



ADAPTATION HOTLIST

2024 QUARTER 3

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THE IMMORTALITES

HISTORICAL DRAMA
CLAIRE ROBERTSON



In frontier country, travelling in a van containing a mysterious diva, a young woman must find her feet.

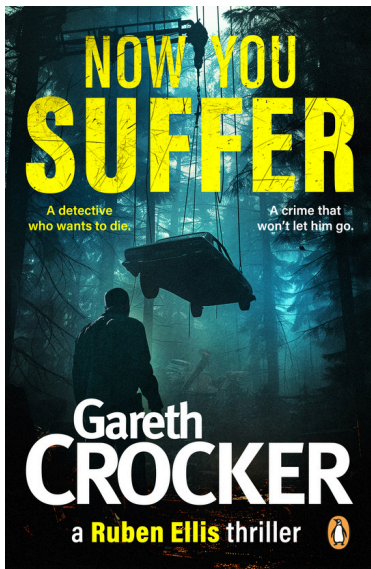
Ellen Kent – orphan, governess, harlot – is among a party of English settlers on an African shore in 1834. She travels with a van containing a diva – a grubby goddess and a thorough mystery – through the war-struck frontier lands. Ellen must make sense of this uncanny place of enchantment and death. And find a way to stay.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: Jane Campion's *THE PIANO*; Margaret Atwood's *THE JOURNALS OF SUSANNA MOODIE*

NOW YOU SUFFER

COMMERCIAL DETECTIVE THRILLER
GARETH CROCKER



Propulsive, surprising and very funny, this commercial detective thriller ticks all the boxes.

Former South African Special Forces Brigade Operative, Detective Ruben Ellis, wants to die. The only reason he hasn't killed himself is that first he must hunt down the man who kidnapped and murdered his daughter, Kayla. While hunting for Kayla's killer, Ruben is persuaded to help a distraught mother get to the bottom of what happened to her own child who was abducted years earlier. When a third child goes missing, things get twisty. What Ruben doesn't know is that not only are all these victims tied together, but he is the one holding the rope. A rope, at the very end of which, hangs an impossible truth. Propulsive and surprising, this is also a very funny read. A standalone commercial detective thriller is the first in a planned series.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: The Cormoran Strike novels; It's a humourous JACK REACHER meets *THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS*



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FALLS THE SHADOW

CRIME; THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



An edgy new Detective series from master of noir, Mike Nicol

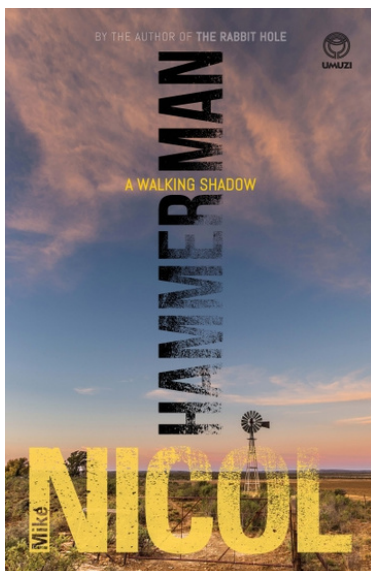
A cop in a quiet rural town kills his family and then turns the gun on himself. In his shed is a cache of weapons: Russian automatics, handguns, 9mils, .38s. You don't need forensics to work out what's going on. This is a cop with a side racket. Which gets the attention of Captain Zara Dewane of the Internal Crime Unit. A single mom, known among cops as the Jackal, what she uncovers about the family murder puts her in the firing line. There are cops running guns stolen from the police armoury. There are cops selling guns to gangsters. Thing is, the money chain goes deep into the police hierarchy. Even fingers the political bosses. Close her down, comes the order from on high. Kill her, in other words. Making Zara and her family targets. With only one way out.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

Similar to: TATIANA (Martin Cruz Smith); THE TOURIST (Olen Steinhauer), JUST LIFE (Richard Price) BETWEEN SUMMER'S LONGING AND WINTER'S END (Lief Persson)

HAMMERMAN

CRIME; THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



Surfer PI Fish Pescado, his spy girlfriend Vicki Kahn, and one last case.

Children find a body in the Strandfontein sand dunes. A populist politician is gunned down outside parliament. His number two executed in bed with a high-class escort. A cabinet minister shot leaving a security estate. A cop assassinated in his car. Another in his beach house. And it all ties back to the murder of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme in 1986 – as private investigator Fish Pescado is about to discover. He's on the case, hunting a rogue agent through industrial estates, retirement homes, a farm in the Moordenaars Karoo. He's also convinced someone's out to kill his lover Vicki Kahn, lying in a coma in hospital. But he can't watch over her all the time. Fish and Vicki are about to get hit by history. And history can be brutal, bloody and deadly.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

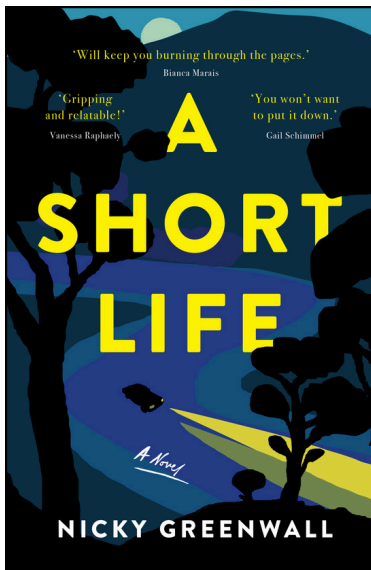
Similar to: David Peace's the Red Riding Trilogy, LAYER CAKE, CONFIDENCE, OUT OF SIGHT, JACKIE BROWN



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A SHORT LIFE

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER; DOMESTIC SUSPENSE
NICKY GREENWALL



Two seemingly unrelated car accidents. The same night. The same stretch of twisting valley road.

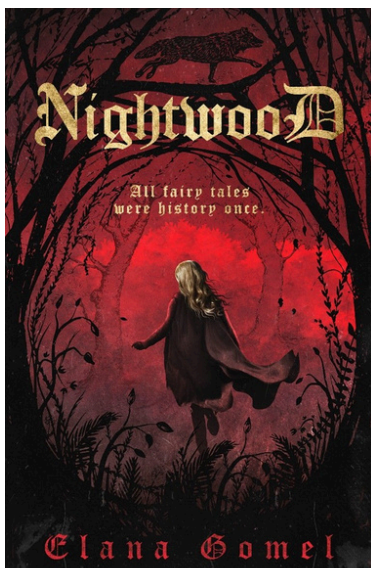
Nick's best friend Adam has had an accident while drunk driving. Nick wants to protect him from prosecution and must convince his wife Franky to keep the car crash a secret. But when Franky learns that her best friend was killed on the same night in a separate accident, she is torn between supporting her husband or her best friend's widower. Set in Cape Town, the pacy, twisty thriller is told from multiple perspectives. For fans of Liane Moriarty's; NINE PERFECT STRANGERS and BIG LITTLE LIES; Harriet Lane's HER; and Liz Feldman's hit Netflix series DEAD TO ME.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: Liane Moriarty's NINE PERFECT STRANGERS and BIG LITTLE LIES; Harriet Lane's HER; Liz Feldman's DEAD TO ME; Ashley Audrain's THE PUSH and THE WHISPERS

NIGHTWOOD

HORROR
ELANA GOMEL



All fairy tales were history once ...

