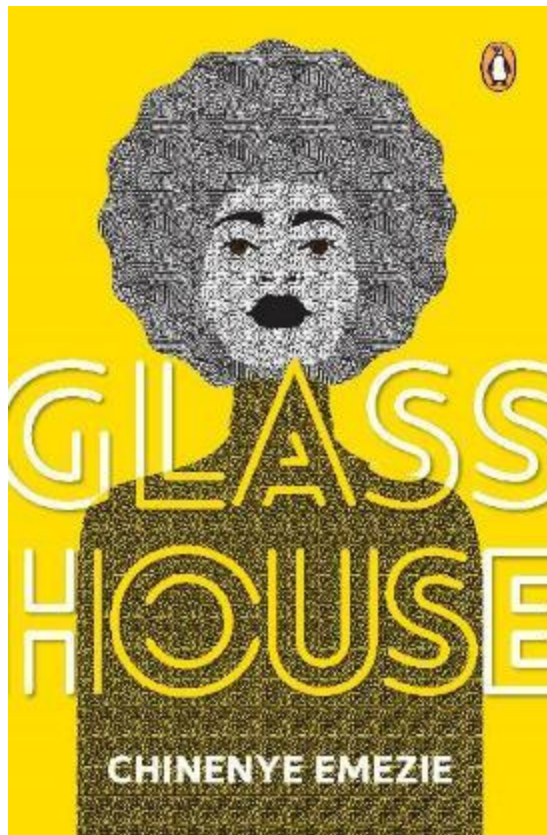
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AFRICAN FICTION/FAMILY SAGA

GLASS HOUSE



Let me tell you a story. It's about a war. This war is not the type fought with guns and machetes. It is a family type. A silent war. The type fought in the heart. It began long before I was formed.

Udonwa's family is at war – a war of relationships, played out under the tyranny of a monster dad. Twelve-year-old Udonwa has a peculiar love of her father, Reverend Leonard Ilechukwu, who favours her but beats his wife and his other children. She sees his good side: after all, he pays the school fees in advance, and tells her that she, named 'the peaceful child', is the one most likely to become a doctor in the family.

But luck doesn't last forever. When Udonwa's eldest sister Adaora, just married, suddenly takes her from their family compound in Iruama to live with her in Awka, Udonwa experiences violence first-hand.

Years later, while home on holiday from the University of Lagos, she overhears a secret that shakes her life to the core and shatters the dynamics of her family. No longer the person she thought she was, Udonwa launches into a period of extreme change, and parts of her life spiral into chaos. Later, more pieces of the sinister picture emerge, and the young woman finds herself torn between her love for her father and an underlying need to free herself.

This vivid Nigerian family saga is engrossing, deeply unsettling and finally uplifting.

Publication: September 2021
Publisher: Penguin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Chinene Emezie studied creative writing at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and has a bachelor's degree in public administration. Her short stories have appeared in anthologies and literary journals such as *Africa Book Club*, *Kalahari Review* and *Book Lovers Hangout*. Chinene is an alumna of the Hedgebrook/Vortex Writers Workshop. In 2018, her award-winning short story *Glass House* was selected as a reading text for the first- and second-year classes of the department of Dramatic Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand





NON-FICTION

THRIVE

As long as
you're
trying to
do better,

better
will
come

BUSINESS/SELF HELP/MENTAL HEALTH

Lessons in Resilience from the World's Best Athletes and highest achievers.

We live in a world that demands perfection. Big data, analytics, trend lines and averages bind us to a set of norms and values that assign a numeric worth to who we are and what we are capable of. Should we fail to meet established milestones, conform to the appropriate curve, meet established targets or live up to pre-established societal expectations, we (and those around us) invariably experience the burden of a sense of personal failure, worthlessness and fears and anxiety about a tenuous future.

In truth it doesn't matter where we come from, our historic circumstances, how many milestones we may have missed, the fact that we may not have achieved the perfect average or whether we failed repeatedly over the course of our lifetime. We are all capable of extraordinary lives and should not be bound by limitations, whether self-imposed or from external sources.

What can unlock our fullest potential is **resilience**, a consummate skill that can be developed and grown throughout the journey of our lives.

This book is a resilience manual, a practical, step-by-step guide to help the reader actualise their fullest potential, regardless of their circumstances and the challenges they may face in their lives.

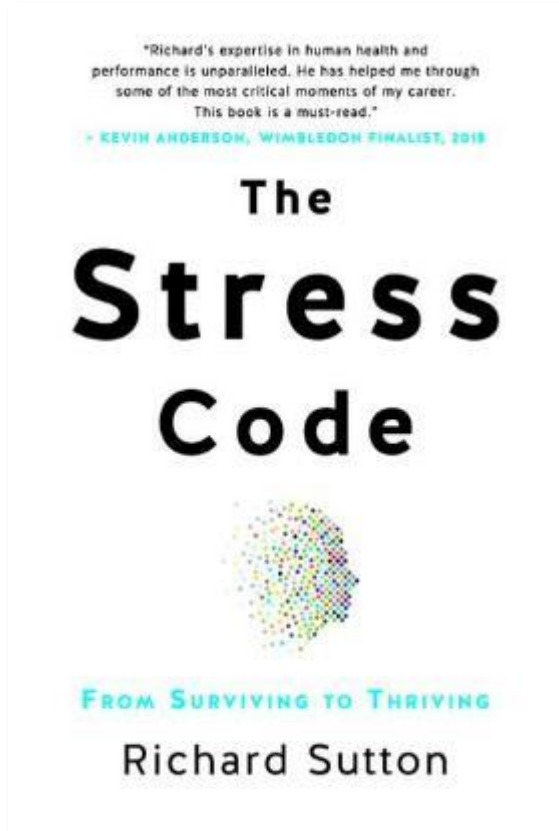
Publication: 2023
Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern Africa

AUTHOR BIO

Richard Sutton is an adviser on stress management and adaptability to industry leaders, top athletes, and Olympic teams. He is widely regarded as an expert in the field of genetics and their role in resilience, using a combination of hard data and DNA to map a 'stress footprint' based on both nature and nurture to unearth genuine resilience, recovery, and adaptability. Richard has been a post-graduate lecturer in the areas of pain management, health and athlete development for almost two decades at leading South African and international universities. He is the author of the bestseller, *The Stress Code*, a 'surviving to thriving' guide to stress.



THE STRESS CODE



BUSINESS/SELF HELP/MENTAL HEALTH

Stress impacts all facets of our lives and has devastating effects on the global economy, including reduced productivity and the burden it places on healthcare systems. Decades of research show that chronic stress severely compromises our physical and mental health.

More recently, it has been revealed that stress can destabilise our DNA and affect our genetic integrity. This promotes many of the diseases that societies are currently grappling with and could potentially impact future generations.

Yet stress has two faces: ongoing stress is one of the biggest challenges faced globally, but short intervals of stress can actually offer tremendous potential to grow, break personal barriers, and excel.

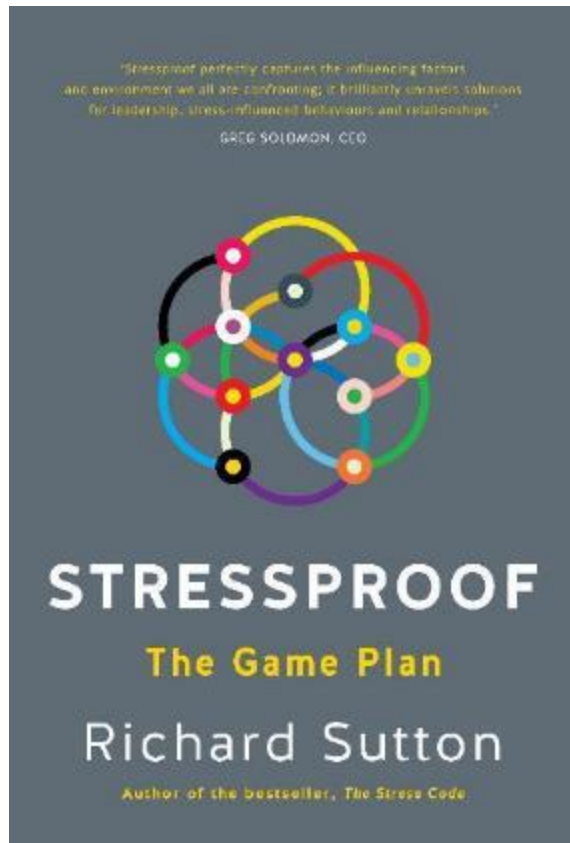
Turning the traditional stress paradigm on its head, *The Stress Code* does not advocate stress avoidance, but rather aims to create an adaptable management strategy to manage stress. Supported by extensive scientific research, the book offers readers tools and skills to help buffer the adverse effects of chronic stress, enhance functionality and health, and help us to thrive in situations of adversity.

Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern Africa

AUTHOR BIO

Richard Sutton is an adviser on resilience, stress management, and adaptability to industry leaders, top athletes and Olympic teams. He is widely regarded as an expert in the field of genetics and their role in resilience, using a combination of hard data and DNA to map a 'stress footprint' based on both nature and nurture to unearth genuine resilience, recovery and adaptability. Richard has been a post-graduate lecturer in the areas of pain management, health and athlete development for almost two decades at leading South African and international universities. He is the author of the bestsellers, *THE STRESS CODE*, a 'surviving to thriving' guide to stress, *STRESSPROOF*, and of the forthcoming *THRIVE*.

STRESSPROOF



The world faces a 'giant storm' of stress and burnout that is exacerbated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Learning how to navigate the world going forward is something that everyone has to do. How can leaders help themselves, their employees and their businesses to thrive in the face of these and other challenges?

Stressproof speaks to the crisis currently facing the professional landscape. It outlines the conundrum of stress and its performance advantage versus its destructiveness; and it focuses on the stress-related challenges facing decision makers in the world of business today.

Practical, insightful and based on case studies and real-world examples, Stressproof provides a game-changing action plan to help managers, leaders and those who are making decisions.

Publication: January 2021
Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern Africa

AUTHOR BIO

Richard Sutton is an adviser on stress management and adaptability to industry leaders, top athletes and Olympic teams. He is widely regarded as an expert in the field of genetics and their role in resilience, using a combination of hard data and DNA to map a 'stress footprint' based on both nature and nurture to unearth genuine resilience, recovery and adaptability. Richard has been a post-graduate lecturer in the areas of pain management, health and athlete development for almost two decades at leading South African and international universities. He is the author of the bestseller, *The Stress Code*, a 'surviving to thriving' guide to stress.

THE TEST KITCHEN



With a foreword by Heston Blumenthal, this stunningly illustrated coffee table book by the winner of the Best Restaurant in Africa at The World’s 50 Best Restaurant Awards is for the serious home cook and for food lovers the world over.

At The Test Kitchen, internationally celebrated chef Luke Dale Roberts’ flagship Cape Town restaurant, Dale Roberts has created a menu that both respects the local and traditional and pushes boundaries of contemporary cuisine.

Dale Roberts has forged a unique career in gastronomy to preserve established local culinary knowledge while creating exciting modern dishes. He has captured the attention of the world’s culinary cognoscenti, including Heston Blumenthal who has written the foreword to this, Dale Roberts’ first book.

Publication: 2023
Publisher: Penguin Random House, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern Africa

AUTHOR BIO

Luke Dale Roberts is a British-born chef who studied in Switzerland and England and spent five years at restaurants across Asia. Now based in Cape Town with a quiver full of awards and consistent international recognition since opening the test kitchen in 2010; the Pot Luck Club in 2011; The Shortmarket Club in 2016 and Salsify At The Roundhouse in 2018, he remains a force to be reckoned with on the global culinary scene.



Dale Roberts won numerous awards for his work at La Colombe – the restaurant won the Acqua Panna Best Restaurant in Africa and Middle East in 2010 and was ranked 12th in the overall San Pellegrino World’s 50 Best Restaurants list. In 2018, The Test Kitchen won Best Restaurant in Africa at The World’s 50 Best Restaurant Awards.

VELD BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

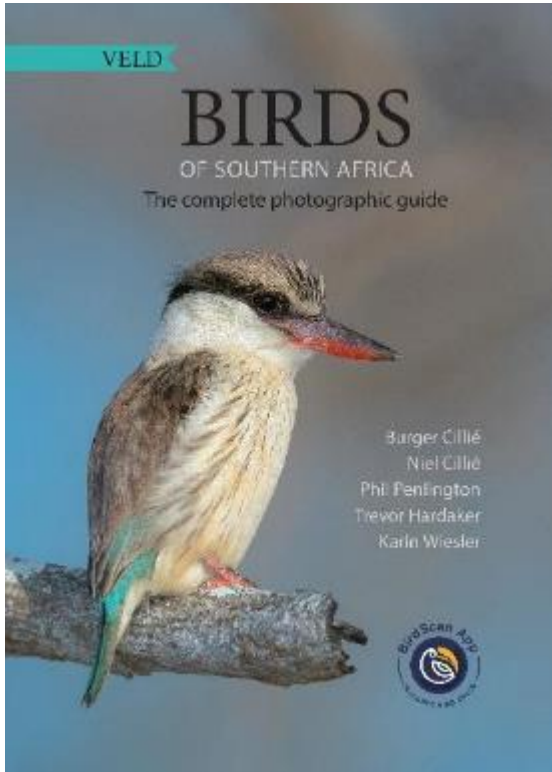
FIELD GUIDE / NATURAL HISTORY

This complete photographic guide incorporates the latest photographs of, and research and atlas information on, all species of birds recorded in southern Africa to date. This comprehensive field guide contains almost 2 000 beautiful colour photographs, as well as:

- the latest information on all 991 bird species in southern Africa
- concise entries focusing on identification, behaviour, possible confusion and habitat, along with differences in sex, age, colour morphs and subspecies
- at-a-glance information on each species' size, food, status and sociality
- brand-new, colour-coded distribution maps reflecting each bird's status and abundance
- full-length and quick indexes
- an app providing bird calls and additional photographs of plumage variations.

