



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 illustrated children's books and, since August 2020, African Speculative Fiction.*

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

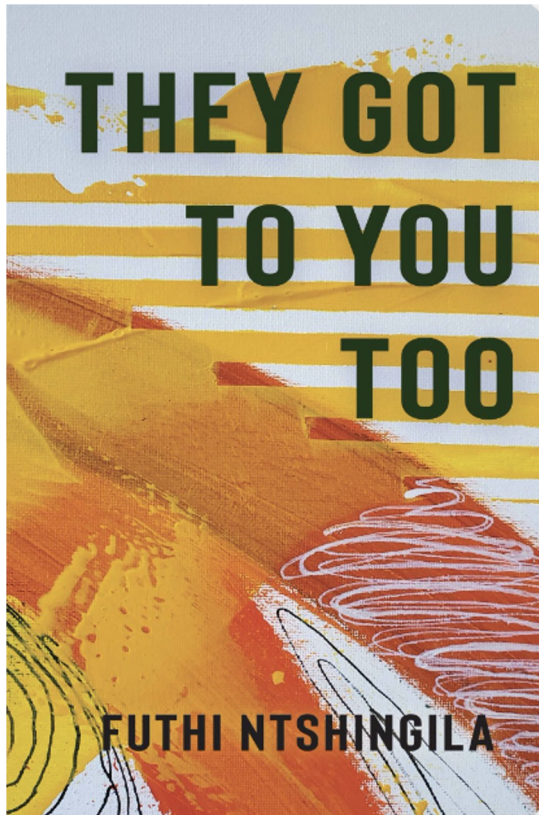
***Also ask for our new African Speculative Fiction Rights List.**

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. and she holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution.





Futhi Ntshingila

They got to you too

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

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

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

Rights: WE rights sold (US), WW Malayalam (IN), WE Audio sold (US), available foreign rights/film/tv/streaming

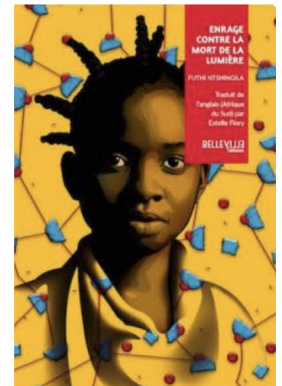
Genre: literary fiction

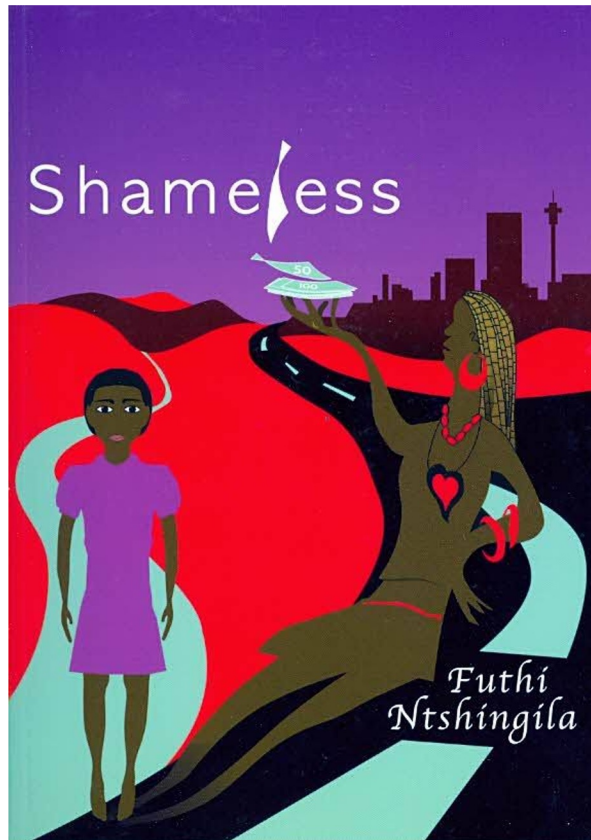
Pages: 256 pages

Publisher: PanMacmillan, South Africa

*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***

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





Rights: all rights available

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 85

Published: formerly published in South Africa

Futhi Ntshingila **Shameless**

A South African story to be lauded

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

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

For instance, 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.