All fairy tales were history once. Ally is a Ukrainian bride who married a wealthy Californian, Carl Morris. However, Ally discovers that her new home is situated on the borders of Nightwood, where fairy tales become nightmares and nightmares become reality. Ally escapes to embark on a perilous journey across a dying land filled with mythical beasts and creatures from fairy tales. To save Carl, Ally will have to brave the horrors of Nightwood and uncover the shattering secret of her own identity.

Ideal for: Returnable Series

Similar to: PAN'S LABYRINTH; SPIRITED AWAY; GRIMM; LOCKE AND KEY; THE WITCHER

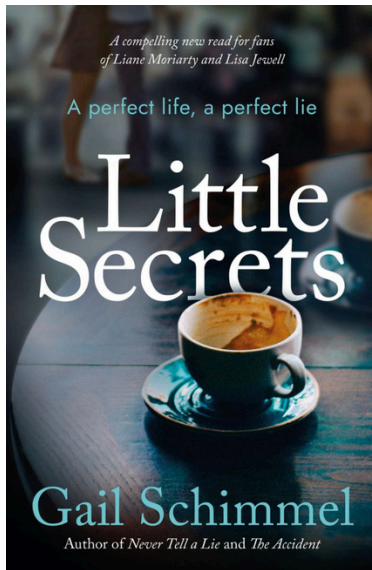


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LITTLE SECRETS

DOMESTIC SUSPENSE

GAIL SCHIMMEL



They seemed like the perfect family ...

Monique and Ben Cohen have been married for 25 years. They both know that they didn't get married for the right reasons, but they're happy with the decision they made. They have a good life, in a beautiful house, with three children they adore. It all worked out in the end. Or did it? Monique has become obsessed with being the perfect wife and mother. Her sense of self is attached to the compliments she receives from friends and relatives. From her appearance to her home to her children – nobody will be allowed to see the cracks. Ben knows that he gave up on a part of himself and his dreams when he married Monique. He's an actuary, working for a corporate, and not the artist that he longed to be. If anyone asks, he's happy. Their daughter Rose is struggling with her friendships and the daunting world of teenage parties. But she knows that even if she gets frustrated, Monique's rules will keep her safe. Until Ben meets Daisy. And Rosie meets Margie. And everything starts to fall apart.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: BIG LITTLE LIES

THE FINISH LINE

DOMESTIC SUSPENSE

GAIL SCHIMMEL



Another nail-biter from the queen of domestic suspense.

Brenda has always worked hard to fit in – from her school days, when her talent in athletics gave her access to a richer world, to marriage to her soulmate, which bound her to that world. It's hard to know how much of her discomfort comes from the ongoing presence of Denver in her life. From the time when they were the two fastest girls in the athletics team, through years of marriage and parenthood, Denver has always offered friendship, worthy competition ... and simmering resentment. When Brenda realises that Denver is a threat to her family's wellbeing, there's nothing she won't do to protect them. And Denver will do anything to protect herself. After years of rivalry, who will cross the finish line first?

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

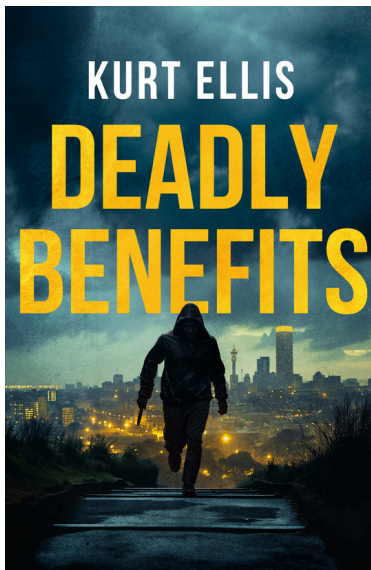
Similar to: A GOOD MARRIAGE; APPLES NEVER FALL



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DEADLY BENEFITS

CRIME; POLICE THRILLER
KURT ELLIS



Insurance fraud, hitmen and mobsters in this blackly comic thriller for fans of GET SHORTY.

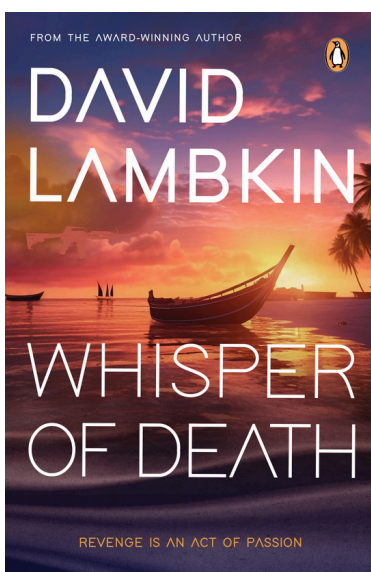
Fast paced blackly comic thriller about a group of four friends who attempt to commit insurance fraud worth millions. Unfortunately, the friends make one mistake and poor decision after another putting them on a collision course with a relentless Ukrainian fraud investigator, a psychopathic American hitman, a ruthless local drug lord, and an Eastern European mobster.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: IN BRUGES; GET SHORTY; A SERIOUS MAN; THE KITCHEN

WHISPER OF DEATH, WHISPER OF LOVE

ACTION ADVENTURE; ESPIONAGE
DAVID LAMBKIN



007, African style.

In Zanzibar, washed-up novelist Paul Morgan meets an elderly ex-spy, Sandollar, and his charge, Angelika, a striking young girl whose parents had been murdered. Paul is hooked by their story. The narrative shifts between the spy's glamorous, dangerous days as an MI5 operative posing as an elephant hunter in Mozambique during the run-up to World War II, and the present day as Paul becomes involved in avenging the deaths of the girl's parents. He ends up attempting to crack a 60-year-old plot, in which Sandollar's past and the dark motives of the thugs trying to kill Angelika converge. In the present day, the plot revolves around a weaponised Ebola virus used as a tool by terrorists, and vaccine development.

Ideal for: Feature; Series

Similar to: JAMES BOND; QUEEN SONO; Wilbur Smith



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THE SLIDES OF MARCH

COMMERCIAL THRILLER
MATTHEW MACDEVETTE



Just business? Over my dead body.

