



VAN AGGELEN

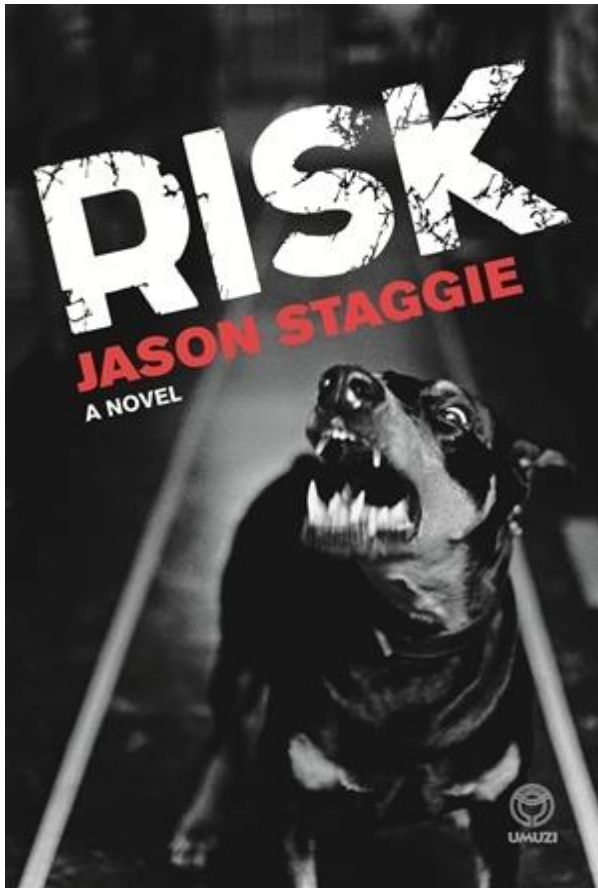
African Literary Agency

www.africanliteraryagency.com | contact: bieke@africanliteraryagency.com

African Literary Agency is a boutique literary agency. We work with a select group of books, authors and publishers. Our focus is on African fiction and non-fiction books and high-quality illustrated children's books and, since August 2020, African Speculative Fiction.*

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.**



Jason Staggie

Risk

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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZE1P0o4Xa0&ab_channel=JasonStaggie

"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

Rights: World rights available excl. South African
English (Penguin Random House SA)
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction
Status: Published manuscript
Words: 55.000+

"My three novels are my attempt at making sense of South Africa and Africa. Hence each protagonist is from a different race: *Risk* – black; *Epic* – mixed and *Fugue State* – white. I didn't consciously do this; it was just how it developed. My work is entertaining but is also concerned with fostering change." Jason Staggie





Jason Staggie

Epic

Josh, a young South African poet, loses his soul mate to a drug overdose. Incapable of dealing with her death, he visits a traditional African faith healer who empathizes with him and makes a deal, giving him what she calls the 'gift of seduction.' She urges him to seduce others to distract him from his pain. As one seduction dissolves into the next, Josh develops into a master, but his pain lingers. When his sister, Sally, is diagnosed with end stage lung disease, Josh is forced to think of an extreme strategy to make money. With the help of brothel owner Captain Morgan, Josh sets himself up as a 'Relationship Wrecker:' a professional disruptor of romantic relationships. He is hired by parents who don't approve of their children's partners, wives attempting to curb their husband's adulterous affairs and by husbands trying to gain an advantage in divorce proceedings. As Josh juggles the responsibilities of his new job with his family commitments, his conflict with ghetto gangsters, and his sense of morality, his journey transforms into something dangerous, revelatory and utterly unpredictable.

Staggie's writing has been compared to that of transgressive authors such as Anthony Burgess, Chuck Palahniuk and Irvine Welsh. His first novel, *Risk* was his first attempt at making sense of, and fostering change in, South Africa and the wider African continent.

Epic builds on this intention. 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.

Rights: All rights available

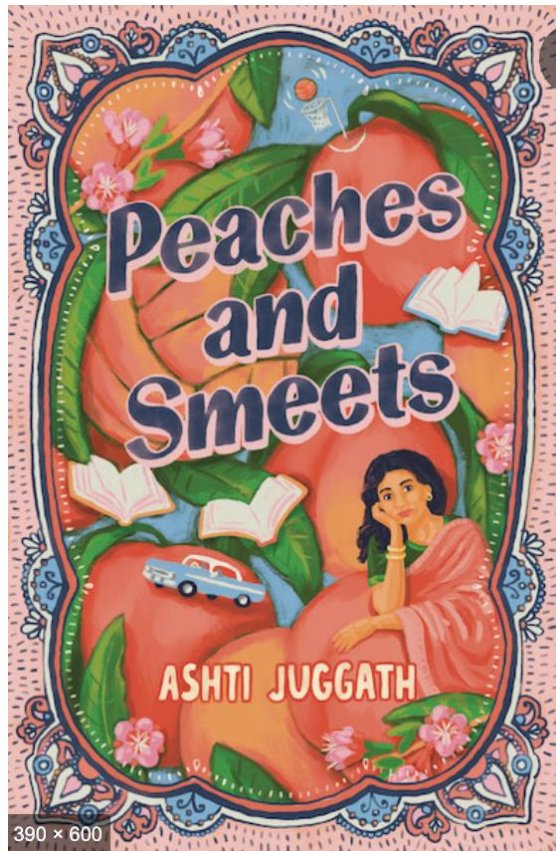
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction

Status: Edited manuscript

Words: 70.000+

Jason Staggie is an author, filmmaker, poet and educator who has lived in South Africa, Ireland, the Czech Republic, South Korea and China. His debut novel, *Risk* (2013), was nominated for a South African Literary Award in the Best Young Writer category and is currently in development as a television series. 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*.

