



VAN AGGELEN

African Literary Agency

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

Our focus is on African fiction, high-quality illustrated children's books, Graphic Novels 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.

***Ask for our new African Speculative Fiction Rights List or our latest Children's book list**



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Agence Littéraire Égitna and African Literary Agency
will act as our official agents worldwide.

These two esteemed agencies will represent Zebra Comics across
global markets, securing deals for the exploitation of our intellectual
properties in publishing, animation, merchandise, and beyond.



NEW!

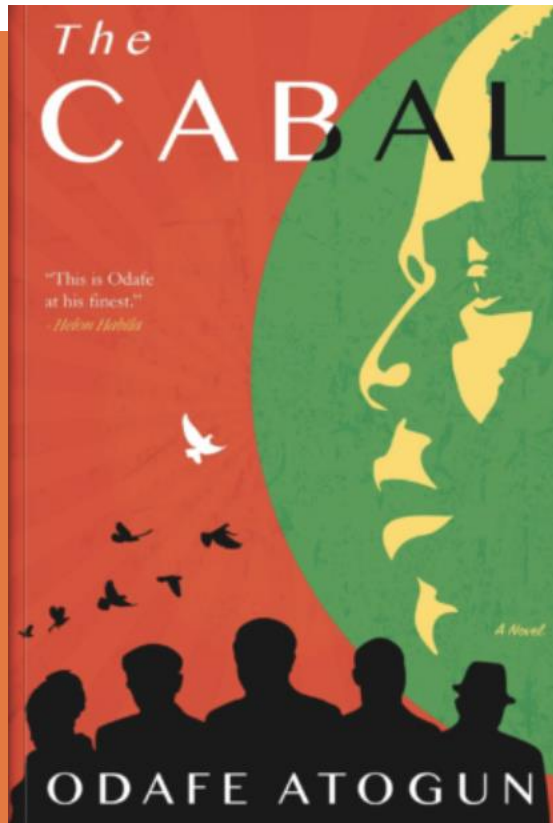
Odafe Atogun

Odafe Atogun is a Nigerian writer. His debut novel *Taduno's Song* was selected for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club and he has been compared to Franz Kafka and George Orwell in critical reviews.

“A must-read. . . . [Atogun’s] writing is reminiscent of Coetzee’s South African dystopian novels like *Waiting for the Barbarians*, with more than a touch of magical realism.” —LitHub



"A Worthy Novel of Absurdism" *NEW!*



The Cabal

Bako Thomas lives a solitary life, a calm centre in an increasingly unstable world. The City outside his apartment is sliding towards a dystopia as a fuel crisis holds citizens to ransom.

He is down to his final chance with Avé, his girlfriend of two years, and his relationships with his neighbours, The Law, Gebu and Mimi is fraught with anxiety and tension. When a tragedy forces him to go on the run, he soon finds himself being roped into the murky world of politics and corruption he thought he had left behind for good.

"A Worthy Novel of Absurdism .

Atogun's The Cabal is so short and so fast-paced that if you're looking for that immersive read a novel gives, you might miss exactly what its point is. Much so if you're not familiar with the Theatre of the Absurd." — Afapinen.com by Carl Terver

Rights: all rights available, ex Fcl West Africa

Genre: Thriller

Pages: 216

Pub Date: January 2025

Publisher: Masobe Books, Nigeria

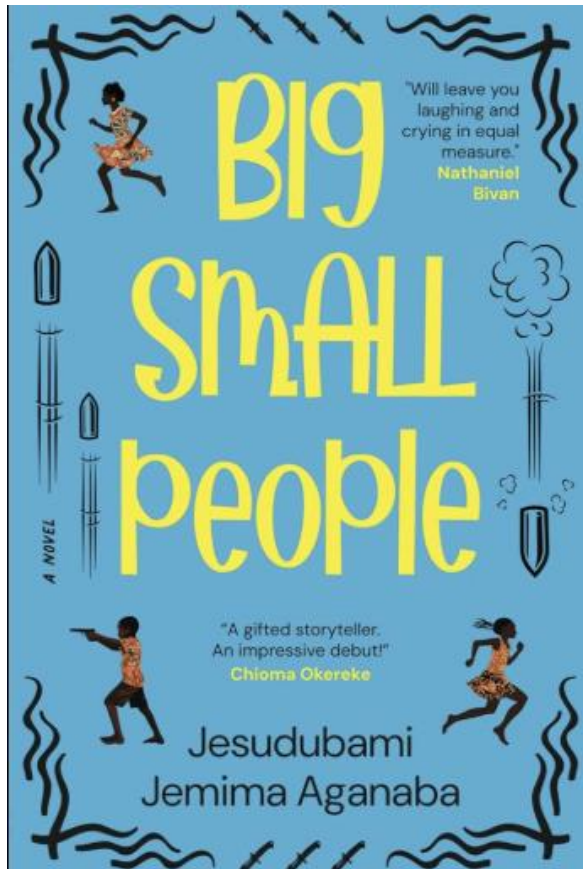


NEW!

Jesus Jemina Aganaba

is a storyteller from Bayelsa State, Nigeria. She studied English and Literary studies at the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island. Her writings have been published by F-bom and Kalahari Review.

She cares about children, eccentric fashion, and soulful music. She was shortlisted for The Island Prize in 2023. *Big Small People* is her debut novel.



Rights: all rights available, ex West Africa

Genre: Literary Fiction

Pages: 220

Pub Date: March 2025

Publisher: Masobe Books, Nigeria

'Will leave you laughing and crying in equal measure.'