An essential companion, whether you're out in the field or on the couch at home.

Publication: August 2022
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except English language

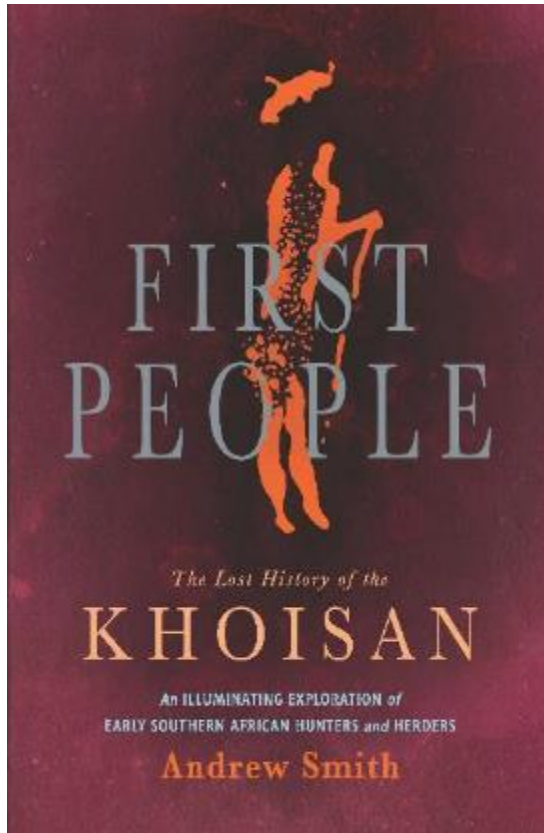


AUTHOR BIO

Burger Cillié is a prize-winning wildlife photographer with more than thirty years' experience. Niel Cillié is a widely published wildlife and bird photographer. Phil Penlington is an experienced birder and bird photographer, the co-founder of birdpics.co.za. Trevor Hardaker is the chairman of the BLSA National Rarities Committee and owns and runs the Southern African Rare Bird News email alert service. Karin Wiesler is an avid birder and bird photographer with a degree in Environmental Management and a qualification from the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa.



FIRST PEOPLE



NATURAL HISTORY

First people communities are the groups of hunter-gatherers and herders, representing the oldest human lineages in Africa, who migrated from as far as East Africa to settle across southern Africa, in what is now Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. These groups, known today as the Khoisan, are represented by the Bushmen (or San) and the Khoe (plural Khoekhoen). In **FIRST PEOPLE**, archaeologist Andrew Smith examines what we know about southern Africa's earliest inhabitants, drawing on evidence from excavations, rock art, the observations of colonial-era travellers, linguistics, the study of the human genome and the latest academic research.

Richly illustrated, **FIRST PEOPLE** is an invaluable and accessible work that reaches from the Middle and Late Stone Age to recent times, and explores how the Khoisan were pushed to the margins of history and society. Smith, who is an expert on the history and prehistory of the Khoisan, paints a knowledgeable and fascinating portrait of their land occupation, migration, survival strategies and cultural practices.

Publication: February 2022
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except English language, and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Professor Andrew Smith is an archaeologist and researcher who has excavated in the Sahara and Southern Africa, working with Tuareg pastoralists in Mali, the Khoekhoen descendants in South Africa, and the Ju/'hoansi Bushmen in Namibia. He has joined expeditions to Egypt and has done research in Ghana, Mali, and Niger. Professor Smith is an emeritus professor in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town. He has written and published 8 academic books on the subject.

FAT



What does fat mean?

From what we eat to what we wear to how we feel about ourselves, fat people experience scrutiny and prejudice on a daily basis, which frequently intersects with gender, race, culture and sexuality identities and perspectives.

FAT POLITICS: Navigating Fatness in South Africa features an inspiring, provocative, comprehensive array of writers all tackling the subject of fatness. Along the way, it will debunk commonly believed myths, and confront our own demons. In addition to the writing, the book will present striking images of the contributors, presenting a new look at fat bodies.

Featuring experts like Dr Thandokuhle Mngibisa, psychologist Claire Fourie, and chef Zola Nene; passionate body positive role models like Thickleeyonce, Whitney Greyton and Ouma Tema; activists and artists like Dean Hutton and Zaza Hlaletwa; as well as writers and media personalities like Lester Kiewit, this book wants to change the conversation around fatness.

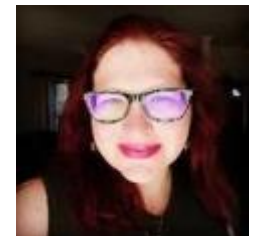
Rights Available: All rights Available

AUTHOR BIO

Pontsho Pilane is a multi award-winning writer, editor and media trainer turned communications professional. Pontsho is currently pursuing her PhD and is researching anti-obesity messaging and popular culture representations of fatness and its impacts on larger-bodied women, particularly Black women. She also co-authored *FLOW: THE BOOK ABOUT MENSTRUATION* with Karen Jeynes and others.



Karen Jeynes has worked extensively as a writer for stage and screen. She has published teenage novels, short stories, poetry, and articles. Her satirical self-help book *THE KAREN BOOK OF RULES*, co-authored with Karin Schimke, was published in 2020, and Karen co-authored *FLOW: THE BOOK ABOUT MENSTRUATION* with Pontsho Pilane and others. Karen has an MA in writing for the screen, and is pursuing her PhD in representations of autism in South African television.



HERE'S THE THING



Here's the Thing is a new collection of thought-provoking essays from queer brown columnist Haji Mohamed Dawjee. Filled with stories and insights that are contemplative, comedic, and controversial, including the honest truth about the pain in the arse that is parenting, and ponderings about struggling with vicissitudes of the modern world filled with cancel culture and the controversies of appreciating the wrong artists.

With hilarious insights and observations on dustbins (yes, dustbins) and ageing and of the many wise lessons the game of tennis has to offer.

Here's the Thing is relatable, relevant, entertaining, soothingly self-deprecating and, at times, morally challenging.

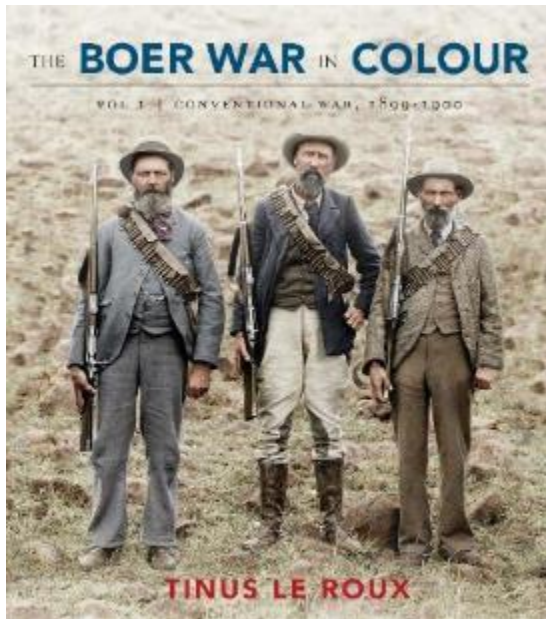
Publication: March 2022
Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern Africa

AUTHOR BIO

Born to a Muslim family in the apartheid township of Laudium, Pretoria, **Haji Mohamed Dawjee** is a South African columnist and author. She became Africa's first social media editor at the *Mail & Guardian* newsroom where she went on to work as deputy digital editor and a disruptor of the peace through a weekly column. She lives in Sea Point with her wife, Rebecca Davis, their son, Miles, and their landlord, Sam(my) Davis Jr., the cat. Dawjee is the author of *SORRY, NOT SORRY: EXPERIENCES OF A BROWN WOMAN IN A WHITE SOUTH AFRICA*.



THE ANGLO-BOER WAR IN COLOUR



Infused with colour, scenes from the Anglo-Boer War suddenly come to life in this striking collection of colourised photos from one of the biggest conflicts on South African soil.

The Anglo-Boer War, or South African War, pitted the two Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State against British imperial might. The effects of this devastating war on the political, economic and social landscape were felt long after its end.

Volume 1 covers the conventional part of the war from October 1899 to June 1900 when Lord Roberts occupied the Boer republics. The photos show the Boer strikes into Natal and the Cape Colony, the sieges of British garrison towns at Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking, as well as some of the major battles of the war.

The Boer War in Colour contains many iconic photos from the war, as well as several previously unpublished images. Over the past 120 years, hundreds of books on the Anglo-Boer War have been published, but this will be the first to show this conflict in full colour – introducing a fresh perspective and transforming it into living history.

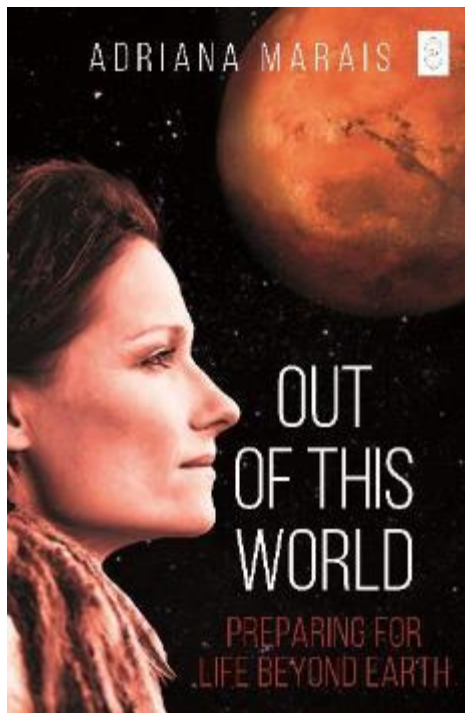
Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers, South Africa
Rights Available: All rights except Southern African and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

TINUS LE ROUX is a military history enthusiast who started colourising Anglo-Boer War images in 2014. He also colourises World War II images, specifically those related to the South African Air Force. Several of his colourised images have been published in books and his Facebook page, Boer War Colourised Photographs, has 30k + loyal followers. When he is not colourising images or racing on his mountain bike, Tinus runs a flour milling company in Cape Town.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

How the voyage to mars will evolve earth



NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Living on more than one planet is an essential aspect of becoming a more advanced society, and our expansion beyond Earth is imminent.

Before embarking on her next project, Mission Off-World, in the most extreme environments on the planet to prepare for life beyond Earth, theoretical physicist Marais has captured her plans here. She describes how through technological advancement and an enhanced perspective of reality and our place in it, living on Mars will enable us to become better stewards of Earth and equip us for the beginning of our journey into the stars.

Adriana has given hundreds of talks to audiences on all seven continents of this planet, in settings from TEDx to corporates to ashrams, been featured in media interviews and panel discussions around the world, as well as in documentaries including AOL's 'Citizen Mars', and CNN's 'Africa's Space Race'.

This book is an accessible collation of her thoughts on this topic, and a map of how to get there. It's based on research, personal convictions, and extensive interactions with audiences and teams in dozens of countries around the world.

Rights Sold: Simplified Chinese, China Translation & Publishing Co.

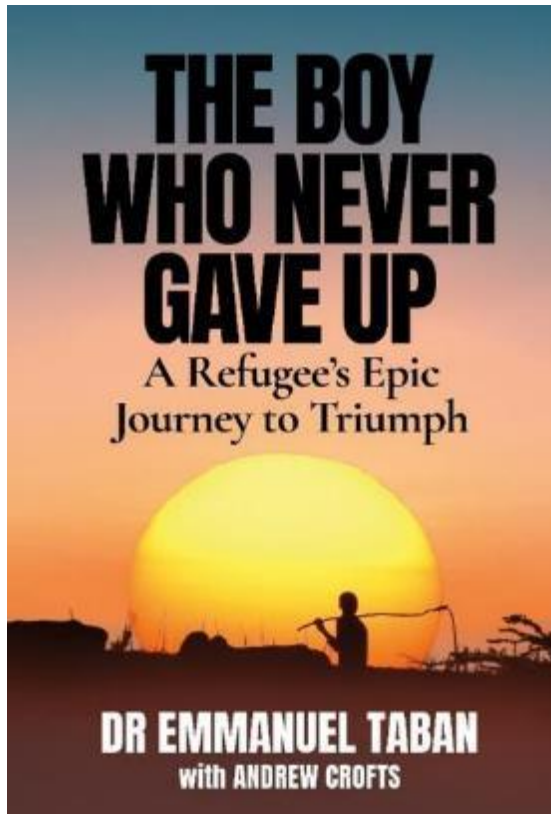
AUTHOR BIO

Dr Adriana Marais is an award-winning theoretical physicist and internationally renowned advocate for off-world exploration. Her PhD and postdoctoral work in quantum biology on photosynthesis and the origins of the building blocks of life in space was published in top physics journals including Physical Review Letters, and won awards from L'Oreal-UNESCO and the Royal Society of South Africa among others. She was Head of Innovation at SAP Africa between 2017 and 2019, and is currently a Director at the Foundation for Space Development Africa.

In 2020, she was among 5 global finalists for Women in Tech's the Most Disruptive Woman in Tech Award.



THE BOY WHO NEVER GAVE UP: A REFUGEE'S EPIC JOURNEY TO TRIUMPH



MEMOIR

In 1994, sixteen-year-old Emmanuel Taban walked out of war-torn Sudan with nothing, and nowhere to go. In the preceding months he was tortured at the hands of government forces, who falsely accused him of spying for the South Sudanese rebels and who made him convert to Islam.

