



VAN AGGELEN

African Literary Agency

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Our focus is on African fiction, high-quality illustrated children's books and African Speculative Fiction.*

We work with an exquisite selection of books, authors and publishers and make books travel and rights move from one side of the world to the other.

**Our experience in the international book world spans decades and continents.
Meet our diverse, inclusive and passionate books, and spread the word.**

***Also ask for our new African Speculative Fiction Rights List.**

NEW!

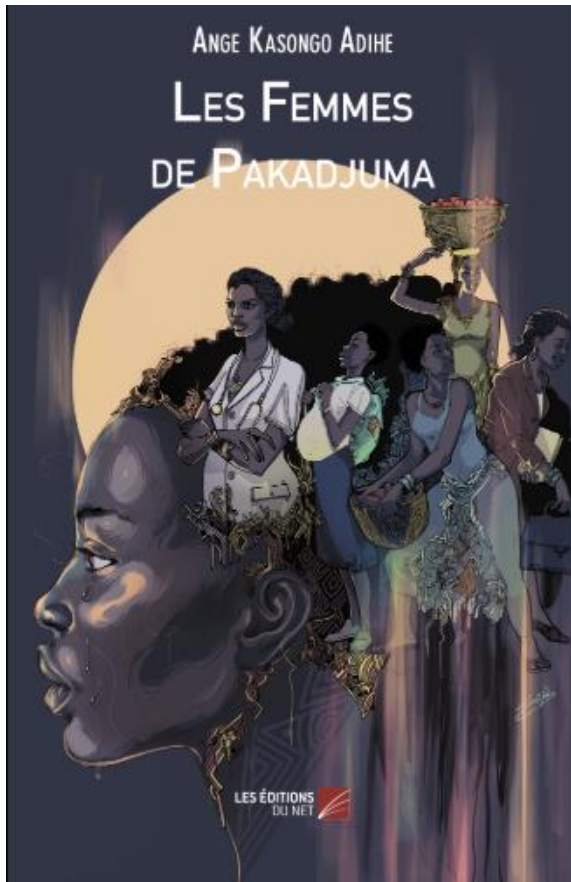
Ange Kasongo



Ange is a journalist, author and trainer. She is co-author of the investigation into sexual abuse during the Ebola response in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), published by the Thomson Reuters Foundation in 2021.

Ange worked for Agence France-Presse as a journalist in charge of fact-checking in the DRC between 2019 and 2020.

Les Femmes de Pakadjuma is her debut published in the DRC with Mlimani Editions



Rights: all rights available, ex French DRC
(Mlimani Editions), 2024

Language: French

Pages: 127

Genre: *literary fiction.*

Les Femmes de Pakadjuma **NEW!**

I'm a bastard. An "adulturous child" as they say in Pakadjuma. Here I am again, Ophélie, here in Pakadjuma. I am faced with my stories once told only by my mother. But, today, through the stony streets of this neighbourhood where I was born, I am reborn. Whow are the characters who liven up this place whose reputation is painted red and black in the Kinois Imagination? Are the "Balobaki" stories about the women who live there trye?

From the pen of Ange Kasongo, Ophélie sets ou on a quest for identity in the most feared slum of the Congolese capital. The foreign origins of her fater and the stages of this research place face to face with universal questions about space, identity, insecurity and realtionships with others. Here is a fictional story with autobiographical tomes that takes readers on an unforgettable tour of Paka.



Diekara Oloruntoba-Oju

NEW!

Diekara Oloruntoba-Oju is a novelist and a doctoral candidate in African Studies and Anthropology at Harvard University. Her debut novel, *When Lemons Grow on Orange Trees*, was (Self)-published in 2016 and was a festival book for 2017 edition of the Ake Book and Arts Festival. While doing her master's degree at the Center for African Studies at Cambridge University, she ran the maiden editions of the African Literature Book Club series. Her academic work has been published in renowned journals in the Humanities and Social sciences such as *JALA*, *Africa*, and the *LUCAS Bulletin*.

In a world that is so versed in polarizing good and evil, positive and negative, just and unjust, Castro's many lives offer a fresh take on what it means to live in the instability of contradictions and that these contradictions, as Bertolt Brecht puts it "are our only hope".

Rights: all rights available

Wordcount: 74,000

Genre: *literary fiction*.

Status: manuscript ready

NEW!

Castro's Ghost

A young woman kills her husband and gets away with it but three years after, his ghost returns.

Castro's Ghost is set between the 1990s to present in southwestern Nigeria. It is the story of Kehinde, a widow in her 30s, who killed her abusive husband and had gone into self-imposed solitary living for 3 years. This is the story of her resurfacing into old and new social ties, her quest for love and redemption, and the return of an unexpected face from her past.

The target audience for the novel is adults who have a taste for literary fiction with undercurrents of magical realism, campus novels, and themes of intimacy, political unrest, memory, and redemption.

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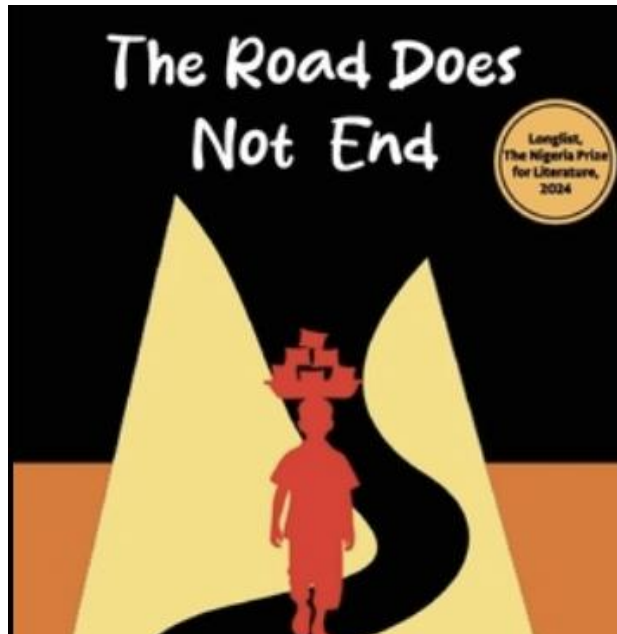
Ranti Olubunmi

Winner
of the 2024 edition of
The Nigeria Prize for Literature
competition with his YA book
The Road does not End.

Olubunmi has written plays, screenplays, essays and short fiction and poetry. His first children's book, "I'll Call My Brother for You!", won the ANA Prize for Children's Literature in 2019.

His play, "When Big Masquerades Dance Naked", was longlisted for the Nigeria Prize for Literature in 2023 and won the ANA Prize for Drama in the same year.





For “The Road Does Not End” by Familoni Oluranti Olubunmi, the Jury stated that the book addresses the critical issue of child labour in society adding that, “The book explores themes of resilience and human connection, emphasizing the importance of relationships and the need for continuous self-improvement.”- report NPL

The Road does not End (YA)

NEW!

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of the 2024 edition of The Nigeria Prize for Literature competition.”

Castro's Ghost is set between the 1990s to present in southwestern Nigeria. It is the story of Kehinde, a widow in her 30s, who killed her abusive husband and had gone into self-imposed solitary living for 3 years. This is the story of her resurfacing into old and new social ties, her quest for love and redemption, and the return of an unexpected face from her past.

The target audience for the novel is adults who have a taste for literary fiction with undercurrents of magical realism, campus novels, and themes of intimacy, political unrest, memory, and redemption.

Genre: YA/ cross between surrealism and exhilaration.

Rights: all rights available, ex Nigerian English

Wordcount: 40.000

Status: published in Nigeria

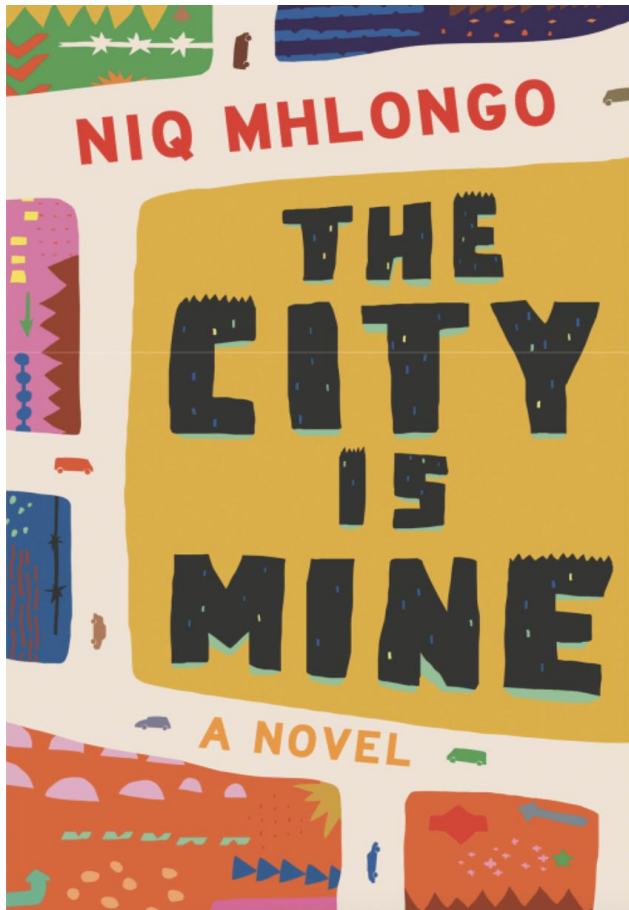


Niq Mhlongo

NEW!

Niq Mhlongo is a highly acclaimed South African author whose literary prowess has garnered international recognition. With a keen eye for detail and a profound understanding of societal dynamics, Mhlongo's writing delves deep into the complexities of South African life, offering readers a poignant and thought-provoking exploration of the human experience.

Author of acclaimed novel "Dog eat Dog"
 "Niq Mhlongo is one of the most high-spirited and irreverent new voices of South Africa's post-apartheid literary scene" - The New York Times Magazine.



Rights: all rights available. Southern Africa sold

Pages: 272

Genre: *literary fiction*.

Status: published May 24, Kwela Publishers,
South Africa

Niq Mhlongo– The City is Mine

In *The City Is Mine*, a man's life spirals into chaos after his relationship crumbles, leading him into homelessness and crime in the heart of Johannesburg. As Mangi faces extreme loss, love, and self-discovery, he must redefine his place in the world and find meaning on his own terms. A gritty exploration of power, identity, and survival in a city teeming with beauty and danger.