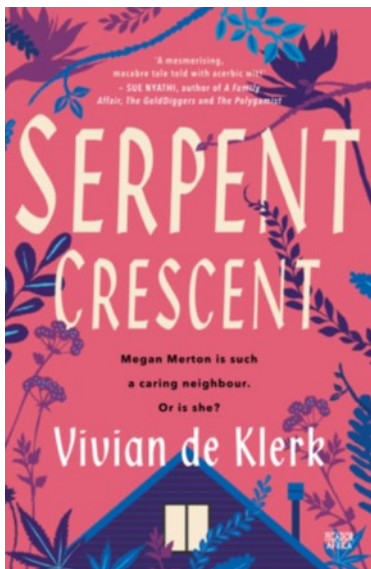
Keeton Foley isn't just a strategy consulting firm, it's a family'. And Madeline O'Hara wants out. Burnt out from six years of impossible deadlines, the guilt of time away from her daughter, and phrases like 'catalytic synergy', she needs to resign. But she can't afford to - not with her debt, not in this economy, not unless that long-awaited bonus finally comes through. So when the firm's co-founder, Veronica, asks her to do something reprehensible on the eve of their company retreat to Bermuda, she knows she can't refuse. It's a real 'step-up opportunity', after all. Madeline searches desperately for ways to appease Veronica and the other Partners without becoming a villain herself, but in the process stumbles across an even greater threat to her moral compass. Someone is planning to kill the Partners. All of them. On the last night of the retreat. Madeline has four short days to figure out how to stop the murder plot. But as the Partners push her ever further to do their dirty work, and as years of exhaustion, stress, and 'pls send edits by Sunday EOD' finally begin to unravel her, she begins to wonder... why should she?

Ideal for: Returnable Series

Similar to: SUCCESSION; BILLIONS; LOOT

SERPENT CRESCENT

MYSTERY; COSY CRIME
VIVIAN DE KLERK



Sometimes your neighbours ARE crazy.

Recently retired English teacher Megan Merton has lived in Qonda all her life, most of it at No 8 Serpent Crescent. So who better than this self-styled pillar of society to shine a spotlight on the decline and dysfunction of the town, not to mention the dubious activities, past and present, of her neighbours. Pity she's a sociopath. Megan believes bad behaviour deserves harsh punishment and has been taking matters into her own hands, unnoticed, for years. And now she has decided to write it all down. Then her neighbour Elizabeth from No 9 suffers a stroke and Megan is entrusted with the keys to her house. While Elizabeth begins a long recovery at the local care facility, Megan relishes the chance to snoop. Curious as to 'what a stroke victim looks like', she decides to visit and see for herself. A bond develops between the two women, something that takes both of them by surprise. Vivian de Klerk's sharp observations and brilliantly acerbic satirical wit make this multi-layered novel at once horrifying, shocking, poignant - and very, very funny.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: NOTES ON A SCANDAL via MISS MARPLE; AGATHA RAISIN



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JUNX

GRITTY URBAN; CULT
TSHIDISO MOLETSANE



A night out blows up spectacularly.

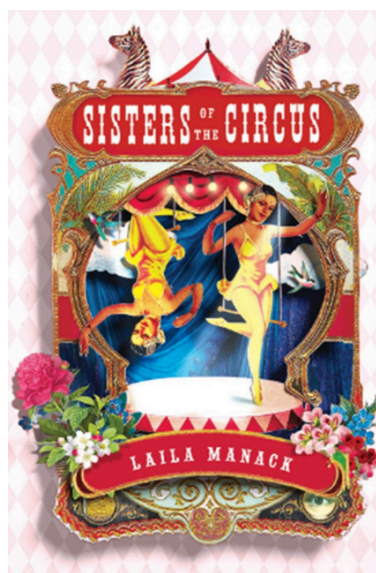
Winner of the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize. In Dobsonville, a few hours before the party of the year, a guy shares a joint with his friend Ari. Ari is always right. Ari is also imaginary. And winged. In a few hours, while Ari plays both angel and demon on his shoulder, our man will end up joyriding to a brothel in a snatched tourist rental car. But the police – and the burly tourists – are in pursuit. At some point, when you're a hunted man and there's a gun tucked in the waistband of your pants, things come to a head. Will he be okay? Ask Ari. Ari never lies. Prepare for a party night that courses from Soweto to the Joburg cbd as Tshidiso Moletsane's explosive novel serves shots of sex, drugs and anxiety while tearing into life, death, race and politics, with consequences only Ari could have seen coming.

Ideal for: Feature; high-octane Limited Series

Similar to: An African RUN LOLA RUN; TRAINSPOTTING;
Quentin Tarantino; GOOD TIME

SISTERS OF THE CIRCUS

HISTORICAL DRAMA
DAVID LAMBKIN



Kidnapped twins, a circus in the roaring Twenties, an adventure as thrilling as the trapeze.

Trapeze-artist twins Kahina and Noor are one of a kind. Kidnapped from their home in India, they were sold to a travelling circus in Europe at four years old. Now it's the Roaring Twenties, the girls are twenty-one, and they want to escape their circus trailer and abusive ringmaster and make their way to India to find their birth parents. Garret's circus is rife with cruelty. You're only as good as your last trapeze act, and secrets behind the curtain are sinister enough to kill. When Kahina is forced to train a handsome new recruit in the art of trapeze work, his disdain for rules pushes her out of her comfort zone and ignites a sequence of events that threaten to force the sisters apart.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: Amita Parikh's THE CIRCUS TRAIN; MOULIN ROUGE!;
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN; THE GREAT GATSBY;
Angela Carter's NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS

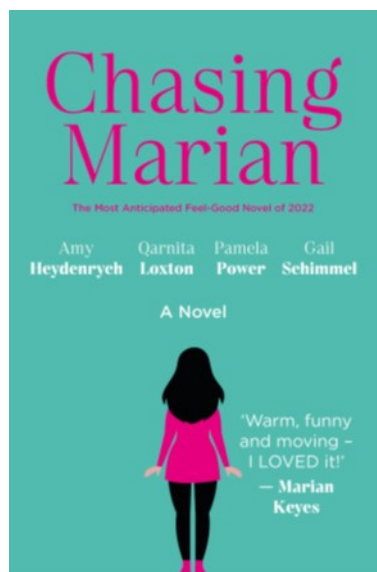


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CHASING MARIAN

WOMEN'S FICTION

AMY HEYDENRYCH; QARNITA LOXTON; PAMELA POWER & GAIL SCHIMMEL



Four strangers, two cities, one chance online meeting.

Four strangers, two cities, one chance online meeting. Jess is a yummy mummy of two whose life is slowly unravelling and who has recently separated from her husband. Ginger is a happily widowed granny with a salty tongue and wicked sense of humour. The gorgeous and sensitive Matt is an almost-qualified psychologist, who still lives with his parents. Queenie, a librarian from Cape Town, has an absent boyfriend and a secret writing habit. What could these four strangers possibly have in common? They are all die-hard Marian Keyes fans. And when they hear that Marian is due to visit South Africa to attend a literary festival, they are all desperate to meet her. Together they come up with a mad-cap plan. Will they succeed – or will life intervene? CHASING MARIAN is by Amy Heydenrych, Qarnita Loxton, Pamela Power and Gail Schimmel, who are all established authors, and friends. When the pandemic prevented them from seeing each other in person, and meeting Marian Keyes at the Open Book Festival as planned, they decided to write a book together.

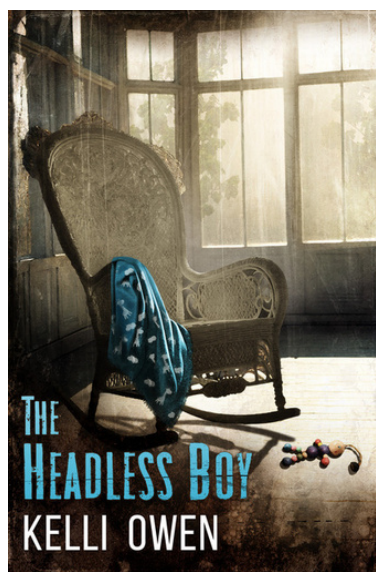
Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series; Limited Series

Similar to: JULIET, NAKED; NEW YEAR'S EVE; HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU; INGRID GOES WEST

THE HEADLESS BOY

HORROR

KELLI OWEN



The horror of grief.