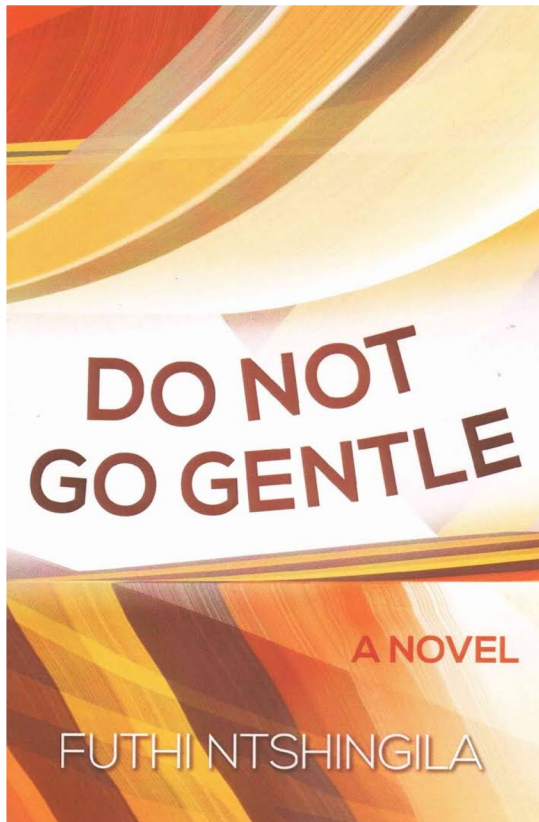
Shameless exposes the thin line between what is progressive and backward in the lives and status of blacks in post-apartheid SA. It calls us to re-examine where the new dispensation has placed us: are gilded positions respectable, disgraceful or an excuse for survival?

"....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: sold NA/US, Portuguese, French

Genre: literary fiction

Pages: 240

Publisher: Modjaji Books, South Africa

Futhi Ntshingila

Do not go Gentle

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

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.

Ntshingila's lyrically wrought North American debut is a slim yet satisfying novel sure to trigger a wide range of emotions." *Kirkus*, starred review

"It is a story about joy and hope and courage, and what it means to lift up others and be lifted oneself, and how one young girl found her voice in a world seemingly determined to take it away." *Shelf Awareness*, starred review



Jason Staggie

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





Jason Staggie

Fugue State

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

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

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

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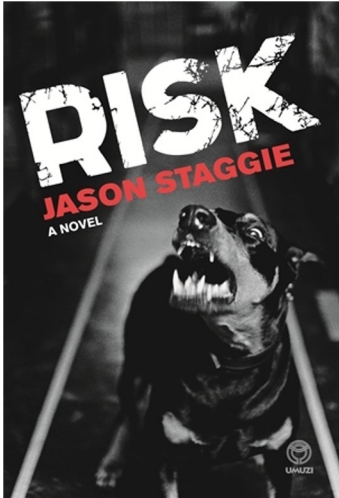
Genre: Transgressive/Literary Fiction