After a few weeks he managed to flee from the Islamic school where he was being kept but, yearning to be reunited with his family, he literally took a wrong turn and ended up in neighbouring Eritrea without any documentation. Too afraid to return to his home country, he set out on what would become a long and arduous journey to South Africa via countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Taban mostly lived on the street and along the way he faced many dangers, including corrupt border officials who took all his money, robbers and wild animals, but he refused to give up. At crucial moments when he thought all was lost, he was helped by Italian Comboni missionaries.

Arriving in South Africa eighteen long months later, Taban had only five years of education behind him. He nevertheless managed to complete his schooling in two years with the help of the Combonis. He won a coveted place at medical school, at the now renamed Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa).

Specialising as a pulmonologist, he recently made a ground-breaking discovery regarding the treatment of hypoxemic Covid-19 patients and he has since saved numerous lives.

Refusing to be a victim, Emmanuel Taban overcame extreme poverty, racism and xenophobia to become the man he is today. This heart-warming life story offers solace and inspiration in these trying times.

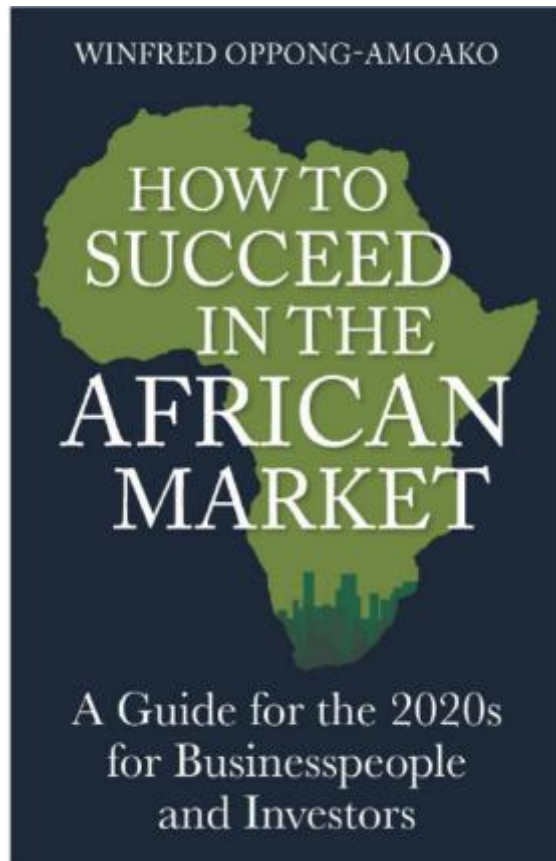
Publisher: Jonathan Ball Publishers (SA), Icon Books (UK), Aseer Al Kotob (Arabic), Mundo Negro (Spanish).

Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, UK, Asia, World Arabic, Spanish

AUTHOR BIO

When the 17-year-old **Emmanuel Taban** arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa, from war-torn South Sudan with nothing, he had only five years of education behind him. Today he is a highly qualified pulmonologist, with a European Diploma in Adult Respiratory Medicine. As one of only ten black pulmonologists in South Africa, he is at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19. Taban was the first pulmonologist in the world to perform a therapeutic bronchoscopy on a hypoxemic Covid-19 patient, discovering that some deaths from Covid-19 pneumonia are due to fibrinous mucus plugs. He and his family live in Pretoria.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE AFRICAN MARKET



Home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, Africa is a hot investment destination. More than 75 per cent of companies and investors in Africa are successful. Why? And how could you reap the benefits of doing business on the continent?

Business adviser, executive coach and author Winfred Oppong-Amoako presents a detailed picture of Africa's investment environment, outlining the risks, challenges, misconceptions and opportunities, and providing a step-by-step guide for approaching the African market.

The book covers key topics such as informal trading, China's investment in the continent and the impact of recession on long-term GDP growth, and lays out factors to consider before investing, such as cross-border trading, corruption, permits and legal contracts.

If you're new to investment or a successful businessperson looking to expand your brand, *How to Succeed in the African Market* is an indispensable reference, giving you the information that will enable you to make informed decisions and prosper.

Publisher: 2023 China Science and Technology Press; 2022 Al Maktab, Egypt; 2019 Penguin Random House, South Africa

Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African, World Arabic, Chinese.

AUTHOR BIO

Winfred Oppong-Amoako is a sought-after business adviser, executive coach and author. He is a guest lecturer on 'Doing business in Africa' at the University of the Witwatersrand's Wits Business School (WBS) and the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business (GSB), and is a member of the Institute of Business Advisors Southern Africa (IBASA), Coaches and Mentors of South Africa (COMENSA) and International Coaches Register (ICR), with a voting seat on the International Certification Council (ICC). Winfred is the founder of 1LeadRoot, an accredited executive training and business advising company with offices in Africa, Europe and the USA. His research interests include the potential of SMMEs and African markets, and cultural intelligence for doing business in Africa.

SPARKS

6. Waiting

Okay. I can wait. She's nervous though. Staring really hard but I can't see what she's staring at. Her fingers are all knotted in each other and the bag is down. As if to say she's not really waiting, just happens to be standing here, admiring the road.

Maybe we're waiting for a car. A car I can chase.

I want to chase that car.

I also want to eat.

And sleep.

Maybe it's another dog.

Maybe it'll try to wee on her bag and I'll get to scare it off.

I haven't scared another dog off in ages.



#1: The Chair

It's perfect. I know even before I've crossed the room. Five minutes in this chair – let's just put the cushions on my lap, pretend they're a cat, nice – five minutes here and I will solve my problems with chapter three. To kill or not to kill. It's hard to kill a character and maybe it's too soon?

Ten minutes and the whole book will be plotted properly; all those little tweaks; I'll have worked out exactly what needs to be done. Better than that, I'll know they work.

Twenty and the world will be set to rights. I'll be as confident as an old oak tree, though not one that might get carved up into legs for a chair like this. I wouldn't want to be a chair. Bums on you all the time. Tea spilt. Worse.

And it goes exactly as I expected. The whole lot of it, except that I wake up at 30 minutes... and I've forgotten the lot.



Comfort and joy are all around you

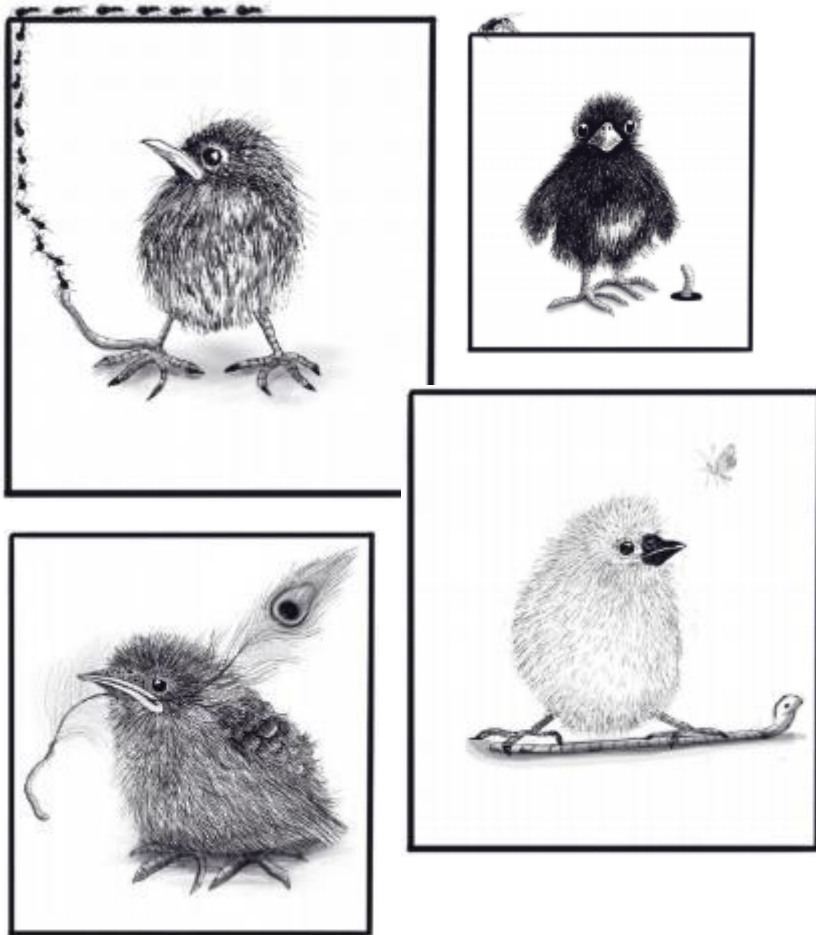
Confined to a room? Stuck somewhere grim, or just needing a little break when life becomes strange? Twenty-three small artworks and the stories they inspired. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad. But never the same. A gift to celebrate tricky times with words and images and flights of imagination.

Publication: TBC
 Publisher: TBC
 Rights Available: World

AUTHOR BIO

Lindsey J Sedgwick A former journalist, Lindsay Jane Sedgwick is a versatile and imaginative award-winning screenwriter and playwright. A screenwriting tutor, Lindsay was Screenwriter in Residence at Maynooth University and Kildare County Council Arts & Libraries Service. She is a graduate of Moonstone ScreenLabs, was a New York University 'Gregory Peck Scriptwriting Course' scholar, and has an MA Screenwriting from Leeds Metropolitan University. Lindsay has worked in a wide range of media and for a wide range of audiences and clients. From short films to features to creating TV series, from family films to psychological thrillers, from games and apps to children's animation, from books for adults, YA and children to non-fiction, from stage plays (14 productions in the UK and Ireland) to interactive narrative and character creation.

BIRCH BABIES



ILLUSTRATED/GIFT

"They look cute, little birds. Fledglings. Don't be fooled. They have just as much personality as anyone you know, even if they hide it well."

This is a field guide, with much poetic licence and misguided imagination, to some of the birds that have hatched high up in the branches of the Birch tree...

Illustrated by Margaret Woods Moore, with stories by L.J. Sedgwick. Birch Babies is a humorous and entertaining glimpse at the birds that share our parks and woodlands. An example:

KYLIE

When Kylie was born, she came out of her egg bum first. Hence the name.

This crow has a lovely wiggle and does a great version of the bees eight-loop dance.

Sadly, she isn't living up to the promise of her name as she really can't sing very well.

Her voice is great for scaring away spiders and flies though, so Juke likes to stay close to her at night.

Rights Available: All rights

AUTHOR BIO

Margaret and Lindsay are members of an art collective based in Dublin. The book came about when Lindsay asked Margaret if any of her birds had names. She came up with some mad little biographies for them and they found that everyone they showed them to got as much pleasure and fun from them as Margaret and Lindsay did.

Lindsay is a children's novelist and screenwriter. Margaret is an artist with a love of depicting animals, birds and people, she's never far from a sketchpad, recording life in her quick gestural sketch style. Her work runs from traditional representational work to experimental mixed media work including textiles and printmaking.

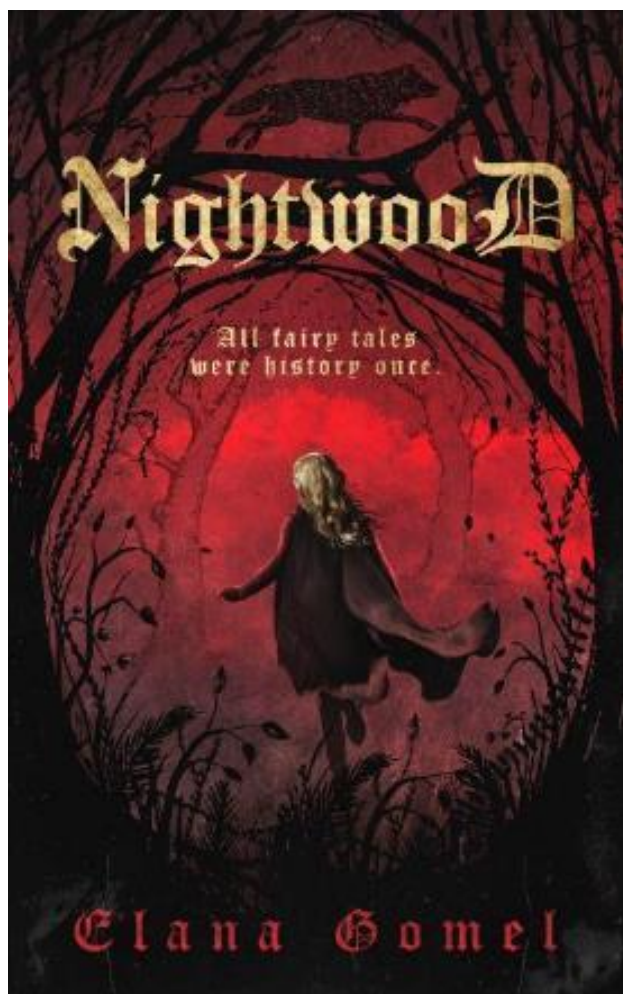
Both Lindsay and Margaret live in Ireland.





HORROR

NIGHTWOOD



All fairy tales were history once.

Ally is a Ukrainian bride who married a wealthy Californian, Carl Morris. Everything is strange in her new home: the shadowy redwoods, the peculiar neighbors, and the mystery surrounding the death of Carl's first wife. But Ally is determined to leave her own tragic past behind and to be a good wife and a good American.

Escaping darkness is not so easy, however. Ally discovers that her house is situated on the borders of Nightwood, where fairy tales become nightmares and nightmares become reality. And the ruler of Nightwood has plans of his own.

When Carl is abducted by a forest monster, Ally follows him into the land where the Red, Black, and White Horsemen drag the sun in their wake. There she is taken prisoner by the ghoulish Little Mother and is forced to labor in a filthy farmyard filled with deformed human livestock. But Little Mother is not the most terrifying creature in Nightwood. The Ogre, squatting in the Castle with no Windows, is poised to invade our world. He has Carl; and he wants Ally.

