



# **VAN AGGELEN**

## African Literary Agency

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**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 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.**



Vernon Head

## On that Wave of Gulls — New Prose

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.

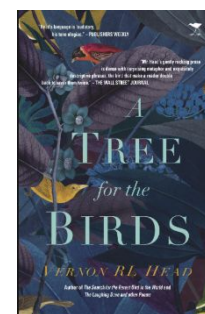
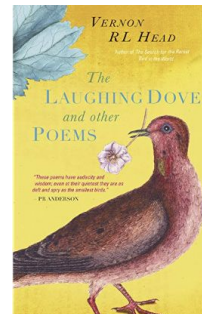
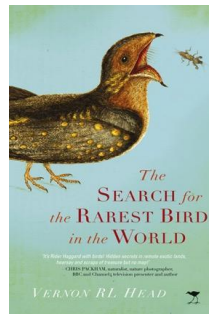
Prepare to undertake another mythic journey with the master of nature writing, Vernon RL Head. In 2014, Vernon took the bookselling world by surprise with his hit, *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World*. "Head's language is laudatory, his tone elegiac." - Publisher's Weekly. *On That Wave of Gulls*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

Rights: World rights, excl. South African English

Genre: prose

Status: edited manuscript

Words: 80.000+



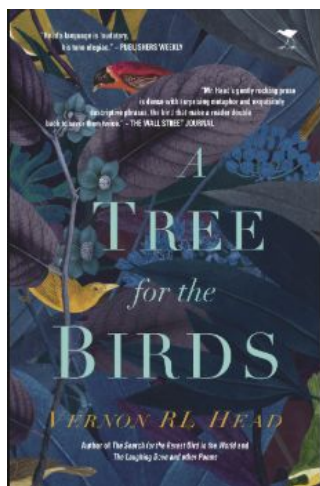
**VERNON R.L. HEAD** is the author of the critically acclaimed bestseller *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World* a poetry collection *The Laughing Dove and other Poems* and a collection of bird stories *Featherings*. When not writing, he is either designing special buildings or travelling the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

Vernon Head

Fiction

## A Tree for the Birds

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



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.

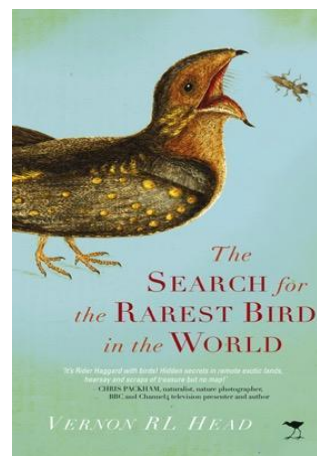
"In this narrative that mixes ancestral African beliefs and environmental issues in a poetic language, Vernon Head passes a very strong ecological message for our times. This beautiful story about books, trees, birds and rivers is also an inner journey that helps Chrisnelt heal and (re)connect with the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

Fiction

## 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)

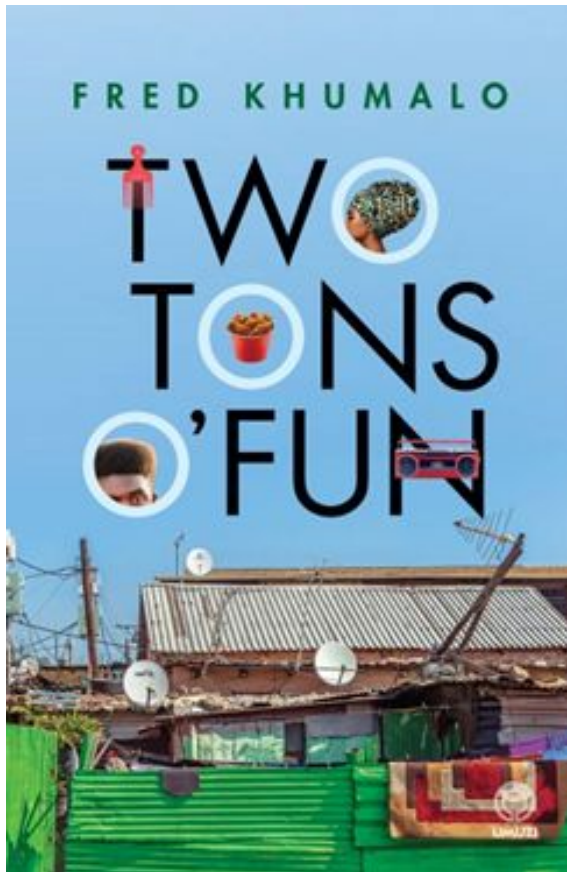
It was 6,900 kilometers from home in Cape Town in sweltering, overwhelming, heat of the inky black jungle. Architect and bird watcher, Vernon Head, stood with a spotlight in hand, on a remote jungle mountainside in Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley looking for something few on earth had seen before.

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: World Arabic sold ( Kalimat)  
Genre: narrative non-fiction  
Pages: 244 pages  
Publication date: 2014

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





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 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.

He holds an MA Creative Writing from Wits University, is a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a Fellow of the Academy of the Arts of the World (Cologne, Germany), a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, a Fellow of the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study and is also a PhD (Creative Writing) candidate at the University of Pretoria. In 2021 he was appointed Adjunct Professor of African Literature at the University of South Africa. Khumalo is also a member of PEN SA.



Rights: World rights, excl. South African English

Genre: *bildungsroman*

Status: Published by Umuzi, 2022

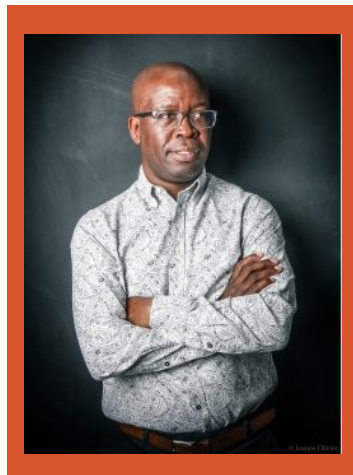
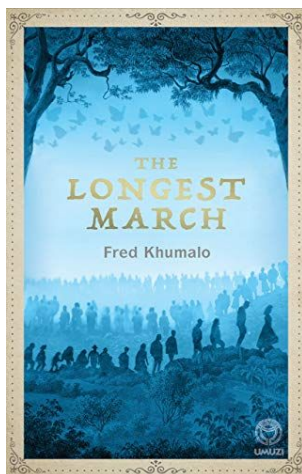
Words: 70.000

Fred Khumalo

## The Longest March

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

Fiction



*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.

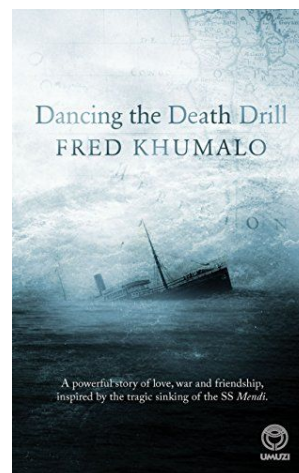
“Reading Khumalo’s stories, one’s imagination and sense of political correctness can be both challenged to their limits, and it is to his credit that he can make us curious and care about even the least likable characters. At the same time, his stories can be poignant and excruciatingly funny. That is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

Fiction



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:

Publication date: Sept. 2019

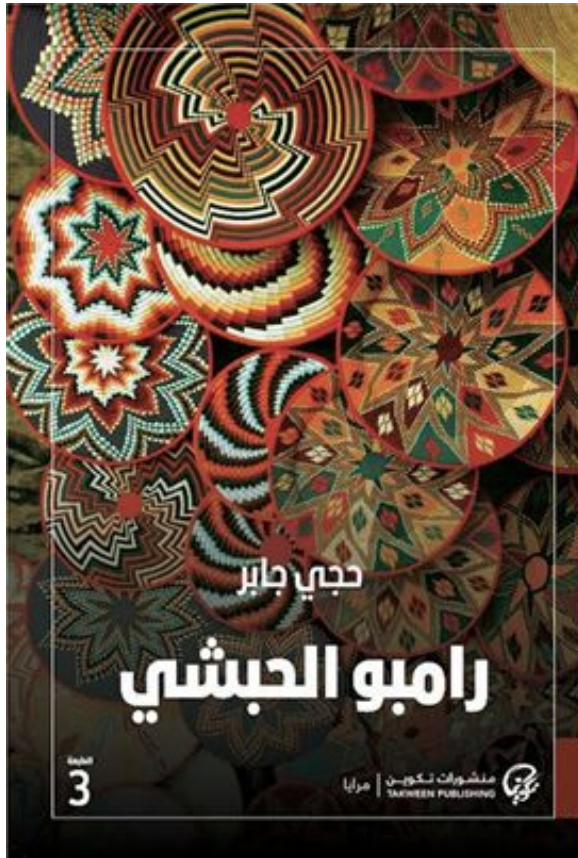
Book: Dancing the Death Drill

Rights: non-English rights  
available

Genre: Historical Fiction

Pages:

Publication date: Feb 2017



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.