Reeling from the loss of a child, Maggie finds her life unbearable. Jake is a great husband, and wants only the best for his broken wife. A change of scenery makes perfect sense. A new home. A fresh start. But once they've settled in, Maggie offers him an alternative. And though Jake doesn't believe in ghosts, he plays along with the charade in the name of helping his wife. Until he discovers it's not a game. They are not alone.

Ideal for: Feature Film, Series

Similar to: THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE; BLY MANOR; THE SHINING; THE SIXTH SENSE.



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THE FACE YOU WEAR

HORROR
FAITH PIERCE



It might just be your imagination, or it might not.

Jana is living the American dream. She has her own home, a successful career, and a new husband who offers everything she hoped for. However, her tight grip on reality and stability begins to slip when she starts having disturbing dreams about her husband Michael. A figure in a bedroom doorway watching her sleep, night-time conversations Michael claims never happened, someone lying beside her at night when Michael later says he wasn't there. Old anxieties and paranoia begin to surface as Jana becomes increasingly desperate to discover if the true threat is her mind, her husband, or something darker.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW

OF MEN AND MONSTERS

HORROR
TOM DEADY



Sometimes dads are scarier than monsters.

Ryan's life is uprooted at the age of twelve when his mother takes him and his fourteen-year-old brother, Gary to a new home, safe from the clutches of her abusive husband. But Ryan's new home isn't as safe as it seems. Someone keeps phoning the house, without speaking, and Ryan is sure it's his dad. To Ryan's horror, his sea monster pet is growing humongous and violent ...

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: THE SEABEAST



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LIVE WIRE

HORROR
KYLE TOUCHER



Black magic, high tech, and a terrifying portal opened.

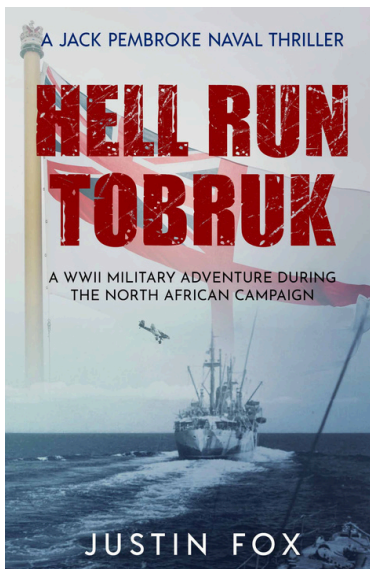
A storm is coming ... In 1993 New Mexico, Black Magic and High Tech find common ground in Medusa Engineering's Project Dragonfire, and for one endless October night, a fissure opens between here and Elsewhere ...

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: THE STAND; HELLRAISER; THE HOLE

HELL RUN TOBRUK

WWII NAVAL THRILLER
JUSTIN FOX



Battles at sea off the North African coast.

December 1941. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is ordered to join a convoy and sail his small escort ship from the Royal Navy base in Simon's Town, South Africa, to Egypt. With the Mediterranean all but closed to maritime traffic, and Rommel's forces rampaging through North Africa, it seems unlikely that Gannet will survive the coming battle. Jack arrives in the magical city of Alexandria, about to be plunged into war. He finds enchantment and passionate romance with a Spanish beauty, but is soon thrust into the cauldron, escorting ships running supplies to the beleaguered town of Tobruk in Libya. As pressure builds, and the ships around him are sunk by enemy bombers and submarines, he has to deal with his own trauma and the fear of total collapse. It all comes to a head when Tobruk is surrounded and about to fall to Axis forces.

Ideal for: Series of Features; Returnable Series

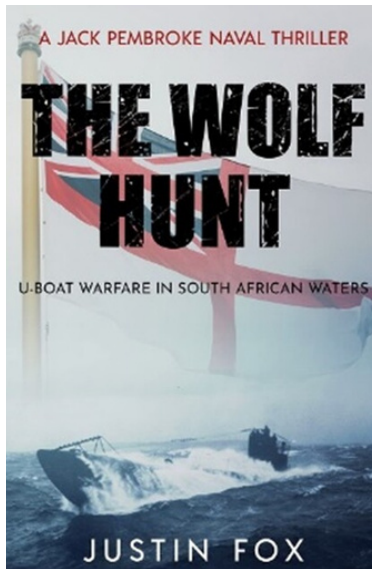
Similar to: Books by Douglas Reeman and Max Hennessey;
DUNKIRK; DAS BOOT; 1917



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THE WOLF HUNT

WWII NAVAL THRILLER
JUSTIN FOX



Nazi U-boats in the stormy waters off the coast of Africa.

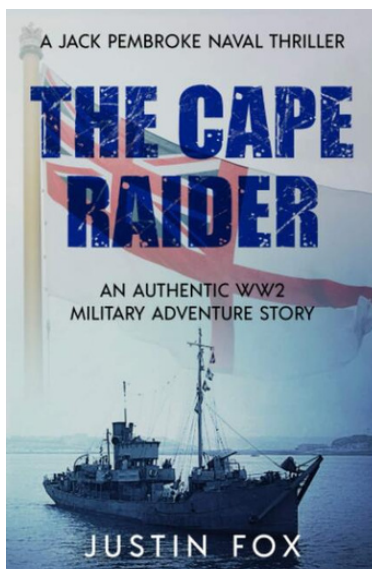
July to Oct 1941. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is placed in command of a small, anti-submarine flotilla at the Royal Navy base of Simon's Town. But he has precious little time to train his officers and men, and prepare his ships, for the arrival of the Nazi wolf packs – U-boats sent by Admiral Donitz from bases in France to cripple the Cape convoy route. Jack has found a new love at the Cape, but everything will hang in the balance with the arrival of the enemy in the South African waters. Gruppe Savanne carries on board a South African spy (and ardent Nazi) to be landed on the coast near Cape Town and begin a campaign of sabotage, assassination and rebellion bent on toppling the pro-British government of Prime Minister Smuts. With the spy safely ashore, and the Cape Peninsula successfully attacked, Jack now has to escort a vital convoy from Cape Town to Durban. But Savanne's U-boat pack is lying in wait in the storm-ravaged waters off the southern tip of the continent ...