NEW!

—**Nathaniel Bivan**, author of *Boys, Girls and Beasts*

Big Small People

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 father 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.

NEW!

Cheryl S. Ntumy

Cheryl S. Ntumy is a Ghanaian writer of short fiction and novels of speculative fiction, young adult fiction and Fantasy Romance.

Her work has appeared in multiple magazine and has been shortlisted for the **Nommo** the **Commonwealth Writers Short Story Prize** among others.

She was longlisted for the '23 BSFA best short story "The Way of Baa'gh" and is part of the **Sauúiverse Collective** including her contribution to the first Mothersound Anthology and Sauúti Terrors: The Dark Side Anthology.



NEW!

Book 1 – 120k
A Guide to Silk & Sedition – finished

Book 2 – 120 k
A Guide to Magic & Mayhem
dec 2025

Book 3 – 120 k
A Guide to Love & Liberation
June 2026

Rights: WE sold (Cassava Republic Press)
translation rights available.

Wordcount: 120 k each book in the series

Genre: *Romance*

ROMANCE *Heatlevel: "Steamy"*

The Guide Trilogy

Romance set amidst the swirl of textiles, peppered with corporate espionage, scandal and magic.

Adjai Asaré, second daughter of the top silk fashion House in Avor State, is desperate to become Emissary and escape her overbearing mother. Essyen Oppong, humble shoemaker and recent immigrant, is desperate for customers. Together they can both achieve their dreams – and enjoy each other's company – unless Essyen's lies get in the way. He is, after all, an illegal mage and wanted fugitive with a bad-tempered secret agent on his tail. But what is romance without a hiccup or two?

NEW!

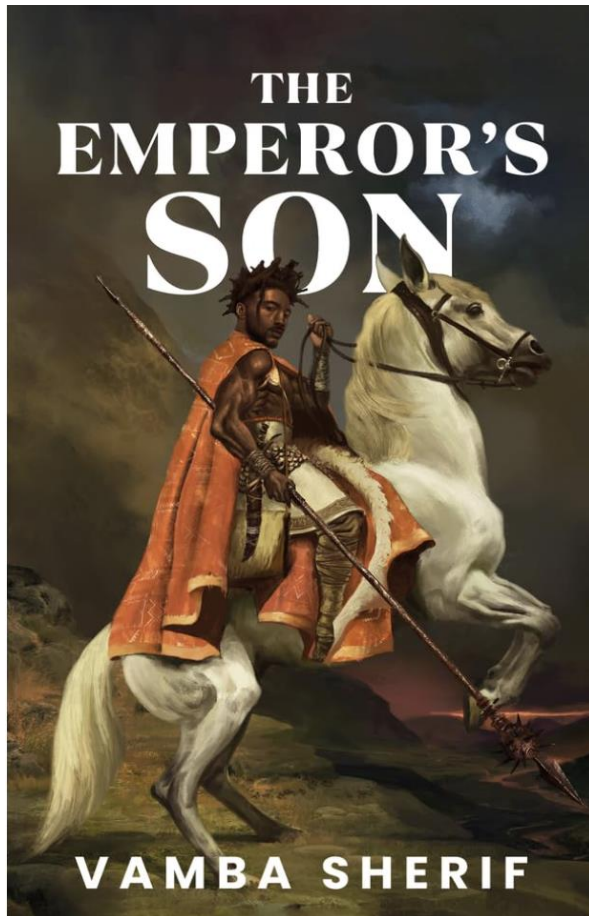
Vamba Sherif

is a novelist first and foremost, with work also appearing in international outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Long Cours* (France), *Kultur Austausch* (Germany), and leading Dutch newspapers and magazines.

Born in northern Liberia into a West African family with roots across Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Mali, he grew up multilingual and steeped in a centuries-old tradition of scholarship.

His early years in Kuwait, surrounded by dozens of nationalities, opened him to world literature and sharpened his sense of exile and identity—experiences that deeply inform his writing.





Rights: translation rights available, ex Eng
World (Iskanchi Press)

Pages: 480

Genre: Historical Saga/Entertainment

The Emperor's Son

NEW!

Vamba Sherif's *The Emperor's Son* is a sweeping historical epic set in 19th-century West Africa. It follows Zaiwulo, a gifted youth raised and mentored by the wise sage Talata of the revered Haidarah family in the ancient city of Musadu. As Zaiwulo comes of age, he is drawn into the shadowy court of Emperor Samori Touré—the legendary military leader known as the “Black Napoleon.”

Zaiwulo transforms from scholar to soldier in a world brimming with secrets and shifting powers. His journey takes him across empires, through battles, and into the heart of leadership, identity, and self-discovery.

Blending adventure, war, mysticism, and political drama, *The Emperor's Son* is both a coming-of-age tale and a bold reimagining of African history.