More recently, he has been working on a feature documentary, 'Hard Livings,' based on his ex-gangster family in Cape Town. Released in June 2021, 'Hard Livings' is presently on a film festival run and has been well received.



Rights: World Rights available excl. SA English

Genre: Literary Fiction

Pages: 196

Status: Published, Modjaji Books, SA, 2022

Ashti Juggath

Peaches and Smeets

‘A tender exploration into the beating heart of a community that endured through culture and sacrifice, with such detailed references to life in the 1960s for Indians in Johannesburg and Durban. Smita will live long in the memory of the reader. Well-recommended.’ Shubnum Khan

Growing up in Bakerton, Springs in the 1950s and '60s, Smita (Smeets) Maharaj is puzzled by a great deal of adult behaviour. Why must her tall, handsome father be so obsequious to the police? Why must brown people sit in separate train carriages from white people? Why can't her mother see how much more important it is for her to get a good education than to learn to make the perfect roti?

Caught between the beloved traditions of India and life in a quickly modernising South Africa, between family roots in Natal and a prosperous present in the Transvaal; between the madness of apartheid and the pull of her own desires, Smita struggles to find her feet in a world beset by contradictions. As the Maharaj family expands and grows, and her mother's twin obsessions with producing a son and finding suitable boys for her daughters to marry dominate the family's discourse, Smita wrestles with satisfying her parents' wishes and following her own path as she navigates her way through school and life - and comes to terms with a long-held, painful family secret.

Ashti Juggath grew up on the beautiful KwaZulu-Natal North Coast. Often during school holidays, she spent time with her grandparents in Springs on the East Rand, the predominant setting for her first novel. She has a Master's degree in Pharmacy and works as a pharmacist for a large corporate in the City of Gold. *Peaches and Smeets* is her first novel, which she wrote believing that the stories of the past needed to be captured for posterity. Ashti currently lives in a leafy suburb in Johannesburg with her husband, three children and many books.

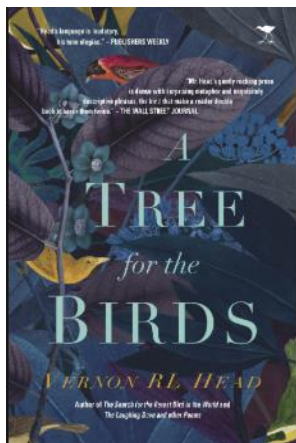


Vernon Head

A Tree for the Birds

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

Fiction



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.

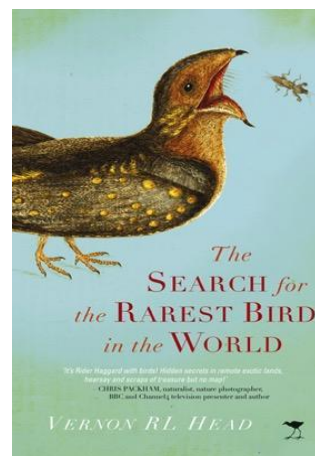
We venture deep into the mysterious world of the Congo River, the Great Dancing Road.

“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.



“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)

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.”

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

Book: A Tree for the Birds
Rights: World Rights available
Genre: fiction
Pages: 280
Publication date: 2018



Bronwyn Millar

Verity I Say Unto Thee

"I wanted to write something real, where the heroine is flawed but fun and deeply relatable, something that was escapist, the kind of chunky, comforting book you can't put down. I have had great reviews from all five of my beta readers. One of them was my mom but she promises me she was objective." Bronwyn Millar

Vee is FINALLY free. Escaping her controlling religious South African family, she has landed in London where she throws herself into a wild, long-distance rebellion and forgets how to actually adult. She works temp jobs to keep herself in permanent party mode and her hilarious misadventures lead her from one hapless cock-up to the next aimless hook-up.

That is until she meets Neil. Suddenly, all she can think of is him. Unfortunately, you can't always get what you want, and there are obstacles on all sides. Neil is already in a complicated love triangle with his ex, Frankie, and his best friend. Vee's best friend in London, a siren called Lisa, has a habit of poaching any men Vee might be interested in, including Vee's most recent ex. Then there's Zero - the goth-hairdresser-hacker who saves Vee's ass once or twice (at least), oh, and did we mention Verity's bona fide stalker?

As Verity tries to figure out who she is, what she wants, and how to get it, she makes A LOT of mistakes along the way. From London to Tuscany (how else would you avoid a warrant for your arrest?) and finally back to South Africa - with or without her man - Verity seems to be stuck in a self-fulfilling prophecy of chaos, but at least there's man(and woman)-candy along the way.

Rights: All Rights available

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Words: 117,000

Status: Unpublished manuscript

Bronwyn Millar is a qualified Specialised Kinesiologist, a practicing Fine Artist and a writer who previously spent 20 years working in the family business, the oriental handwoven rug trade. She lives in Johannesburg with her artist husband, Stephen Hobbs, their two gloriously quirky children and a bitey little dog. She loves to travel and has been to interesting places like pre-war Syria, Pakistan and Egypt. Bronwyn's main passions are art, natural health, and the healing arts. She is also working on an elemental Kinesiology program.