**Rights:** World rights available excl. Arabic language area

**Genre:** Historical fiction

**Word:** 60,500

**Specifics:** English and French translation available

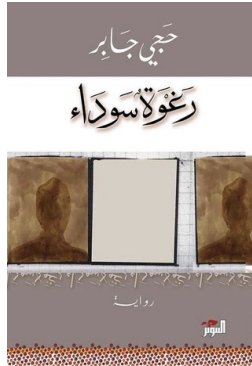
**Haji Jabir** is an Eritrean novelist born in the city of Massawa on the Red Sea coast in 1976. He currently lives in Doha, Qatar where he works as an Al Jazeera journalist. Jabir's creative work aim is to shed light on Eritrea in the past and present, and to extricate his homeland from its cultural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





## Other works by Haji Jabir



### BLACK FOAM

Winner of the Katara Prize for Arabic Novel

Set against the backdrop of the turbulent politics that prompted the Falasha Jews to immigrate to Israel, Haji Jabir recounts the tale of misery that pushes young people in poor countries to risk everything to immigrate to a place they believe will provide them with a better chance in life. One young man commits risks to steal, lie, and invent a life other than the one he lived ... The goal is the same: to escape from misery and hope for a better life.

**Rights:** Non-English Rights available. World English ( Amazon Crossing) and World Arabic sold.

**Genre:** fiction

**Pages:** 256

**Specifics:** first three chapters available in English



### 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

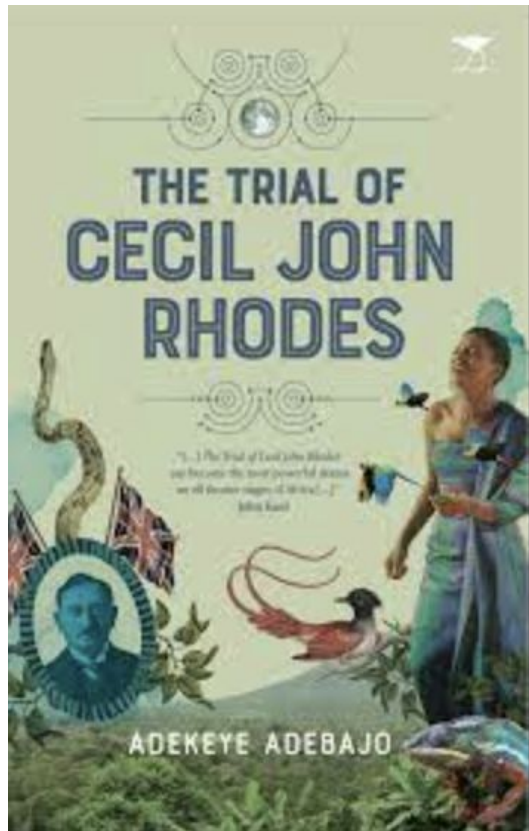
This novel depicts the loss of two countries: the country of origin and the country of immigration. The protagonist is born in Saudi Arabia and knows no other country. But he is treated as a despicable worker. Finally, he decides to return to his homeland, Eritrea, but finds that the homeland is not 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



Adekeye Adebajo

## The Trial of Cecil John Rhodes

*"You will now be tried in this fifth heaven for five crimes committed in the Herebefore. First, mass murder; second, racism; third, grand theft of Africa's natural resources and land; fourth, exploitation and enslavement of African workers; and fifth, egotism and a vainglorious quest for immortality."*

**"....a formidable novel of ideas that raises a number of urgent questions..."**

The LA Review of Books.

**"This is not just a man on trial, but the very system of imperialism itself." -**  
Goodread

Set over five days in an African Hereafter called "After Africa", this story revolves around the British South African imperialist, Cecil Rhodes, awakening in an After African Limbo after being asleep for 120 years. Guided by Ghanaian writer Efua Sutherland, he is taken on a tour of After Africa's five heavens, experiencing Africa's great civilisations, its Nobel laureates, its writers, its musicians and its sporting legends. The novella centres on the grand trial of Cecil Rhodes in the fifth heaven for five crimes committed in the Herebefore.

**Rights:** World Rights available,

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, South Africa

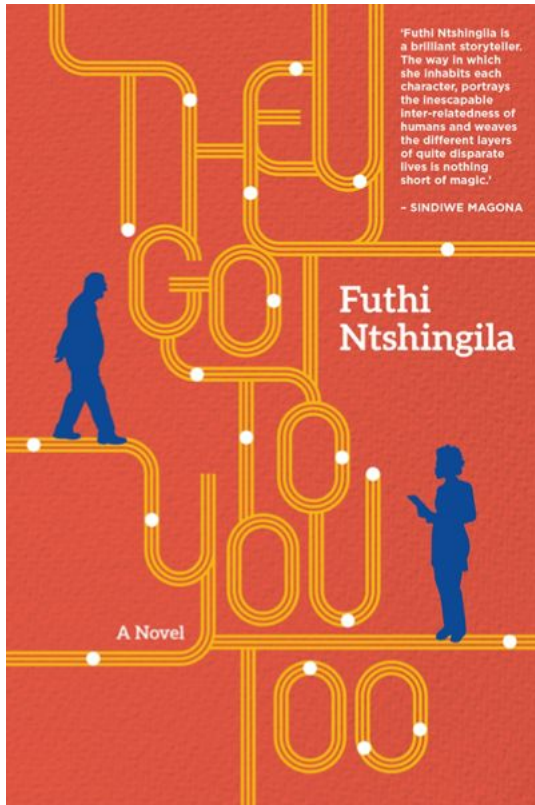
**Format:** Paperback, 176 pages

**Publication Date:** March 2021



**Professor Adekeye Adebajo** is the director of the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. He is the author of six books on African history and politics, and editor and co-editor of 10 books. He obtained his doctorate from Oxford University in England, and is a columnist for *Business Day* (South Africa), *the Guardian* (Nigeria) and the *Gleaner* (Jamaica).





Futhi Ntshingila

# They got to you too

*'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**

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.



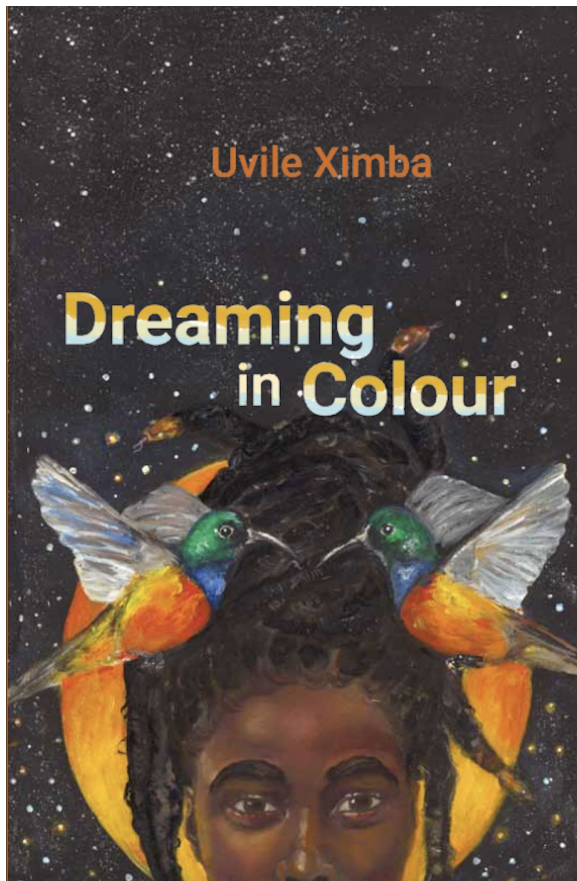
**Futhi Ntshingila** is a writer from Pietermaritzburg. The author of *Shameless* and *Do Not Go Gentle*, her work centres on women and marginalised communities. Futhi holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution and currently lives and works in Pretoria.

**Rights:** World Rights available

**Genre:** literary fiction

**Pages::** 256 pages

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa



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

"An elegantly expressed coming-of-age /coming-of-queer treat that tackles the questions: How does one explain gayness to their immediate community, if at all? More importantly, how does one explain to their own guilt-ridden subconscious that these feelings of love and desire are just as legitimate as any other, that it is ok to live in one's truth?