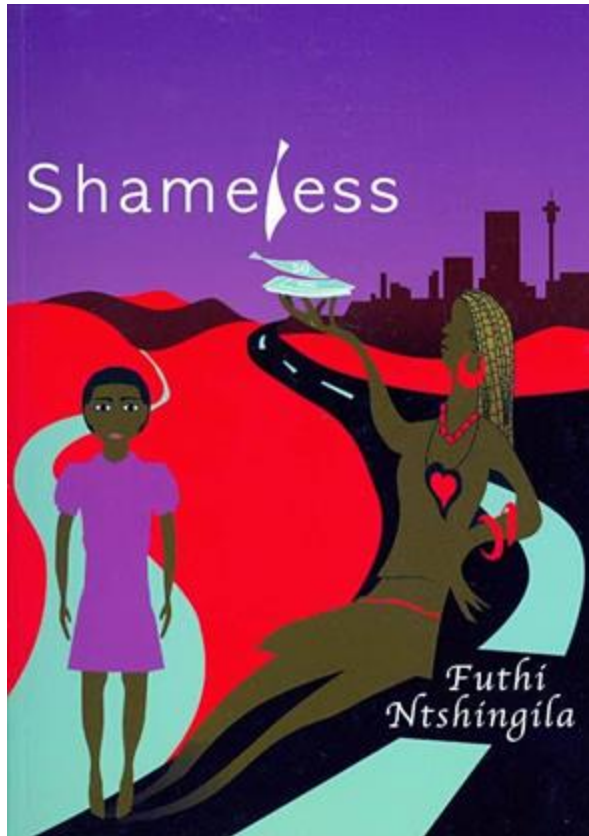
“This book has everything. It is an in-depth look into the Sufi culture, colonialism, and even references African herbalism. I truly appreciate everything this book has to offer, and I hope you do too”. - **REDDIT - fan**

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.





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, Kwena – 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



Rights: all rights available

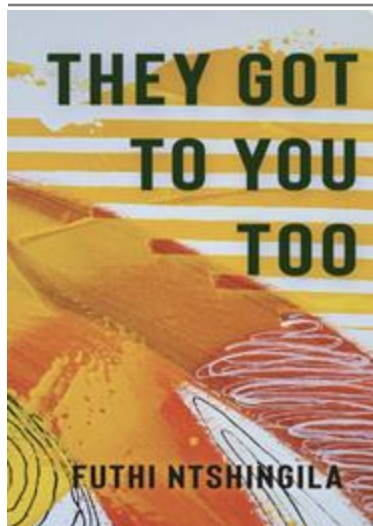
Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 85

Published: formerly published in South Africa

Futhi Ntshingila

They got to you too



Rights: sold WE rights (US), WW Malayalam (IN), WE Audio (US), FRENCH WW , Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru .

Available: foreign rights

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 256 pages

Publisher: PanMacmillan, South Africa

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

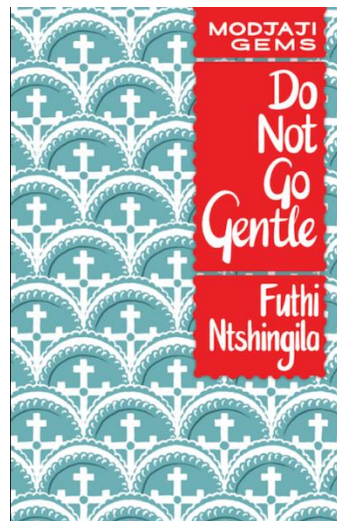
Amid the COVID-19 lockdown in a South African old age home, an 80-year-old ex-police general tormented by his apartheid-era crimes forms an unexpected bond with his caregiver. As their relationship deepens, both are forced to confront long-buried secrets and face the untold truths of their pasts.

"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.

NEW!

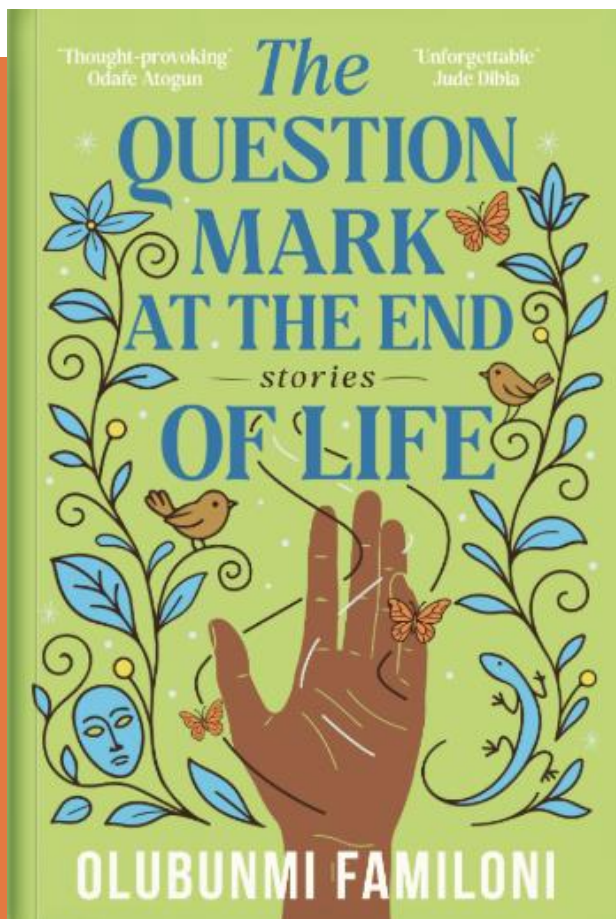
Olubunmi Familoni

is a dramatist, essayist and short fiction writer whose debut collection of stories, *Smithereens of Death* won the ANA Prize for Short Stories in 2015; his debut play, *Every Single Day*, was selected by the British Council as part of the Lagos Theatre Festival in 2016.

His children's novel, *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 and won the ANA Prize for Drama in 2023;

His children's novel, *The Road Does Not End*, won The Nigeria Prize for Literature in 2024. His works have appeared in several journals and he lives and works in Ibadan, Nigeria.