Haji Jabir

The Abyssinian Rimbaud

Nominated for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2022

"Jabir gives voice to characters ignored by history; his text draws attention from the personal to the particular, and from there to the public sphere."

Set against the religiously contested and turbulent background of Harar, Ethiopia, Haji Jabir tells the story of a forgotten member of history. Based on the infamous 19th Century French poet Arthur Rimbaud's secretive years spent in the city, *The Abyssinian Rimbaud* tells the story of an Ethiopian woman, forced from her home, who returned in disguise and became Rimbaud's lover.

A world-renowned poet nee trader, a love triangle, a religious war, and a devastating illness come together in this historical fiction that transcends preoccupations with the post-colonial stage so often associated with southern literature.

Jabir's athletic and poetic writing style smoothly blends Rimbaud's history with that of the Ethiopian city and its people. His works are a valuable enrichment of Arabic and International literature and signal the shared history and connections between the two.

Haji Jabir is an Eritrean novelist born in the city of Massawa on the Red Sea coast in 1976. He currently lives in Doha, Qatar where he works as an Al Jazeera journalist. Jabir's creative work aim is to shed light on Eritrea in the past and present, and to extricate his homeland from its cultural isolation. He is one of the most significant and important Arabic language authors of his time.

Other works by Haji Jabir are **Samrawit**, **Fatma's Harbor**, **The Spindle Games** and **Black Foam**.



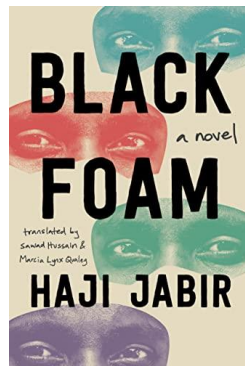
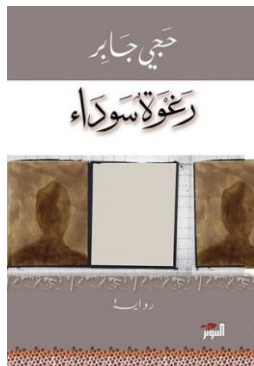
Rights: World rights available excl. Arabic language area

Genre: Historical fiction

Word: 60,500

Specifics: English and French translation available

Other works by Haji Jabir

**BLACK FOAM**

Winner of the Katara Prize for Arabic Novel
English translation by Sawad Hussein

Dawoud is on the run from his murky past, aiming to discover where he belongs. He tries to assimilate into different groups along his journey through North Africa and Israel, changing his clothes, his religious affiliations, and even his name to fit in, but the safety and peace he seeks remain elusive. It seems prejudice is everywhere, holding him back, when all he really wants is to create a simple life he can call his own. A chameleon, Dawoud—or David, Adal, or Dawit, depending on where and when you meet him—is not lost in this whirl of identities. In fact, he is defined by it

Rights: Non-English Rights available. World English (Amazon Crossing) and World Arabic sold.
Genre: fiction
Pages: 256

THE SPINDLE GAMES

Nominated for the 2016 Sheikh Zayed Book Award

Boredom drives a young woman to work in the archives department in the Eritrean capital, Asmara. But satisfaction eludes her in the regular historical documents section. She tries to move to the important historical documents section, but her request is rejected. Finally, she decides to convert the ordinary documents into a task with amendment, deletion and addition. She likes the game until she discovers that the president of the country is playing the same game as her. The novel discusses the idea of tampering with history by governments.

Rights: World rights , World Arabic sold
Genre: Historical fiction
Pages: 208
Publication date: 2015

SAMRAWAIT

Winner of the Sharjah Award for Arab Creativity

This novel depicts the loss of two countries: the country of origin and the country of immigration. The protagonist is born in Saudi Arabia and knows no other country. But he is treated as a despicable worker. Finally, he decides to return to his homeland, Eritrea, but finds that the homeland is not like him. It is the condition of generations that were lost in the middle of the road without a sense of belonging.

Rights: World Rights available, sold World Arabic sold and Italian.

Genre: Historical fiction

Words: 45.000

Publication date: 2012



Vernon Head

On that Wave of Gulls

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.

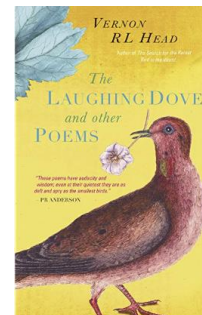
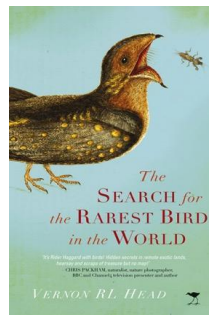
Prepare to undertake another mythic journey with the master of nature writing, Vernon RL Head. In 2014, Vernon took the bookselling world by surprise with his hit, *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World*. "Head's language is laudatory, his tone elegiac." - Publisher's Weekly. *On That Wave of Gulls* is again a masterpiece of sense and thought.