"The City Is Mine" portrays Johannesburg as a city that has lost its soul, overshadowed by the trauma of its past and the hardships of its present. The abandoned buildings and uneasy nostalgia evoke a sense of loss and longing for a city that has become a jilted lover, capable of both love and hate in equal measure. The characters in the novel serve as mirrors of Johannesburg's diverse and conflicted identity, capturing the city's complex and ever-evolving essence.

NEW!

David Agyei-Yeboah



David Agyei-Yeboah is a young creative from Accra, Ghana that believes in expressing gutting raw energy onto plain paper. He believes art is sacred and should be expressed with utmost care, beauty and craftsmanship; that it is the responsibility of the artist to pen humanity at its rawest, channel empathy to understand people from diverse backgrounds and translate this to writing, injecting pieces with sheer warmth and truth. People matter! Stories matter! And Africa's stories must be told lucidly. **"OUR SPIRITS YEARN FOR HOME"** won the **2023 Kofi Awoonor Literary Prize**

OUR SPIRITS YEARN FOR HOME won the **2023 Kofi Awoonor Literary Prize** (administered by the English Department of the University of Ghana and the family of the late renowned writer and poet, Kofi Awoonor). YEBOAH was nominated for the Totally Free Best of the Bottom Drawer Global Writing Prize. Work from it was also shortlisted for the EU DELEGATION PRIZE.

Rights: all rights available

Wordcount: 45,000

Genre: *literary hybrid fiction*.

Status: manuscript ready

David Agyei-Yeboah – Our spirits yearn for home

The strength of this book is in its diversity of form and content as well as its expansive scope to entertain all the while deeply engaging complex emotions. It bends the rules and is in many ways, novel and experimental. This is David's social justice project to the world, a proclamation that 'difference' is beautiful.

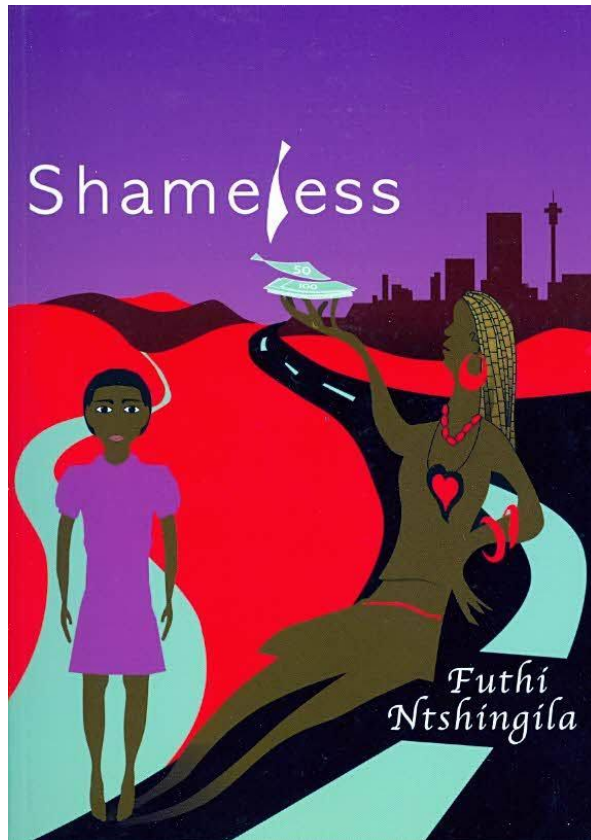
OUR SPIRITS YEARN FOR HOME explores trauma from diverse perspectives: mental trauma and illness, sexual abuse, the harsh penal system, fat phobia, homophobia and transphobia, amongst others. All these are done engaging the Ghanaian context. The content does not only centre on trauma. There is also adventure and a sprinkling of fantastical overtones in the writing.

Futhi Ntshingila

is a celebrated writer from South Africa, *They Got to You Too* is her third novel which won the Sharjah International Fiction Book Prize in 2022.

Her work centres on women and marginalised communities. She holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution.





Rights: all rights available

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 85

Published: formerly published in South Africa

Futhi Ntshingila **Shameless**

A South African story to be lauded

Liberation in South Africa, gender equality and affirmative action have introduced black women to management positions. But that is also stained by tokenism and inequalities for most women and blacks.

Shameless shows up these anomalies through two childhood friends, Zonke and Thandiwe. Zonke pursues a 'conventional' working life while Thandiwe takes the wild route of sex work. Sassy Thandiwe believes that as a sex worker, she doesn't prostitute herself worse than black/white corporate women and black men.

For instance, Kwená – a filmmaker who documents Thandiwe's life – sees a psychologist due to stress from work, thanks to the overbearing white mentor. That is as good as the white sex client who shot at Thandiwe because he was a pathetic male disaster.

Shameless exposes the thin line between what is progressive and backward in the lives and status of blacks in post-apartheid SA. It calls us to re-examine where the new dispensation has placed us: are gilded positions respectable, disgraceful or an excuse for survival?

"....a novel to be lauded, telling a South African story in an assured, concise voice. Let's hope we will be hearing a lot more from Futhi Ntshingila in the future...." - UKZN Press, South Africa

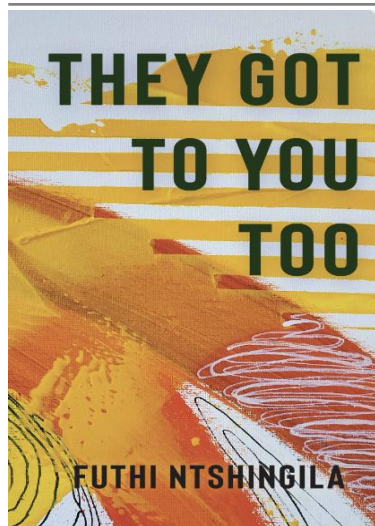
"Gripping novel lays our nation bare". - Fred Khumalo *Sunday Times*,

Is there a dearth of emerging talented South African female (Black) writers; or perhaps the spotlight is not being shed enough on scintillating young talent in this wise? - SA Blogger



Futhi Ntshingila

They got to you too



Rights: WE rights sold (US), WW Malayalam (IN), WE Audio sold (US),

Available: foreign rights
film/tv/streaming

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 256 pages

Publisher: PanMacmillan, South Africa

Winner of the 2022 HSS Humanities and Social Sciences Awards for best Fiction Novel

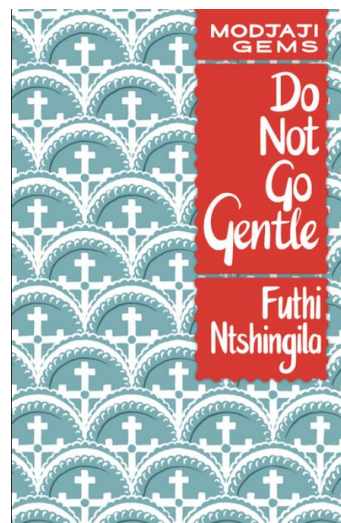
Amid the COVID-19 lockdown in a South African old age home, an 80-year-old ex-police general tormented by his apartheid-era crimes forms an unexpected bond with his caregiver. As their relationship deepens, both are forced to confront long-buried secrets and face the untold truths of their pasts.

"Ntshingila is a brilliant storyteller. The way in which she inhabits each character, portrays the inescapable inter-relatedness of humans and weaves the different layers of quite disparate lives is nothing short of magic." – Sindiwe Magona, **Sunday Times, SA**

"Urgente et sensible, l'écriture de Futhi Ntshingila nous plonge sans ménagement dans la réalité brutale de son héroïne." – Le Monde

Futhi Ntshingila

Do not go Gentle



Rights: sold NA/US, Portuguese, French

Available: film/streaming/tv

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 240

Publisher: Modjaji Books, South Africa

Selected as a 2019 Outstanding International Book by the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP)

Life wasn't always this hard for fourteen-year-old Mvelo, who lives with her mother, Zola in the shacks on Mkhumbane township. There were good times when they lived with Sipho, Zola's lawyer boyfriend. Yet, when the mysterious Nonceba Hlathi arrives, Zola has to make a choice. On top of this, their social grants have been discontinued: the one for Mvelo being underage reared by a 31-year-old single mother, and the other for Zola because of her HIV positive status. One night a terrible thing happened and remains unspoken.

Jason Staggie

is an author, filmmaker, poet and educator who has lived in South Africa, Ireland, the Czech Republic, South Korea and China. His short fiction has been published in the South African *Sunday Times* "Twenty Years of Democracy" special edition magazine and *The Machinery* literary magazine. Staggie was awarded the Bridgeguard Residency 2022 to work on his third novel, *Fugue State*. Released in June 2021, 'Hard Livings' is presently on a film festival run and has been well received.





Jason Staggie

Fugue State

Fugue state. Countries and people live it, sometimes consciously, most times not. Daniel seeks escape after being threatened and abused for a viral post on social media. He meets Yusuf, a mysterious figure known for his lavish parties. Yusuf invites Daniel to join his crew to research a documentary on missing Batswana women, leading to discoveries about Yusuf and even Daniel himself. Fugue state is the key to conquering the matrix, not changing the world.

"Staggie has considerable talents – commanding, often evocative prose, enviable (but unforced) descriptive powers, deft portraiture, a clean, engaging style, a winningly unpretentious but nonetheless savvy and sympathetic tone, and obvious intelligence." – Umuzi, Penguin Random House

"Fugue State has the potential to be a combination of *The Great Gatsby* and Alex Garland's *The Beach*, part far-flung and exotic adventure-thriller and part keen-eyed and uniquely tragic character study. A novel like this would be a sensation – as would a smaller, low-key, but nonetheless *Gatsby*-ish foreigner-in-Asia mood-piece (like Gavin Kramer's underrated novel *Shopping*)." – Umuzi, Penguin Random House

Rights: All rights available

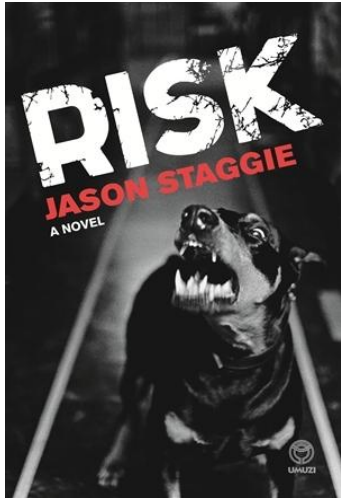
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction

Status: Edited manuscript

Words: 70.000+

Jason Staggie

Risk



Rights: World rights available
excl. South African English (Penguin Random House SA)
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction
Status: Published manuscript
Words: 55.000+
Co-agent: Books Crossing Borders, Betty Ann Crawford

Nominated for South African Literary Award for Best Young Writer

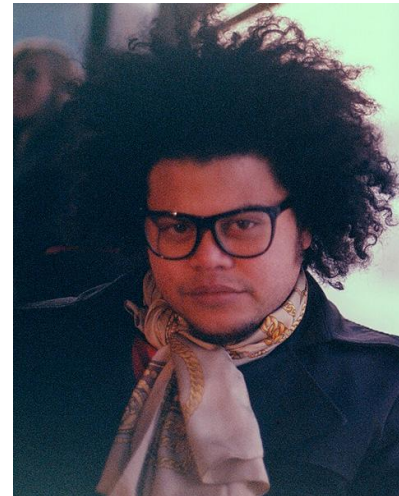
Risk revolves around the ultimate dare game. Nelson Jekwa: young, black, privileged. Named after Mandela, his future blinks promisingly. Bored and high, he and his friends play a game of risk. But what starts off as some edgy fun, evolves, spawning an entire social movement. The goal: to help Africa get out from the bottom of the world's toilet.