Rights: all rights available, ex West African

Pages: 180

Genre: Literary Fiction, Short Stories

Pub Date: February 2026

Publisher: Masobe Books, Nigeria

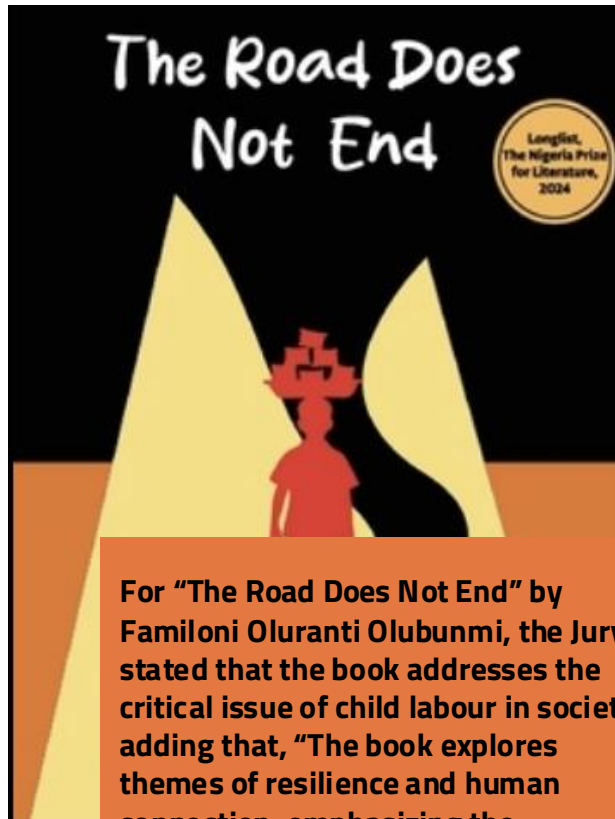
NEW!

The Question Mark at the End of Life

In *The Question Mark at the End of Life*, Olubunmi Familoni peels back the skin of womanhood to expose what's underneath—grief, silence, rage, duty, love, longing, and what it costs to carry them all. These twelve stories burn through the expectations placed on women's bodies, voices and identities, asking what's left when everything is claimed but nothing is given back.

In the title story, a widow tries to resurrect her husband by calling his name like a prayer, but what returns is not peace, but an unrelenting haunting. In *A Woman's Knees Are for Suffering*, a girl learns to cook, kneel, and disappear, trained to be a wife long before she wants to be. *When a Woman Becomes Water* captures the quiet suffocation of a woman whose words are too much for her husband, but not enough to save herself, until she turns them into stories.

Familoni's voice is poetic and unflinching, with a sharp sensitivity to human vulnerability. The collection is marked by themes of bodily autonomy, religious hypocrisy, patriarchal oppression, and psychological suppression—particularly as experienced by women. The stories are independent yet thematically unified, each one offering a different perspective on the central question posed by the collection's title: what remains at the end of loss, betrayal, or silence?



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

Genre: YA/ cross between surrealism and exhilaration.
Rights: all rights available, ex Nigerian English
Wordcount: 40.000
Status: published in Nigeria

The Road does not End (YA)

“The Road Does Not End” by Familoni Oluranti Olubunmi, won the 2024 edition of The Nigeria Prize for Literature competition.”

Rilwan, a young boy, returns home from school to find his parents mysteriously gone and is taken in by his cruel Aunt Biliki, who forces him to sell water on the streets and subjects him to constant abuse. Longing for his lost family and education, he finds solace in fuji music, a passion inherited from his father.

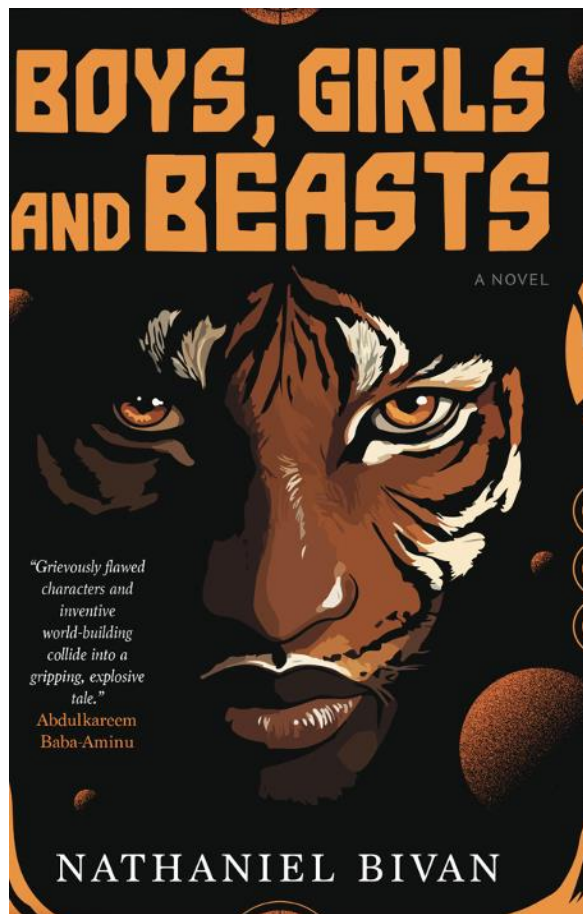
Along his journey, he befriends Moshood, but their bond is tested as they navigate life as street hawkers and beggars. A kind stranger, Saka Pepper, offers him unexpected generosity and later rescues him from life on the streets, giving him a home, work, and the chance to return to school.