Ideal for: Series of Features; Returnable Series

Similar to: DUNKIRK; DAS BOOT; 1917

THE CAPE RAIDER

WWII NAVAL THRILLER
JUSTIN FOX



An Allied-Nazi showdown in the icy South Atlantic

Scarred – physically and emotionally – by the brutal warfare at Dunkirk, Jack Pembroke decides to leave his home in England to join his father, Admiral Pembroke, in the South African Cape. A fledgling naval force is preparing to fight the coming onslaught of German raiders, and Jack is soon thrust back into action when he is appointed commander of a minesweeping flotilla. Unknown to Jack, a Nazi commerce raider has left Germany for the Cape intending to wreak havoc on Allied shipping. And it's heading straight for him ... Under Jack's command are an eclectic bunch of men who are unsure of their foreign captain. But he must unite them into a powerful fighting unit if he has any chance of defeating the dangerous enemy. Can Jack overcome his demons and lead his men to victory? Or will his first battle off the South African coast be his last? This best-selling book is the first in the Jack Pembroke series of naval thrillers. Book 2, THE WOLF HUNT is out, and there are outlines for 20 more books in the series.

Ideal for: Series of Features; Returnable Series

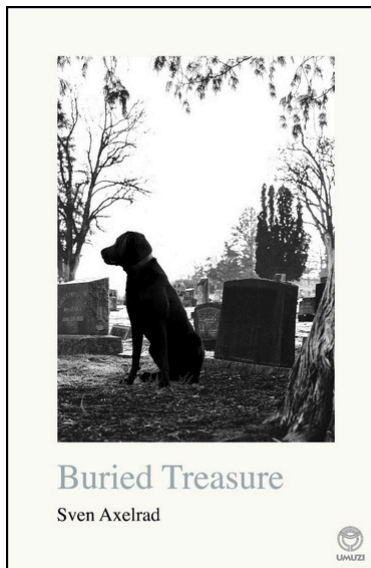
Similar to: DUNKIRK; DAS BOOT; 1917



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BURIED TREASURE

MAGICAL REALISM; GHOST STORY; ALLEGORY
SVEN AXELRAD



One gravedigger with failing eyesight, a motley crew of bodies assigned to the wrong graves, and a dog named God.

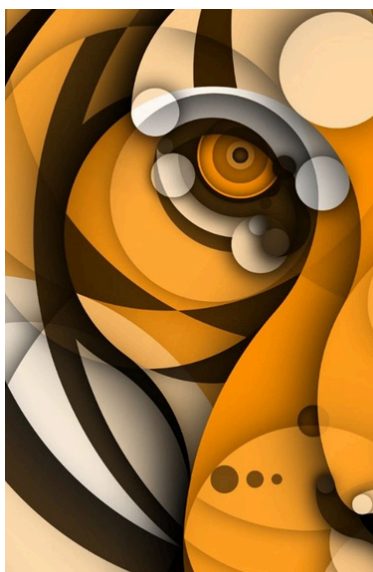
In the town of Vivo, the only cemetery is run by old Mateus and his dog, God. Mateus's eyes aren't so good any more, which is why he has been burying bodies in the wrong graves and is also why he accidentally trips on a young homeless girl while he is out walking one day with God. On a whim, Mateus decides to appoint the girl as his apprentice. Novo is determined to reorganise the Treasury, but she will have to hurry: buried in the wrong graves, divorced from their names, the ghosts of Vivo are accumulating, unable to proceed to the afterlife without knowing who they are. Also, someone, or something, dangerous seems to be on the streets looking for Novo.

Ideal for: Feature; series of Features; Animated Feature

Similar to: Wes Anderson meets Tim Burton; THE BOOK THIEF; Roald Dahl; CORPSE BRIDE; WEDNESDAY; Carlos Ruiz Zafron's THE SHADOW OF THE WIND

THE SPARTACUS HALLELUJAH LOSERS CLUB

ADVENTURE; ECOFICTION; COMING OF AGE
JOHN HUNT



Geeks? Maybe. Misfits? Hell yes. Losers? No way.

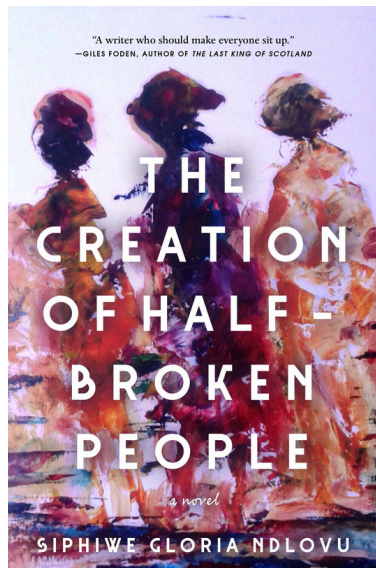
In a dead-end town close to Swaziland, a motley crew of teen oddballs finds camaraderie in each other's company. It's 1970s South Africa and, amid the familiar high-school dramas, a lone wildebeest in an odd location directs the attention of the Spartacus Hallelujah Losers Club to a nearby farm run by a sinister taxidermist. Here, a grim discovery calls for great heroism and promises high adventure. John Hunt – in prose as fresh as an early morning in the veld – pays tribute to the critters of the African bush and shows that good guys don't always finish last.

Ideal for: Animated Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: STRANGER THINGS; FREEKS AND GEEKS; LIFE OF PIE; Yann Martel's BEATRICE AND VIRGIL



THE CREATION OF HALF- BROKEN PEOPLE



DRAMA; GOTHIC; MAGICAL REALISM
SIPHIWE GLORIA NDLOVU

Stupendous African Gothic, by the winner of Yale University's Windham-Campbell Prize.

In an unnamed African country, a nameless woman is plagued by visions of various women. She works for the Good Foundation and its museum, a place filled with artefacts from the family's various explorations in Africa, the family Good's members all being descendants of Captain John Good, of KING SOLOMON'S MINES fame. The novel explores how the continent's past continues to haunt its present and examines the collusion of colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism in creating and normalising a certain kind of womanhood.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE; Daphne du Maurier's REBECCA; Jean Rhys's WIDE SARGASSO SEA; Toni Morrison's BELOVED; H Rider Haggard's KING SOLOMON'S MINES; Okwiri Oduor's THINGS THEY LOST

HELL OF A COUNTRY

CRIME; HISTORY
DAVID CORNWELL



In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences.

In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences. Seventeen-year-old Lorraine van Niekerk despises the fact that her boss and lover, middle-aged André Bekker, won't leave his hateful wife for her. Driver Alfie Geemoor is horrified when he wakes up in Groote Schuur's Non-White wing after a car crash with one leg missing. Alfie and Lorraine's lives intersect fatefully in André's consultation rooms. André is an orthopaedic technician, and Lorraine can grant access to the prosthesis Alfie so desperately needs. But at a price. HELL OF A COUNTRY is a fictionalised retelling of the Scissors Murder – a famous true-crime story from early 1970s South Africa. A pacy and poetic work told from multiple points of view, it focuses on the meeting-point between political machinery and personal desire, and tells a fresh and original story about South Africa's turbulent past in a deeply human and engaging way.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

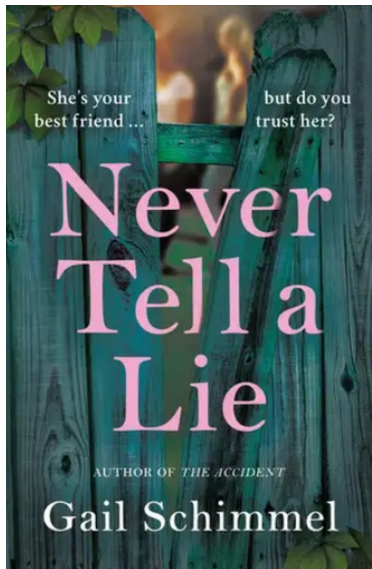
Similar to: THE GIRL FROM PLAINVILLE; OBSESSION; Joyce Maynard's TO DIE FOR; Peter Swanson's THE KIND WORTH KILLING; Sissy Spacek in BADLANDS



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NEVER TELL A LIE

THRILLER; DOMESTIC NOIR
GAIL SCHIMMEL



A high school reunion, reconnecting with an old friend. What's the harm in that?