Status: Edited manuscript

Words: 70.000+

Jason Staggie

Risk



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

Nominated for South African Literary Award for Best Young Writer

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

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

The Witness Newspaper

Jason Staggie

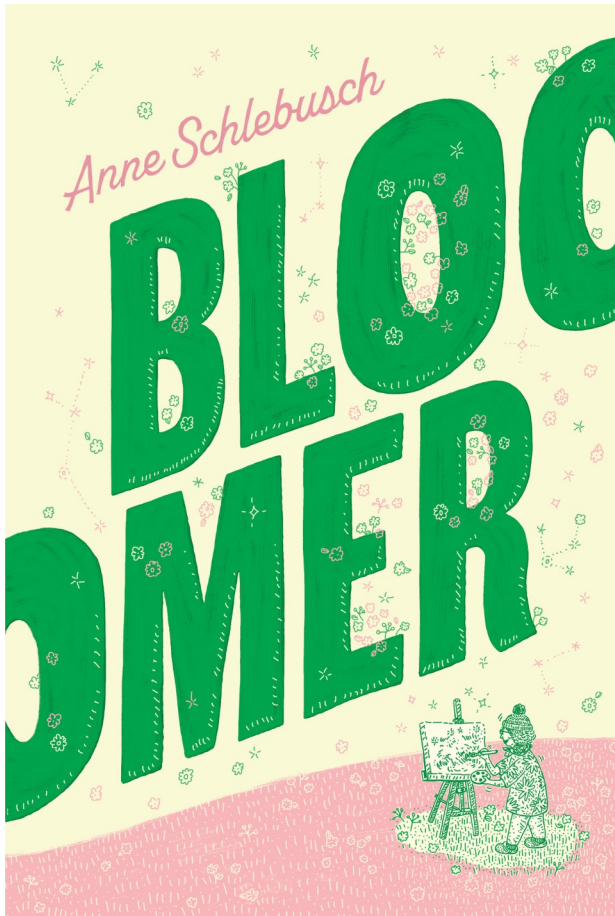
Epic



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

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

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



Anne Schlebusch

Bloomer

Anne Schlebusch's riotous novel *Bloomer* gives contemporary old age an irreverent and inspiring new treatment. (Franschhoek Literary Festival, South Africa)

Filled with wit and charm, *Bloomer*'s well-rounded characters remind readers of all ages that getting on in years does not give us permission to give up on living a meaningful life. This smart, seminal, refreshing debut is so relatable, very entertaining and surprisingly thought-provoking. (Twanji Kalula, writer and millennial)

"The vast majority of books are bought by women aged 45 and above. They're a hugely important demographic and increasingly, want to see themselves represented in books" (The Guardian)

Fully early-pandemic "locked down" in an old age home, 70-year-old Boomer, Maggie, ditches her bra, browses an old diary and reconnects with her artist self. While the world feels better with its oldies locked away, the lovable and maverick elders of Hazyview Mansions, galvanised by Maggie and her four close friends, have their own ideas.

A lively and entertaining romp ensues. Romance, old loves, individual, local and global issues drive the story of this consequential movement with sustained and gentle humour.

Rights: all rights available ex English SA

Genre: Commercial fiction

Pages: 290

Status: published February 2023,

Publisher: Modjaji Books South Africa

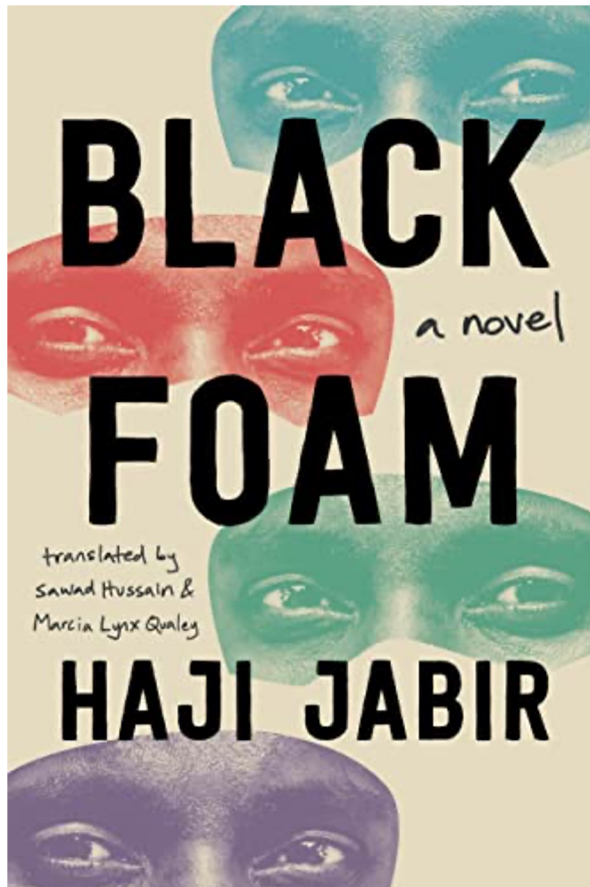
Like Maggie, the protagonist in her exciting debut novel for adults, Anne Schlebusch, is 70 years old. She has written 3 Young Adult novels, becoming a 1995 Joint Winner of the "Young Africa Award" with one of them. After completing her MPhil in Applied Language Studies (cum laude) at UCT in 1995, Anne left teaching to join the Western Cape Education Department, and concluded her long and illustrious career with a decade as Director for Business Strategy.