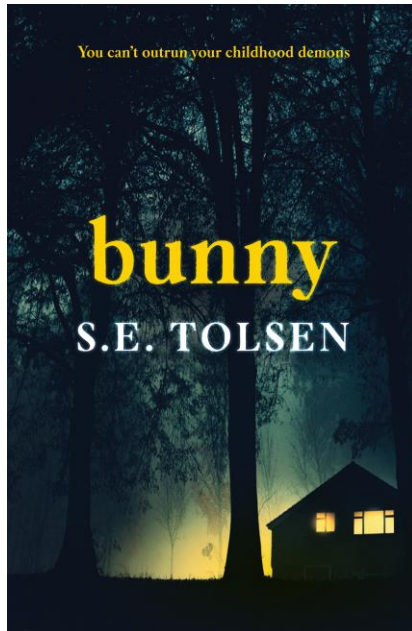
Unexpectedly joined by new friends, Ally escapes to embark on a perilous journey across a dying land filled with mythical beasts and creatures from fairy tales. To save Carl, Ally will have to brave the horrors of Nightwood and uncover the shattering secret of her own identity.

Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

ELANA GOMEL

Born in Ukraine and currently residing in California, Elana Gomel is an academic, an award-winning writer, and a professional nomad. She has taught in Israel, Italy, and the US, and is known in the academy for her (purely theoretical) interest in serial killers, alien invasions, and rebellious AIs. Her upcoming academic publication is Palgrave Handbook of Global Fantasy. She is the author of more than a hundred stories, several novellas, and five novels of dark fantasy and dark science fiction. Several of her stories appeared in Best of the Year anthologies. Her most recent fiction publications are NIGHTWOOD, a novel of fairy tales and exile, and the collection MY LADY OF PLAGUES AND OTHER GOTHIC FAIRY TALES. She is a member of HWA and can be found at www.citiesoflightanddarkness.com and on social media.

BUNNY



A taut psychological horror with supernatural elements. Atmospheric and with depth and nuance, it's similar in tone to *THE WITCH* and *THE BLACKCOAT'S DAUGHTER*.

Silas didn't have a happy childhood. Aunt Bunny made sure of that. Now an adult, he and his girlfriend Rose are on the brink of success as screenwriters, they quit their survival jobs in order to rewrite their script. Three weeks is the deadline and with rent due soon, the two decide to pack up and head back to Silas's childhood home.

Back to the woods. Back to the darkness. Back to Bunny.

Silas has a mission - get in, three weeks, get out. Back at his home, and back in the presence of Aunt Bunny and his hedonistic Mother, Lou Lou, Silas discovers both women living through the ravages of alcoholic codependency and what seems to be mental illness. At the homestead, a nearby lake, and even a roadside diner, Silas and Rose witness bizarre, unnerving behaviors and psychological events that challenge their patience and sanity. The events seem to be connected to an ancient presence deep in the woods which is working to draw Silas back into the family. It will not let him go, and neither will Aunt Bunny.

Bunny is psychological horror that delves into the role that addiction plays in family dysfunction, and how it inevitably changes everyone around it. It is a story about love conquering most, but not all.

Rights Available: All rights except ANZ (Pan Macmillan Australia)

AUTHOR BIO

Emma Olsen, a New Zealander of Fijian, Indian, Italian and Norwegian descent, is an award-winning stand-up comedian, winning her first award at the age of 19. Alongside her comedic talents, Emma has worked as an actor, production manager, stage manager, copywriter, and script reader and in 2014, produced *The Peninsula*, a documentary that recalls the exceptional journey through North Korea by famed entrepreneur Gareth Morgan and his wife Joanne Morgan. When not developing original projects, Emma works as a script doctor and screenwriter-for-hire.



Vere Tindale is a New Zealander/South African and graduate of The Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York City. He also holds a BCA from Victoria University of Wellington. An award-winning actor, Vere's credits include Sony Pictures Miniseries *Saints & Strangers* (2015); the ITV miniseries *Tutankhamun* (2016) with Max Irons and Sam Neill; the lead role of Jacob in the South African feature film *Sonskyn Beperk* (2016), and the role of Bob Ashton in Bron Studios *The Red Sea Diving Resort* (2017), acting alongside Chris Evans, Michael K Williams and Sir Ben Kingsley. When not working as an actor, or developing his original projects, Vere works as a screenwriter for hire.



The two writers specialize in nuanced, atmospheric, and scary as hell horror. In 2018, their feature length Horror/Psychological Thriller screenplay *Crepuscular* was nominated for Best Screenplay in the Woman in Horror Film Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

THE FACE YOU WEAR



Jana overcame a strict, poverty-stricken childhood to achieve her version of the American dream. She has her own home, a successful career, and a new husband who offers everything she hoped for in a normal life.

However, her tight grip on reality and stability begins to slip when she starts having disturbing dreams about her husband Michael. A figure in a bedroom doorway watching her sleep, night-time conversations Michael claims never happened, someone lying beside her at night when Michael later says he wasn't there.

Old anxieties and paranoia begin to surface as Jana becomes increasingly desperate to discover if the true threat is her mind, her husband, or something darker.

Publication: August 2022
Publisher: Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, Italian and Arabic

AUTHOR BIO

Faith Pierce writes horror, dark fantasy, and other forms of speculative fiction. She grew up in a small town in Texas and now lives in the Midwest.



OF MEN AND MONSTERS



Ryan's life is uprooted at the age of twelve when his mother takes him and his fourteen-year-old brother, Gary to a new home, safe from the clutches of her abusive husband.

The two brothers quickly relax into the rhythm a summer by the sea. Ryan enjoys reading comic books and starts a relationship with Leah. Ryan starts to grow a sea monster from an egg he bought.

But Ryan's new home isn't as safe as it seems. Someone keeps phoning the house, without speaking, and Ryan is sure it's his dad.

To Ryan's horror, his sea monster is humongous and violent. On the same day he and Gary plan to get rid of it, their father calls again, threatening them. He soon arrives at their new house, drunk and confrontational. The two brothers try to defend themselves but it all goes very wrong...

Publisher: Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

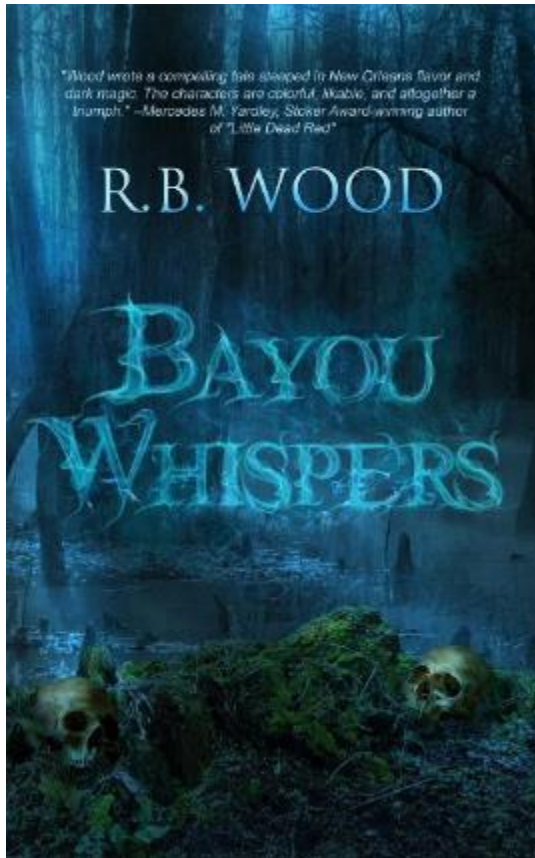
AUTHOR BIO

Tom Deady's first novel, *HAVEN*, won the 2016 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel. He has since published several novels and novellas, and is releasing his first collection of short stories in late 2020. Tom has several publications, including the sequel to his second novel (*Eternal Darkness*) coming out in 2021. He has a Master's Degree in English and Creative Writing and is a member of both the Horror Writers Association and the New England Horror Writers Association. He resides in Massachusetts where he is working on his next novel.



SUPERNATURAL THRILLER

BAYOU WHISPERS



This one is for fans of THE BOYS and anything related to Voodoo and New Orleans.

"Wood's Bayou Whispers is a sublime cocktail of horror, supernatural thriller, and urban fantasy, where the myths of voodoo clashes with the modern day. Fans of Jim Butcher and the Marvel Cinematic Universe will love this." — Todd Keisling, author of Devil's Creek

Bayou Whispers, the latest thriller from horror writer R.B. Wood is the story of no-nonsense New Orleans native, Jeannine LaRue, the sole survivor of her family after the devastation brought on by Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of the storm, she believed she'd been saved, but soon found herself held hostage and sexually exploited, rescued months later by sheriff's deputy Curtis Jones.

Twelve years after Katrina, Jeannine is a new attorney who returns to New Orleans to save her old friend Curtis Jones—now a local thief and trafficker of stolen goods—after he is arrested for the murder of Jeannine's captors, whose bodies have recently been found. But Jeannine discovers more than she bargained for when she uncovers a family history of dark voodoo magic and an unholy alliance with an ancient evil Haitian god.

Publisher: 2021 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

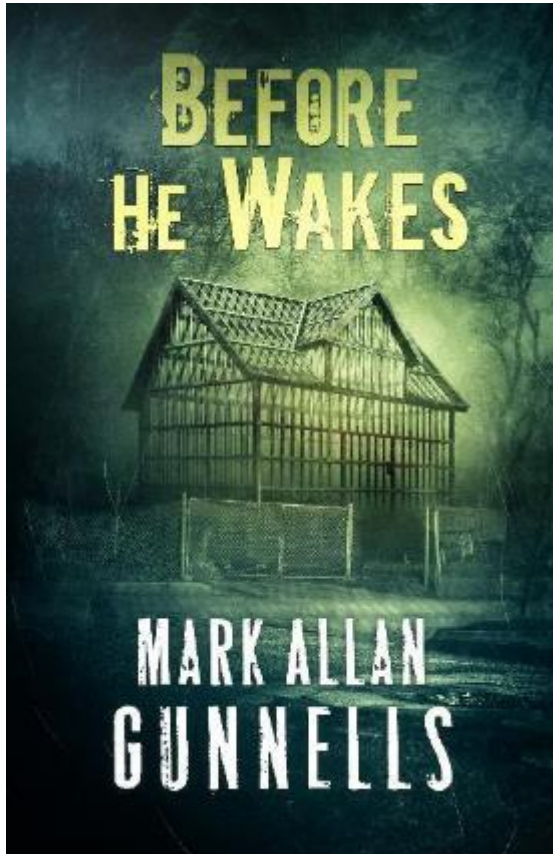
AUTHOR BIO

R. B. Wood is a recent MFA graduate of Emerson College and a writer of speculative and dark thrillers. Mr. Wood recently has appeared in Crystal Lake Publishing's *Shallow Water's* anthology, as well as online via *SickLit Magazine & HorrorAddicts.net*, and in the award-winning anthology "Offbeat: Nine Spins on Song" from *Wicked Ink Books*. Along with his writing passion, R. B. is the host of *The Word Count Podcast*—a show of original flash fiction.



R. B. currently lives in Boston with his partner Tina, a multitude of cats, and various other critters that visit from time to time.

BEFORE HE WAKES



HORROR SUSPENSE

Patrick and Clare wake up trapped in a basement, a thin wall separating their cells. Their captor is mysteriously absent, which at first seems like a blessing. As more time passes with no food or water, they begin to realize a clock is ticking for their survival.

Combining their intelligence and determination, the two begin plotting an escape from their shared prison. Overcoming each obstacle only presents another obstacle standing in the way of their freedom. It will take all of their ingenuity and strength to find their way out of this mess.

They know their captor is still out there, and it is only a matter of time before he returns.

BEFORE HE WAKES is a fast-paced and tense thriller that ratchets up the suspense and tension before the thrilling conclusion.

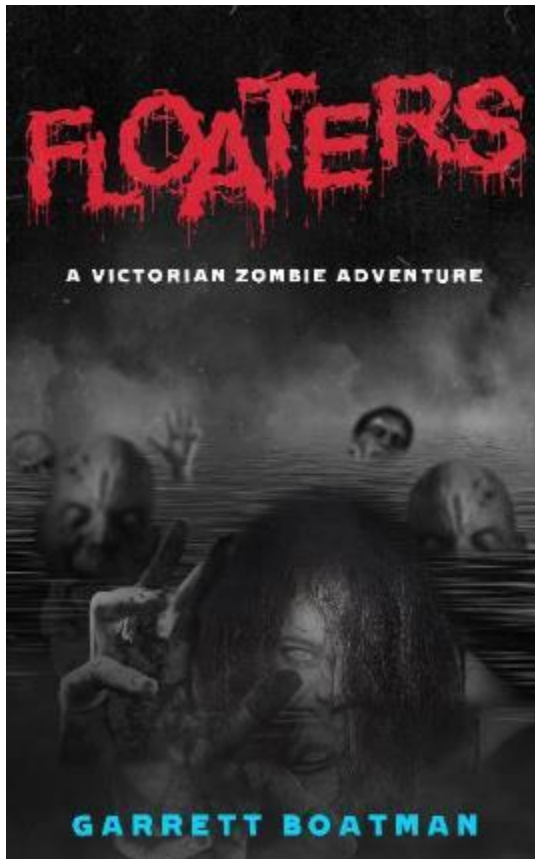
Publisher: 2021 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Mark Allan Gunnells loves to tell stories. He has since he was a kid, penning one-page tales that were Twilight Zone knockoffs. He likes to think he has gotten a little better since then. He loves reader feedback, and above all he loves telling stories. He lives in Greer, SC, with his husband Craig A. Metcalf.