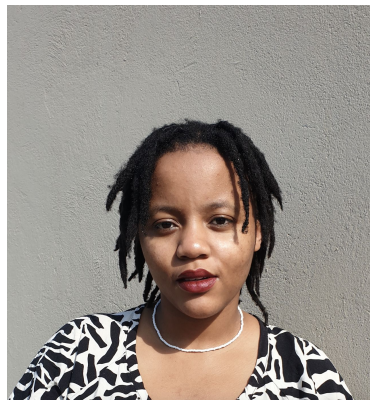
.. *Dreaming in Colour* does not answer these questions for us but rather exposes the reader, through its protagonist, to the bedraggled yet colourful magic of queer life.

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

**Genre:** literary fiction

**Pages::** 140 pages

**Publisher:** Modjaji Books, South Africa



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?"



## Lesego Rampolokeng

# Bird Monk Seding

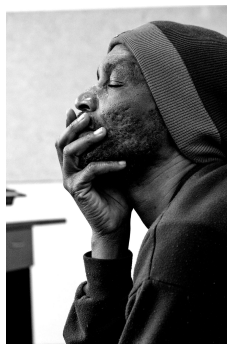
Winner University of Johannesburg Prize for African Writing and longlisted Barry Ronge Prize 2018.

"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

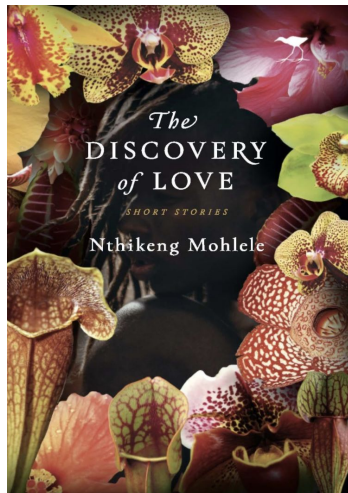
**Publisher:** Deep South, South Africa

**Format:** Paperback, 192 pages

Nthikeng Mohlele

## The Discovery of Love (new)

Fiction



Rights: World rights ,  
excl South African  
Genre: fiction, short  
stories  
Publisher: Jacana  
Media  
Pages:  
Publication date:  
November 2021



*The Discovery of Love*, explores and heightens one of the dominant themes in Nthikeng Mohlele's literary oeuvre, that of love. In this collection, love is reflected upon in expansive and unexpected dimensions. It becomes the backdrop against which Mohlele delves into the intricacies of human agency with profound and often unexpected effects. These stories dazzle; they are wide-ranging in scope, yet particular in their authorial intent.

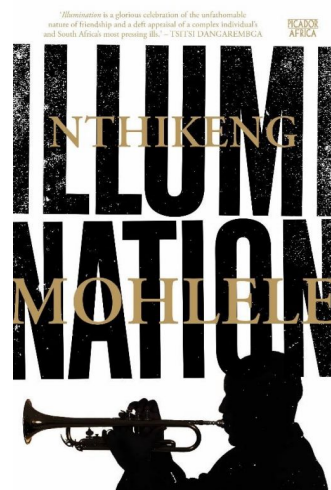
**NTHIKENG MOHLELE** was partly raised in Limpopo and Tembisa Township, and attended the University of the Witwatersrand, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Art, Publishing Studies and African Literature. He is the author of six critically acclaimed novels: *The Scent of Bliss* (2008), *Small Things* (2013), *Rusty Bell* (2014), *Pleasure* (2016), *Michael K* (2018) and *Illumination* (2019). His much-anticipated short-story collection *Discovery of Love* will release in October 2021.

Nthikeng Mohlele

## Illumination

Vivid, beautiful and emotional, *Illumination* is testament of a book with a great soul". – **Sunday Times Review, SA**

Fiction



"The story in *Illumination* unfolds gently, slowly, the writing is poetic and lyrical. We are introduced to the nuances of Bantubonke's life ....with the central theme of loss – loss in terms of ageing, losing one's skills and one's wife. The story is firmly set in the fabric of its time. Johannesburg looms as a character." – **Business Day, SA**

Mohlele describes the book as "...an exploration of the nature and pitfalls of an artistic life. The backbone of the narrative is essentially a love story, but also how the charges and passions inherent in art, particularly music, interface and become transformed when fused with passions and anxieties of a more personal and discreet kind"

Bantubonke is an accomplished and revered musician, composer and band leader in decline – an absent present and inadequate spouse. He lives for art at the expense of all else, an imbalance that derails his life and propels him to the brink of madness and despair. A story of direct and implied betrayals, *Illumination* is an unrelenting study of art, possession and loss, of the beauty and uncertainty of love, of friendship and the dangers and intrusions of fame.

Rights: World rights  
Genre: fiction  
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA  
Pages: 232 pages  
Publication date: 2019

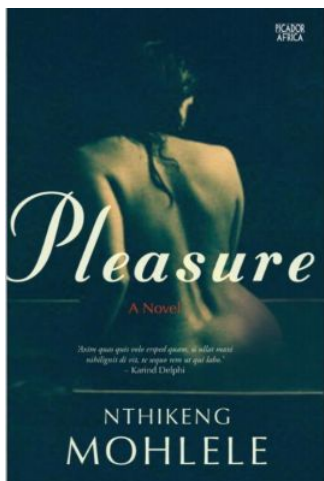


Nthikeng Mohlele

## Pleasure

Mohlele will perform at the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2020.

Fiction



Drawn against the canvas of wartime Europe and modern-day Cape Town, South Africa, Milton sacrifices all for glimpses into the secrets and deceptions of pleasure – and how powerless those apparent insights are in the vast scale of life in its glory and absurdity. – longlisted Dublin Literary Award 2019



The notion of pleasure in all its guises is one of the oldest and most enduring grand themes of literature, presented here through the eyes and thoughts of writer and dreamer Milton Mohlele. Thoughtful, eccentric and besieged by the erotic and the sensual, the profane and the redemptive, Milton thinks and writes on pleasure as it is both experienced and imagined. Drawn against the canvas of wartime Europe and modern-day Cape Town, South Africa, Milton sacrifices all for glimpses into the secrets and deceptions of pleasure – and how powerless those apparent insights are in the vast scale of life in its glory and absurdity.

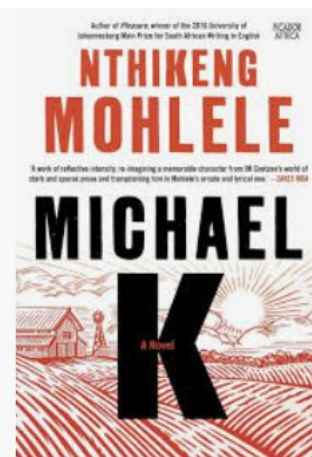
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Nthikeng Mohlele

## Michael K

Mohlele will perform at the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2020.

Fiction



'Behind this story of love, music and the eternal quest [in *Small Things*], lies an artistic sensibility as generous as it is complex. The prose is rich in texture, the final effect melancholy and comic in equal proportions.'

– J.M. Coetzee

Ever since taking up literature studies at the University of Witwatersrand in the late 1990s, author Nthikeng Mohlele has read JM Coetzee's *Life and Times of Michael K* more than 30 times. A Booker prize-winner in 1983, *Life and Times of Michael K* was so uniquely resonant for Mohlele that he chose to adapt it by recasting the protagonist into a contemporary setting, which takes into account the time that has elapsed between the two projects and what Mohlele relates to as the evolved cultural landscape.

Boundless in ambition, it is perhaps a project shorn down by its form and brevity, intentional tools in this case, to keep the project circulating in the realm of ideas. In this sense, the book is more an ode to Michael K than to Michael K's creator.