Haji Jabir

is an Eritrean novelist and journalist. He published many novels such as *Samrawit* that won the Sharjah Award for Arab Creativity in 2012, and *Black Foam* which won the Katara Novel Prize in 2019. His works have been translated into many languages such as English, Italian and Hebrew.

"I Write Because I Am Obsessed with the Idea of Illuminating My Country, Eritrea"



Rights: Non-English Rights available.
WE (Amazon Crossing) and World Arabic sold.
Genre: fiction
Pages: 256
Publication date: February 2023

Haji Jabir

Black Foam

Winner of the Katara Prize for Arabic Novel
English translation by Sawad Hussein and Marcia Lynx Qualey

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

"Black Foam is a story about survival in the face of insurmountable odds. ... Jabir's sympathetic and powerful representation of a refugee's life honors the experiences of migrants across the world who are trying to find peace and safety in our current moment." (Brittle Paper, March 2023))

"Veracity is always in doubt in this cunningly constructed novel where knowledge of when to reveal and when to conceal is reflected in a structure that frequently misleads the reader, fracturing time and truth." – Irish Times

Haji Jabir

The Spindle Games

Nominated for the 2016 Sheikh Zayed Book Award



The Spindle Games

Rights: World rights available,

World Arabic sold

Genre: Historical fiction

Pages: 208

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.

"The twist in its final pages makes the reader second-guess their initial interpretation, and underlines a major theme of the work: that stories and history are fluid, in constant motion, capable of being re-told and re-written." - Arab Lit Quarterly

Haji Jabir

The Abyssinian Rimbaud

Nominated for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2022



Rights: World rights available excl. Arabic language area

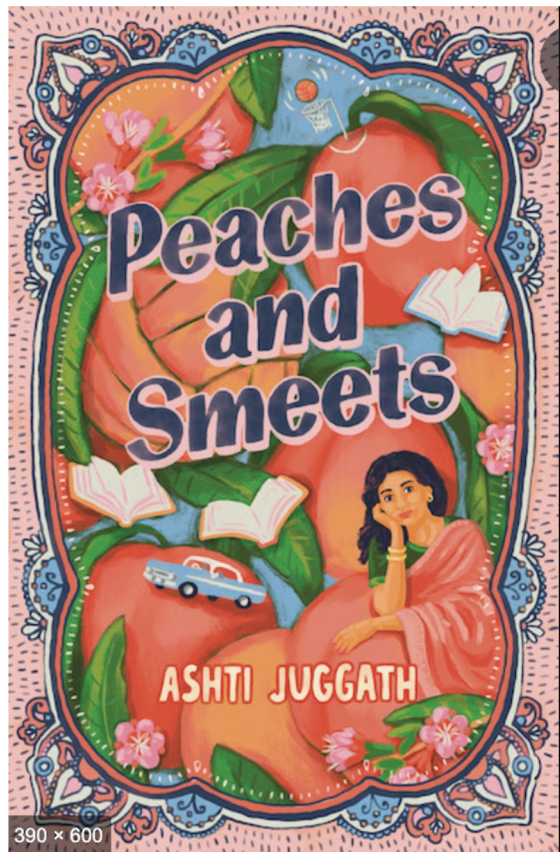
Genre: Historical fiction

Word: 60,500

Specifics: English and French translation available

Set against the religiously contested and turbulent background of Harar, Ethiopia, Haji Jabir tells the story of a forgotten member of history, an Ethiopian woman, forced from her home who returns in disguise and becomes the lover of 19th century poet Arthur Rimbaud. 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.

"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."