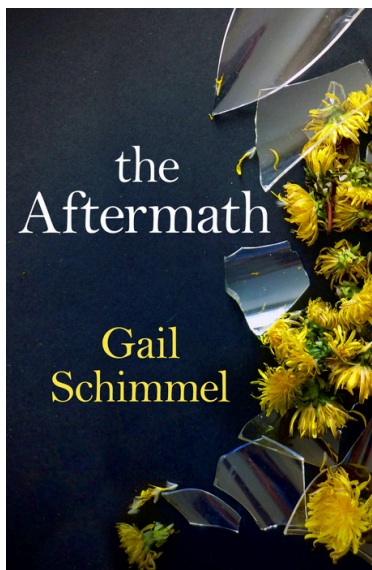
After a tumultuous marriage, Mary Wilson is happy in her uncomplicated life, focusing on her twelve-year-old son. She has always been content with her little family, but then she finds a postcard that throws her past into question ... When her high school reunion comes along, Mary jumps at the chance of a distraction from the shocking discovery, and meeting her old classmate, April, feels like a gift. Despite barely remembering April, Mary throws herself into the new friendship and finds her previously quiet social life reinvigorated. But as the bonds between them are forged, Mary finds herself drawn further and further into April's life and marriage, increasingly fearing that everything is not as perfect as it seems.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN; APPLE TREE YARD

THE AFTERMATH

DOMESTIC NOIR; RELATIONSHIP DRAMA
GAIL SCHIMMEL



A mother and daughter face the ghosts that remain after a horrific accident.

Twenty-six years is a long time not to be alive. Since The Accident that ruined her life, Catherine has lived on autopilot, going through the motions of work and motherhood without being fully present. Trying to fill the gap, her daughter, Julia, is looking for love in all the wrong places, and wreaking havoc on the lives that she touches along the way. Now that Julia is an adult, facing her own challenges, it might be time for her and her mother to unravel the demons that they have lived with since the accident. THE AFTERMATH is told from four points of view: Julia; her mother Catherine; her lover Daniel; and Daniel's wife Claire.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

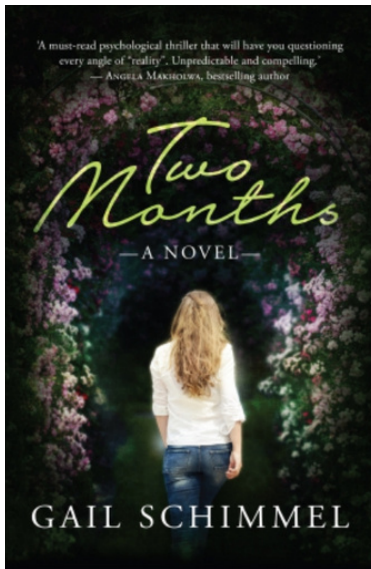
Similar to: BIG LITTLE LIES; NINE PERFECT STRANGERS; An edgy GILMORE GIRLS



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TWO MONTHS

DOMESTIC NOIR
GAIL SCHIMMEL



Waking up to blank.

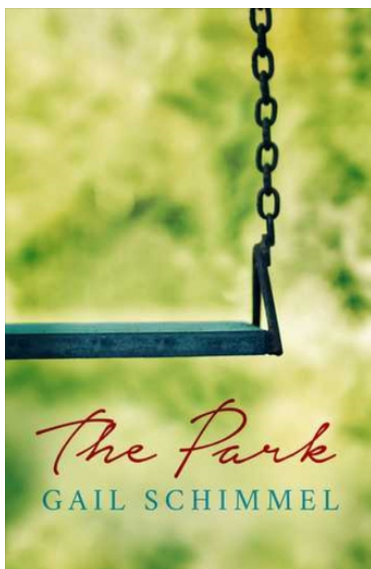
When Erica wakes up to discover that she can't remember the last two months of her life, she wants to know what she's missed. She soon realises that she's lost more than two months. What Erica doesn't know: Why her Facebook and WhatsApp histories have been scrubbed; Why she's lost her job; Why her friends won't speak to her anymore. What Erica knows: Her darling husband Kenneth, the love of her life, is lying to her.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP; THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

THE PARK

THRILLER
GAIL SCHIMMEL



Friendship is not always what it seems.

Rebecca doesn't expect to make new friends at this stage of her life. But when she becomes mother to little Amy, she finds herself spending her afternoons in the park. There she meets other mothers: first flamboyant, fun Rose, and then single-mom Lilith, whose inner strength is tangible, and whose eyes never leave her toddler. Very soon the women have formed a trio – the type of friends who feel at home in each other's kitchens – and their daughters begin to behave like sisters. But Rebecca is about to learn that friendship is not always what it seems, and that sometimes you trust the wrong people. At exactly the moment when she needs to lean on them, one of her new friends harbours a shocking secret, and the other will turn on her in a way she could never have anticipated.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

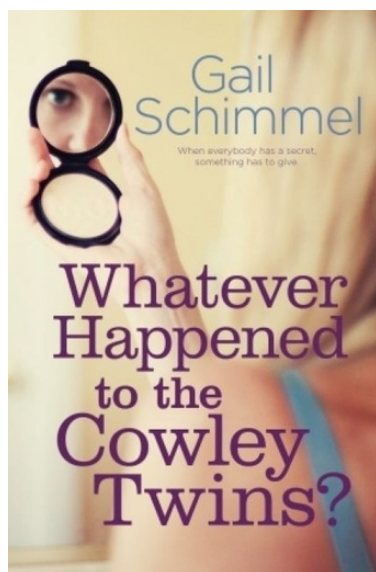
Similar to: THE MISSING; HAPPY VALLEY; BROADCHURCH



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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE COWLEY TWINS?

THRILLER
GAIL SCHIMMEL



Isabella and Melissa: blue-eyed, blonde, missing.

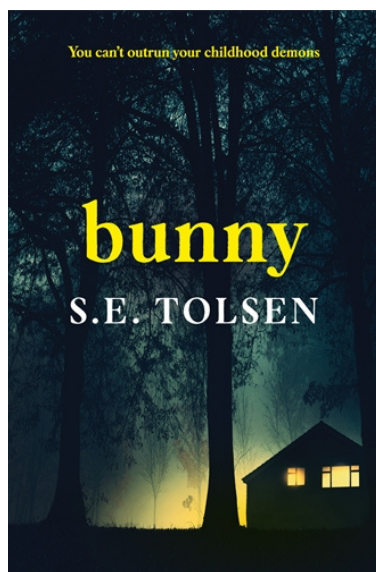
32-year-old Tertia Cowley took her two-and-a-half-month old twins with her to a doctor's appointment. When the doctor called Cowley in for her appointment, her husband had not yet arrived, so she left the twins under the care of the receptionist. About ten minutes later, a well-dressed, middle-aged man arrived in the reception area. He said that he was Mrs Cowley's husband, and that he would take the twins with him. The receptionist handed the twins over. A few hours later Alan Cowley arrived home from work. It was then that the Cowleys came to the horrible realisation: an impostor had abducted their daughters. They immediately called the police, but it was too late. Despite extensive investigations, no trace of the Cowley Twins has ever been found. But what happened to the blue-eyed, blonde girls?