Rights: World rights  
Genre: fiction  
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA  
Pages *Pleasure*: 208 pages  
Publication date: 2015

Rights: World Rights  
Genre: fiction  
Publisher: PanMacmillan SA  
Pages *Michael K*: 192 pages  
Publication date: 2012



Ameera Patel

## Outside the Lines

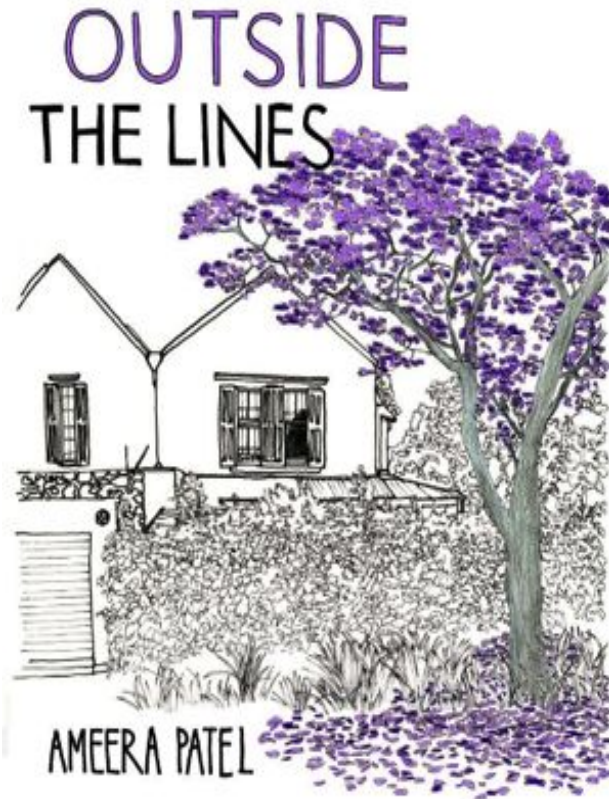
A deftly crafted novel that blends family drama with crime and black comedy, "Outside the Lines" is a unique and extraordinary novel by an author with an impressive flair for the kind of narrative storytelling that grips the reader's full attention and invests them in the characters and events portrayed.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

One of "10 Novels You Should Read in June" —CrimeReads

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 ( publ June 2020).

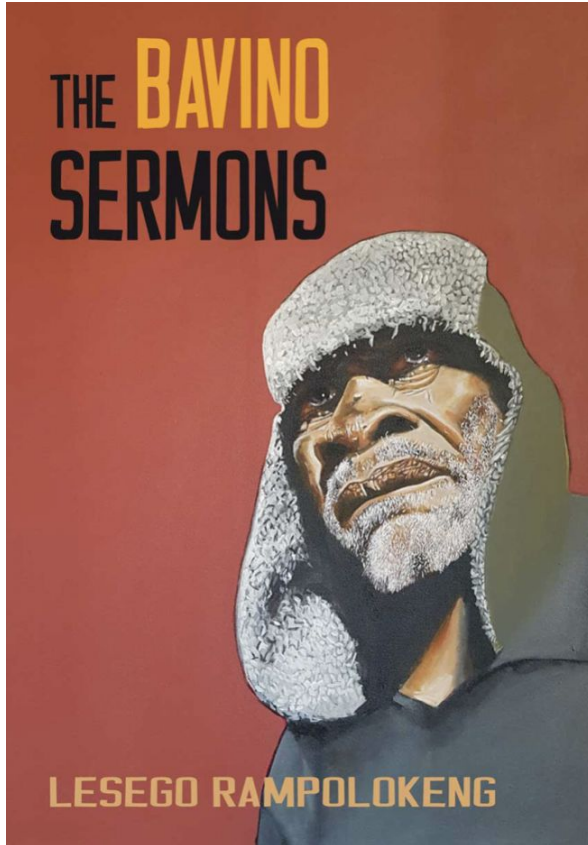
**Genre:** Fiction

**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

# The Bavino Sermons

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

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**



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.

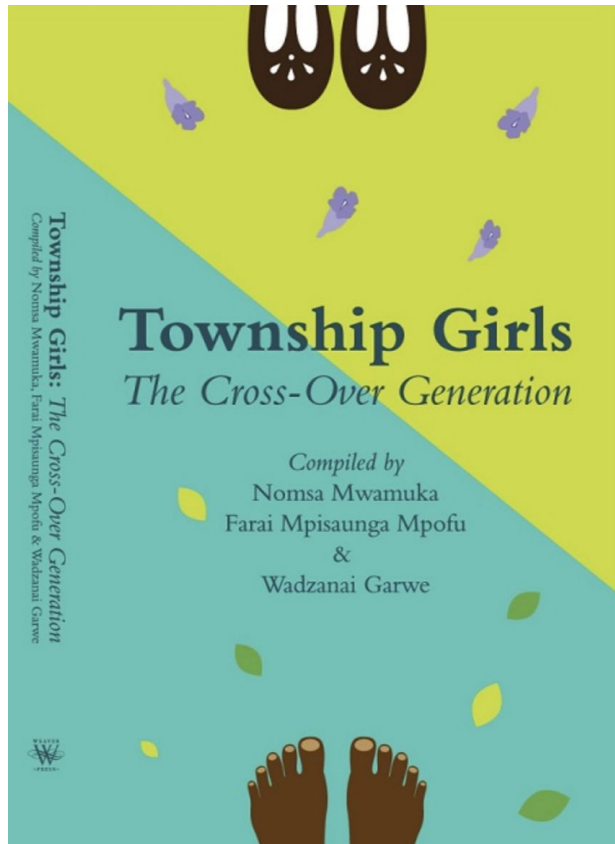
His uncompromising voice and performance style have earned him a unique place in our literature.

**Rights:** World Rights available, ex South African

**Genre:** Poetry

**Publisher:** Deep South, South Africa

**Format:** Paperback, 126 pages



Compiled by Nomsa Mwamuka, Farai Mpsaunga Mpofu & 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 Eng African

**Genre:** non-fiction

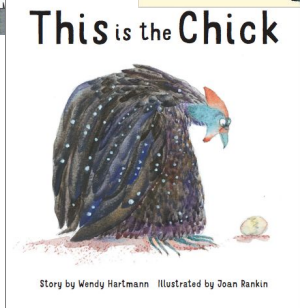
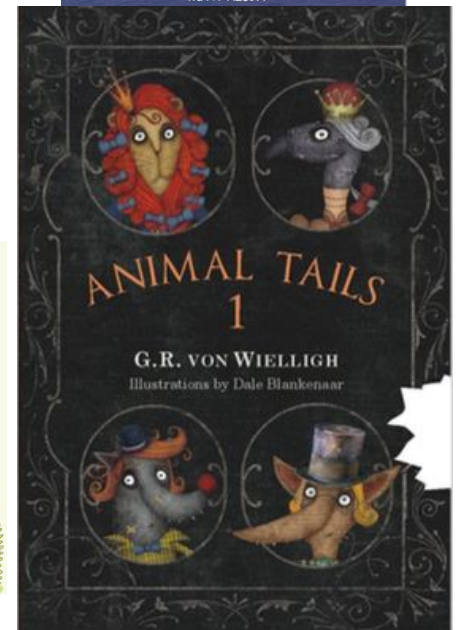
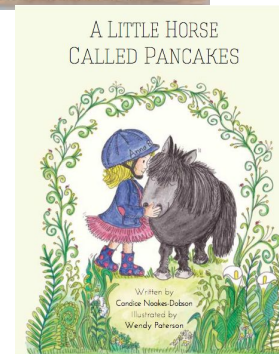
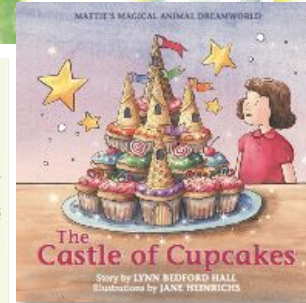
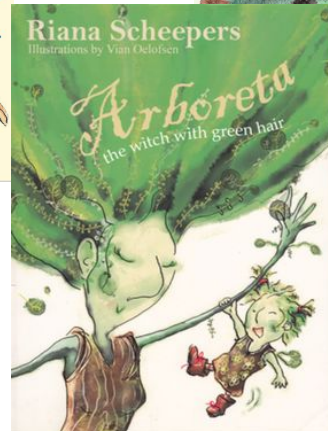
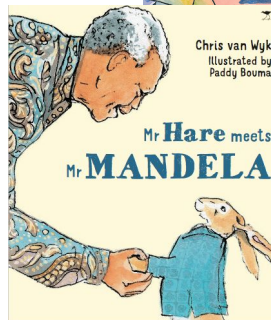
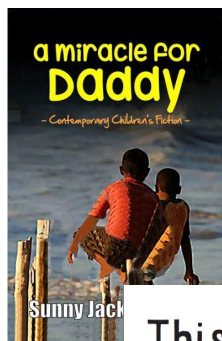
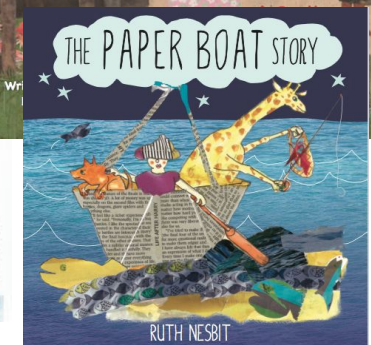
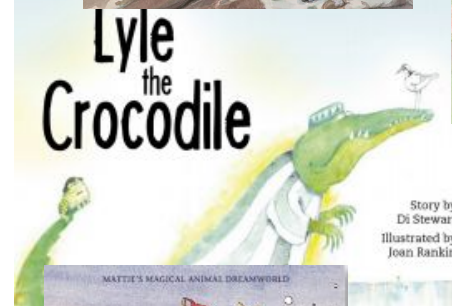
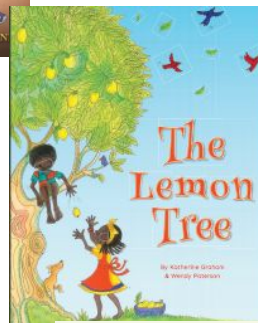
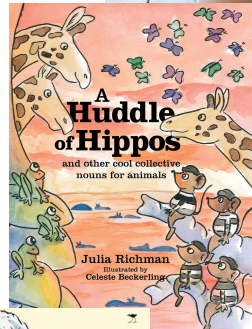
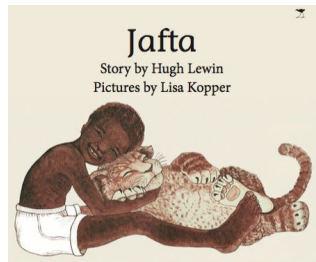
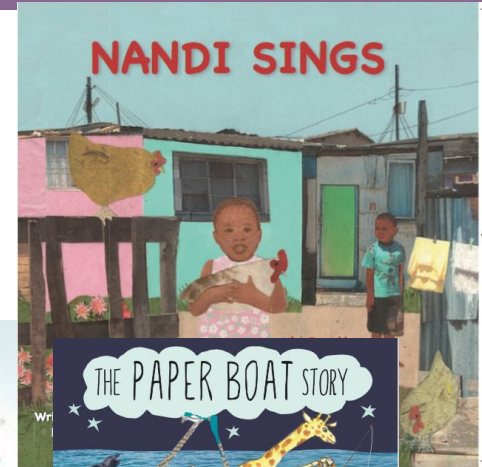
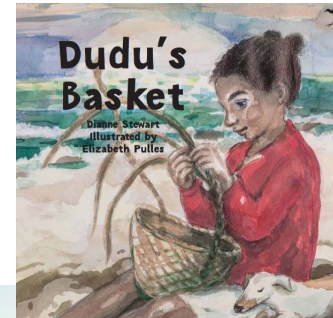
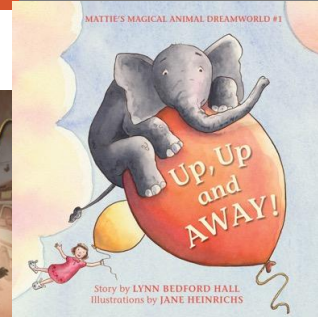
**Publisher:** Weaver Press, Zimbabwe