FLOATERS



"Garrett Boatman's *Floaters* is like *Peaky Blinders* meets *Return of the Living Dead*. The story hits the ground running and doesn't let up until the explosive end. Bloody, violent fun!" — Todd Keisling, Bram Stoker Award nominated author of *Devil's Creek*

"A tale of London's scum that is visceral, shocking, and fast, Boatman's *Floaters* is historical horror at its best." — Multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author Lee Murray

London 1890s. Out of the Thames' fetid depths the undead rise to feast upon the living. While floaters seek blood, another army takes advantage of the chaos. Boiling out of their rookeries of crime, marauders swarm through London's affluent neighborhoods looting and burning.

While the beleaguered police and the Queen's army battle twin plagues—human and inhuman—London's criminal youth gangs join forces to save their city. Will Tagget, leader of the Lambeth Lads, together with his enemies Bill Drummond of the Drury Lane Gang, bull-necked George Fish of the Elephant and Castle Gang, shillelagh-wielding Dirk Bogart of the New Cut Gang, Quincy Bird of City Road, along with their female counterparts—Lambeth Kate, Queen Jane, New Cut Beth, Razor Lil and Dirty Deidre—set out on an adventure the telling of which might earn a man a lifetime of free drinks. If he lives to tell it.

Will these violent youths be able to put aside their rivalries long enough to get the job done?

Publisher: 2021 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

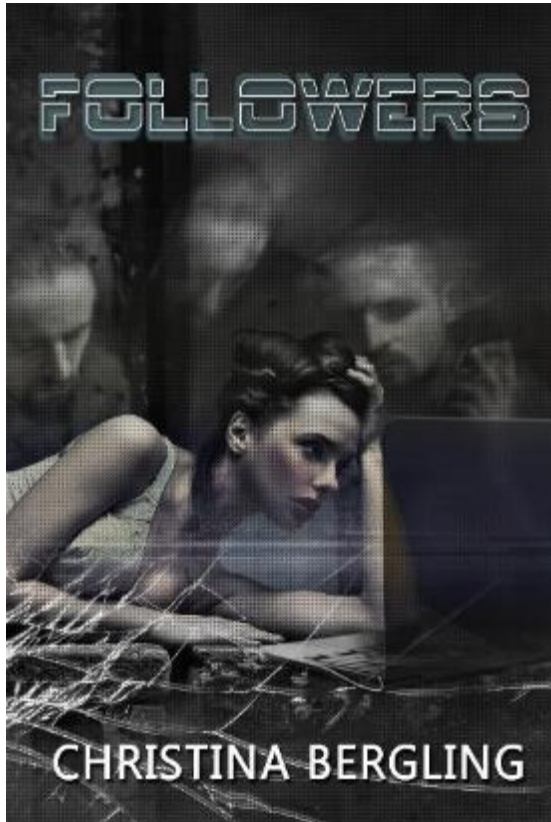
AUTHOR BIO

Garrett Boatman taught English literature and writing in college and high school, including courses in creative writing and Science Fiction and Fantasy. Now retired, he writes full-time and rides his bikes whenever he can. He is married with great kids.



DOMESTIC THRILLER

FOLLOWERS



Sidney, a single mother with a dull day job, has big dreams of becoming a full-time horror reviewer and risqué gore model. She's determined to make her website a success, and if her growing pool of online followers is any indication, things are looking good for her Elvira-esque aspirations. In fact, Sidney has so many followers that chatting with them is getting to be a job in itself. More than a job, it might be getting a little risky....

When Sidney is attacked on a dark trail late one night, it becomes clear that the horror she loves is bleeding into her real life. She learns that real-life horror is not a game, and being stalked isn't flattering—it's terrifying, and it could get her killed.

Sidney—and her loved ones—are now in serious danger. This follower isn't just another online fan: he knows her movements, and he knows her routine. In fact, he's right behind her... and when he gets close enough, he won't take no for an answer.

Publisher: 2021 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Christina Bergling has been writing since childhood. She has written a variety of styles. A blog from Iraq, software user guides, articles for a numismatist magazine. More than anything, she is a horror author.

In college, she pursued a professional writing degree and started publishing small scale. Bergling lives with her family in Colorado and spends her non-writing time working in IT, hiking mountains, dancing, and sucking all the marrow out of life.



SUSPENSE / THRILLER

MIDNIGHT HORROW SHOW



"Spook shows, drive-ins, horror hosts & monster movies – Ben's love for the genre shines through in this page-turner."—Dr. Gangrene, Chiller Cinema, Dr. Gangrene's Cinetarium

It's end of October 1985 and the crumbling river town of Dubois, Iowa is shocked by the gruesome murder of one of the pillars of the community. Detective David Carlson has no motive, no evidence, and only one lead: the macabre local legend of "Boris Orlof," a late night horror movie host who burned to death during a stage performance at the drive-in on Halloween night twenty years ago and the teenage loner obsessed with keeping his memory alive.

The body count is rising and the darkness that hangs over the town grows by the hour. Time is running out as Carlson desperately chases shadows into a nightmare world of living horrors.

On Halloween the drive-in re-opens at midnight for a show no one will ever forget.

"Firmly rooted in all those things that made '80s horror so great. Campy, gross, weird, harrowing, scary, funny, big-hearted. Midnight Horror Show is a good one."—Keith Rosson, author of The Mercy of the Tide and Road Seven

Publisher: 2020 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, Arabic, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Ben Lathrop has written and taught on the history of cinema with a focus on the horror genre and cult audience behavior. He is a native Iowan, former television horror host and present librarian. He lives with his family in Cincinnati, Ohio.



TERROR PEAK



Can you survive the mountain?

Abominable Peak is the gnarliest hill in the Rocky Mountains. Only hardcore boarders and skiers ride there. No groomed trail posers allowed. Skill, moxie, and money rule.

Not this season.

Former pro snowboarder Charles 'Chance' Hance is running from a drug addiction triggered by an injury, struggling with no longer being a pro, and chasing the ghost of his grandfather who died on the peak under suspicious circumstances. Riding is an addiction, and pain killers aren't the only things that made him a junkie.

What was supposed to be a fun week with his old crew turns tragic when Chance is caught in an avalanche and barely escapes nature's fury...and something more.

An ancient horror prowls the peak.

Chance's obsessions shift as he hunts the yeti-like creatures, and is forced to fight for his life.

"Terror Peak pits you against not only murderous creatures lurking in the snows, but a hostile environment so real you'll come away with frostbite. A triumph of terror."—F. Paul Wilson, author of *The Keep*

"Terror Peak is a beautifully written adventure-slash-horror novel with a main character readers will care about from start to finish, a great read for those who love their fiction with a pulse that pounds!"—Michael Laimo, author of *Deep in the Darkness* and *Dead Souls*

Publisher: February 2022 by Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Edward J. McFadden III has published a number of books, including three Amazon Bestsellers. His short stories have appeared in over 75 magazines and anthologies. He lives on Long Island with his wife Dawn, and their daughter Samantha.



THE BOY WITH THE SPIDER FACE



Jeff Pritchett isn't much different from other teenage boys, with one exception. His monstrous, spider-like appearance and loner persona make him a target for bullying, when all he wants is a friend who sees beyond the surface.

Enter transfer student, Aarav Jain. Thoughtful, accepting, and insightful, he sparks an untapped hope in Jeff, transforming his life. But as the boys grow closer, their deepening relationship becomes hijacked by a darkness Aarav can't escape and a life-altering secret Jeff can barely contain.

The unconventional pair find themselves marked for hatred, and when his bond to Aarav is threatened, Jeff discovers a sinister side he never knew he had, proving that, when pushed too far, emotions can be deadlier than venom.

This horror novella is transformative science fiction about acceptance, reflection, and revenge.

Publisher: 2021 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights except World English, and Italian.

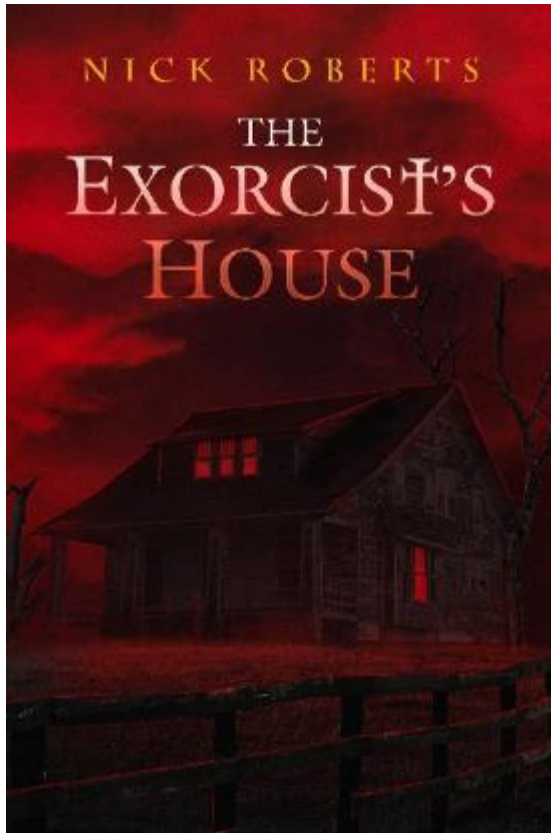
AUTHOR BIO

AJ Franks is a Portland-based author and playwright. more than thirty stories. His short story *Prior to Slaughter* won first place in Crystal Lake Publishing's "Best of the Best" flash fiction contest and was published as part of the Shallow Waters Volume 8 anthology.

His debut horror collection, *Keep You Cold: Chilling Tales*, was a multi-category finalist in the American Book Fest 2019 Best Book Awards.



THE EXORCIST'S HOUSE



In the summer of 1994, psychologist Daniel Hill buys a rustic farmhouse nestled in the rolling hills of West Virginia.

Along with his wife and teenage daughter, the family uproots their lives in Ohio and moves south. They are initially seduced by the natural beauty of the country setting. That soon changes when they discover a hidden room in the basement with a well, boarded shut and adorned with crucifixes.

Local legends about the previous owner being an exorcist come to light, but by then, all Hell has broken loose.

This 1990s horror novel is perfect for fans of family thriller books, stories of demonic possession, exorcism fiction, the occult, or thrillers like *The Exorcist*, *A Head Full of Ghosts*, and *The Amityville Horror*.

"I actually slapped my palm over my mouth at one point to keep myself from screaming... Chilling attack scenes and a polished plot make The Exorcist's House a top-notch read. Possession stories never grow old for me, and I devoured this one."—Kendall Reviews.

Publisher: May 2022, Crystal Lake Publishing

Rights Available: All rights available except World English, Italian and film/TV rights.

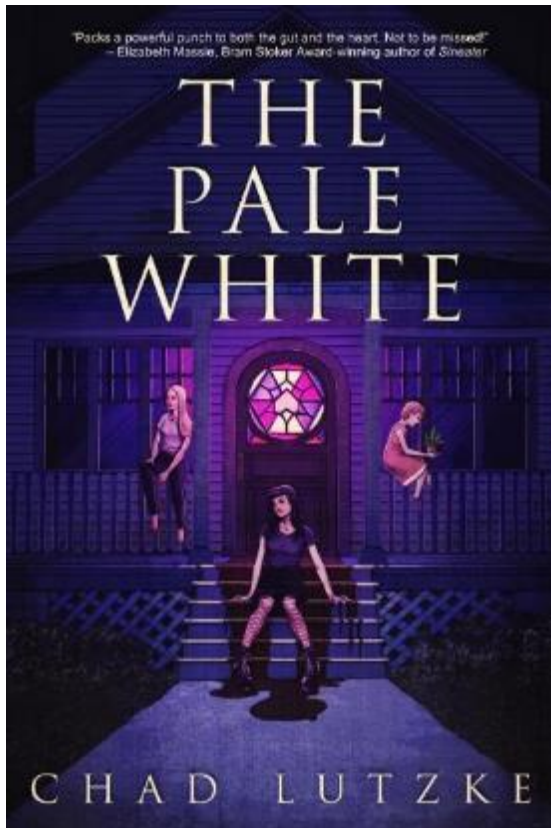
AUTHOR BIO

A lifelong storyteller, Nick began writing and illustrating children's books in elementary school, grew into screenplay writing in high school, and then transitioned into short stories and novels. He is currently an English teacher by day and author by night. His debut horror novel, *Anathema*, was published by J. Ellington Ashton Press in 2020 and won the 2020-2021 Horror Authors Guild Award for Debut Novel of the Year.



Nick now resides in South Carolina with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Keagan and Cora. He enjoys spending time with his family, weightlifting, and advocating for people in recovery from substance abuse after having graduated from Recovery Point West Virginia in 2012.

THE PALE WHITE



After being held against their will in a house used for trafficking, three girls plan their escape.

Alex: A hardened goth-punk who’s convinced she’s a vampire with a penchant for blood.

Stacia: A seventeen-year-old raised by an alcoholic mother, her fellow captives the only family she’s ever truly had.

Kammie: The youngest of the three—a mute who finds solace in a houseplant.

But does life outside the house offer the freedom they’d envisioned? Or is it too late, the scars too deep?

A coming-of-age tale of revenge and survival that explores a friendship and the desperate measures taken to ensure they stay united, held together by the scars that bind them.

This contemporary Suspense Thriller / Horror novella with an all-female cast is the perfect read for fans of Robert R. McCammon, Stephen King, and Jack Ketchum. It won the 2019 This Is Horror Awards 'Novella of the Year' prize.