"The narrative is sharp, chopping between scenes, evoking a complex and intertwined reality ... It is a kaleidoscope of different characters, people spiritually degraded and void, living very much in the moment, victims of their environment and trapped into repeating cycles where their drug habits and various addictions mirror the addictive patterns of society's deficiencies, and yet they are all aspiring to transcend their circumstances."

The Witness Newspaper

Jason Staggie

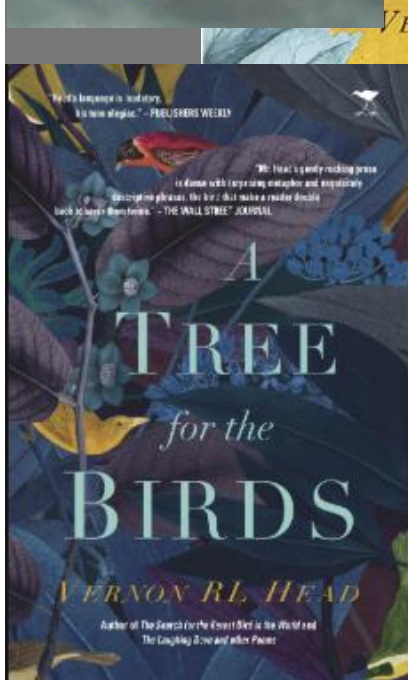
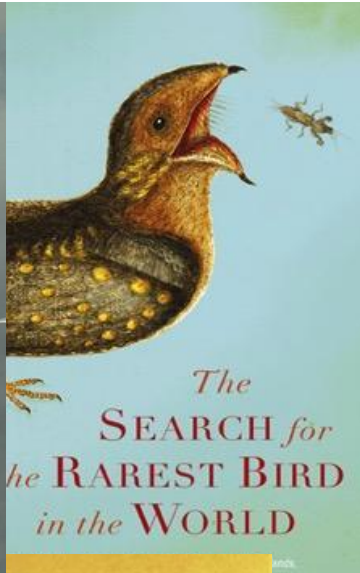
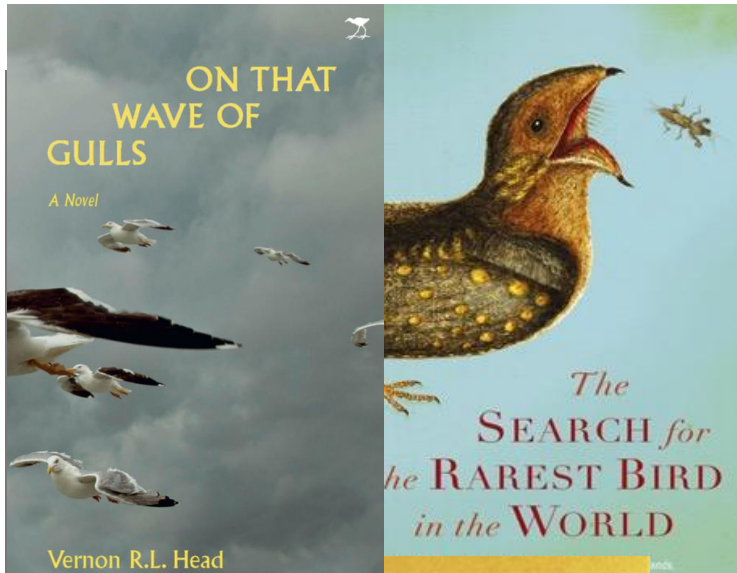
Epic



Rights: All rights available
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction
Status: Edited manuscript
Words: 70.000+

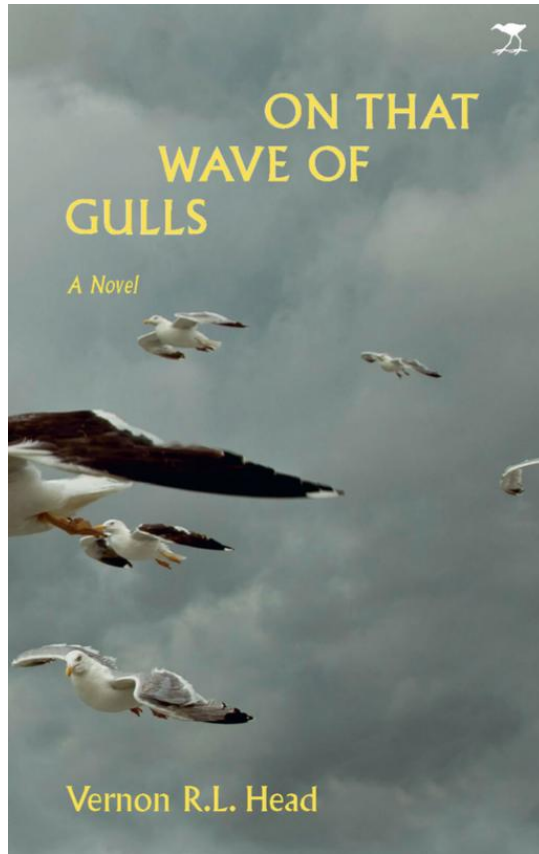
After losing his soulmate to a drug overdose, South African poet Josh receives the 'gift of seduction' from an African Faith Healer. Struggling with his pain, he becomes a master of seduction but it doesn't help. Desperate for money, he becomes a 'Relationship Wrecker' and is hired by parents, wives and husbands to disrupt romantic relationships. As Josh juggles his new job, family commitments, and conflict with ghetto gangsters, his journey becomes dangerous, revelatory, and unpredictable.

Staggie's writing has been compared to that of transgressive authors such as Anthony Burgess, Chuck Palahniuk and Irvine Welsh. Intertwining meta-narrative tropes from traditional epic poetry, with a loving yet scathing analysis of Cape Town's contemporary landscape, Staggie has crafted a novel that highlights issues on every level of society – from the rich to the poor, between genders, and across differences.



Vernon Head

is a multi-talented individual from South Africa who has achieved success in various fields, including poetry, novel writing, architecture, and environmentalism. He authored *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World*, a non-fiction story that was considered for the 2015 Sunday Times Alan Paton Literature Prize, and *A Tree for the Birds*, his first novel, which was a contender for the Sunday Times Barry Ronge Fiction Prize. In 2014, 2017, and 2019, his poetry was also up for the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Prize. Moreover, *A Tree for the Birds* was nominated for the 2020 National Institute of Humanities & Social Sciences Fiction Prize.



Rights: World rights, South African English sold to

Jacana Media

Genre: Literary Fiction

Words: 80.000+

Publication date: May 2023

Vernon Head

On that Wave of Gulls (new)

The book is set up in a rhythm, much like the tide. The world, and the coast and indeed Cape Town, seen from three points of view: through the eyes of a seagull named Calypso, who needs to lay an egg to pass on some sort of legacy that is her identity and in many ways her past; through the eyes of Pooi, a homeless man who thinks he is the moon, and who needs to teach himself to swim in the sea; through the eyes of Hieronymus, a fat and greasy, once successful white architect, married to a beautiful, black British woman.

On That Wave of Gulls is an overwhelming, poetic and philosophical investigation into the abuse of a boy, a search for commonality at the edge of love and sexuality, and the resultant relationships that live in between men and women.

"The reader is left to ponder what this novel is about. There is no simple answer to that, but I'd say with some confidence it shows us the beauty of existence, and the pain and rage of life – none of which we can really understand, but here we see it caught on the page for us, showing this corner of Cape Town. Here are two men we can readily identify with, such is Head's skill, and various manifestations of the female, from the benign bakery girl to two grandmothers ... and the shrieking she-gull.

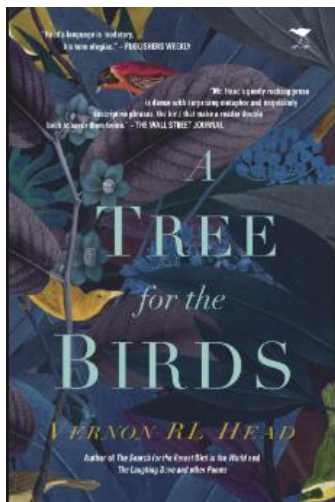
On That Wave of Gulls will take its place among the many fictional renditions of Cape Town, asserting love and rage on its own terms. – **Jane Rosenthal, News 24**

Vernon Head

A Tree for the Birds

Head has accelerated his passion for nature writing to the next level.

Fiction



Book: A Tree for the Birds
Rights: WR available, ex South African Engl (Jacana Media)
Genre: fiction
Pages: 280

We meet Chrisnelt, a young Congolese boy who grows into manhood shaped by the vast leaves held in the branches of tropical forests, all the while battling a ravaged world of globalised greed and death. Chrisnelt is a gardener of unusual genius: he learns from birds, insects and foreign weeds; and he counts raindrops falling from clouds, finding exquisite numbers that sing of the interconnection of peoples everywhere.

We venture deep into the mysterious world of the Congo River, the Great Dancing Road.

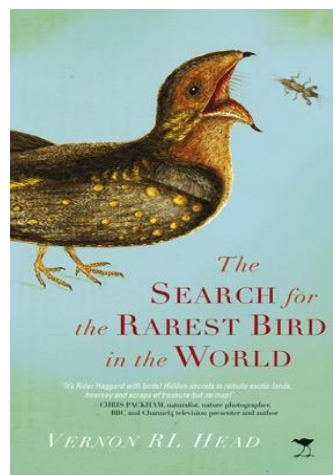
"In this narrative that mixes ancestral African beliefs and environmental issues in a poetic language, Vernon Head passes a very strong ecological message for our times. This beautiful story about books, trees, birds and rivers is also an inner journey that helps Chrisnelt heal and (re)connect with the people and the world. Head pays an homage to his African roots and to the vision of the African Kow tribe who believe that nature is central to both community and individual life and to inner balance." – The African Book Review, May 2021

Vernon Head

The Search for the rarest Bird in the World

Part detective trail, part love affair and pure story telling at its best.