Under Saka Pepper’s care, Rilwan thrives, becoming a schoolboy by day and a rising fuji star by night. Ultimately, Saka Pepper adopts him, Aunt Biliki faces public shame, and Moshood also finds a better future. Though Rilwan still misses his parents, he embraces his new life with hope.

NEW!

Nathaniel Bivan

is a solutions and conflict journalist whose reporting has taken him to terror zones in Kaduna, Plateau, Niger, and Borno states of northern Nigeria. Until 2021, he was Arts Editor for Daily Trust, one of his country's most influential newspapers. He was also Features Editor for HumAngle Media, arguably one of Africa's fastest growing newsrooms, where he reported about the violent conflict plaguing northern Nigeria.



RIGHTS INFO

GENRE: SFF, Speculative, War Novel

Wordcount: 44.000

Rights: all available excl West Africa (Masobe Books)

Publisher: Masobe Books, Nigeria

BOYS, GIRLS AND BEASTS

In a land held together by fragile treaties and fuelled by the power of a mysterious super crop, the United Nations of West Africa clings to a brittle peace, until it is shattered in a storm of blood and fire. For Jaka, a boy from the quiet village of Malovo, life changes in a heartbeat as war crashes down, dragging him into a brutal underworld ruled by dark forces.

Captured by a deadly militia, Jaka is forced to serve the Zohrar, an ancient race that wields the power to unleash primal beasts. Day by day, the line between boy and monster blurs, his humanity slipping as he rises through the Zohrar's ranks. When he is ordered to destroy the very land he once loved, Jaka must make an impossible choice, one that could decide the fates of both worlds.

Comparative Titles: Beasts of No Nation by Uzodinma Iweala; Making Wolf by Tade Thompson

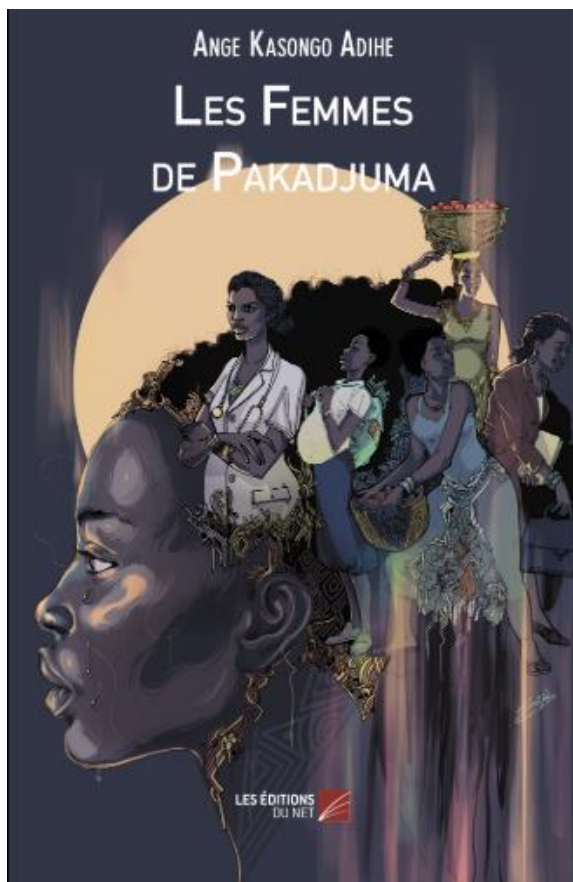
Ange Kasongo



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



Les Femmes de Pakadjuma

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 father 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.

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

Language: French

Pages: 127

Genre: *literary fiction.*

NEW!

Sibo Rugwiza Kanobana



(1975) Sibongile Mlambo is a lecturer in sociolinguistics and post-colonial studies at the Open University of the Netherlands and one of the most inspiring voices in today's debate on racism and colonialism.

Previously published by De Geus are *White Order* and the anthology *Black Pages*, which he compiled.



Rights: all rights available, ex Dutch (De Geus Publisher, 2025)

Language: Dutch , English sample available

Pages: 152

Genre: non-fiction

Lumumba's Dream

Why his legacy still matters?

NEW!

"Let us forget all the mistakes of the past and look only to the future that smiles upon us." – Patrice Lumumba

Patrice Lumumba has both inspired and terrified generations of Africans and Europeans until today. Though there is a vast body of literature about his life, relatively little has been done to explore Lumumba as a thinker in his own right.

What sets this book apart is not only its focus but also its voice. Kanobana writes from the Congolese diaspora in Belgium, a perspective rarely foregrounded in studies of Lumumba.

"Kanobana is a sharp thinker with an excellent pen. He unravels the many secrets and lies that long obscured the view of the Congolese nation's independence. The reader is taken on an impressive search for the truth and guided through the ideas of a brilliant African leader. Lumumba's ideals are more relevant than ever. However shameful the past may be, in my view this retrospective is full of future." – **Adriaan van Dis**, multiple awarded and translated Dutch novelist



Diekara Oloruntoba-Oju

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 ex West Africa (Masobe Books)

Wordcount: 74,000

Genre: *Magical Realism*

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.