**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.







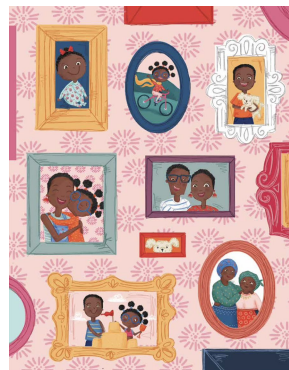


Written by Refiloe Moahloli  
Illustrated by Zinelda McDonald

## 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.



**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.

**Zinelda McDonald** won numerous awards for her work including the Alba Boucher-award and the Exclusive Books/IBBY-award

**Rights:** World Rights available, excl SA

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** September 2020





**Rights:** Non-English Rights available, Eng 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 Zinelda McDonald

## We are One

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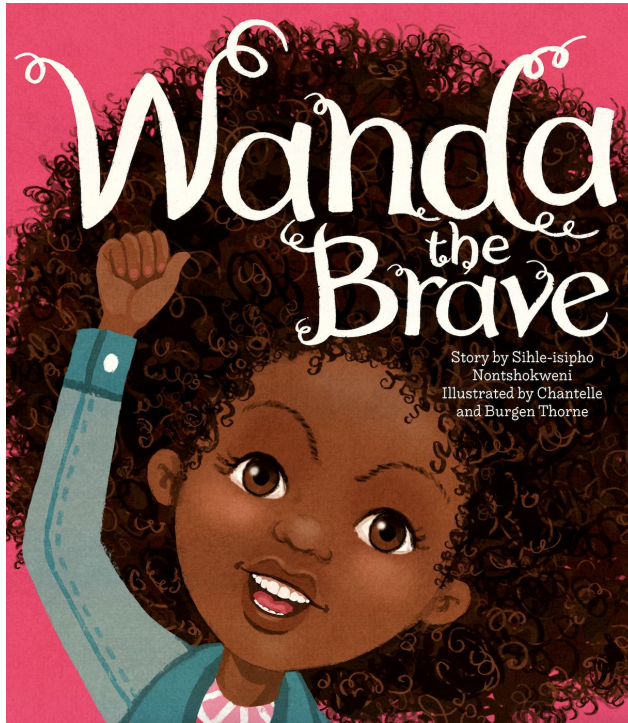
*We may look different you and I,  
sound different,  
act different,  
eat different food,  
and live in different places  
but when I look into your eyes, I see myself.*

A comforting and lyrical book about friendship and ubuntu that celebrates both our differences and similarities.



**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** won numerous awards for her work including the Alba Bouwer-award and the Exclusive Books/IBBY-award



Written by Sihle Nontshokweni - Illustr. by Chantelle & Burgen Thorne

## Wanda the Brave

This book is the second book in the Wanda series and is again a celebration of girl power, and a reminder that courage and friendship is a mighty force!

Meet Wanda, with her glorious head of hair.

Today, Wanda is visiting the hair salon where she'll use all the hair secrets Makhulu taught her. But Auntie Ada wants her to straighten her hair with a white chemical. Wanda and her friend Sandra come up with a plan and both girls stand strong and brave in the face of this big challenge.



**Rights:** Non-English Rights available , English Rights sold to Interlink US

**Genre:** fiction

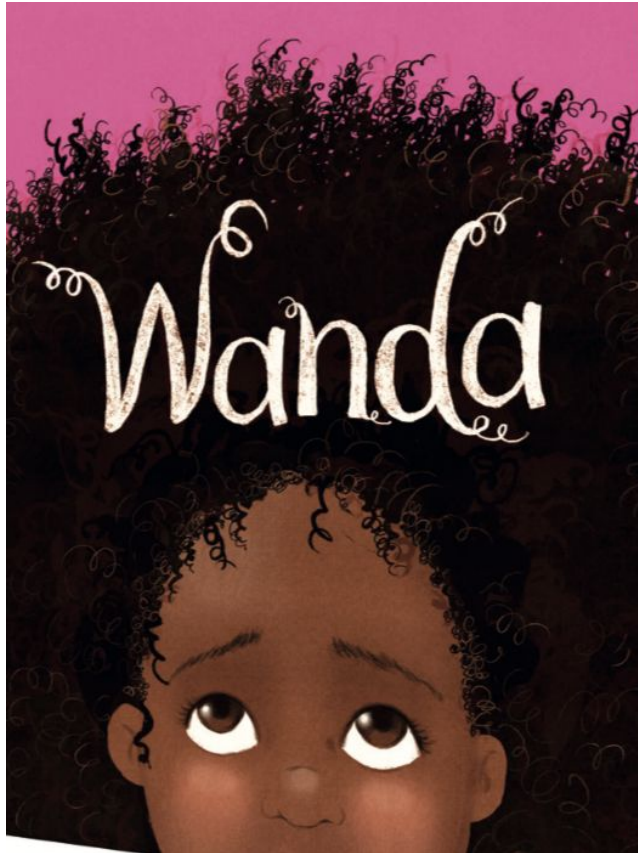
**Publisher:** Jacana Media , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** September 2021

**Sihle Nontshokweni** is a PhD candidate at KU Leuven. Her research is focused on the successes and failures of school desegregation in post-apartheid South Africa. Prior to that, she lived in China, completing a master's at Peking University, where she studied the aspirations of African migrant entrepreneurs living in Guangzhou, south of China.

**Chantelle and Burgen Thorne** are internationally published illustrators with over 20 years experience in educational publishing. The two are now focusing on picture books for children with several more titles being released internationally this year, because the magic of children's books is that they're not just for kids.



Written by Sihle Nontshokweni and Mathabo Tlali  
Illustrated by Chantelle and Burgen Thorne

## Wanda

This book stands at the intersection of identity and beauty, celebrating how cultural pride is learned and passed on over the generations. This book encourages young children to love themselves for what

Wanda is sad. She is often teased at school because of her hair, which her classmates say is bushy. Every day Wanda's mom tells her how beautiful she is, but she still feels like she has to try and 'fix' her hair all the time. Then, one day, her granny decides to sit her down and have a chat about all the different and wonderful hairstyles amazing women have. This beautifully-illustrated story is one many girls can relate to.