Narrative non-Fiction



Book: The Search
Rights: sold World Arabic (Kalimat),
English South African (Jacana Media)
Genre: narrative non-fiction
Pages: 244 pages

It was 6,900 kilometers from home in Cape Town in sweltering, overwhelming, heat of the inky black jungle. Architect and bird watcher, Vernon Head, stood with a spotlight in hand, on a remote jungle mountainside in Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley looking for something few on earth had seen before.

For 26 years, the most famous wing in the world has lived in a drawer in the ornithology branch of the British Natural History Museum. The bird to which it belonged is unknown to science. So began the search for *Caprimulgus solala*, the rare nightjar with "only one wing."

"Mr. Head's gently rocking prose is dense with surprising metaphor and exquisitely descriptive phrases, the kind that make a reader double back to savor them twice. Within a few lines, you know you're in for a Nabokovian ride. The seekers find their nightjar. More study is needed. But it hardly matters; the search and Vernon Head's telling are more than satisfying enough." *Wall Street Journal* (2016)

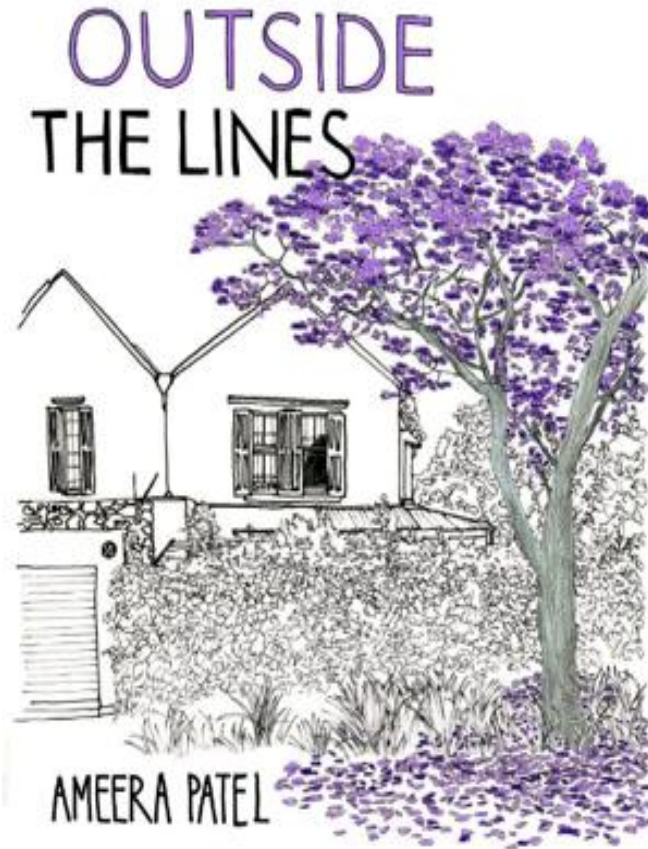
Ameera Patel

Outside the Lines

Starred review - Publishers Weekly

Listed on CrimeReads - "The Most Anticipated Crime Books of 2020: Summer Reading Edition"

Listed in the New York Times "Globetrotting" 2020 preview



"A deftly crafted novel that blends family drama with crime and black comedy, *Outside the Lines* is a unique and extraordinary novel by an author with an impressive flair for the kind of narrative storytelling that grips the reader's full attention and invests them in the characters and events portrayed. A riveting read from first page to last." *Midwest Book Review*, 2020

Outside the Lines is a journey through the underbelly of Johannesburg, South Africa and the intimacy of family drama scattered across racial, religious, and class divisions. Drug addict Cathleen is kidnapped and her distracted, middle-class family fails to notice her absence; Zilindile, who services Cathleen's drug habit, and his Muslim Indian girlfriend Farhana, struggle to make sense of their relationship despite their very different backgrounds; and domestic worker Flora and the silent Runyararo, who was painting Cathleen's house until accused by Cathleen's father of stealing, become entangled with romance and criminals, leading to the ultimate tragedy. A taut novel that walks the line between family drama, crime novel, thriller, and black comedy.

Rights: Rights available excl. German, North America, Canada, South Africa

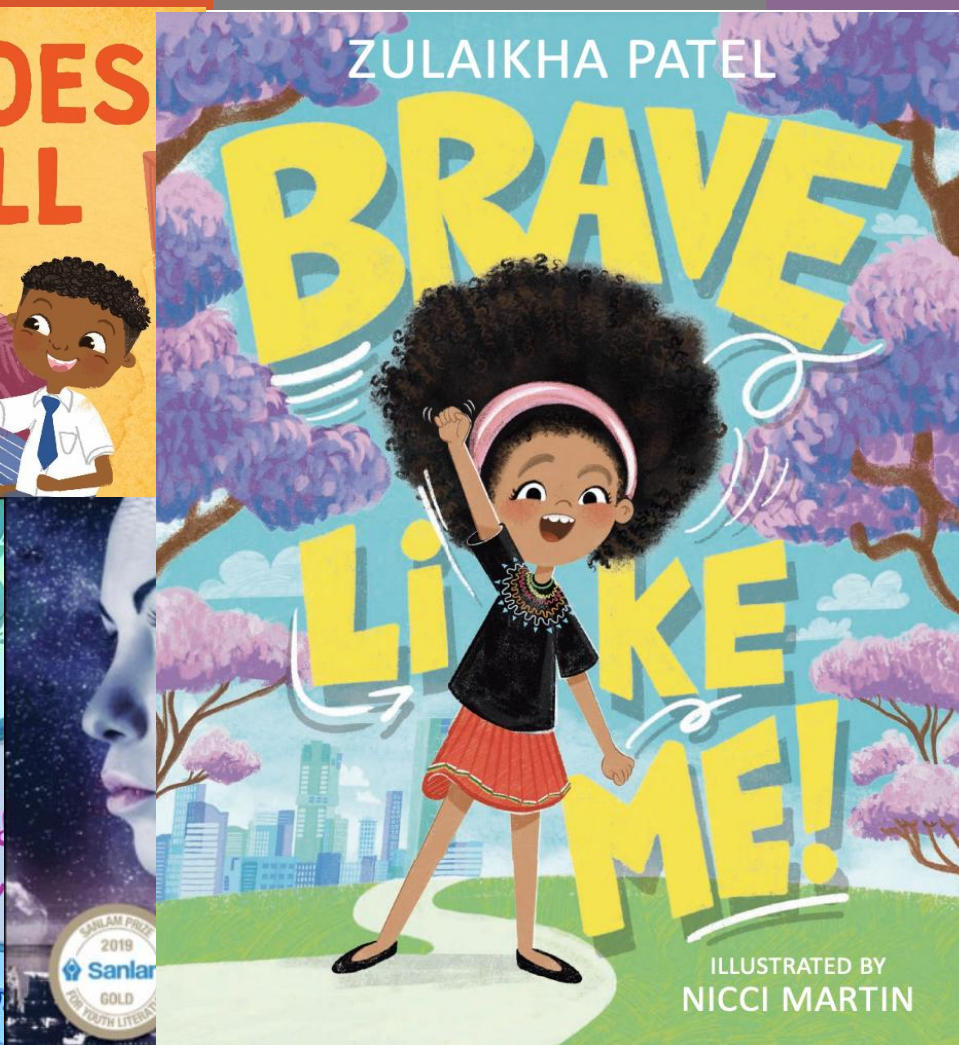
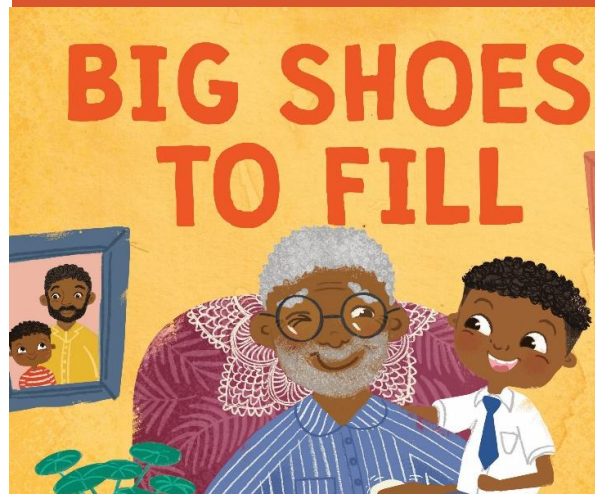
Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Modjaji Books, South Africa

Format: Paperback, 186 pages

AMEERA PATEL is an award winning actor and play write who has worked on stage and in television. She received a distinction for her MA in Creative Writing in 2013 (University of the Witwatersrand). *Outside the Lines* is her first novel.





NEW!