Rights: World rights, excl. South African English

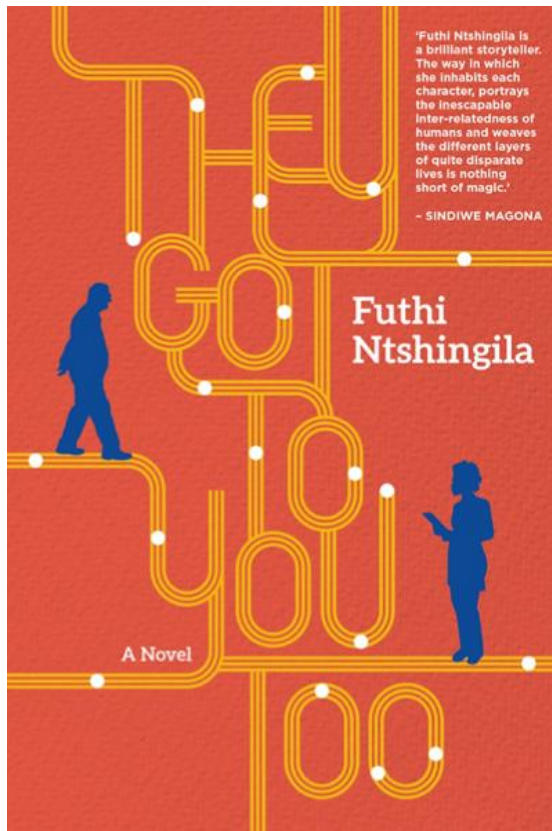
Genre: prose

Status: edited manuscript

Words: 80.000+



VERNON R.L. HEAD is the author of the critically acclaimed bestseller *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World* a poetry collection *The Laughing Dove and other Poems* and a collection of bird stories *Featherings*. When not writing, he is either designing special buildings or travelling the world looking for the rarest birds.



Futhi Ntshingila

They got to you too

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

Hans van Rooyen is a former police general raised by two women who survived the 1899 South African War. He finds himself being cared for in an old age home by the daughter of liberation struggle activists. At 80, he carries with him the memories of crimes he committed as an officer under the apartheid government. Having eluded the public confessions at the TRC for his time in the Border Wars, he retained his position in the democratic South Africa, serving as an institutional memory for a new generation of police recruits.

Zoe Zondi is tasked to care for the old man. Her gentle and compassionate nature prompts Hans to review his decision to go to the grave with all his secrets. Zoe has her own life story to tell and, as their unlikely bond deepens, strengthened by the isolation that COVID-19 lockdown brings, they provide a safe space for each other to say the things that are often left unsaid.

Rights: World Rights available

Genre: literary fiction

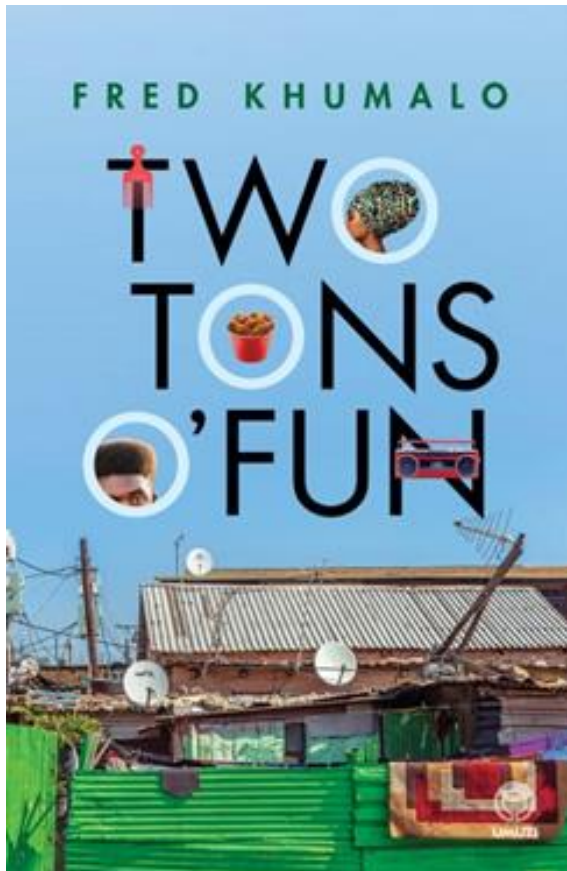
Pages: 256 pages

Publisher: PanMacmillan, South Africa

Futhi Ntshingila is a writer from Pietermaritzburg. The author of *Shameless* and *Do Not Go Gentle*, her work centres on women and marginalised communities. Futhi holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution and currently lives and works in Pretoria.

'Futhi 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**





Fred Khumalo

Two Tons O' Fun

Alexandra, Johannesburg. A car has collided with a Coca-Cola truck. The overturned trailer is spilling its contents, which residents are carrying off in their plastic 'Shangaan Gucci' bags. With two other bystanders, Lerato Morolong, age fourteen, helps the injured truck driver. The woman who drives them to hospital is Professor Ngobese, matriarch of the family at Number 80, the only house in the neighbourhood with a street address, aka Those White People - thus begins Lerato's relationship with the Ngobeses.