Publisher: 2019 Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights available except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Chad Lutzke lives in Battle Creek, Michigan, with his wife and children. For over two decades, he has been a contributor to several different outlets in the independent music and film scene, offering articles, reviews, and artwork. He's had several dozen short stories published. He is known for his heartfelt approach to the dark side of humanity. His work has been praised by Jack Ketchum, Richard Chizmar, Joe R. Lansdale, Stephen Graham Jones, Elizabeth Massie, Tim Waggoner, and his own mother.



TWENTY YEARS DEAD



Six feet is not deep enough in this Mystery Thriller...

After twenty years in the ground, the dead briefly rise. At his father's grave, this is Dave's last opportunity to discover why a man would abandon his wife and young son. Against the protests of his mother and his girlfriend, Dave is determined to learn what happened all those years ago. Sometimes you have to risk everything, but the dead don't give up their secrets so easily.

Twenty Years Dead is a novella of quiet horror for fans of Paul Tremblay and Thomas Olde Heuvelt, which explores families and their secrets.

★★★★★ *"Truly ghoulish with a plot that is hauntingly unearthed. The way this story is revealed was incredible. Totally engaging and it kept me thinking about what I would do in David's situation. It was unique, and it had me on the edge of my seat with curiosity."*—Paul Preston

★★★★★ *"Richard Farren Barber's Twenty Years Dead comes with the very highest of recommendation, turning a great idea into a very readable, funny and chilling page-turner."*—Ginger Nuts of Horror

Publisher: May 2022, Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights available except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Richard Farren Barber has published over 80 short stories, seven novellas and two other novels. He lives in England with his wife and son and works as a manager for a local university.



WHEN IT RAINS



It may be dangerous to go out in the rain... But it may be even more dangerous to stay inside.

Just after noon on a sunny spring day at Friedkin University, a layer of strange clouds smudges across the sky, and a mysterious rain begins to fall. This isn't just a surprise spell of rain—this substance is slimy and gelatinous...and it's not letting up any time soon.

The rain spreads across the country, the hemisphere, and the globe, with growing ripples of panic and paranoia gathering behind it. Is it a natural, undocumented phenomenon? A chemical weapon? Some kind of bacterial contagion? As fear turns theories into conspiracies and no clear answers are given, factions start to form between those who have been exposed to the rain and those who stayed dry. Who is safe? Who is marked? Who is dangerous, and who is not?

The rain keeps falling, and at Friedkin University, the sanctuary of the campus bookstore swiftly becomes a dangerous battlefield. Is it man versus nature? Or man versus man?

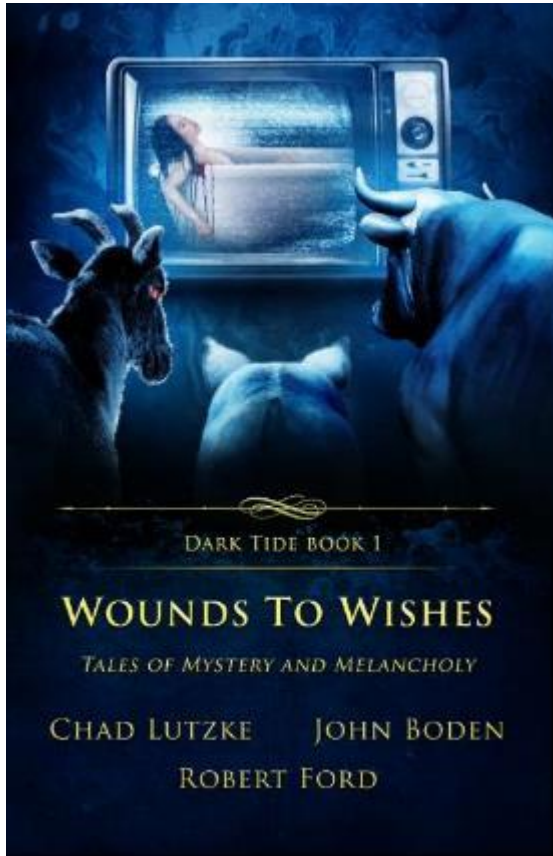
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AUTHOR BIO

Mark Allan Gunnells loves to tell stories. He has since he was a kid, penning one-page tales that were Twilight Zone knockoffs. He likes to think he has gotten a little better since then. He loves reader feedback, and above all he loves telling stories. He lives in Greer, SC, with his husband Craig A. Metcalf.



WOUNDS TO WISHES



Three separate yet strangely connected novellas

THE STRANGEST TWIST UPON HER LIPS by Chad Lutzke: When a suicide note is just too much to bear, an absurd celebration of life feels like the only way out. While avoiding the suicide note his fiancé left behind, a grief-stricken man tackles a bucket list the two had made together, fulfilling entries that take him out of his comfort zone and into the realm of skid-row voodoo, where truths are finally revealed.

MY ONLY SUNSHINE by Robert Ford: A grief-stricken mother has five days to solve her daughter's murder. Caroline's daughter was abducted and murdered over four months ago. Now, in an abandoned building, in the dead of night, she can talk with Emma's ghost. Five days. Fourteen minutes each day. That's all the time Caroline has to find out who murdered Emma, and say goodbye to her daughter for the very last time.

SUET by John Boden: Dark secrets and darker things are a lonely man's inheritance. Corbin is a lonely young man who finally broke the bonds of an emotional vampire of a job. He accepts the sad task of going through the estate of his dead grandparents, to discover that family can go back quite far, as can secrets and shadows. He will discover that the family he always knew kept things back and that an inheritance isn't always monetary. History has teeth and talons and often times does not let go easily.

Publisher: August 2022, Crystal Lake Publishing
Rights Available: All rights available except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Chad Lutzke lives in Battle Creek, Michigan, with his wife and children. For over two decades, he has been a contributor to several different outlets in the independent music and film scene, offering articles, reviews, and artwork. He's had several dozen short stories published.



John Boden is a baker and writer. He lives in Pennsylvania, USA, with his wonderful wife and sons. While his output as a writer is fairly sporadic, it has a bit of a reputation for being unique.



Robert Ford has written the novels *Burner*, and *The Compound*. He also has a collection of his short fiction *The God Beneath my Garden*, and a novella collection, *Inner Demons*. Robert lives in Central Pennsylvania, and is usually hard at work on at least two projects at a time.



SOUTHERN GOTHIC

HARMED AND DANGEROUS



What if you could see the past through someone else's eyes? What if that person was the serial killer who murdered your mother? What if you were forced to watch as he stalked and killed her?

Kyra Hughes' obsession with serial killer Billy-Ray Johnson takes a dark turn when she learns his final victim was the mother she never knew. Kyra travels to Yeuxville, in Louisiana, scene of Billy-Ray's crimes, to find out more. In Yeuxville, Kyra has a series of paranormal episodes. Her body is in the present, but she appears to be looking out of someone else's eyes at the world as it was fifteen years ago. She has no control over her actions and finds herself following a young woman and her child. Catching sight of her reflection, Kyra realizes she's seeing the world through Billy-Ray's eyes, the woman is her mother —Caitlin, and the child is herself. Kyra is taken over by Billy-Ray and forced to watch as he stalks her mother and younger self.

Once she gets over the shock of this, Kyra is overjoyed to regain repressed memories of Caitlin. Until she learns there's a reason those memories were repressed — Caitlin is an addict and abusive mother. As the abuse escalates, Kyra is unable to watch, and she forces Billy-Ray to look away. The control, she learns, cuts both ways. She's able to take over Billy-Ray for brief periods and even alter the past. This gives Kyra a stark choice, it's in her power to save Caitlin. But this comes at a high price. If Caitlin lives, Kyra will suffer a lifetime of abuse, and she'll never know the beloved parents who adopted her.

A southern gothic, paranormal thriller with young adult/mainstream horror crossover appeal, ideal for readers of Jennifer McMahon, Gillian Flynn and Jason Rekulak's *Hidden Pictures*. *Harmed and Dangerous* explores father/daughter relationships, LGBT issues and the passage from adolescence to adulthood.

Publisher: 2024, Crystal Lake Publishing

Rights Available: All rights available except World English, and Italian.

AUTHOR BIO

Jasper Bark is an award-winning novelist, children's author and comic book writer. Famed for his imaginative story telling he's published four novels, twelve children's books and countless comics and graphic novels. His work has been translated into nine languages and is used in schools throughout the UK to improve literacy. He regularly performs his work all over the country, on the radio and through regular podcasts.



The image shows a grand, ornate library interior. The ceiling is a masterpiece of Baroque stucco work, featuring intricate scrollwork and a central fresco depicting a scene with figures in a cloudy sky. The walls are lined with tall, white-painted bookshelves that have elaborate, gilded carvings at their tops. The floor is a checkered tile pattern. In the foreground, a balcony with a decorative wrought-iron railing and a brass finial is visible. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and intellectual pursuit.

YA AND CHILDREN'S

THE FERAL



In the future, an airship transporting genetically engineered fetuses accidentally loses a foetal pod over The Feral: the last wild territory in the country. The Feral is off-limits to human habitation, and populated by The Corporation's discarded genetic experiments.

Hunters from an illegal anarchist outlaw village in The Feral discover the pod, and take it back to their village, finding the baby inside alive. They name the baby Johnny, and as he grows up, his talent for killing is apparent, already killing animals and hostile humans from a young age. He is made protector of the village, and given the name Johnny Lethal.

On his 18th birthday, Johnny is kidnapped as part of the Migration – where all new 18-year-olds are taken willingly from their families to begin a lifetime of unpaid work for the Corporation in assigned professions. Thrown into a strange and confusing world, Johnny reacts with anger, but as his combat skills are discovered to be completely unmatched, he has to face the hard truth he's always suspected: he is a product of this horrible place.

Publication: April 2022
Publisher: Picador Africa
Rights Available: All rights excluding Southern African

GREG GRABIANSKI

Greg Grabianski is a novelist, screenwriter, and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several other of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide.

A writer on *BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD*, Greg was a staff writer on late-night talk shows *THE TONIGHT SHOW* and *THE KEENEN IVORY WAYANS SHOW*, and he co-wrote the movies *SCARY MOVIE* and *SCARY MOVIE 2*.

Greg built a career in children's animation, writing on shows *SKUNK FU* and *ANGELO RULES* for Cake Entertainment, *LOUD HOUSE* for Nickelodeon, *PICKLE & PEANUT* for Disney TV Animation and *RAINBOW BUTTERFLY UNICORN KITTY* for Nickelodeon, *TAFFY* for TBS, *ANGRY BIRDS: SUMMER CAMP MADNESS* for Cake/Netflix, *PRESTO!* for TeamTo, *AGENT 203* for ToonzTango/Super RTL, and *PETS & THEIR TOYS*, a new, no-dialog show for Million Volt Studios/Netflix.



BEARENT



In this irreverent, wild and unpredictable illustrated humour book series, 10-year old Iggy doesn't have a father, so he creates one by shaving a talking bear named Ziggy and dressing him in human clothes. Now Iggy is in control of his own "adult"! Together with their friend Mika, they help others by going to outrageous lengths to infiltrate the hallowed, mysterious world of grown-ups!

Electric clippers. A dress shirt. Sandals. A tie. Some slacks. A wig. That's all Iggy needed to make his own "dad". Oh, and a talking bear named Ziggy. Iggy grew up with Ziggy, who came out of the woods every day to play. They're both 10 years old now. But at age 10, a bear is 7 feet tall, 400 pounds and fully mature (not that there's anything "mature" about Ziggy!) When his fur is shaved off and he's dressed up in human clothes, Ziggy passes for a man. An odd-looking man, but a man!

With his mom always working, Iggy has endless quality time with his "dad". Having his own adult gives Iggy incredible power: the ultimate hack to infiltrating the uncharted, mysterious world of grown-ups! Together, Iggy and Ziggy use that power to right wrongs, help the helpless and do incredibly stupid, irresponsible things together.

You know, the fun stuff!

Rights Available: All rights available

AUTHOR BIO

Greg Grabianski is a novelist, screenwriter, and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several other of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide.

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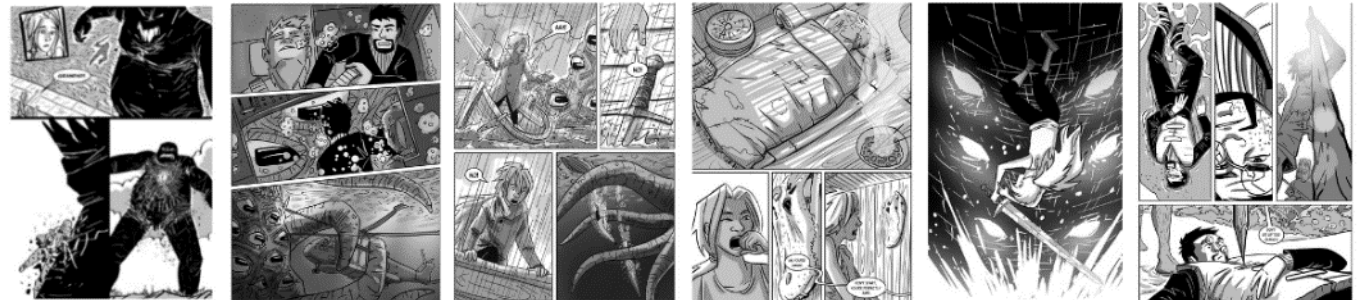
SOPHIE THE GIANT SLAYER



Sophie, an eleven-year-old girl in a post-giant world inherits her grandfather Jack’s magical sword and is launched out beyond their island city into a world of treacherous adults and ambitious gods. Driven by the voice inside the sword, she and her companions hunt down the secret of where the giants came from and her own terrible destiny.

Sophie finds herself adopted into a group of tree-dwelling refugees, led by a mysterious woman called Rosemara. They capture her and ask her to kill a giant called Ashkeloth, who they claim is a threat. But is everything as it seems? Who exactly is Rosemara? Soon, Sophie finds she also has to stand up for her pursuers and decide whom she can and can’t trust when the giant comes knocking.