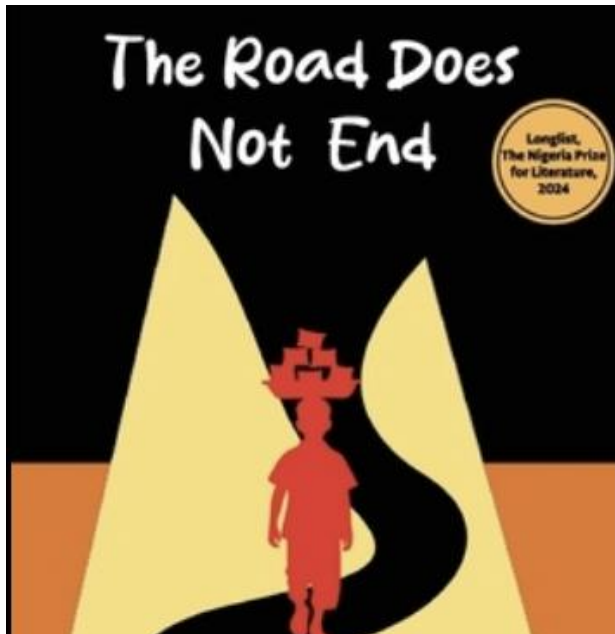
Ranti Olubunmi

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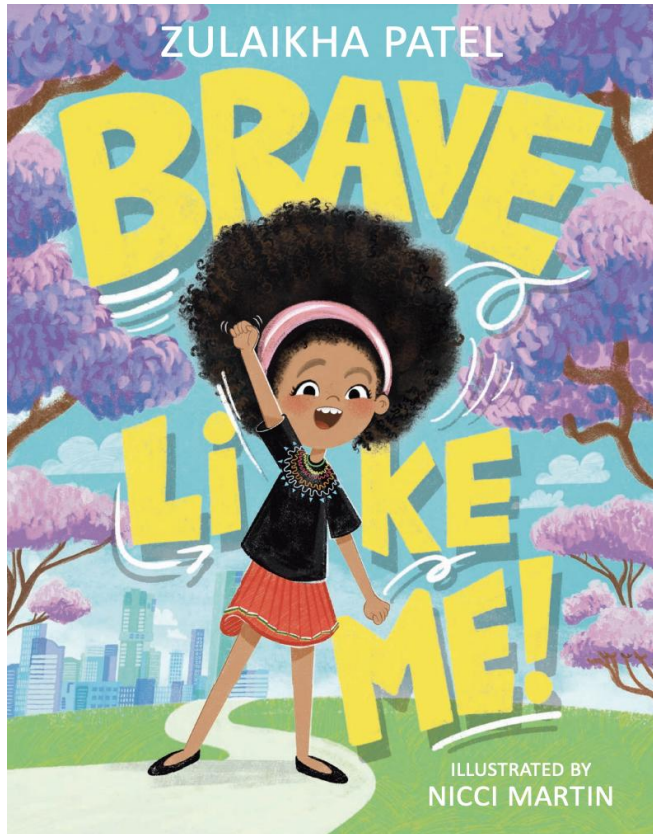
The target audience for the novel is adults who have a taste for literary fiction with undercurrents of magical realism, campus novels, and themes of intimacy, political unrest, memory, and redemption.

Genre: YA/ cross between surrealism and exhilaration.

Rights: all rights available, ex Nigerian English r

Wordcount: 40.000

Status: published in Nigeria



Written by Zulaikha Patel & Illustrated by Nicci Martin

Brave like me!

NEW!

"This book is for every young person who has ever felt unheard, unseen, or powerless," says Patel. "I want them to know that their voice matters, their story matters, and they have the power to create change. I hope this book inspires young people to take action and believe in their ability to shape the world around them."

Twenty-one-year-old Zulaikha Patel started her activism at the age of 13, when she started a movement called Stop Racism at Pretoria High School for Girls, because the rules at her high school included that black girls had to straighten their natural curly hair. Her stance sparked a countrywide movement. This is her inspiring story, told in her own words, of how she became a voice for change at such an early age.

Rights: available,ex English South African/local

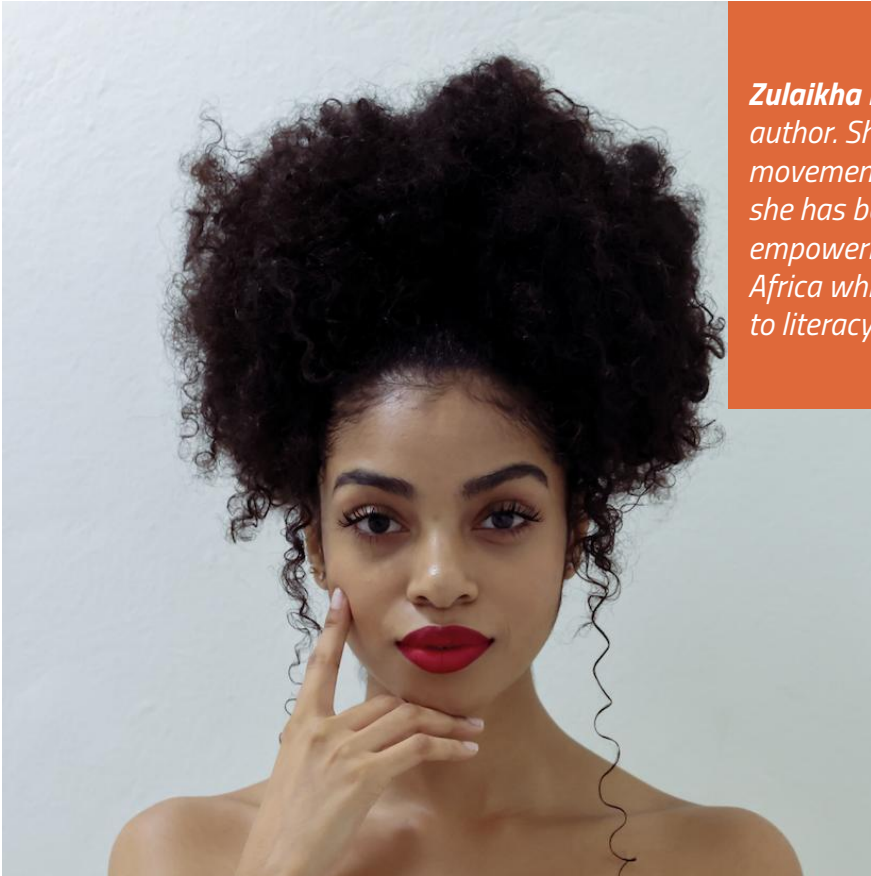
Genre: Picture book 3+

Illustrations: Full Colour throughout

Pages: 32

Publisher: PanMacmillam South Africa

Pub Date: february 2025



Zulaikha Patel is an internationally recognized human rights activist, speaker, and author. She first rose to prominence for her role in the #StopRacismAtPretoriaGirlsHigh movement, challenging institutional discrimination in South African schools. Since then, she has become a leading advocate for social justice, education, and youth empowerment. Patel is currently pursuing an LLB degree at the University of South Africa while leading her non-profit, Dare to Change, which focuses on providing access to literacy, education, and advocacy programs for young people.

"I want this book to be more than just my story—it should be a tool for transformation," Patel adds. "Access to books and education plays a crucial role in empowering young people, and I am committed to making sure that as many children as possible get the opportunity to read, learn, and dream."

A Book with a Mission: Inspiring Young Changemakers

More than just a personal story, *Brave Like Me!* is a call to action for young people everywhere. It encourages readers to think critically about social justice, equality, and the impact they can have in their communities. Patel hopes that by sharing her experiences, young readers will be empowered to speak out against injustice and drive meaningful change.

The book aligns with Patel's broader activism through her **non-profit organization, Dare to Change**, which is dedicated to promoting literacy, education, and youth empowerment. A key initiative of Dare to Change is **setting up library corners in under-resourced schools**, ensuring that more children have access to books and educational materials.



Written by Upile Bongco & Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

Big Shoes to Fill

NEW!

A touching picture book about resilience, identity, and familial love.

Every morning when Ta'mkhulu helps Zinzo to shine his shoes, he reminds him that he has big shoes to fill. Zinzo wants to make his dad's proud, even though they live far away in the city. His grandfather sets a great example by being kind and caring to everyone in the village.

But when the children at school learn about Zinzo's unconventional family they are not kind to him at all. Can Zinzo show them that being different is nothing to be afraid of?

Big Shoes to Fill is a proudly South African book that encourages acceptance, understanding and kindness towards the LGBTQI+ community. This picture book is not only a tribute to the unbreakable bonds of family but also a celebration of the courage to stand tall in one's own shoes.

UPILE BONGCO, is an award-winning TV and theatre actor, writer, voice-over artist and facilitator who has a terrifying fear of balloons. She is curious about the mental and psychological health of marginalized South Africans and is dedicated to using her creative skills to embrace their lived experiences through education, performance and drama therapy.

Zinelda McDonald is an award-winning South African illustrator who lives in Wellington in the Western Cape of South Africa. She has illustrated numerous children's books and is also a well-known designer and illustrator of children's book covers. Awards for her work include the Alba Bouwer Prize and the Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award.

Rights: available, English Southern African rights sold

Genre: Picture book 3+

Illustrations: Full Colour throughout

Pages: 40

Publisher: PanMacmillan South Africa

Pub Date: September 2024

THE STORIES THAT RAN AWAY

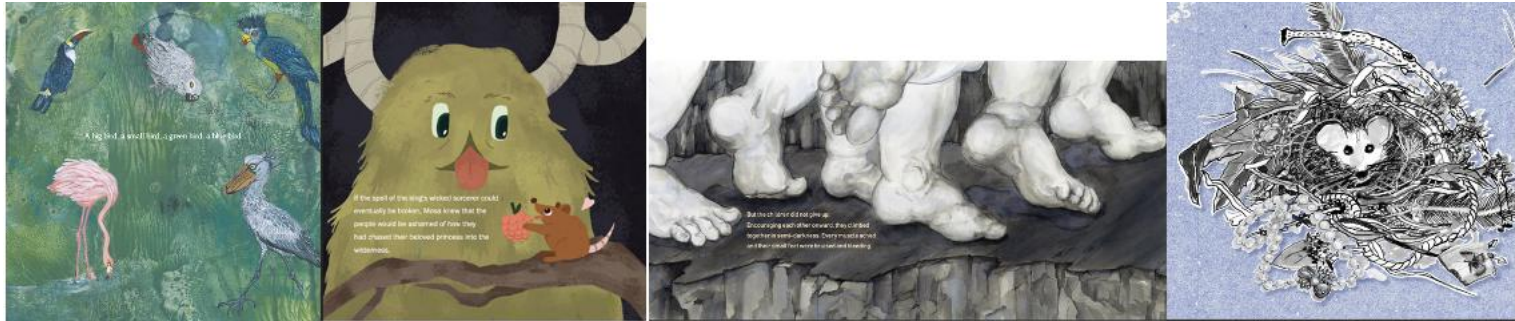
is a series of 14 Children's Books that will be published by the Zeitz MOCAA Museum of Fine Art in Cape Town, South Africa, over the next three years.

A big bird, a small bird, a green bird, a blue

If the spell of the king's wicked sorcerer could eventually be broken, Mosa knew that the people would be ashamed of how they had chased their beloved princess into the wilderness.

But the children did not give up. Encouraging each other onward, they climbed together in semi-darkness. Every muscle ached and their small feet were bruised and bleeding.

The Stories that Ran Away



A SERIES OF FOURTEEN FABULOUS BOOKS

ALL THE FOLK TALES ARE RE-WRITTEN AS STORIES FOR CHILDREN

ILLUSTRATED BY AFRICAN ARTISTS.

A FANTASY WORLD OF STRANGE AND WONDROUS CREATURES, CHARACTERS AND MYSTERIOUS SPACES

INVITING THE YOUNG READERS ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND REDISCOVERY OF OLD AND NEW STORIES FROM AFRICA.