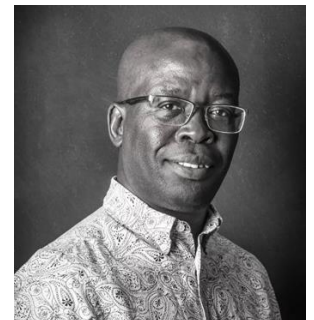
As Lerato's story unfolds, we meet her quick-fingered, beer-loving, man-eating mom June-Rose, who's not afraid to use the knife she keeps in her bra, Lerato's sister the 12-year-old Florence, who inherited her mother's tough survivor's spirit, and the rest of the community with whom they live. Revelations emerge, such as the truth about Lerato's father, who lost his way in the conflicts at the end of apartheid.

Rich and humorous, this vibrant coming-of-age story sees a young woman uncover her skill as a writer, explore her sexuality, travel, and finally understand her mother.

"There is much to love about this book: the humour, the richness of all the characters, the strongly developed sense of place. Important topics are covered, from sexuality to unequal education, identity, violence towards females, xenophobia and the many legacies of apartheid – all brought together under the umbrella of Alexandra, its citizens, and the hardships they face together." **Readers Report**

FRED KHUMALO is a one of the best novelists and short story writers in South Africa. He is the author of 13 books, he currently works as a freelance journalist and columnist and is based in Johannesburg, Gauteng.

During his career, Khumalo has received a lot of recognition and numerous awards. He has also published several short stories in commercial magazines and literary journals like Drum, Tribute, Pace, and Staffrider. His journalistic work has been published in South Africa, Canada, and the United Kingdom (UK).



Rights: World rights, excl. South African English

Genre: *bildungsroman*

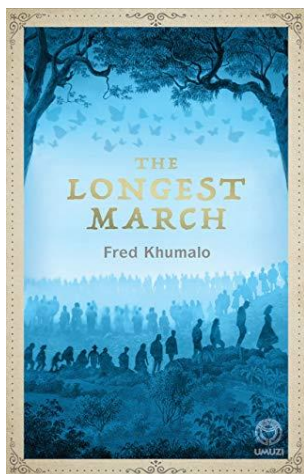
Status: Published by Penguin Random House SA imprint Umuzi, 2022

Words: 70.000

Fred Khumalo

The Longest March

This is a tale of heady determination, and a tribute to ordinary men and women, faced with extraordinary circumstances.



A hundred and twenty years ago, seven thousand Zulu mineworkers walked from the gold mines in Johannesburg to Natal, covering a distance of five hundred kilometres over ten days. This journey was their longest march.

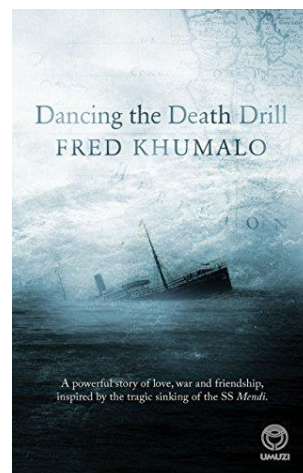
It is 1899 and Philippa's fiancé Nduku has just broken off their engagement. She is heartbroken – after all, she has followed him from Kimberley, where they first met, to the goldfields of Johannesburg. In this bustling new city, tensions are mounting between the South African Republic and the gold-hungry British Empire. When war is declared, the mines are shut down and migrant workers ordered to leave town.

“Reading Khumalo’s stories, one’s imagination and sense of political correctness can be both challenged to their limits, and it is to his credit that he can make us curious and care about even the least likable characters. At the same time, his stories can be poignant and excruciatingly funny. That is what keeps one returning for more.” - **Karina Magedelena, 2019**

Fred Khumalo

Dancing the Death Drill

A personal and political tale that spans continents and generations, moving from the battlefields of the Boer War to the front lines in France and beyond.



Khumalo's books tend to focus on South Africa's past and present. He is largely concerned with bringing South African history, particularly that which has been forgotten or generally unknown, into the forefront so that it may not disappear into the past but also reignite unfinished conversations around issues of race, identity, land and more.

A multi-award winning author, Fred Khumalo never misses the mark.

Paris, 1958. A skirmish in a world-famous restaurant leaves two men dead and the restaurant staff baffled. Why did the head waiter, a man who's been living in France for many years, lunge at his patrons with a knife?

Read the extraordinary story of Pitso Motaung, a young South African who volunteered to serve with the Allies in the First World War.. Through a tragic twist of fate, Pitso found himself on board the SS Mendi, a ship that sank off the Isle of Wight in February 1917. More than six hundred of his countrymen, mostly black soldiers, lost their lives in a catastrophe that official history largely forgot. One particularly cruel moment from that day will remain etched in Pitso's mind, resurfacing decades later to devastating effect.