Rights: World Rights available excl. SA English

Genre: Literary Fiction

Pages: 196

Status: Published 2022

Publisher: Modjaji Books, SA, 2022

Ashti Juggath

Peaches and Smeets

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

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

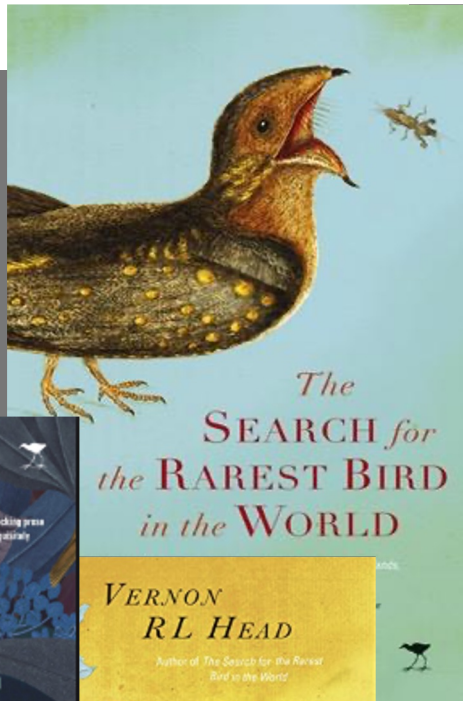
Caught between the beloved traditions of India and life in a quickly modernising South Africa, between family roots in Natal and a prosperous present in the Transvaal; between the madness of apartheid and the pull of her own desires, Smita struggles to find her feet in a world beset by contradictions.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

Ashti Juggath grew up on the beautiful KwaZulu-Natal North Coast. She often spent time in Springs on the East Rand, the predominant setting for her first novel. *Peaches and Smeets* is her first novel, which she wrote believing that the stories of the past needed to be captured for posterity. Ashti currently lives in a leafy suburb in Johannesburg with her husband, three children and many books.



Vernon Head

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





Vernon Head

On that Wave of Gulls (new)

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

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

Rights: World rights, excl. South African English sold to Jacana Media

Genre: Literary Fiction

Words: 80.000+

Publication date: May 2023

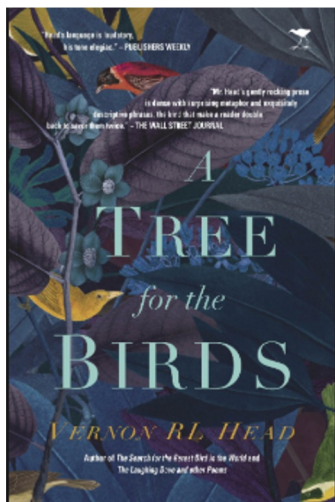
Prepare to undertake another mythic journey with the master of nature writing, Vernon RL Head. In 2014, Vernon took the bookselling world by surprise with his hit, *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World*. "Head's language is laudatory, his tone elegiac."- Publisher 's Weekly. *On That Wave of Gulls*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

Vernon Head

A Tree for the Birds

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

Fiction



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

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

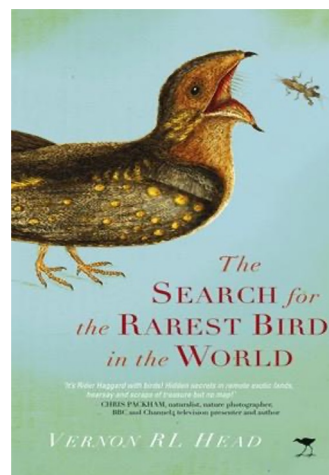
We venture deep into the mysterious world of the Congo River, the Great Dancing Road.

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

Vernon Head

The Search for the rarest Bird in the World

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

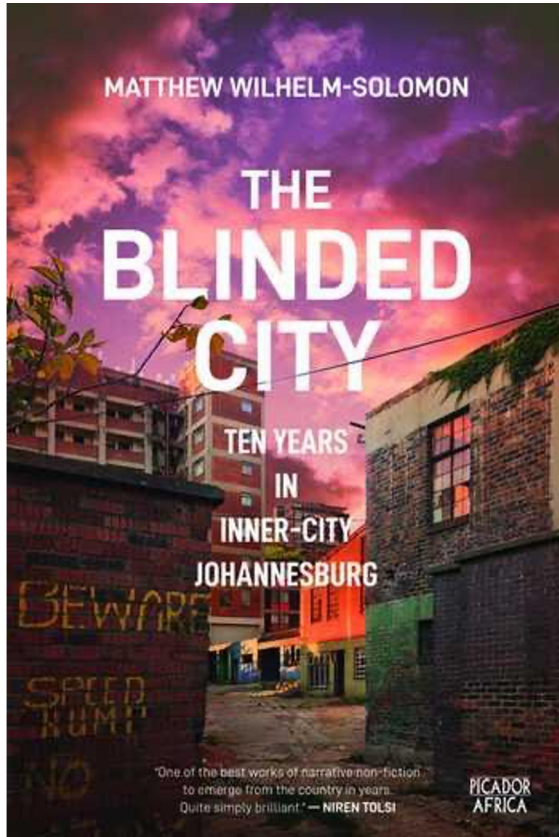


Book: The Search
Rights: sold World Arabic (Kalimat),
English South African (Jacana Media)
Genre: narrative non-fiction
Pages: 244 pages