Rights: Available

Genre: Picture book 3+

Illustrations: Full Colour throughout

Pages: 32

Publisher: Zeitz mocaa Museum, capet town, South Africa

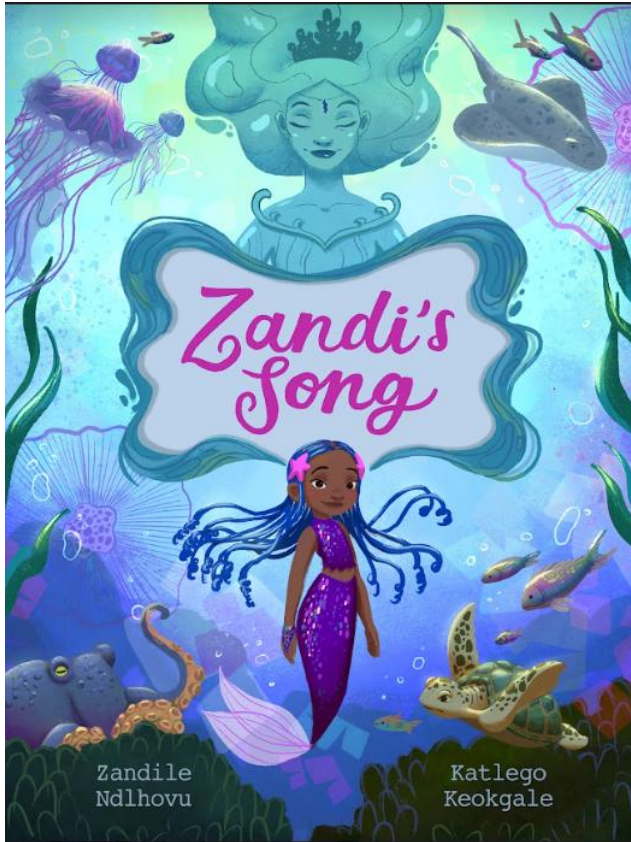
Total Titles: 14

Planning: 4 published, 10 expected



Featured in *the Guardian*, Zandila says that "the environmental degradation of the ocean is something that concerns Ndhlovu greatly and she believes that connecting children with the underwater world helps raise their awareness."





Written by Zandile Ndhlovu
Illustrated by Katlego Keokgale

Zandi's Song

Zandi dreams of the big blue ocean and bright colourful fish even though she lives far away from the sea and hasn't learnt to swim. One day the sea gives her a gift that changes everything. Zandi goes on an adventure full of amazing discoveries but something is threatening this magical world ... is the key to protecting it buried in stories from the past?

An empowering and inspiring story about our connection to the natural world, following your dreams, and caring for the environment.

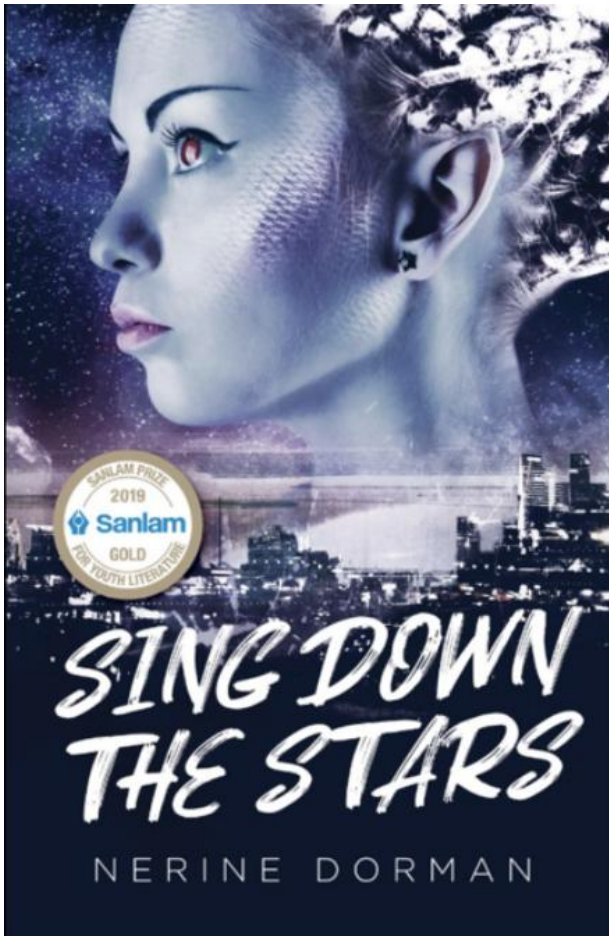
Rights: World English sold , Brazilian Portuguese sold
Genre: Illustrated Children's fiction
Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa
Format: 32 pages
Publishing date: May 2023

Zandile Ndhlovu is South Africa's first black female freediving instructor. After looking beneath the surface of the ocean for the first time in her life at 28, she felt at home and realized she needed to help make the seas more accessible and diverse. Realizing it needed to start with young people, Ndhlovu set up the Black Mermaid Foundation, which works to create diverse representation in ocean spaces, in sports, in careers and recreationally.

Katlego "Kat" Keokgale is a children's books illustrator and loves reading and watching anything with magic in it. She's also a wife and mother of two beautiful girls and loves sharing the work she does with them. She hopes to inspire many more black creatives to pursue children's book illustration and grow the industry because there are so many amazing stories that need to be told.



“A caste-less orphan working for a crime boss is enrolled into a secret governmental program where she aspires to bond with an unhatched sentient spacefaring being.”



Rights: available, English Southern African rights sold
Genre: YA Fantasy
Publisher: NB Publishers, , South Africa
Pages: 296

Nerine Dorman

Sing down the Stars

Gold winner of the Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature, winner of the Percy Fitzpatrick Award for Children's and Youth Literature

Nuri wants more from life than just being a runner for crime boss Vadith, in the slums of Calan City. Yet when the young thief hears a strong psi-call that leads her to a secret facility, she is drawn into a project with other cadets chosen to pair with the emergence of a sentient star-ship.

Yet it's not all plain sailing for Nuri. Not only does her mixed-race heritage mark her as different, but her social caste puts her at a serious disadvantage to some of the privileged cadets. Fortunately, she has a team of friends to stand by her, as she navigates the complex social hierarchy previously denied to her.

Though she is one of the few who heard the psi-call, it is nevertheless not a given that she will succeed, and forces are arrayed against her as she fights to make the final cut of those who'll stand on the day of emergence.

Nerine Dorman is a South African author and editor of science fiction and fantasy currently living in Cape Town. Creative, innovative and not eager to embrace anything associated with being institutionalised, she constantly surprises and delights. She has a fantastic sense of humour and creates because that's who she is.



Eugen Bacon

NEW!

The clever little Monkey – series

Wisdom and cunning are cherished characteristics in the African tradition, lauded and legendized in folktales personifying the hare, the tortoise and the monkey as showcasing these esteemed qualities.

The following are a series of Afrocentric folktales about a clever little monkey.

In her first adventure, Aria's curiosity gets the best of her when she falls onto the back of a crocodile. Using her quick wit, she tricks the croc into believing her heart is left at home, only to replace it with a juicy mango, saving herself in the process. In another tale, Aria is challenged by a lion cub to a race but cleverly enlists her cousins to confuse the cub, outsmarting her and turning a potential enemy into a playful friend. In her final story, Aria and her father, Baba, help the animals dig a water hole during a drought, while only Aria stays vigilant enough to catch Jackal stealing water at night. The Jackals are then forced to help ensure there is enough water for all, thanks to Aria's sharp mind and her love for the blinky stars.

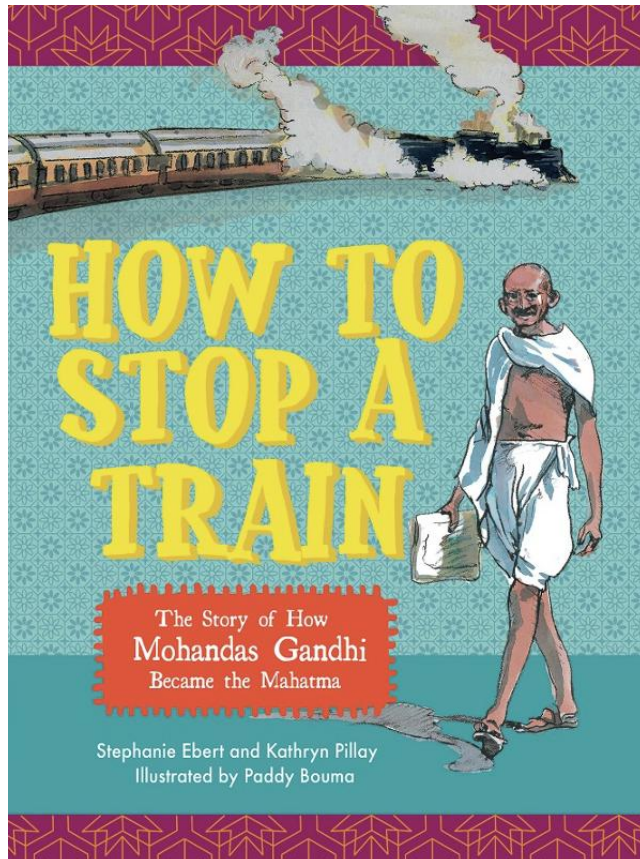
Rights: WW rights available,

Genre: 3+

Pages: 32

Illustrations: to the publisher

Eugen Bacon is an African Australian author of several novels and collections. She's a British Fantasy Award winner, a Foreword Indies Award winner, a twice World Fantasy Award finalist, and a finalist in other awards. Eugen was announced in the honor list of the Otherwise Fellowships for 'doing exciting work in gender and speculative fiction'. *Danged Black Thing* made the Otherwise Award Honor List as a 'sharp collection of Afro-Surrealist work', and was a 2024 Philip K Dick Award nominee. Eugen's creative work has appeared worldwide, including in *Apex Magazine*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *Fantasy*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and *Year's Best African Speculative Fiction*. Visit her at eugenbacon.com.



Stephanie Ebert and Katherine Pillay

How to stop a Train

NEW!

A touching picture book about resilience, identity, and familial love.

When Mohandas Gandhi is thrown off a train one day, it marks the beginning of a journey. A journey to put an end to the unfair treatment of Indian people in South Africa. A journey to teach everyone that you can change the world without using violence. A journey to make the world a better place. A long journey that begins with one small word: No.