**Rights:** Rights sold to UK, North America, Europe and Australia

**Genre:** fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, , Johannesburg

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** June 2019

**Sihle Nontshokweni** is a PhD candidate at KU Leuven. Her research is focused on the successes and failures of school desegregation in post-apartheid South Africa. Prior to that, she lived in China, completing a master's at Peking University, where she studied the aspirations of African migrant entrepreneurs living in Guangzhou, south of China.

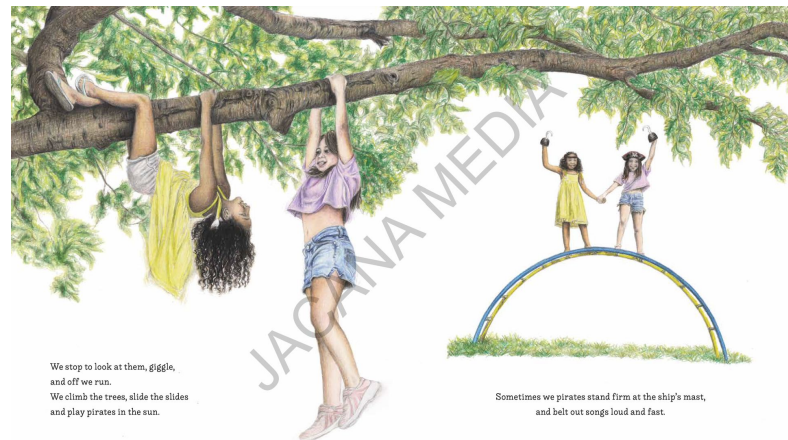
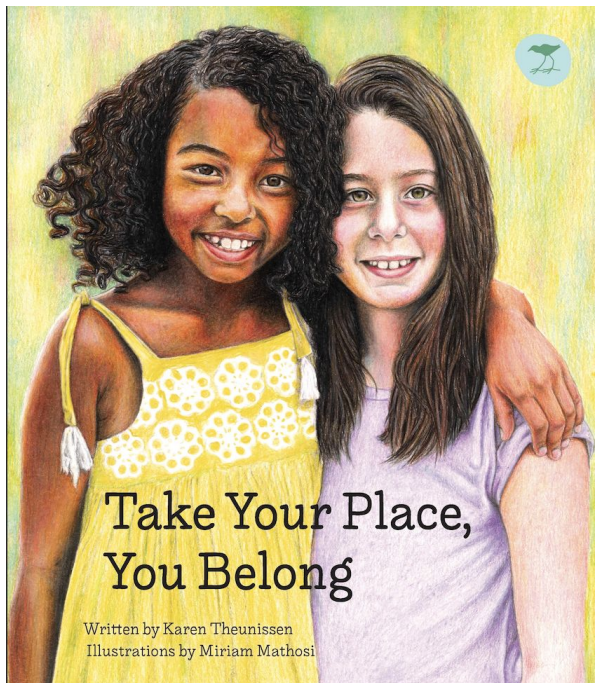
**Mathabo Tlali** was born and bred in the Eastern Cape and has the yearning to understand and engage the thoughts and realities of others through various artistic and digital platforms. She seeks to explore intersectional ways of connectivity between the past, present and future, more so pertaining to identity politics within the performance and academic space.



Written by Karen Theunissen - Illustrated by Miriam Mathosi

# Take Your Place, You Belong

Take your Place, You Belong is a rhyming picture book that tells the story of two best friends who navigate discrimination on the playground because they look different from one another. That's book explores themes of empathy, heroism, friendship and identity. It helps children, parents and teachers alike, discuss the often all too difficult issues around race, diversity and the hurt caused by discrimination.



We stop to look at them, giggle,  
and off we run.  
We climb the trees, slide the slides  
and play pirates in the sun.

Sometimes we pirates stand firm at the ship's mast,  
and belt out songs loud and fast.

**Rights:** World Rights available, excl South African

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Publisher:** Jacana Media, South Africa

**Format:** 32 pages

**Publishing date:** October 2021

**Karen Theunissen** writes to ignite the imagination, creativity and curiosity of young children. Her writing is inspired by her four young daughters and their quest to discover the world around them.

**Miriam Mathosi** was born in New York, USA, but grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. She moved to NY after her schooling to further her art training and education at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York where she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration.

# Verdies - *Tales from the Lakeside* by Judit Berg

4 book series, - distributed by Netflix from March 2020, by Hungarian Bestselling children book writer Judit Berg



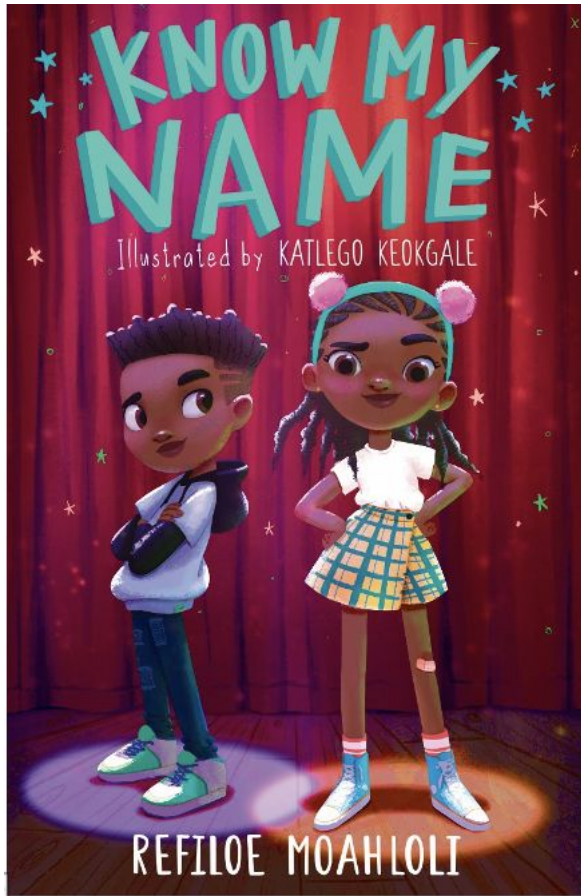
This beautiful saga is centred around the ecosystem of a lake. The Verdies are small green-skinned defenders of the Sea of Reeds. They fly around on warblers protecting all living creatures of the Babbly Lake. Their favorite pastime is the Bullfrog Rodeo where the champions of Verdes and Frogs compete. Their main enemies are the red-skinned Grimps and their allies, the swans and rats of the neighboring lake. All this are the ingredients of the tales of all living creatures in and around the Sea of Reeds.

Children's knowledge of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter is deepened through the adventures of the characters, while they are actively involved in all kind of the events.

Click this link for all product information and the spin-off of the series.

<http://africanliteraryagency.com/Verdies-African-Literary-Agency.pdf>





**Rights:** World Rights available

**Genre:** Children's fiction, Early Readers

**Publisher:** PanMacmillan, South Africa

**Format:** 64 pages, b/w illustrated

**Publishing date:** September 2021

Written by Refiloe Moahloli - Illustrated by Katlego Keogale

## Know my Name

A heartwarming story that celebrates family and friendship and finding your voice amidst change.

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.

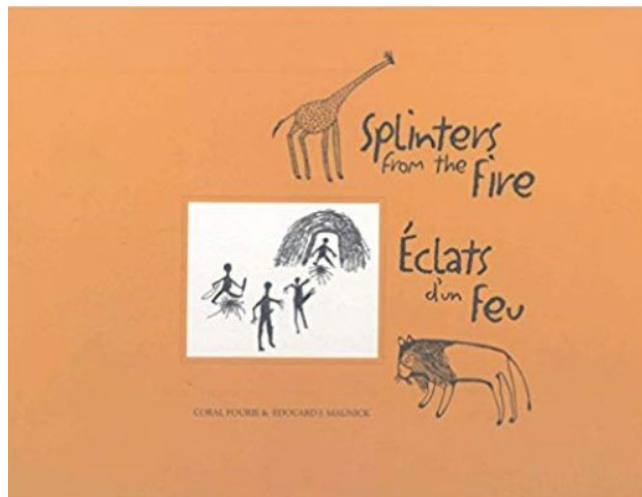
The new school is far from their house, the extramural activities that are on offer are unfamiliar and the ones that Rorisang used to excel at in her old school is dominated by kids far better than her.

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!



**Refiloe Moahloli** is the best-selling author of *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?*, *Tullula*, *Yes Yanga!* and *Yheke Yanga!* 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.