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)



Rights: World Rights available excl. South African English

Genre: Narrative non-fiction

Publisher: Picador, Panmacmillan SA

Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon

The Blinded City: Ten Years in Inner-City Johannesburg

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

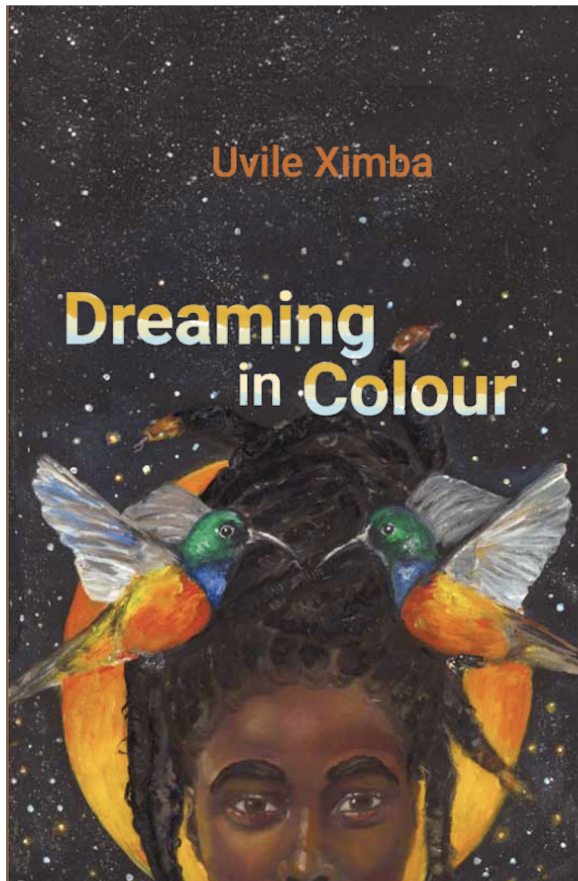
Amid evictions, raids, killings, the drug trade, and fire, inner-city Johannesburg residents seek safety and a home. A grandmother struggles to keep her granddaughter as she is torn away from her. A mother seeks healing in the wake of her son's murder. And displaced by the city's drive for urban regeneration,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

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

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

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





Uvile Ximba

Dreaming in Colour

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

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

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

Rights: WE sold (US) WE audio sold (US), foreign rights, tv/fim/streaming available