Title: The Longest March

Rights: World rights available
excl. South African English

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages: 206

Publication date: Sept. 2019

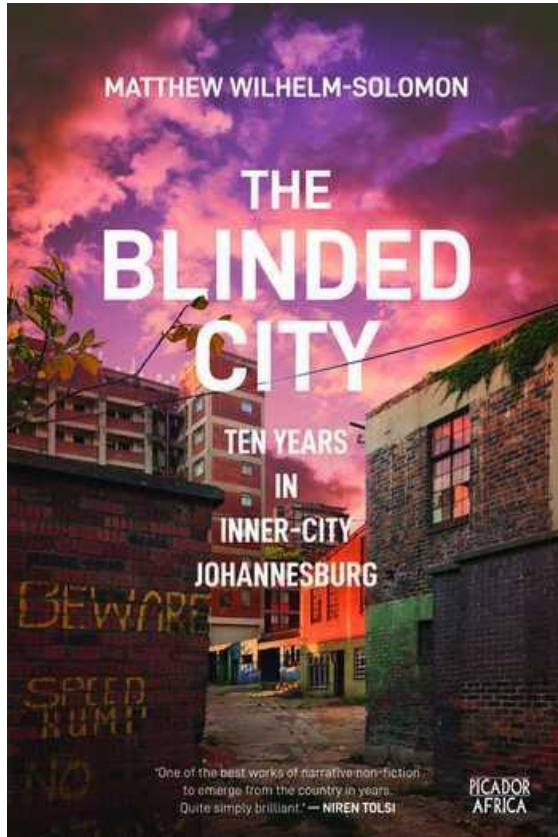
Book: Dancing the Death Drill

Rights: non-English rights
available, German rights sold

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages: 344

Publication date: Feb 2017



Rights: World Rights available excl. South African English

Genre: Narrative non-fiction

Publisher: Picador

Format:

Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon

The Blinded City: Ten Years in Inner-City Johannesburg

If this approachably panoramic book has a forebear, it is not another work of narrative non-fiction, but Louis Theroux's beguiling 2008 documentary *Law and Disorder in Johannesburg*.- **The Johannesburg Review of Books sept 2022**

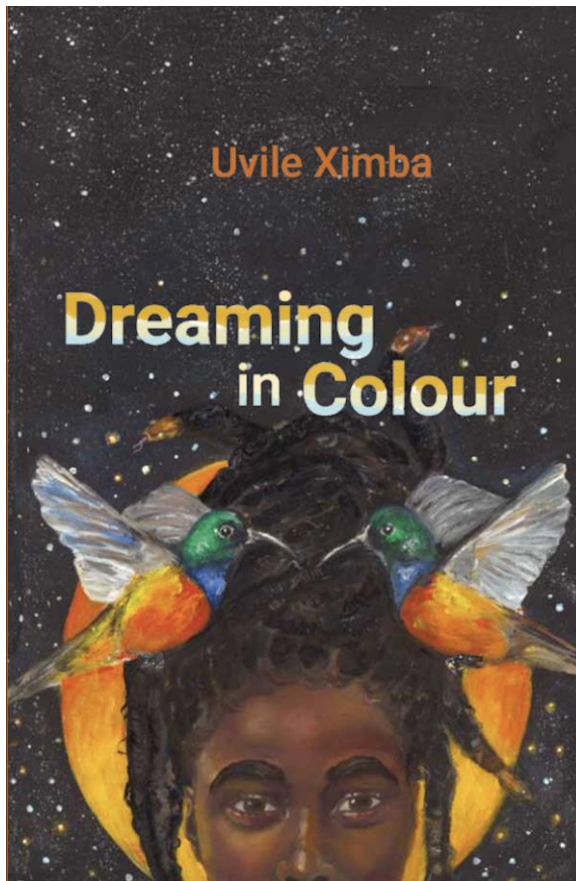
Amid evictions, raids, killings, the drug trade, and fire, inner-city Johannesburg residents seek safety and a home. A grandmother struggles to keep her granddaughter as she is torn away from her. A mother seeks healing in the wake of her son's murder. And displaced by the city's drive for urban regeneration, a group of blind migrants try to carve out an existence.

The Blinded City recounts the history of inner-city Johannesburg from 2010 to 2019, primarily from the perspectives of the unlawful occupiers of spaces known as hijacked buildings, bad buildings or dark buildings. Tens of thousands of residents, both South African and foreign national, live in these buildings in dire conditions. This book tells the story of these sites and the court cases around them, which strike at the centre of who has the right to occupy the city.

The Blinded City chronicles the 2010 'Blue Moonlight' case, among others, and the aftermath – a tumultuous period in the city characterised by recurrent dispossessions, police and immigration operations, outbursts of xenophobic violence, and political and legal change. All through the decade, there is the backdrop of successive mayors and their attempts to 'clean up' the city, and the struggles of residents and urban housing activists for homes and a better life. The interwoven narratives present a compelling mosaic of life in post-apartheid Johannesburg, one of the globe's most infamous and vital cities.

MATTHEW WILHELM-SOLOMON is a writer, editor and educator, who was born in Johannesburg. He has worked as a lecturer, researcher and writing fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand over the past decade. He holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford and has published widely in international journals and the South African media, as well as speaking internationally on his research on Johannesburg.





Uvile Ximba

Dreaming in Colour

Ximba's tale is set in a tricky place where parts of the community are moving forward where others are still clinging on to hate and inflicting trauma. A short read, written with fierce beauty." *Sunday Times, SA*

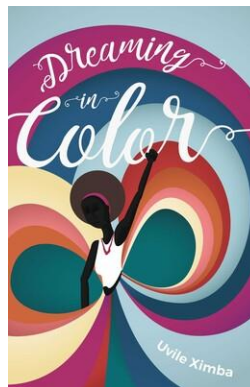
As students at university of Makhanda, South Africa during the #RURferenceList campaign, Langa and her lover Khwezi have a passionate and complex relationship. Puzzling gaps in her memory haunt Langa, yet her dreams are vivid with colors and symbols that hint at a nightmare of forgotten violations and losses. So many secrets—and Langa has had enough of secrets and silences. Who can she turn to? Her mother? Her grandmother? Khwezi? Or herself?