**Katlego "Kat" Keogale** is a children's books illustrator and loves reading and watching anything with magic in it. 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.



Bushman Stories collected and edited by Coral Foerie

## Splinters from the Fire



The result is twenty stories illustrated by Bushman artists. We are in Africa, the country of Timbuktu, where the book trade dates from the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During this fantastic period countries arose such as Ghana, Mali, Egypt, to name a few. The Bushman, though a small community, are an essential fraction of the African soul. The absence or death of the Bushman would mean imbalance. Read the stories, the legends and the fables contained in this volume and you will learn so much which quicken and enrich your being. Simple happiness that comes with harmony for all ages. May their stories and art live and perpetuate.



**Rights:** World rights available

**Publisher:** Protea Boekhuis, Pretoria

**Genre:** Illustrated Fiction

**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages, Illustrations b/w

**Available languages:** English, Afrikaans, French, German :



Acclaimed children's author Helen Brain's new YA novel is a smart and pacy dystopian thriller. *Elevation: The Thousand Steps*, was published late last year in South Africa by Human & Rousseau and is already a local best-seller. The book has an original mythology that draws on the power of ancestor legends.

Helen Brain has written over 40 books for children. Also a creative writing teacher, Helen lives in Cape Town. When she's not writing or teaching writing, Helen draws cartoons, and makes incredible crafty things for fun.

## A STORY OF THE SUN

Everywhere, the whole world was dark. There was darkness all over and people could not see to collect food. Parabhize had light. He kept it in his armpit and was sleeping most of the time. Only when he woke up and stretched himself, would the people have a little light.

One day a woman, who was hungry and tired of sitting in the dark all the time, said to her son, "You must go to Parabhize while he is sleeping and get the light from under his arm." This young man was afraid of Parabhize, but he knew he had to do something about the situation.

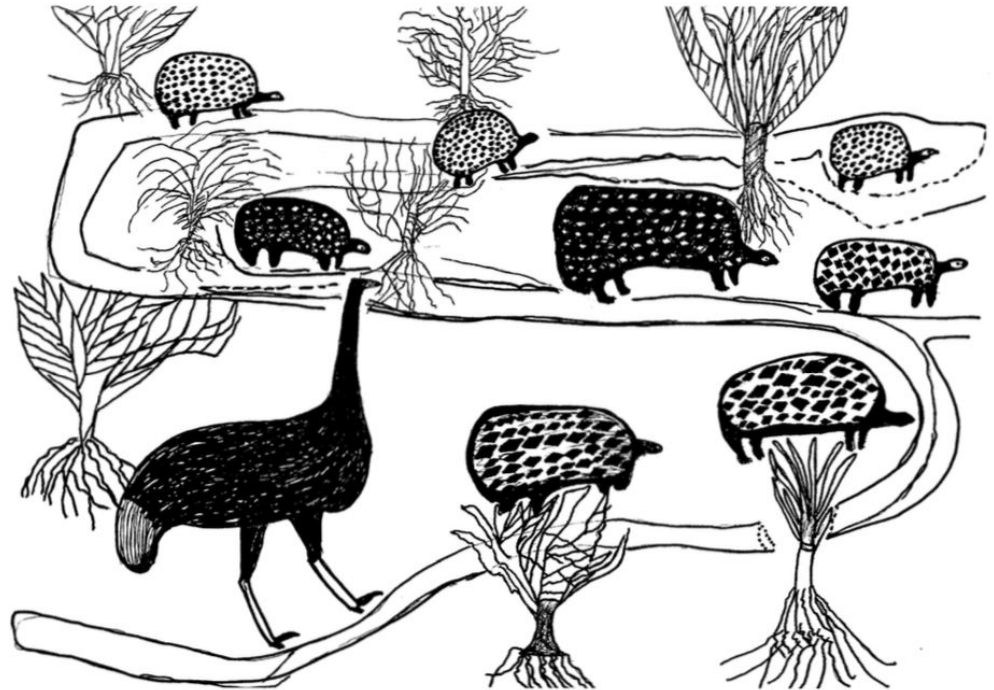
Parabhize was lying asleep under a tree. The young man felt his way in the dark until he found the old man. He lifted his arm very slowly, but as the light became visible, Parabhize woke up. The young man got a fright. He grabbed the light and ran away with it. He could see clearly because he had the light. Then he said to himself, "I cannot keep this light to myself; I must share it with all the people and the only way that is possible is to get it up higher." At that moment, the light started to burn his hands and he threw it up high into the sky.

The people were very happy. They looked up into the sky and they could see everything around them. They sang songs of praise, took their bags and started collecting food.

Thus, up to this day, the women sing while collecting veldkos.

TOLD BY MODUMO AT DIPHUDUHUDU, SOUTH-EASTERN  
KALAHARI, BOTSWANA.

ILLUSTRATED BY KGORO/WHAA.



**Splinters from the Fire**





## Judit Berg, Illustrated by **Rumini, The series**

**10 book series, 10 book deal China and 10 years bestselling in Hungary**

The tales of Rumini's travel are full of twists and turns, conflicts and clashes. Whether they are fleeing pirates on the open sea, learning of strange and magical creatures on an uncharted island, or freeing new friends held unjustly captive in underground caverns beneath an unfamiliar city. Rumini and his mates learn the importance of friendship and integrity, and they never fail to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

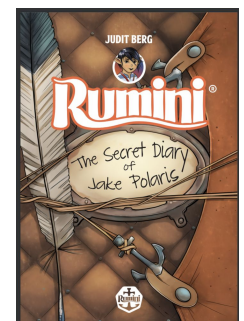
Ten books in the series, all equally exciting and adventurous enhanced by illustrations that drag you even more in the stories of our small hero Rumini.

Four of the books are available in the English language, the other 6 are currently in the process of being translated.

**Awards:** For "Rumini – The Adventures Begins" IBBY "Book of the Year" Award, 2007, IBBY Honour List, 2008. Rumini was elected "The Children's Book of the Decade" in Hungary in 2010.

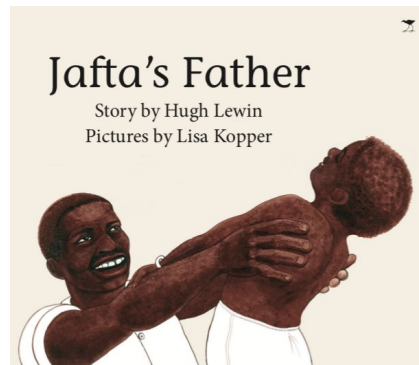
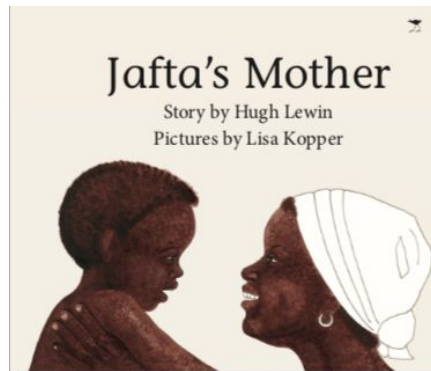
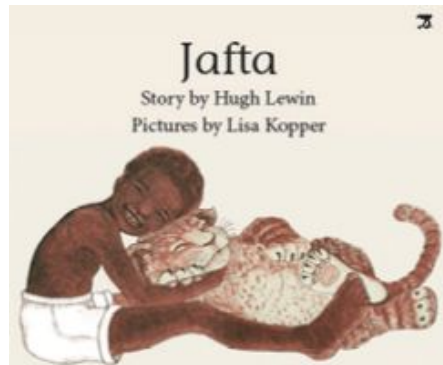
**Rights:** World Rights, sold to China, Netherlands, Poland, Russia,  
**Publisher:** Rumini kft, Hungary,  
**Format:** Ppb, 32 pages each  
**Age** 3-10 Years

**Judit Berg** is one of Hungary's most popular writers of children's literature. She writes for all age groups from toddlers to teens. Although her career only started in 2005, she has already published 37 books. In 2011, Judit was presented with Hungary's preeminent literary distinction, the "József Attila State Award" for her outstanding contribution to children's literature.