Genre: Literary fiction

Pages: 140 pages



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



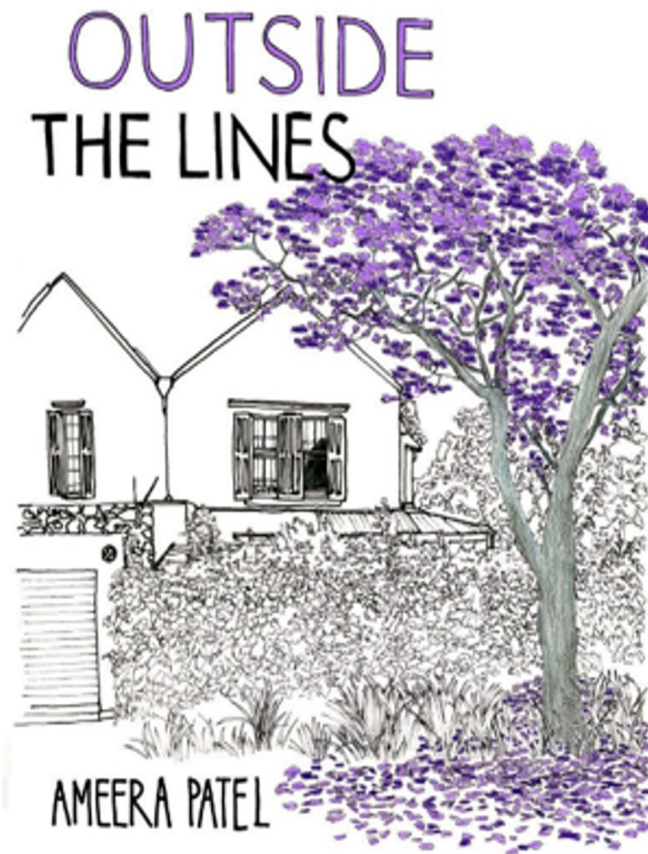
Ameera Patel

Outside the Lines

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

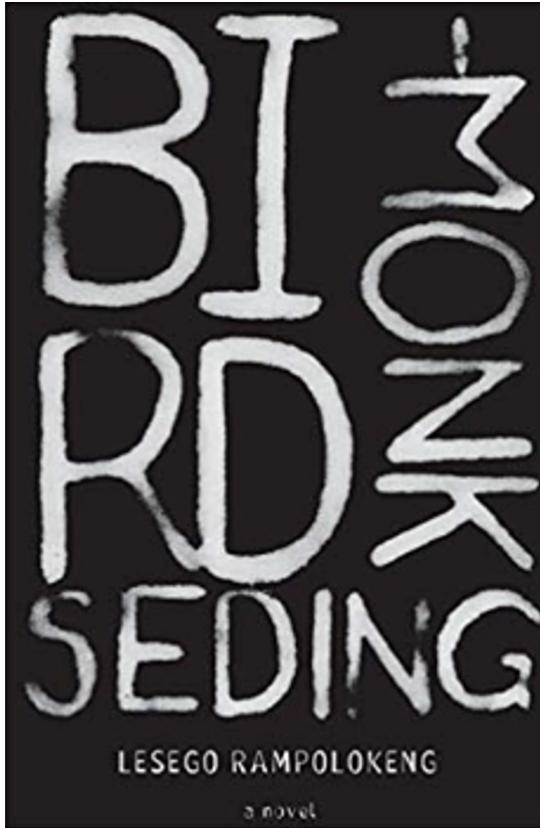
Genre: Fiction

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.





Lesego Rampolokeng **Bird Monk Seding**

Winner University of Johannesburg Prize for African Writing and longlisted Barry Ronge Prize 2018. Shortlisted for the prestigious *Sunday Times* Barry Ronge Fiction Prize in 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***

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.

Rights: World Rights available ex South African

Genre: fiction

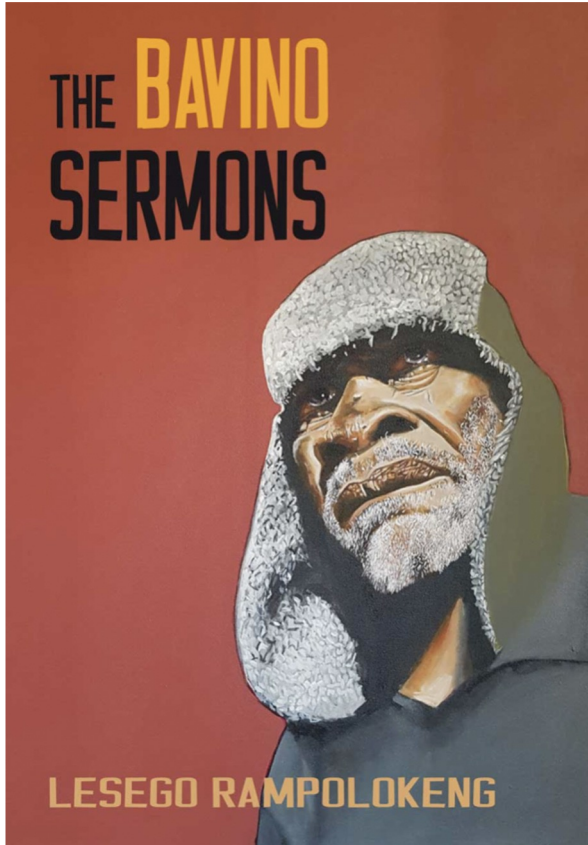
Publisher: Deep South, South Africa

Format: Paperback, 192 pages



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

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



Lesego Rampolokeng The Bavino Sermons

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

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

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

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

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.



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