Dreaming in Colour is Langa's story of coming out to herself, of discerning the history behind the closed door of conscious memory, and exposing the bedraggled yet colourful magic of queer life.

Rights: Foreign translation rights, World English sold (Interlink US)

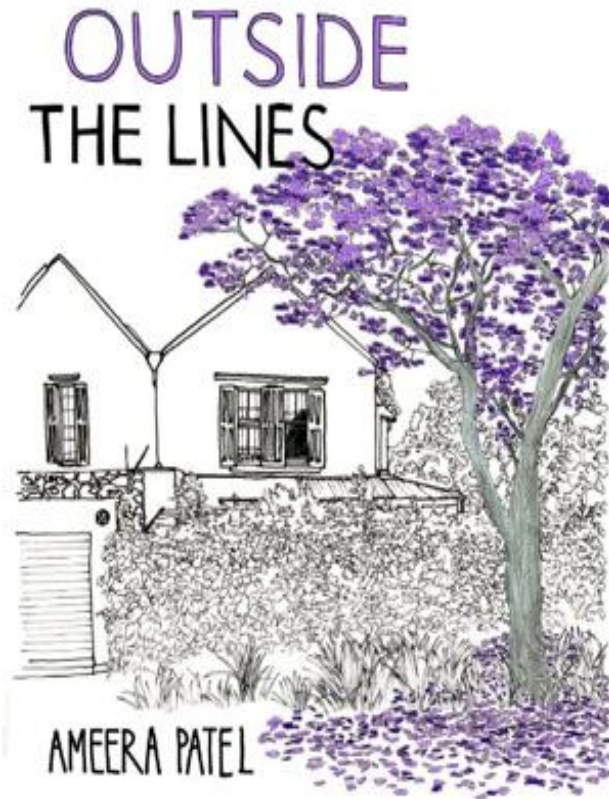
Genre: Literary fiction

Pages: 140 pages



Uvile Memory Samkelisiwe Ximba is a theatre-maker, writer and creative practitioner. She holds a BA Honours in Politics and International Studies and Dramatic Arts. Her interests lie in issues affecting black LGBTQIA+ women in South Africa. Uvile is the co-founder of multimedia production, Thamba Creatives and her approach to her work is, "Why wait?"





Ameera Patel

Outside the Lines

"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

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

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.





Lesego Rampolokeng **Bird Monk Seding**

Winner University of Johannesburg Prize for African Writing and longlisted Barry Ronge Prize 2018.

"The novel's 192 pages erupt with the poetic gymnastics that have earned Rampolokeng a worldwide following as a performer. *Bird-Monk Seding* should be read by anyone who thinks racism is over. Anyone interested in explosive writing." - **Sunday Times SA**

"His words are alive; they move and eat and shit, just like we do...." – **Mail & Guardian, SA**

Lesego Rampolokeng's third novel ***Bird-Monk Seding*** was awarded the 2017 **University of Johannesburg Prize for South African Writing** in English. It was also shortlisted for the prestigious *Sunday Times* **Barry Ronge Fiction Prize** in 2018.

Much of Lesego Rampolokeng's thirteenth, and most recent book focuses on the quotidian lives of the inhabitants in a small township in the Groot Marico area called Seding. *Bird-Monk Seding* is a stark picture of life in a rural township two decades into South Africa's democracy. Listening and observing in the streets and taverns, Bavino Sekete, often feeling desperate himself, is thrown back to his own violent childhood in Soweto. To get through, he turns to his pantheon of jazz innovators and radical writers.



Since 1990 **Lesego Rampolokeng** has written eight books of poetry, two plays and three novels, and collaborated with visual artists, playwrights, film-makers, theatre and opera producers, poets, and musicians, in South Africa and internationally. His uncompromising voice and performance style have earned him a unique place in our literature.

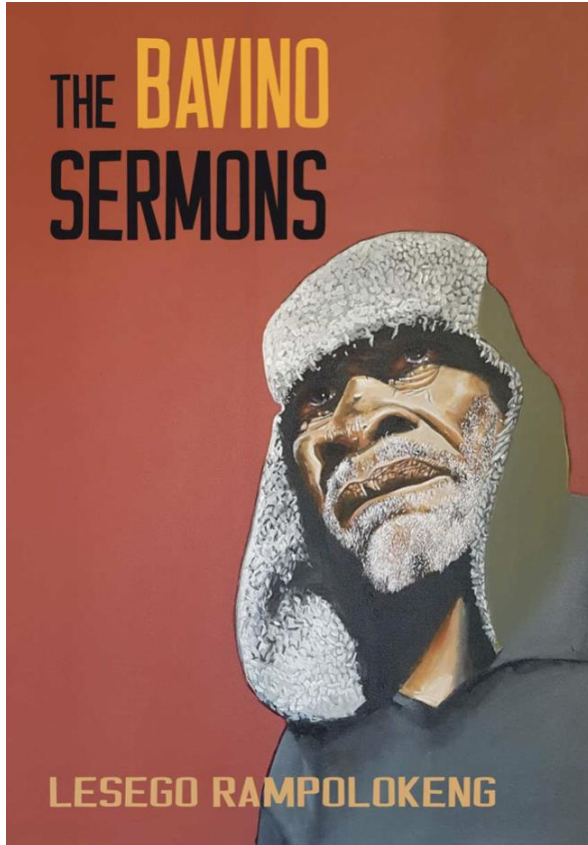
I am part of that unfortunate generation called ungovernable, who were never debriefed. Having started from mere existence, I am trying to write myself to a life." - Lesego Rampolokeng