In this book, young readers are introduced, in an engaging and accessible way, to one of South Africa's – and the world's – greatest and bravest heroes, the remarkable Mahatma Gandhi.

Stephanie Ebert is sociologist at the University of KwaZulu-Natal has, over the years, been approached by the media, both national and international, to provide comment on issues of race, diversity, and inequality, amongst other social issues.

Katherine Pillay chased her love of a good story through a degree in English Literature from Taylor University, USA, focused on the stories of anti-racist activists. She loves seeing the past come alive through stories. Stephanie lives in Pietermaritzburg and drives past Gandhi's famous train station at least once a week.

Rights: available, English Southern African rights sold

Genre: Picture book 5+

Illustrations: Full Colour throughout

Pages: 32

Publisher: PanMacmillan South Africa

Pub Date: April 2024

REFILOE MOAHLOLI

PART OF
A TEAM

REFILOE MOAHLOLI

You are

KNOW MY
NAME

Illustrated by KATLEGO KEOKGALE



ZINEEDA McDONALD

Illustrated by
ZINEEDA McDONALD

REFILOE MOAHLOLI



Written by Refiloe Moahloli
Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

We are One

Moahloli's work makes for a stunning picture book for young readers and their grown-ups that focuses on our shared sense of community.

The book is inspired by the Xhosa and Zulu word "ubuntu," meaning "I am, because you are," according to the publisher's note, and is "a concept of shared humanity, compassion, and oneness."

The story has a strong message of kindness and togetherness in the sparse text, which is ideal for reading aloud with younger readers and early independent readers



Refiloe Moahloli is the best-selling author of *You are Loved*, *Know my Name* and *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children and the inner child in adults can identify and celebrate themselves.

Zinelda McDonald is an award-winning South African illustrator who lives in Wellington in the Western Cape of South Africa. She has illustrated numerous children's books and is also a well-known designer and illustrator of children's book covers. Awards for her work include the Alba Bouwer Prize and the Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award.

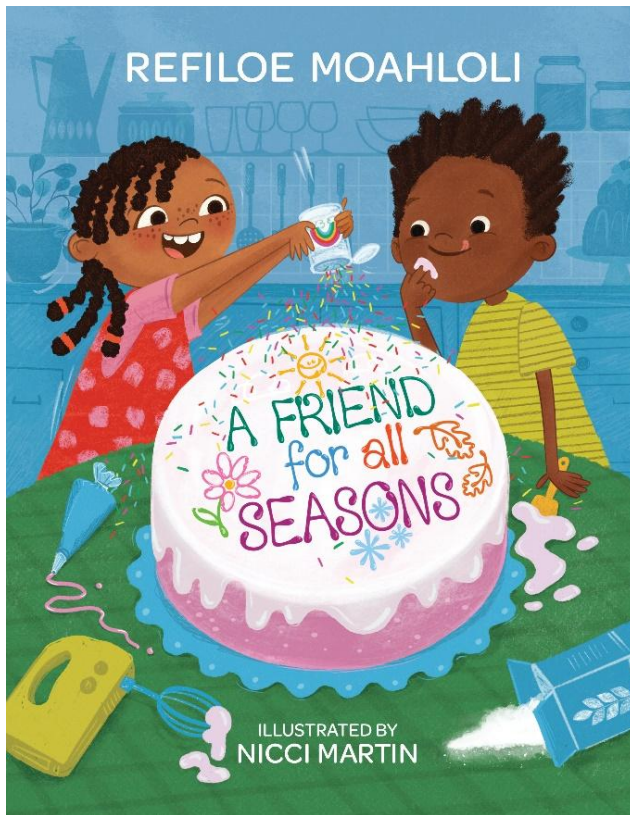
Rights: sold ww Portuguese, ww Arabic, Turkish and English World sold to Amazon Crossing in co-operation with the Lennon-Ritchie Agency.

Genre: Children's fiction

Publisher: PanMacmillan, South Africa

Format: 32 pages

Publishing date: September 2020



Written by Refiloe Moahloli

Illustrated by Nicci Martin

A friend for all seasons

NEW!

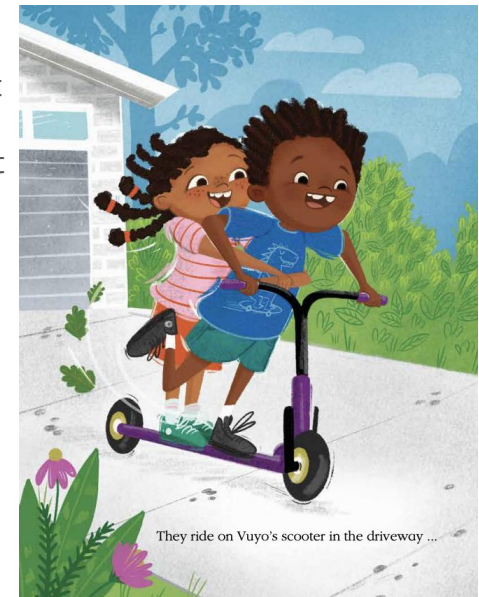
Moahloli's work makes for a stunning picture book for young readers and their grown-ups that focuses on friendship and kindness that encourages young children to accept and support others.

A new family has moved in next door.

Vuyo can see them from his bedroom window.

The mom is dancing, the dad is laughing, the dog keeps wagging its tail ...

Why does the little girl look sad?



They ride on Vuyo's scooter in the driveway ...

Rights: World Rights available ex Southern African

Genre: Illustrated Children's fiction 3+

Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa

Format: 32 pages

Publishing date: November 2023

Refiloe Moahloli is the best-selling author of *You are Loved*, *Know my Name* and *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children and the inner child in adults can identify and celebrate themselves.

Nicci Martin is a children's book illustrator from the vibrant Bo-Kaap neighbourhood in Cape Town. Having started out in the world of advertising, her love for drawing changed the course of her career and she now spends most of her time illustrating in her studio. Nicci uses mixed media combined with stylized geometric shapes, organic textures and bright, flat colours to create her expressive characters and playful environments.

Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Katlego Keogale

Early Readers

Part of a Team



Refiloe Moahloli is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit and that children can identify with. She wrote the bestseller *We are One* published in the US/UK and Turkey, the Arabic regions and Portuguese.

Katlego "Kat" Keogale is a children's books illustrator and hopes to inspire many more black creatives to pursue children's book illustration and grow the industry because there are so many amazing stories that need to be told.

Morena loves his new school! There are so many fun extramural activities and games to play that he and his friends have set up their own championship. Before school starts and at break Morena and his friends plays marbles, cards, soccer and shoot hoops.

If there's one thing Morena takes seriously it is being the captain of his school's softball team. He is good at pitching and his twin sister Rorisang is an excellent batter. But their team keeps losing! Morena isn't scared of a challenge, he'll try his best at any game to be a superstar. How can he help his team to do their best?

Rights: World Rights available, excl English South African

Genre: Children's fiction, Early Readers

Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa

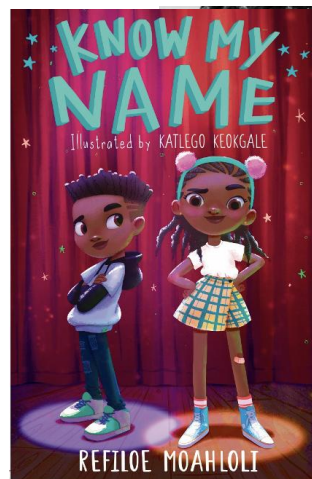
Format: 64 pages, b/w illustrated

Publishing date: September 2021

Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Katlego Keogale

Early Readers

Know my Name



Rorisang and her twin brother Mo must start the school year at a new school after their mom decides that the family needs to get out of their comfort zone. The twins have attended the school across the road since they were toddlers. All their friends are there, and their dad is best friends with the headmaster.

The new school is far from their house. Luckily Rorisang makes new friends quickly, learns to play softball and performs a praise poem at the Eisteddfod. She even survives the long trips in the car with her pest of a brother!

Rights: World Rights available, excl South African

Genre: Children's fiction, Early Readers

Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa

Format: 64 pages, b/w illustrated

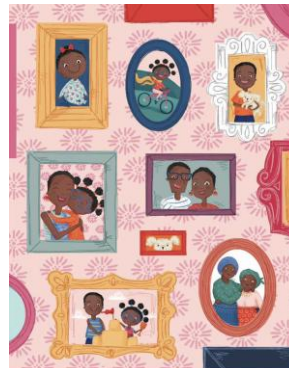
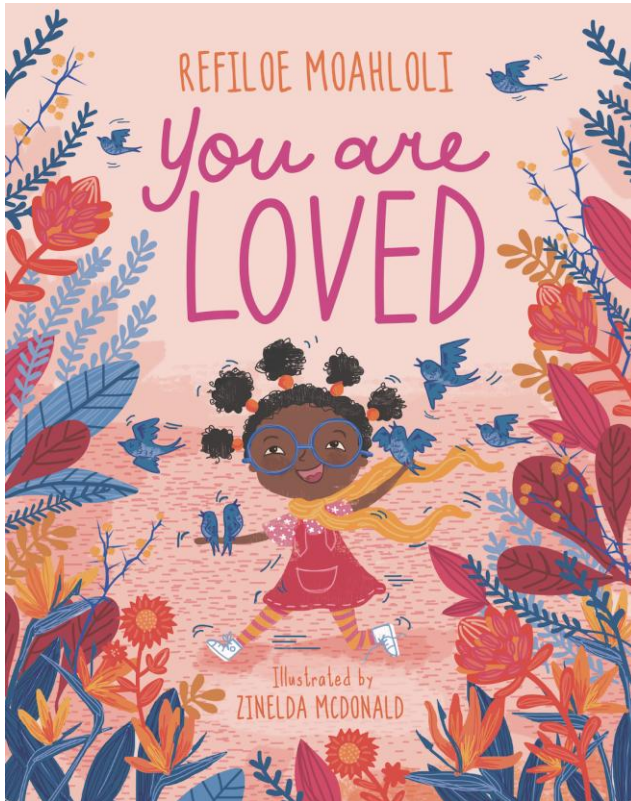
Publishing date: September 2021

Written by Refiloe Moahloli
Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

You are loved

Athandwa's heart is different. Her heart can sing. At first it scares her. Why is she not like her family and friends? When she tries to silence her heart, she discovers a secret ... and a special song. One that Mama, Gogo and Koko also know.

You are loved is a lyrical story about accepting the things that make us unique and celebrating the intergenerational love that lifts and protects us.