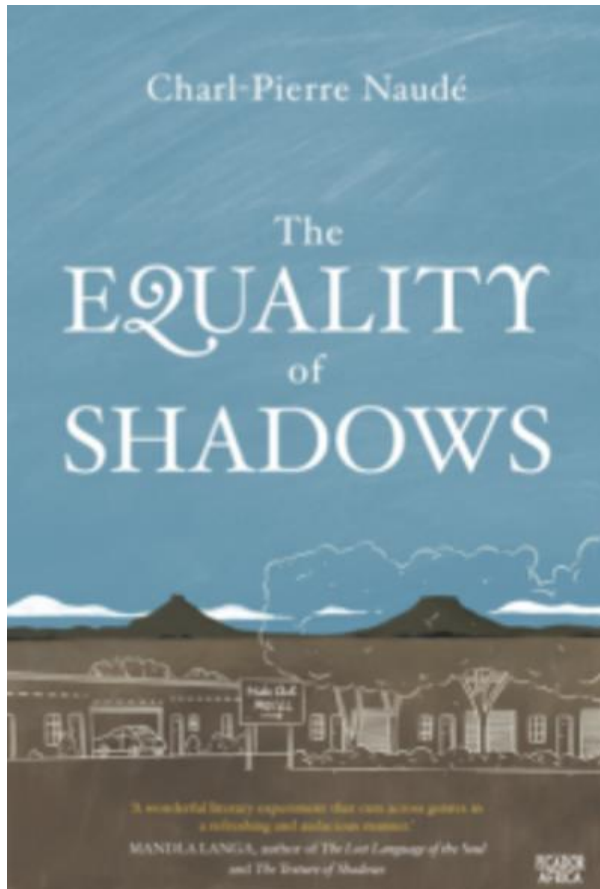
NEW!

Charl-Pierre Naudé



Charl-Pierre Naudé is an award-winning South African poet, critic and social commentator. Since 2000, he has published regularly in European literary journals. Naudé received the Ingrid Jonker Prize in 1997, the M-Net Prize for Afrikaans Poetry as well as the Protea Prize in 2005.

Naudé won the **10th National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) awards** announced on **27 March 2025** with his **debut novel *The Equality of Shadows***. These awards are presented every year to honour the significant contributions of groundbreaking research, powerful storytelling, and transformative scholarship. We are proud to celebrate with two of our writers.



Rights: all rights available, ex South Africa
(PanMacmillan, South Africa)

Genre: Magical Realism/Mystery/Fiction

Pages: 444

WINNER in the Best Fiction #HSSAwards '25

The Equality of Shadows

When an unusual building appeared overnight in a remote northern Cape community in the 1970s, and disappeared a few weeks later, it seemed to point to a series of baffling existential overlaps.

Some individuals claimed that they found themselves on the other side of a restive civil war divide, in identity embodiments that were highly contrary versions of themselves. In other cases, absurd social situations seemed to mock 'normal reality' by alternating with it. When a small-town journalist reported on the events, his quiet life became cruelly disrupted by unwanted attention.

As the mystery unfolds, with an aura of retrieved memory, the narrator's lost love becomes an increasingly evocative presence.

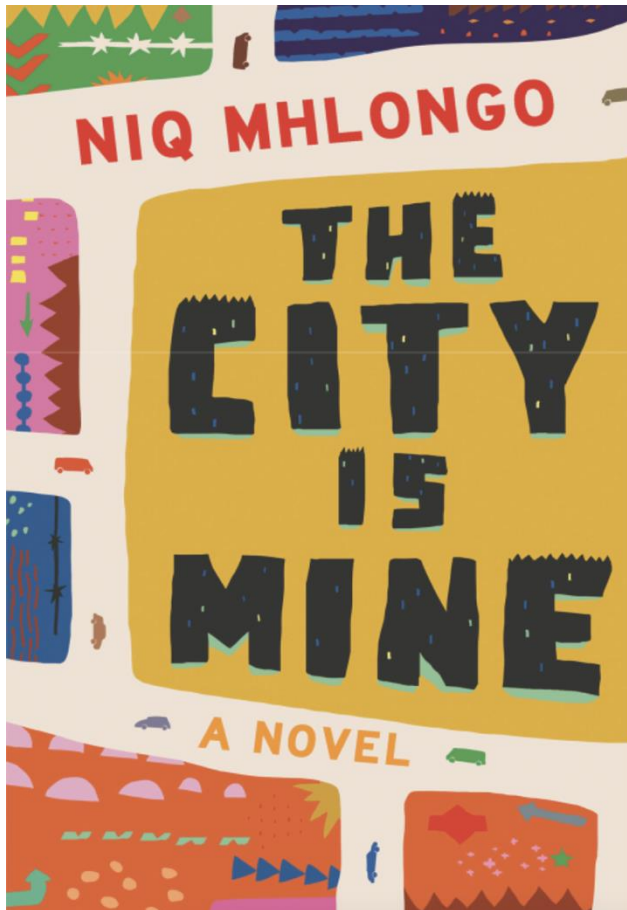
NEW!