Rights: World Rights available ex South African

Genre: fiction

Publisher: Deep South, South Africa

Format: Paperback, 192 pages



Lesego Rampolokeng

The Bavino Sermons

Originally published by Gecko Poetry in 1999 and now republished twenty years on by Deep South, *The Bavino Sermons* includes such memorable poems as 'Lines for Vincent', 'Riding the victim train', 'To Gil Scott-Heron', 'Crab attack', 'Rap Ranting' and 'The Fela Sermon'.

"1994 saw the end of South Africa's white minority government, and of the repressive cultural climate it imposed. South Africa's non-white poets had been unfree in more respects than one. As citizens they had been treated as inferior, as poets therefore, they were bound to lend their voice to the struggle for freedom.

Lesego Rampolokeng's work is best judged with this background in mind. His aversion from racial and neo-colonial repression speaks clearly in his poetry, and it partly explains its incisive, aggressive tone. Rampolokeng's work reflects strong influences from Caribbean dub and the rap poetry, as well as elements from his native oral tradition.

The rap influence shows in his frequent use of internal rhyme and end rhyme, the staccato phrasing and the free, improvisational form. The oral tradition echoes in the hypnotizing repetitions." – **Poetry International.com**

Rights: World Rights available, ex South African

Genre: Poetry

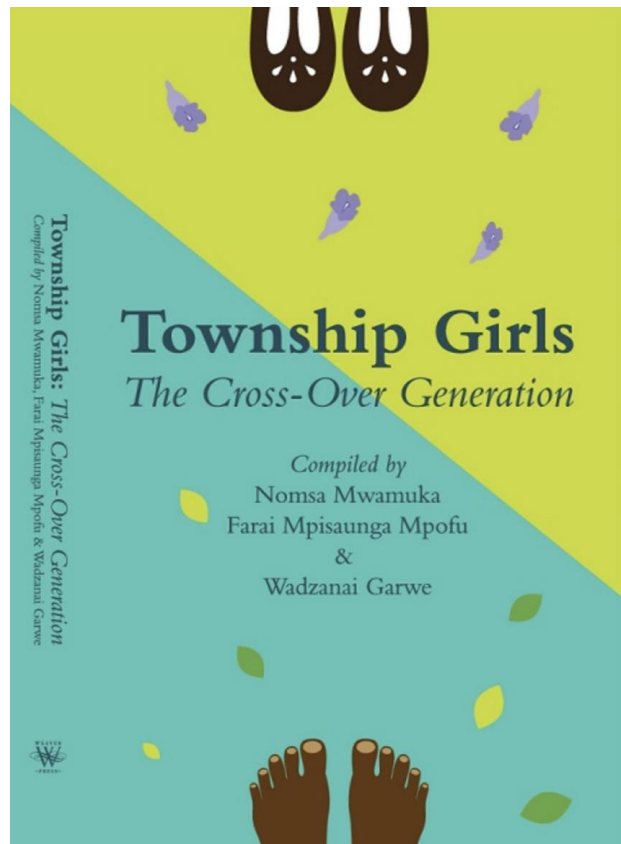
Publisher: Deep South, South Africa

Format: Paperback, 126 pages

Since 1990 **Lesego Rampolokeng** has written eight books of poetry, two plays and three novels, and collaborated with visual artists, playwrights, film-makers, theatre and opera producers, poets, and musicians, in South Africa and internationally.

His uncompromising voice and performance style have earned him a unique place in our literature.





Compiled by Nomsa Mwamuka, Farai Mpsunga Mpofo & Wadzanai Garwe

Township Girls — The Cross-Over Generation

"Township Girls, provides a significant first step in documenting some of the good, bad and ugly wrapped up in the under-explored social and cultural histories of Zimbabwe's transition. The more we document these stories, the greater our ability to reflect on, and demand more of, our world-views in the past, present and future" - **Panashe Chigumadzi**, author of *Sweet Medicine*, and contributing editor of *Johannesburg Review of Books*

A first of its kind in Zimbabwe, ***Township Girls*** is a biographical and autobiographical collection of the stories of women who grew up in two countries: Rhodesia prior to independence and Zimbabwe post-1980. The book takes readers through the cross-over journeys of 31 women whose transitional experiences from colonial Rhodesia to independent Zimbabwe left indelible marks and taught invaluable life lessons.

Check their Facebook Township Girls @townshipgirlsthbook

Rights: World Rights available, excl. African English

Genre: narrative non-fiction

Publisher: Weaver Press, Zimbabwe

Format: Paperback, 280 pages



Published by the award-winning Zimbabwean publishing house, **Weaver Press**, in 2018 the stories are on one hand intimate "coming-of-age" stories – with contributors sharing their personal memories of the times. On the other hand, the stories are 'political' - bringing to the fore the social, cultural, historical and economic dynamics and aspirations, that some will be able to identify with, and many others empathise with, laugh along with or certainly learn from.



VAN AGGELEN

African Literary Agency

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