Ideal for: Series; Limited Series

Similar to: THE MISSING; HAPPY VALLEY; RIVER

BUNNY

PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR
EMMA OLSEN & VERE TINDALE



A terrifying homecoming for two scriptwriters.

Screenwriters Silas and Rose head back to Silas's childhood home to finish a script for a deadline. Back to the woods. Back to the darkness. Back to Silas's Aunt Bunny ... At the homestead, Silas and Rose witness bizarre, unnerving behaviours and psychological events that challenge their patience and sanity. The events seem to be connected to an ancient presence deep in the woods ...

Ideal for: Feature; series of Features; Animated Feature

Similar to: THE WITCH; THE BLACKCOAT'S DAUGHTER



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GLASS HOUSE

NIGERIAN FAMILY SAGA
CHINENYE EMEZIE



She was her pastor - father's favourite; his secret tore her apart.

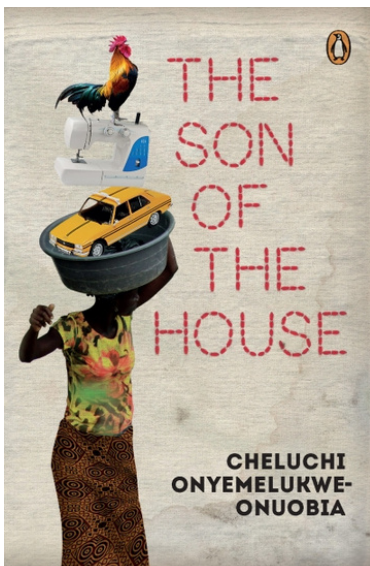
Udonwa and her family are at war under the tyranny of a monster dad. At age twelve, Udonwa has a peculiar love of her father, who favours her but beats his wife and his other children. She sees his good side: after all, he tells her that she is the one most likely to become a doctor in the family. But when her newly married eldest sister suddenly takes her from their family compound, a sinister picture emerges that shakes her life to the core. No longer the person she thought she was, Udonwa launches into a period of extreme change, and parts of her life spiral into chaos as she finds herself torn between her love for her father and an underlying need to free herself.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: HALF A YELLOW SON; LIFE, ABOVE ALL; YESTERDAY

THE SON OF THE HOUSE

FAMILY DRAMA
CHELUCHI ONYEMELUKWE-ONUOBIA



Two women - one rich, one poor - navigate family, love, and Nigeria, over four decades.

In the city of Enugu in the 1970s, young Nwabulu dreams of becoming a typist as she endures her employers' endless chores. Although a housemaid since the age of ten, she is tall and beautiful and in love with a rich man's son. Educated and privileged, Julie is a modern woman. Living on her own, she is happy to collect the gold jewellery love-struck Eugene brings her, but has no intention of becoming his second wife. When dramatic events straight out of a movie force Nwabulu and Julie into a dank room years later, the two women relate the stories of their lives as they await their fate. Pulsing with vitality and intense human drama, Cheluchi Onyemelukwe-Onuobia's debut is set against four decades of vibrant Nigeria, and celebrates the resilience of women as they navigate and transform what remains a man's world.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

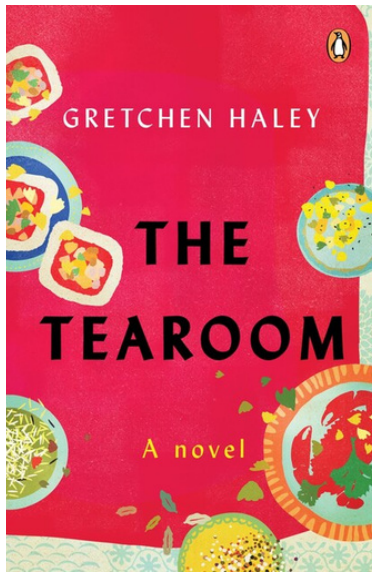
Similar to: HALF A YELLOW SON; Buchi Emecheta's THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD



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THE TEAROOM

FAMILY DRAMA; TRAGICOMEDY
GRETCHEN HALEY



A plan simmering in this small-town kitchen ..

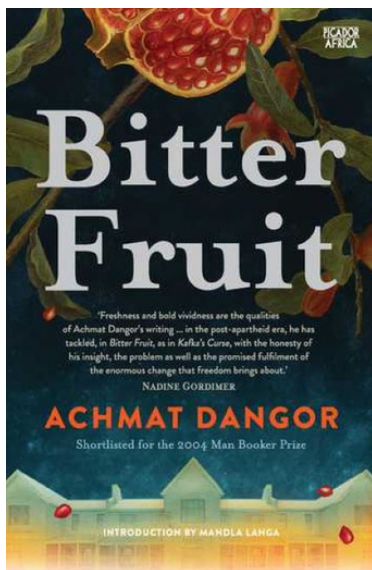
Meet Thirapatheegadu Ezekieo Reddy, Tubby for short, because heaven knows a man called Thirapatheegadu walks a lonely road. Proud proprietor of The Tearoom in deepest KwaZulu-Natal, he's also a father, a timid dreamer and the long-suffering husband of hypochondriac Lynette. For many years, Tubby has been working on a marvellous plan which involves the object of his affection – his enigmatic kitchen assistant. In the month before his birthday, the countdown begins. But just as Tubby is set to embark on his dream life, he is delivered a blow which could turn his dream to ashes. Sprinkled with delicious humour and spoonfuls of local flavour, THE TEAROOM is a warm tale with characters you'll never forget.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

Similar to: KIM'S CONVENIENCE; THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

BITTER FRUIT

PRESTIGE DRAMA
ACHMAT DANGOR



A classic novel about SA's liberation.

The last time Silas Ali encountered Lieutenant Du Boise, Silas was locked in the back of a police van and the lieutenant was conducting a vicious assault on Silas's wife, Lydia, in revenge for her husband's participation in Nelson Mandela's African National Congress. When Silas sees Du Boise by chance twenty years later, as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is about to deliver its report, crimes from the past erupt into the present, splintering the Alis' fragile peace. A clear-eyed story of a brittle family on the crossroads of history and a fearless skewering of the pieties of revolutionary movements, BITTER FRUIT is a cautionary tale of how we do, or do not, address the deepest wounds of the past.