Niq Mhlongo

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

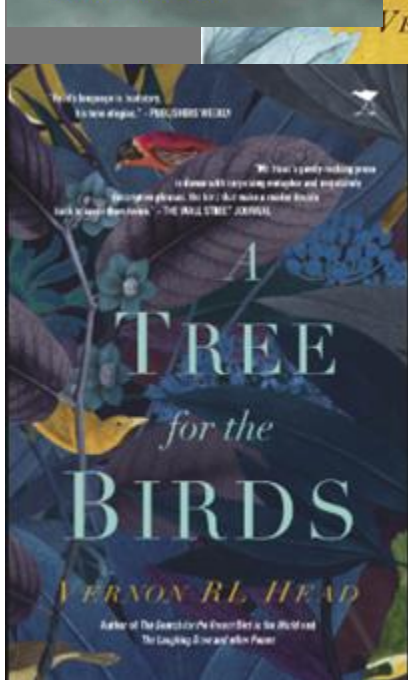
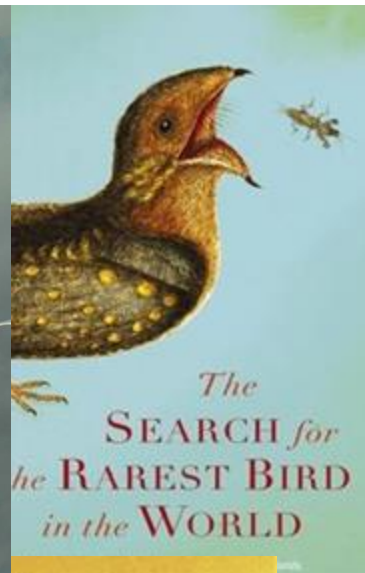
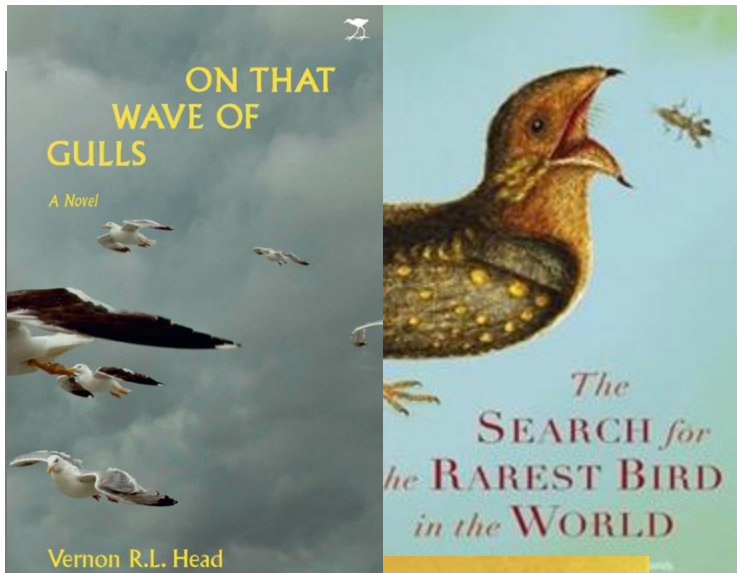
Genre: *literary fiction*.

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.



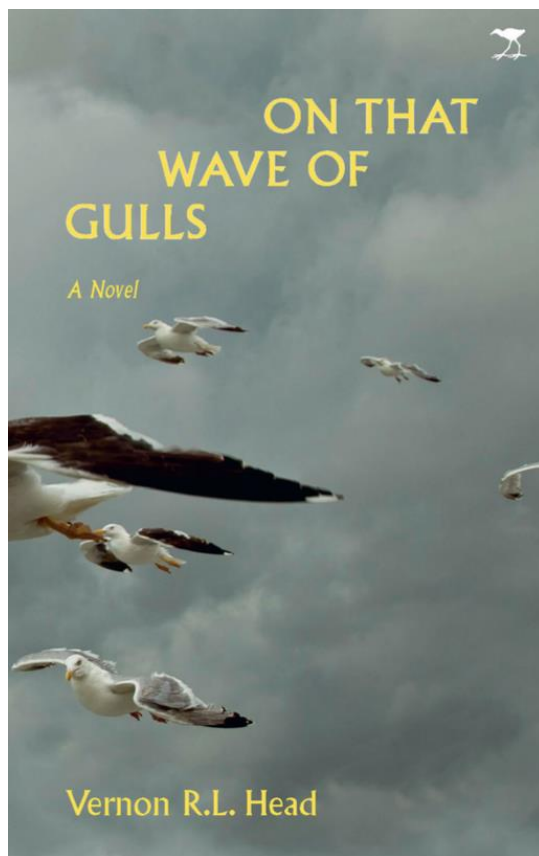
Vernon Head

is a multi-talented individual from South Africa who has achieved success in various fields, including poetry, novel writing, architecture, and environmentalism.

On That Wave of Gulls won the most important fiction award the **South African Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's Fiction Award** for 2024.

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

Award winner!

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.

"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

Nominated

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.

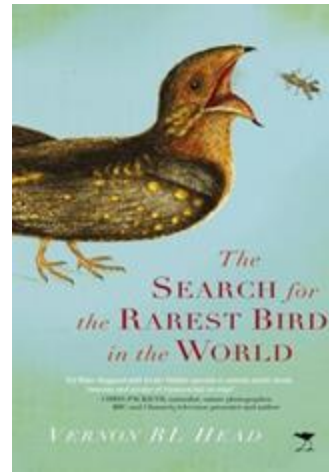
"In this narrative that mixes ancestral African beliefs and environmental issues in a poetic language, Vernon Head passes a very strong ecological message for our times. This beautiful story about books, trees, birds and rivers is also an inner journey that helps Chrisnelt heal and (re)connect with the 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)



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.