Written by Hugh Lewin, illustrations by Lisa Kopper

# Jafta



"The South African setting lends texture and a sense of history in the making while the story embraces readers of any nation with its universal themes. Kopper rises to the demands of the text, using gentle lines and the series' brown-and-white palette to convey a broad sweep of emotions". - **Publishers Weekly**

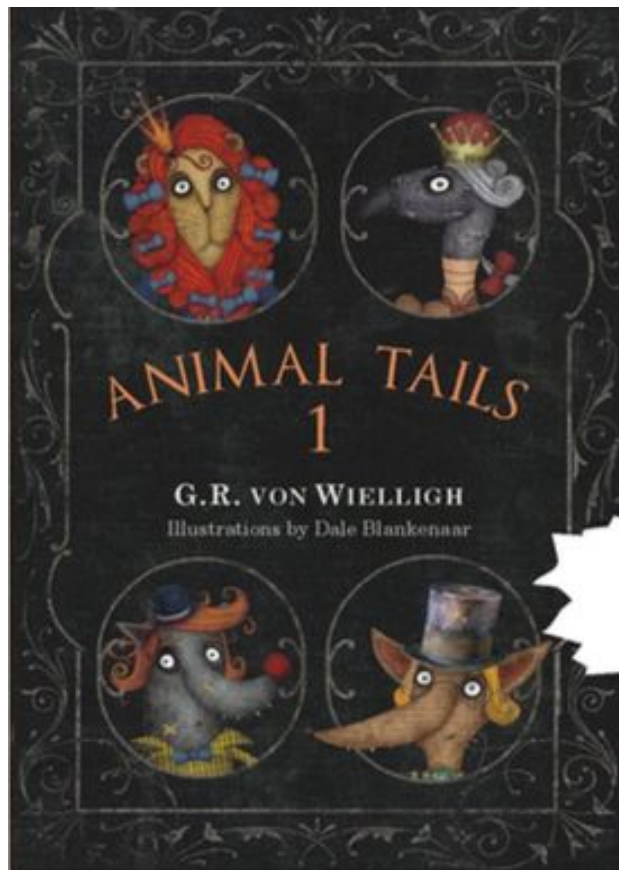
"This deceptively simple book provides a solid and strong read-aloud for the youngest listeners. The author helps children to name and put words to their strongly felt emotions.

And the illustrator provides vibrant drawings of the animals named in each simile. Without screaming "multiculturalism", this lovely book also shares some of the environs of S. Africa. JAFTA has stood the test of time with my two toddlers." – a mum

*"When I get tired, I like lazing in the sun like a lizard, or wallowing warm like a hippo, and feeling cuddly like a lamb."*

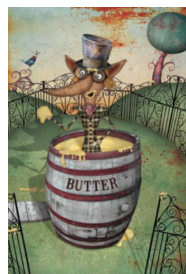
Jafta, a young boy growing up in Africa, describes some of his everyday feelings by comparing his actions to those of various African animals. The book is filled with rich illustrations and clever similes to explain all sorts of feelings and actions.

**Rights:** World Rights , sold to China, US, Spain,  
**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg  
**Format:** Paperback, 192 pages  
**Age** 3-6 Years



G.R. van Wielligh, illustrated by Dale Blankenaar

## Animal Tales - series



The tales of Jackal and Wolf are to South Africans what apple pie is to Americans. No one should grow up without them. Yet the sly Jackal and the whimsical Wolf is older than apple pie. These stories come from the Khoi-Khoi, a group of Bushmen who narrated them into existence shortly after the Stone Age.

Animal Tales Volume I-4 are freshly translated into modern English, the stories get a new look thanks to the beautiful, full-color illustrations of Dale Blankenaar. All volumes are a compilation of 15 stories. We read about the big war between the walking and the flying animals; we are told who gets crowned as the king of the animals and we meet sly Jackal and poor, gullible Wolf.

The publisher **Protea Boekhuis** is nominated for the **Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the World 2019**

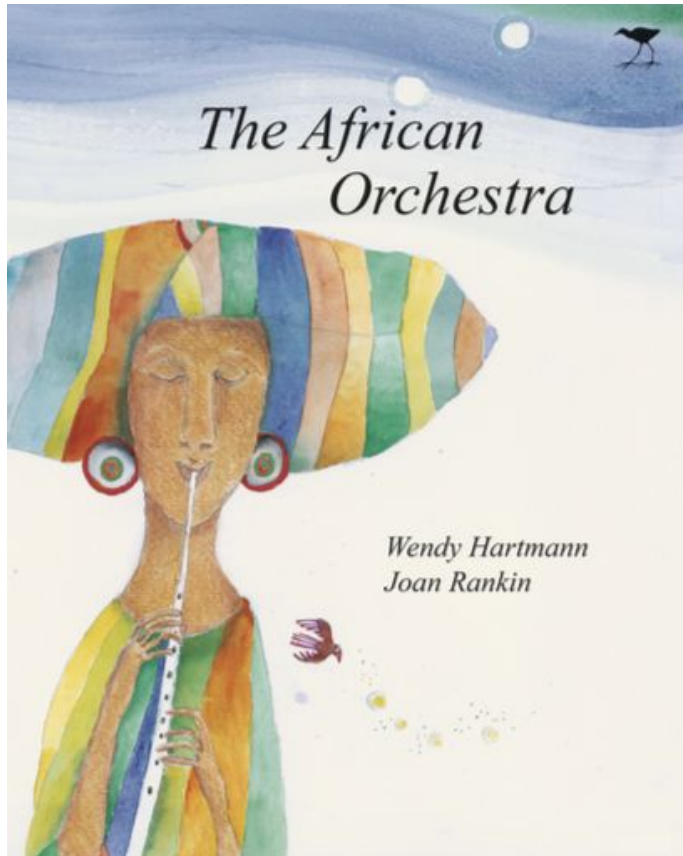
**Rights:** World Rights  
**Publisher:** Protea Book House, Pretoria  
**Format:** Paperback, 96 pages  
**Publication date:** 2011  
**Series:** 4 books  
**Illustrations:** full color

Age 9-100 Years



Dale Blankenaar is a full-time picture book illustrator and designer. He has illustrated about 30 picture books (locally and internationally). Dale was a finalist in the 2010 Maskew Miller Literature Awards Illustration category and was selected for IBBY SA's Honour list 2015/2016 for his rendering of the eerily atmospheric world of the writing in *Rhinocephants on the roof* by Marita van der Vyver (NB Publishers, Cape Town).





## Wendy Hartmann & Joan Rankin

# The African Orchestra

*'Wendy Hartmann has a musician's ear for words and Joan Rankin's pictures sing with color and expression.'*

With magical illustrations from Joan Rankin, and poetry from masterful story teller, Wendy Hartmann, *The African Orchestra* lyrically captures the magic of the African sounds of nature. From the clicking of crickets to the crackle of the re, follow the journey that celebrates these sounds, in the rhythm and music of Africa.

*"Cicadas, crickets, beetles and frogs  
Seedpods, cocoons, hollowed out logs  
Crackling res, the patter of rain  
thundering hooves on the African plain.  
Birds in the air, in the trees – on the trees  
Wind in the grass, through the leaves – over sand.  
In the beginning, when all things began,  
these were the sounds which were music to man."*

**Rights:** World Rights, Northern American rights sold, Mainland Chinese  
**Publisher:** Jacana Media, Johannesburg  
**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages  
**Publication date:** June 2016

Age 3-6 Years



**Wendy Hartmann** has been writing for many Years. She has had more than forty children's books published. her books have been selected for honor's lists and nominated for awards for writing and illustration.

**Joan Rankin** has illustrated over thirty books for children including numerous books on the mcElderry list . She received many awards for her work and was listed on the IBBY 2012 Honors for illustrations.

# This is the Chick



Story by Wendy Hartmann Illustrated by Joan Rankin

Wendy Hartman & Joan Rankin

## This is the Chick

A tiny guinea fowl chick hatches early one morning and lets out a 'cheep'. Find out what happens in the bush when the 'cheep' is heard by all the African animals.

Written in rhyme by best-loved children's author Wendy Hartmann, this humorous story will enchant and entertain.

Joan Rankin has illustrated over 30 books for children. She received the South African HAUM Daan Retief Prize for Children's Book Illustration in 1986 and the Katrine Harries Award for Children's Book Illustration in 1991.

She has illustrated numerous books on the McElderry list, including A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson and Off to First Grade by Louise Borden. Joan recently won the MER Prize for best illustrated children's book for Just Sisi/Net Sisi written by Wendy Hartmann.

The beautiful **African Orchestra** by Wendy and Joan was published in 2016 and hit the SA book market.

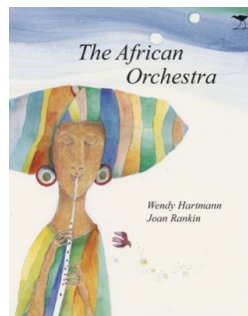
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**Format:** Paperback, 32 pages full color

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**Age:** 4-8 years



Wendy Hartmann has been writing for many years, with more than 40 children's books published. They range from concept and counting, beginner readers, high interest/low vocabulary readers to picture books. Her books have been selected for honour's lists and nominated for awards for writing and illustration.



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