Rights Available: All rights available except Arabic



GRAPHIC NOVEL

KARIBA

The daughter of a river god, raised by a human father and bound to a tragic destiny. Only her sacrifice can save her people – but first, she must journey to understand the ancient power hidden within her.

Siku has always called the Zambezi River her home. She understands the water – and strangely enough, it seems to understand her, too, bending to her will and coming to her aid in times of need. But things are changing on the river – a great dam is being built, displacing thousands of Shonga people – and things are changing in Siku, too, as her ability to manipulate water grows stronger and threatens to destroy her from the inside, and visions of a great serpent pull her further from reality and her loving father, Tongai.

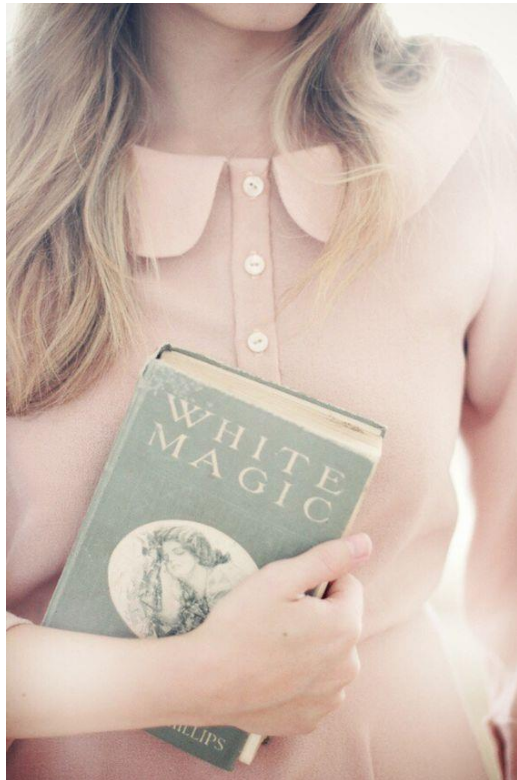
When Tongai ventures to the Kariba Dam to find a way to cure his daughter and never returns, Siku sets off to find him with the help of Amedeo, the young son of Kariba's chief engineer. Together, they traverse elephant graveyards, rugged jungles, and ancient ruins, outrunning pirates, bootleggers, and shape-shifting prophets ready to use Siku to their own advantage. But Siku soon discovers that her father has been shielding a terrible secret: Siku is actually the daughter of the Great River Spirit, Nyaminyami, and the only way to bring about the necessary rumuko - a ritual which has brought balance to the Zambezi for centuries - is for Siku to give up the only life she's ever known.

With the future of the Shonga people resting on her shoulders, Siku will journey to the source of the river, where she'll face down the god who made her to save her father, her people, and – just maybe – save herself. With stunning full-colour illustrations and a courageous African heroine, Kariba is a moving ecofeminist adventure that will inspire every reader to forge their own destiny.

Rights: All rights available except World English, French, Arabic



THE TILTED PENTAGRAM



YA FANTASY/ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

Set in 1942 in a world where Europe is ruled by the Church, it follows a young woman hunted for witchcraft as she tries to find out the origin of her family's dark powers.

When second year Dresden University student Nell Blythe is accused of witchcraft, there is more at issue than a legal battle. For one, she's guilty. Well, not guilty, exactly: she hasn't the faintest idea about spells and has no idea where her abilities come from. But with her dead mother the most infamous witch in the Holy Roman Empire, fighting back can only end at the stake.

Nell flees and is taken in by a group of heretics agitating for a second Reformation, but they are not the most dangerous company she has to keep. A powerful stranger with abilities like hers offers her a bargain: pieces of her mother's lost journal in exchange for completing five rituals that will reveal the origin and dark purpose of her powers. Desperate to discover more about the mother she never knew, she agrees.

But as the lessons turn violent and her mother's writing grows ever more disturbing, she must choose between keeping her hands free of blood and uncovering the secrets her mother died for.

A fast-paced and absorbing YA Alternative history for lovers of A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES, THE CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA, and DIVERGENT.

Rights Available: All rights available excepting Armenian, Edge Publishing.

AUTHOR BIO

Matthew MacDevette studied in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, and Oxford before settling in Johannesburg where he happily remains with his wife and two terrible/wonderful cats. He spends most of his time on international development projects that try to make the best use of foreign aid in sub-Saharan Africa, and the rest writing novels that have nothing to do with that. Matthew is drawn to dark stories told with hope and humour, and can often be found trying to convince people to listen to The Offspring and watch Lord of the Rings movie marathons.



MIDDLE GRADE HISTORICAL FICTION

JUMPER AND JACK



In 1884 South Africa, a young Englishman 'Jumper' Jim Wade moves to the land of diamond mines to seek his fortune. Tragedy strikes when Jumper loses both his legs below the knee in a train accident. Distraught and desolate, his dreams are shattered.

A second chance in life comes with the offer to be a signalman at the railway station in a small frontier town. Jumper's new life brings him into contact with Jack, an intelligent, but abused, baboon. Jumper sets Jack free and takes him in. Jack learns how to help Jumper get around, and helps Jumper slowly get his life back on track. Incredibly, Jack also learns how to do Jumper's job – changing the direction of trains approaching the station. This unlikely friendship with a baboon restores his hopes for a meaningful life and helps him win over the girl of his dreams.

All is well until a powerful lady of stature from Cape Town sees a baboon working at the train station. Appalled, she rushes to tell the Governor of the Cape about this outrage. The government sends a delegation to test Jack. Jumper will lose his job and his livelihood if Jack fails the test.

Based on true events, this is a moving and immersive heart-warming story about friendship, love and loyalty, and the only baboon to ever work on the South African Railways. For fans of Michael Morpurgo.

Rights Available: All rights are available

AUTHOR BIO

Jeremy Daniel is an author and a scriptwriter. His ROAD TO GLORY YA series are biographies of South African sporting heroes. His adult biography SIA KOLISI: AGAINST ALL ODDS was a South African No. 1 best-seller. Jeremy adapted his children's book MY FOREVER FRIEND, a subtle and moving exploration of identity and learning to love oneself for the stage at Cape Town's Baxter Theatre Centre.

Jeremy was Head Writer for two seasons of 'Takalani Sesame' - Africa's Sesame Street - and a scriptwriter for a number of television soap operas, magazine shows, and children's adventure shows for SABC and ETV including 'Backstage' and 'Muvhango'.



MIDDLE GRADE NON-FICTION

WHEN YOU DREAM



Every great dream starts with a dreamer. Megan's dream is to build a light aircraft with other teenagers and fly it from Cape Town to Cairo. Her aim is to inspire children everywhere to follow their dreams. In 2018 twenty inexperienced teenagers from various backgrounds were provided with hands-on experience in engineering and building an aircraft. They assembled a Sling-4 aircraft from start to finish within three weeks, under the guidance and supervision of a group of senior engineers.

When they eventually take to the air more than a year later, 17-year-old Megan and her co-pilots undertake a journey full of adventure and nail-biting moments. They fly over war torn Sudan, in Egypt they almost land in jail and officials refuse to give them permission to fly over Kenya. But at last, the triumphant team reaches Cairo ... just for tragedy to strike a few days later while the team are on their way back to South Africa. Megan's father and his co-pilot die when their support plane crashes near Tanzania.

Megan however refuses to let her dream be compromised by this tragedy. Her dad would not have wanted that. After writing her record exams, she and two of her co-pilots retrieve their plane and complete the flight back to South Africa.

WHEN YOU DREAM is based on true events and is a story of courage, commitment, hope and pain. An adrenaline filled adventure that might sound far-fetched ... if it wasn't for the fact that it is true.

Publisher: 2021 Pan MacMillan South Africa
Rights Available: All rights excepting Southern African

AUTHOR BIO

Daniëlla van Heerden is a television newsreader and journalist for eNuus on kykNET and has received numerous awards for her work. She lives in Johannesburg with her photographer husband Cornél and their daughter Simoné.



Megan Werner is a 19-year-old pilot and motivational speaker and founder of the U Dream Global initiative. She lives close to the Airport in Johannesburg South Africa and is working towards her commercial pilot license.



PETAL PETUNIA: PIXIE PRIVATE EYE

The SUNSHINE CITY Mysteries

Petal just landed her **first EVER detective case**.

Thibble - a **jittery fly**, with a severe case of the “nervous burps” has hired her to find his missing BFF, Chad.

Unfortunately, Chad is a **WANTED TROLL** and the **Fairy Bureau of Investigation** believe he's stolen the instruments of Sunshine City's **favourite rock/rap group**, *The Screaming Sprytz*.

Now, it's up to Petal to clear his name, but things get more complicated as she, and her gassy companion, follow a trail of clues through the city.

They'll have to deal with an overly dedicated **ban-shee bouncer**, get lost in a dark maze of the Grand Stump's vent system, escape the clutches of a **hangry were-bunny**, lose a gang of **glittery vampire thugs**, and stop a **vengeful rapper** from destroying the Summer Concert ... it's going to be a loooooong day.

And if it wasn't Chad, then **who stole the instruments?**

CHAPTER BOOK / EARLY MIDDLE GRADE

When mystery casts a shadow on Sunshine City, one quick-witted pixie is always on the case proving that tough comes in small, pink, festively-tropical packages.

She might spend most days hanging out at Frank's Spiced Pineapple Cafe, and the most dangerous thing she's ever caught was the 10-foot wave at Star Dust Beach, but when a case lands, this wise-cracking private-eye is ready for anything.

Petal is a cheery force of justice, armed with a berry slingshot, a semi-functional magic coat and a wit sharper than a unicorn's horn. Don't be fooled by her small size and big mouth, because Petal has an eye for detail, a mind for mysteries and a heart for action. She will do whatever it takes to solve the case, even if that means breaking a rule or two. But, if she has to break a rule, she will always apologise ... unless it's a really, really dumb rule.

Petal has lived in Sunshine City her whole life and knows it like the back of her tropical-themed shirt. Whether it's a dreadlocked sasquatch who makes his own surfboards, a centaur who owns a trampoline emporium, or a giant grootslang who makes the spiciest smoothies in town, Petal has pals scattered all over the city.

The only thing Petal loves more than solving mysteries, taking naps and sipping on pineapple smoothies is her loyal pet and vehicle, Dungie. Most of the city zip around on speedy ladybirds or dragonflies, but Petal prefers the calm amble of her dung beetle. Dungie might seem chilled, but when the poop hits the fan, she will always have Petal's back.

Rights Available: All rights available

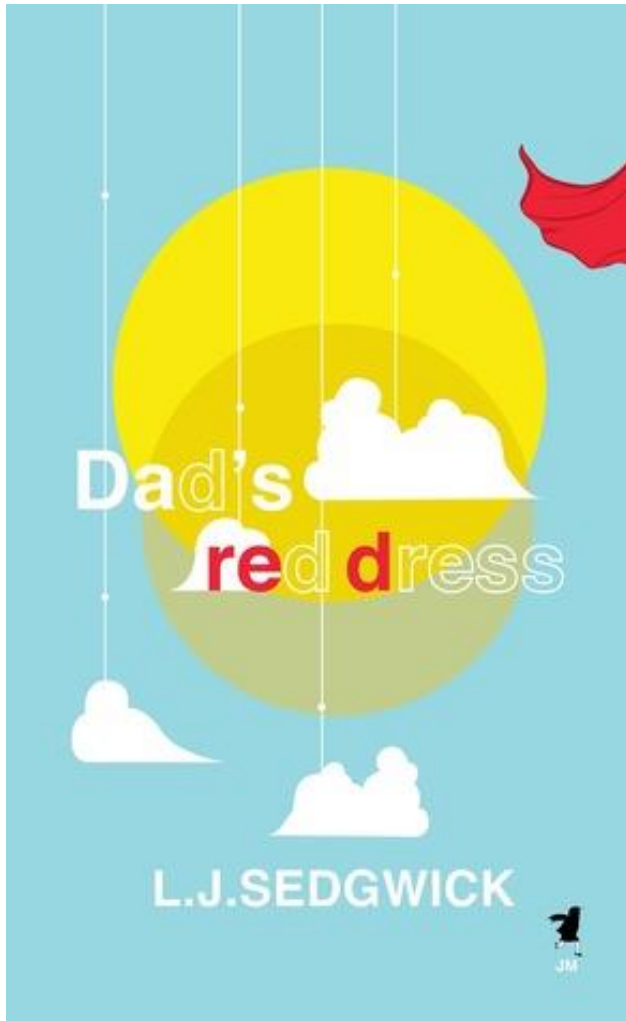
AUTHOR BIO

Marc Dey is best known as a writer of animation. He's the creator of KIYA Recently greenlit by Disney. It's a brand new pre-school superhero animated series in production with EntertainmentOne, is a studio owned by Hasbro which is behind hits like PJ Masks, Transformers and Peppa Peg.

PETAL PETUNIA PIXIE PRIVATE EYE is Marc's debut novel. A standalone, it's the first in a planned series. Completed manuscript available along with outlines of the next four books in the series.



DAD'S RED DRESS



MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL

Becoming a woman is tough enough... without your dad becoming one too. This quirky, pacy, and moving novel is a story of the relationship between a 13-year-old girl and her dad who is transitioning into the woman she wants to be.

Like most teenagers, Jessie wants her family to be normal. Boringly normal. But this is what she's working with: her seven-year-old sister Laura wants to be an actual saint, her step-mum Eva makes erotic feminist installations. And her dad Frank becomes Mandy as soon as the front door closes.

Which is fine, until someone finds out.

This standalone novel is the first in a planned series. Book II, *Dad's Wedding Dress* is coming soon.