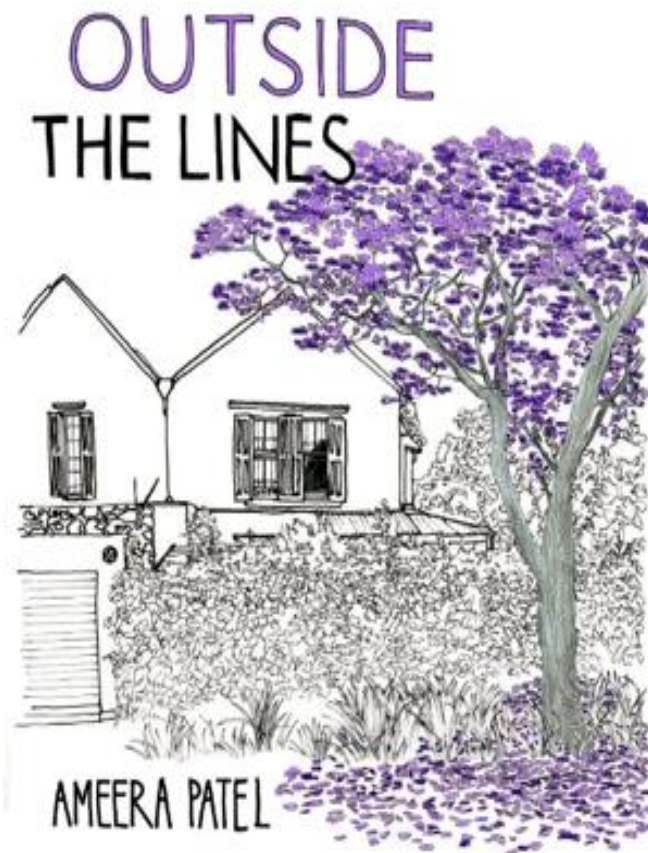
Ameera Patel

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

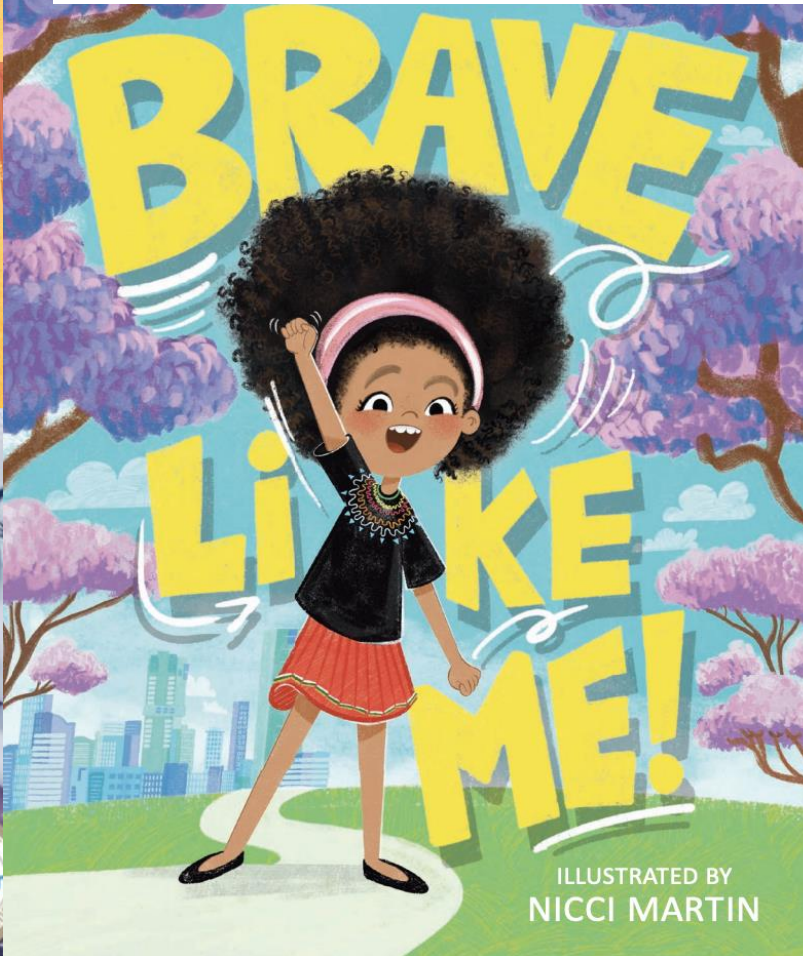
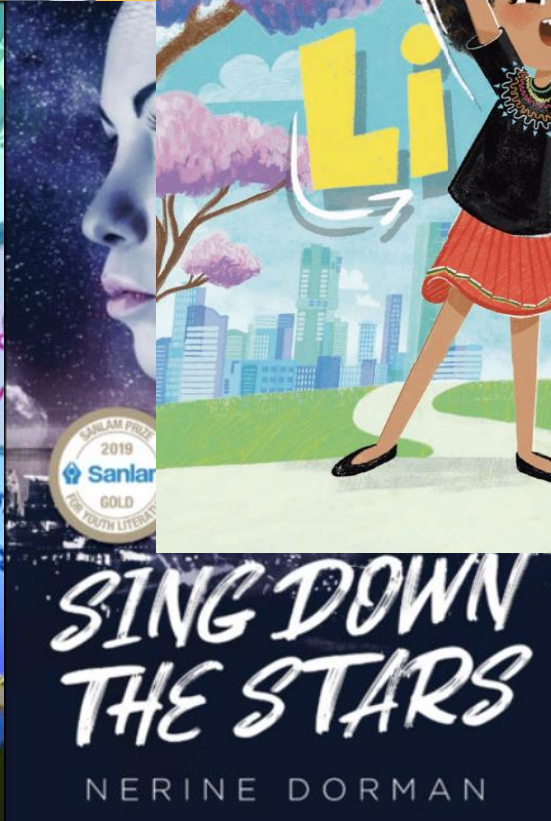
Publisher: Modjaji Books, South Africa

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.



Our Children's Book Catalogue is handled
by Mercy: Mercy@africanliteraryagency.com





VAN AGGELEN
African Literary Agency

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