Rights: World Rights available, excl SA

Genre: Children's fiction

Publisher: Pan Macmillan, South Africa

Format: 32 pages

Publishing date: September 2020

Refiloe Moahloli is the best-selling author of *I am You* (US Title of We are One), *Know my Name*, *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children and the inner child in adults can identify and celebrate themselves.

Z

inelda McDonald won numerous awards for her work including the Alba Bower-award and the Exclusive Books/IBBY-award



Jaco Jacobs is the author of more than 190 books and more than a million copies of his books have been sold. His work has been awarded 42 times and his books were translated to English, Dutch, Italian and Portuguese.

He has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal twice and two of his books were adapted to film.



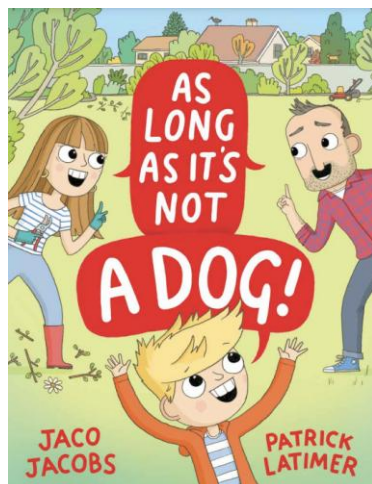
Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Patrick Latimer

As long as it's not a dog

Tim's birthday is around the corner, and he knows exactly what he wants ... a dog!

Unfortunately, his parents have other ideas. They think dogs are noisy, messy and lots of work.

Maybe he can come up with a plan to make his parents change their minds...Tim's birthday wishes will have toddlers – and their parents – in stitches!



Patrick Latimer is an illustrator, cartoonist and ceramicist.. He has been a full-time illustrator for the past sixteen years. He likes dogs, folk music and hiking. Also weird insects and table tennis. All these bits and pieces find their way into his work. Often with a dash of humour.

Rights: World available, African English sold
Age: 3+
Pages: 32 FC
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA

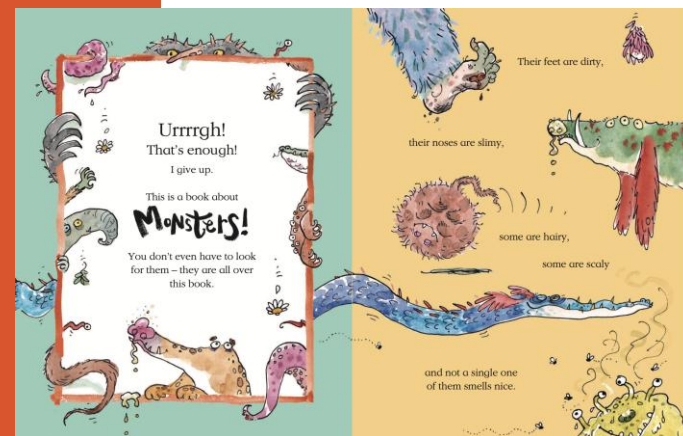


Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Theodore Key

This is a Book about Monsters

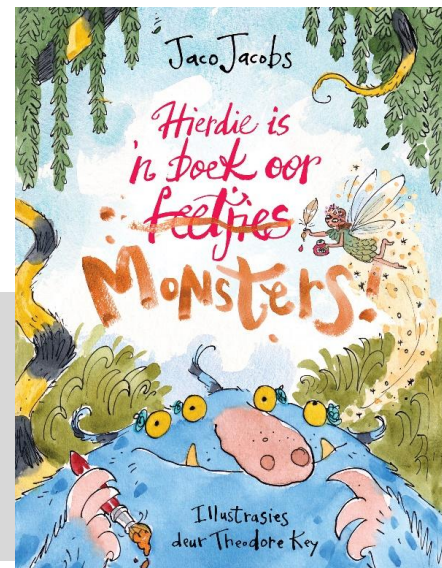
NEW!

Jaco Jacobs is a popular and prolific South African Children's book writer.



Theodore Key is a freelance illustrator from Cape Town, South Africa. He has a degree in graphic design and illustrates children's books and also does work for newspapers, magazines and advertising agencies..

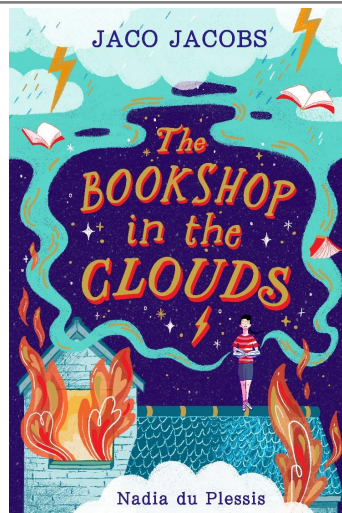
Rights: Available. African English sold
Age: 3+
Pages: 32 FC
Pub date: October 2024
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA



Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Nadia de Plessis

The Bookshop in the Clouds

Welcome to Head In The Clouds. It's Ella's favourite shop on earth. A place full of magic, where wonderful things can happen to you. A place where you can buy second-hand books smelling of mystery and adventure and daydreams (and a teeny, tiny bit of sweaty socks, to be completely honest). Between the shelves awaits an adventure that will change Ella's life forever ... if she's brave enough.



Nadia du Plessis is the owner of Bvbblegvm Illustrations and lives in Cape Town. All her illustrations are drawn by hand and the colouring is done digitally – the perfect balance between her passion for art and design.

Rights: World available, African English sold
Age: MG
Illustrations: b/w
Pages: 232
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA



Jaco Jacobs is a popular and prolific South African Children's book writer.

Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Theodore Key

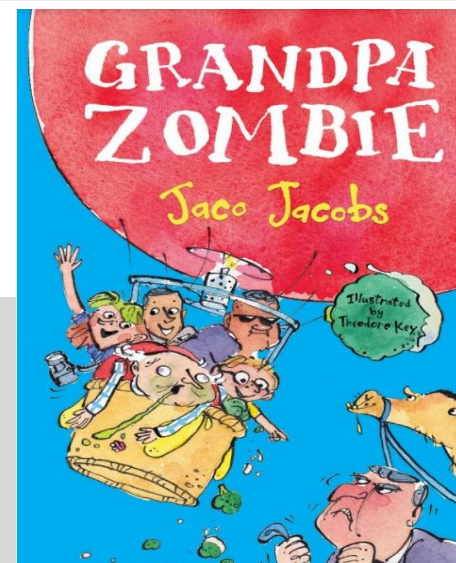
Grandpa Zombie

Alex's grandpa has grey hair and false teeth and he loves watching travel shows on television. But then he suddenly develops an interest in ... *BRAIIINNNSS!*

Grandpa is turning into a zombie and if Alex wants to rescue him before the Zombie Squad shows up, he'll need to come up with a plan (and heaps of broccoli). Their travels to find a cure takes them across Africa – from Zambia to Egypt – and along the way they meet a range of interesting and wonderful characters.

Theodore Key is a freelance illustrator from Cape Town, South Africa. He has a degree in graphic design and illustrates children's books and also does work for newspapers, magazines and advertising agencies..

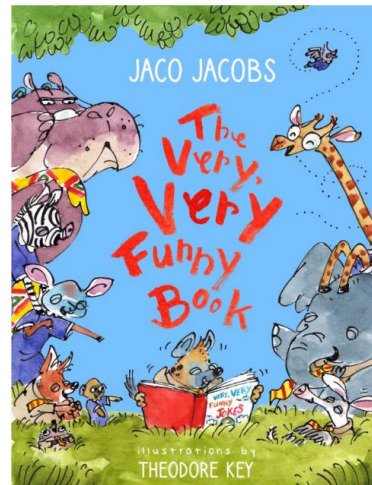
Rights: Available. African English sold
Age: 9+
Pages: 196
Illustrations: b/w
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA



Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Theodore Key

The Very Very Funny Book

The kids in Miss Hippo's classroom are terribly busy this morning! They play and have fun; they draw pictures and sing songs. But Hyena just can't stop giggling and guffawing. What on earth could be so funny? Find out for yourself in this very, very funny book and have double the fun when you read the jokes in a jokebook that is hidden in the middle section of the book!



Theodore Key is a Cape Town based freelance illustrator. He obtained a Graphic Design degree from the University of Pretoria and is an editorial illustrator as well as an illustrator of children's books and advertising campaigns.

Rights: World available
Age: 3+
Pages: 40 FC
Publication date: 2021
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA

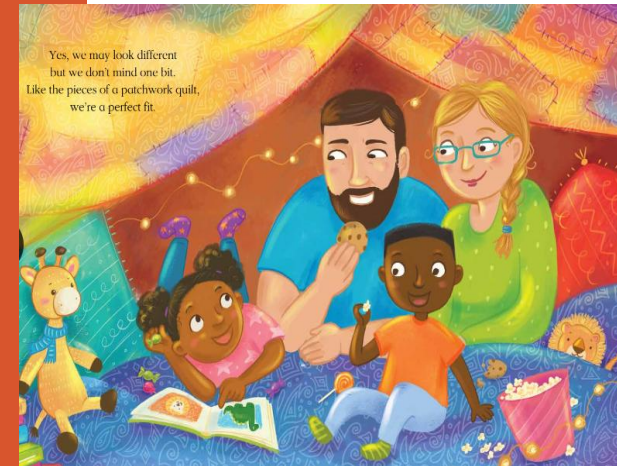


Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Tumi K Steyny

You Are A Wish

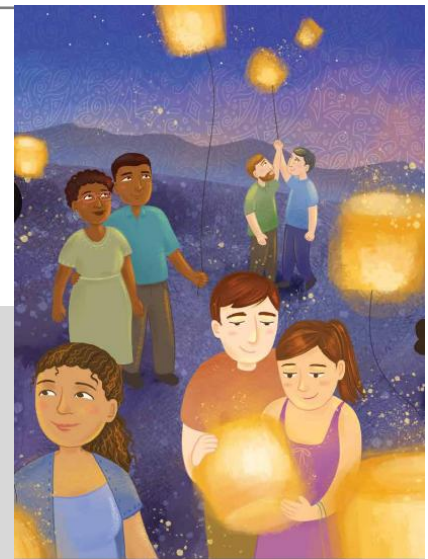
Jaco Jacobs is a popular and prolific South African Children's book writer.

An endearing book about adoption, ideal as a starting point for young children.



Tumi K Steyny is an artist and illustrator. She has illustrated several other children's books.

Rights: WW Portuguese sold, South African English sold
Age: 3+
Pages: 32 FC
Publishing date: 2022
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA





VAN AGGELEN

African Literary Agency

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