Rights Available: All rights excepting TV rights (Tailored Pictures) are available.

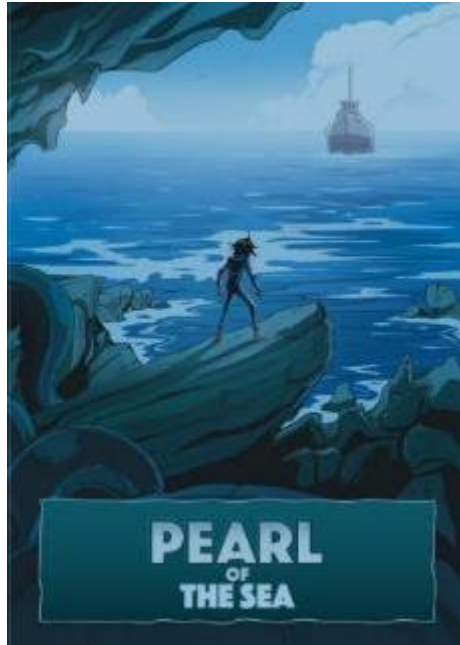
AUTHOR BIO

A former journalist, Lindsay Jane Sedgwick is a versatile and imaginative award-winning screenwriter and playwright. A screenwriting tutor since 1995, Lindsay was Screenwriter in Residence at Maynooth University and Kildare County Council Arts & Libraries Service 2016-7. She is a graduate of Moonstone ScreenLabs (2002), was a New York University 'Gregory Peck Scriptwriting Course' scholar, (1993) and has an MA Screenwriting from Leeds Metropolitan University (1999).

Lindsay has worked in a wide range of media and for a wide range of audiences and clients. From short films to features to creating TV series, from family films to psychological thrillers, from games and apps to children's animation, from books for adults, YA and children to non-fiction, from stage plays (14 productions in the UK and Ireland) to interactive narrative and character creation.



PEARL OF THE SEA



GRAPHIC NOVEL

Written by Anthony Silverston and Raffaella Delle Donne, illustrated by Willem Samuels

Secretive loner Pearl makes much needed extra cash by diving for and poaching endangered abalone off the south coast. More at home by herself in the ocean than with people on land, Pearl, far from shore and alone, discovers an enormous and terrifying sea monster.

When she realises the volatile creature is just as scared as she is, she knows she is the only one who can protect her new friend ... but only if she has the courage to face the pain of her past and open up to others.

Stunningly beautiful, immersive and moving. All rights are available.

Publisher: 2022 Rue de Sevres, France (French). 2022 Mahrousa, Egypt (WAR), 2023 Catalyst Press (World English)

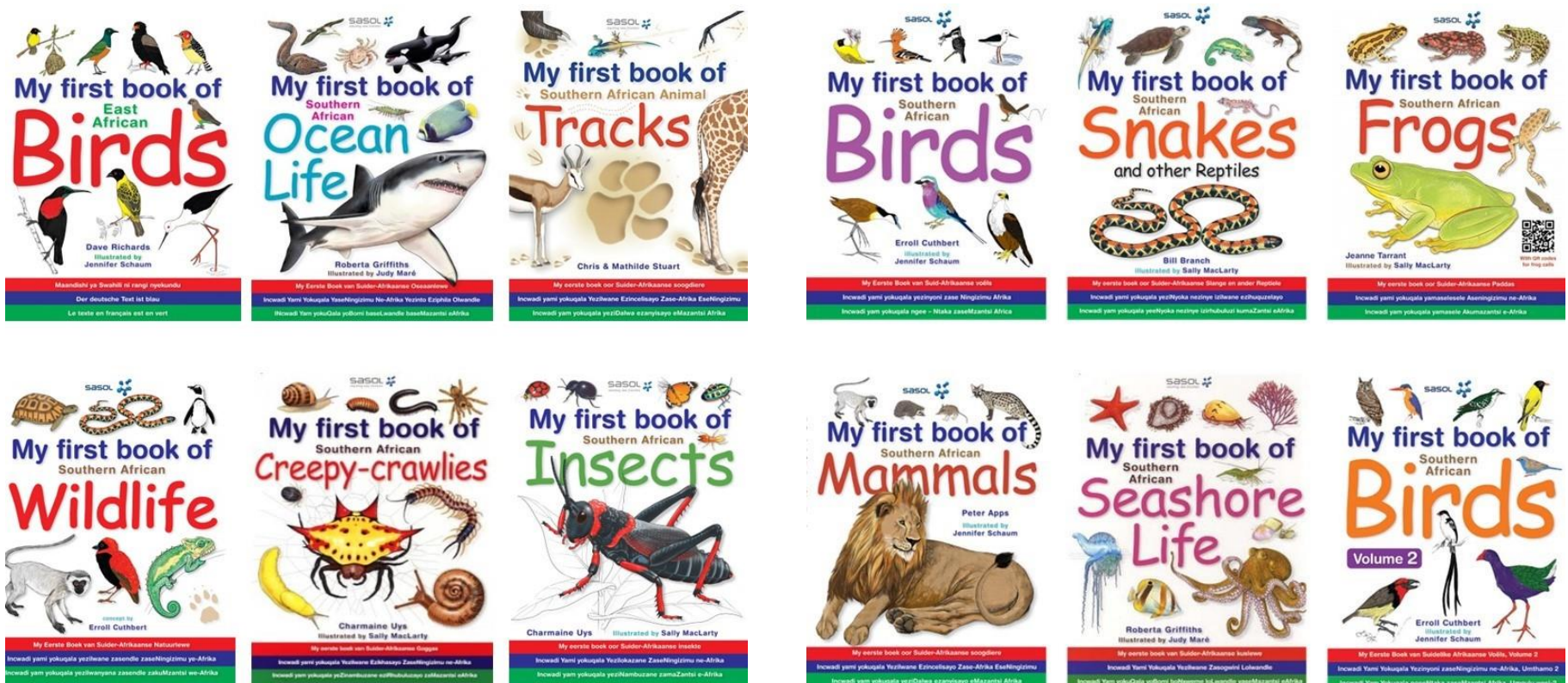


MY FIRST BOOK OF ...

An attractive educational series in full colour

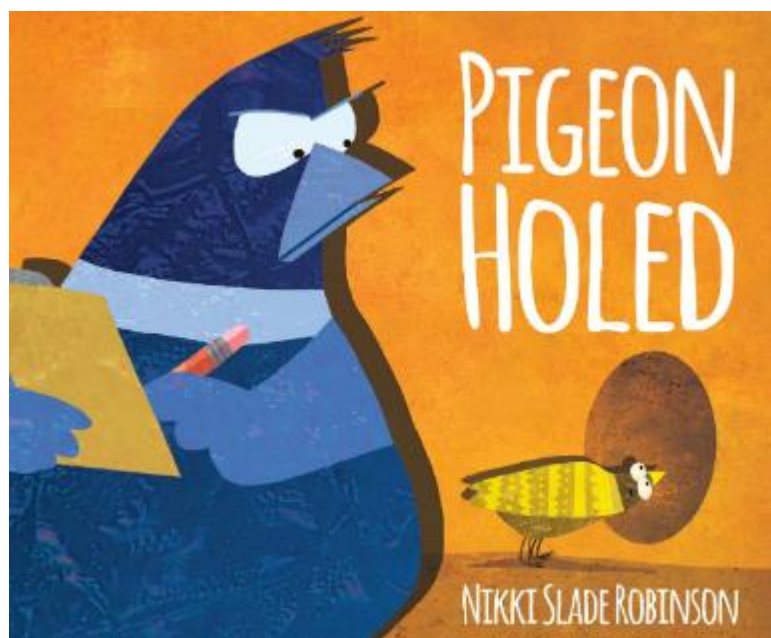
A series of 12 books about wildlife for children. Readership: 3 to 10 years/starter readers Format: 280 mm x 215 mm Pages: 64. MY FIRST BOOK OF ... is an introduction to common species, visual cues to diet, size and habits; short text in multiple languages.

Publication: Ongoing
 Publisher: Struik Nature
 Rights Available: World except Southern African English



PIGEON HOLED

Big Pigeon has an Important Job to do, organising all the pigeons into their correct places. But Little Pigeon is having none of it and eventually sets all the pigeons free – to be themselves and mix happily together.



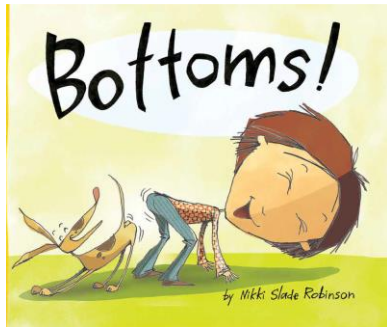
Publication: 2022
Publisher: Duck Creek Press
Rights Available: All rights excluding ANZ, China

AUTHOR BIO

Nikki Slade Robinson is both author and illustrator. She specialises in titles for 4 - 7 year olds and has won a number of awards. She works from her studio in the Easten Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, and tries to step lightly on the earth.



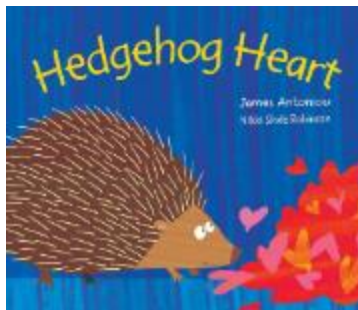
BOTTOMS



'Bottoms there, bottoms here, there are bottoms everywhere. So let's hurrah for bottoms all, in any colour big or small.'

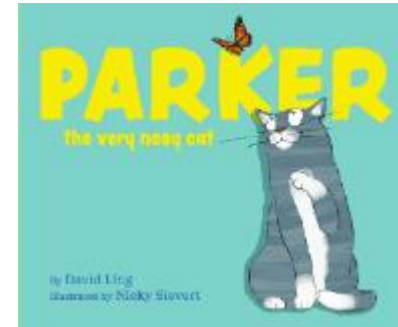
Nikki Slade Robinson has illustrated over sixty children's books and readers, including many for Duck Creek Press that she has written and illustrated, including the award-winning Muddle & Mo series and the award-winning The Little Kiwi series.

HEDGEHOG HEART



What sort of heart do you have? Love shows itself in many different ways and while we usually know the sort of heart someone has, sometimes it's a little hard to tell. Hedgehog Heart is a joyful celebration of love and friendship.

PARKER



Muddle Parker can be a pest, poking his nose into everything that is going on. He's also pretty clumsy and, while he tries his best, he usually causes a bit of chaos. All cat owners will relate to Parker's amusing antics.

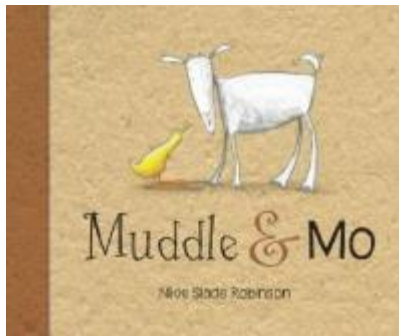
David Ling is a publisher of adult and children's books and the author of *But What Did We Get For Grandpa? Why Do Cats Have Tails? William's Waitangi Day, and Our Dad*.

I AM AN ARTIST



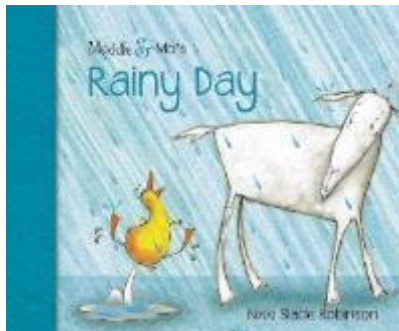
From the incredibly talented **Nikki Slade-Robinson** comes this beautiful hand-crafted picture book that will inspire and encourage children to create art using everyday objects from the natural environment.

MUDDLE & MO



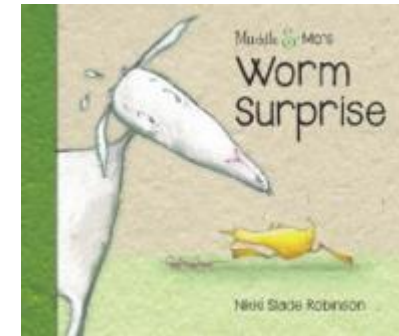
Muddle is a loveable, slightly confused yet enthusiastic little duckling who asks lots and lots of questions. Mo is a long-suffering, not very adventurous white goat who has lots of patience. They are best friends, but Muddle is rather confused about what type of animals they both are. Fortunately, during the course of their walk together Mo helps Muddle get his duck identity sorted out.

MUDDLE & MO



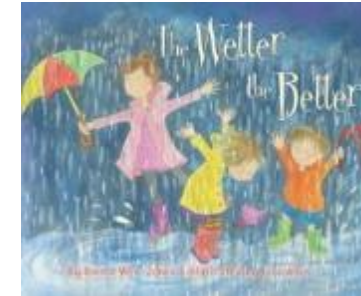
Another delightful tale of the unlikely best friends Muddle and Mo. Big raindrops are falling. Muddle likes the rain but Mo is a goat and goats do NOT like the rainy days. Will a special Muddle-cuddle save the day and get Mo to try something different?

MUDDLE & MO: WORM SURPRISE



Muddle is a loveable, slightly confused yet enthusiastic little duckling. His best friend Mo is a long-suffering, not very adventurous white goat who has lots of patience. In this sequel to *Muddle & Mo*, Muddle is preparing a surprise picnic for Mo. Mo doesn't like worms, so will he like what's in the basket?

THE WETTER THE BETTER



Lily and Theo don't want to walk to school on the stormiest day of the year, but they are in for a surprise. And so is Mum.

Contact Us

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