Ideal for: Feature

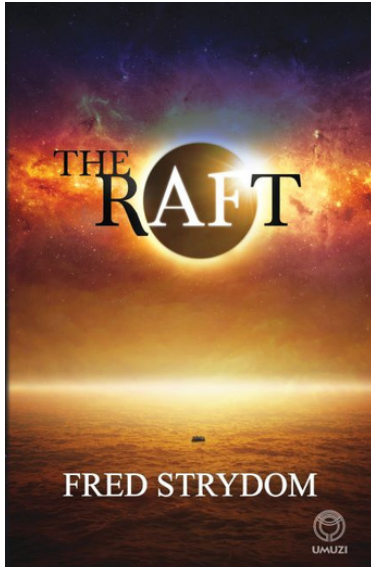
Similar to: RED DUST; CRASH



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THE RAFT

GROUNDNED SCI-FI; AFROFUTURISM
FRED STRYDOM



The day every person on earth lost his and her memory was not a day at all. In people's minds there was no actual event ... Everyone was simply reset to zero.'

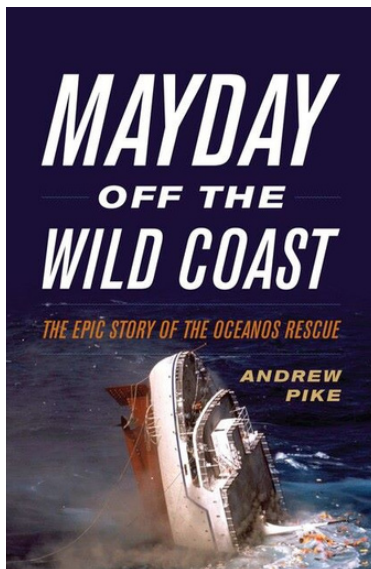
The day every person on earth lost his and her memory was not a day at all. In people's minds there was no actual event ... and thus it could be followed by no period of shock or mourning. There could be no catharsis. Everyone was simply reset to zero.' On day zero, humankind collectively lost its memory. The collapse of civilisation was as instantaneous as it was inevitable. For a man named Kayle Jenner, confined by a regime to a commune on a remote beach, all that remains is the vague and haunting vision of a son ... That, and a wooden raft. It is a raft that will set Kayle on a journey across a broken world to find his son. Braving a landscape of elusive encounters, a maze of other people's dreams, and muddled memories, Kayle will discover more than just his lost past. He will discover the truth behind Day Zero – a truth that makes both fools and gods of men.

Ideal for: Returnable Series

Similar to: LOST; THE LIFE OF PIE; THE ROAD; THE LAST OF US, INCEPTION

MAYDAY OFF THE WILD COAST

DISASTER; ADVENTURE
ANDREW PIKE



A gripping overview of the events that led to one of the greatest maritime rescues in the world.

It was a dark and stormy night in 1991 when a magician took over the bridge of the Oceanos passenger liner. The ship started taking in water in the auxiliary engine room just a few hours after it had set sail. Panicking, the crew scrambled into the lifeboats, leaving passengers largely to fend for themselves. The captain was nowhere to be found. The ship's entertainment staff bravely stepped in to calm passengers and coordinate the abandon-ship and rescue operations. Lifeboats were launched in waves of several metres high. When they ran out of usable lifeboats 230 passengers and junior crew were left stranded on board the listing and rapidly sinking ship. The South African Air Force launched their biggest air rescue ever, with helicopter crews and Navy divers risking everything to evacuate the remaining passengers. One by one the passengers were airlifted off the ship – one of the first was Captain Yiannis Avranas, who was universally condemned for his lack of leadership. The story of this dramatic rescue – one of the greatest maritime rescues in the world – which made headlines across the globe, unfolds like an adventure novel and is told from the perspective of all the key role players.

Ideal for: Feature; Limited Series

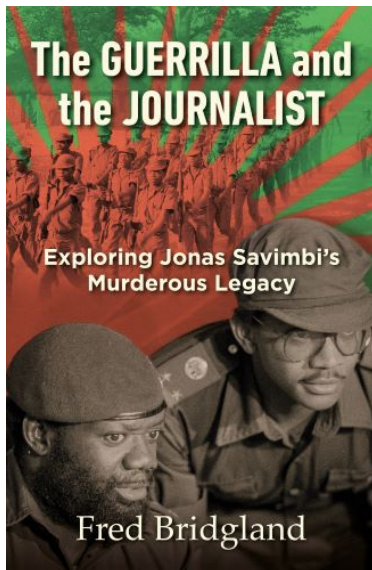
Similar to: SULLY; WORLD TRADE CENTRE; DEEPWATER
HORISON; THE BURNING SEA



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THE GUERRILLA AND THE JOURNALIST

BIOGRAPHY; HISTORY
FRED BRIDGLAND



Setting the record straight on Angola's Jonas Savimbi

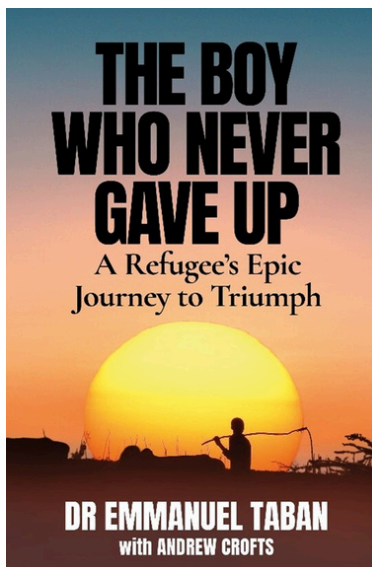
For many years, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi was known for his charisma, charm and brio: he convinced millions of his fellow countrymen and also international statesmen that he was Angola's and the West's best hope for democratic rule. More than 30 years after writing a sympathetic biography of Savimbi, Fred Bridgland sets the record straight. Based on new evidence that has come to light, he reveals the rebel leader's murderous legacy. In the 1970s and 1980s, when Angola was a hotbed of the Cold War, few people would have believed that Savimbi was a manipulative and paranoid tyrant prepared to kill anyone he viewed as a threat to his power. Tito Chingunji, the brilliant young foreign secretary of Savimbi's UNITA movement, who approached Bridgland to write the original biography in the early 1980s, risked his life to help Bridgland tell the true story of what was going on behind the scenes. This is an account of the intense friendship that developed between the two men, the adventures they shared and the terrifying challenges they faced as they revealed Savimbi's true face.

Ideal for: Feature; Documentary

Similar to: THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

THE BOY WHO NEVER GAVE UP

MEMOIR
EMMANUEL TABAN



A boy's awe-inspiring journey on foot from war-torn Sudan to South Africa

In 1994, sixteen-year-old Emmanuel Taban walked out of war-torn Sudan with nothing, and nowhere to go. In the preceding months he was tortured at the hands of government forces, who falsely accused him of spying for the South Sudanese rebels and who made him convert to Islam. After a few weeks he managed to flee from the Islamic school where he was being kept but, yearning to be reunited with his family, he literally took a wrong turn and ended up in neighbouring Eritrea without any documentation. Too afraid to return to his home country, he set out on what would become a long and arduous journey to South Africa via countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. Taban mostly lived on the street and along the way he faced many dangers, including corrupt border officials who took all his money, robbers and wild animals, but he refused to give up. At crucial moments when he thought all was lost, he was helped by Italian Comboni missionaries. Refusing to be a victim, Emmanuel Taban overcame extreme poverty, racism and xenophobia to become the man he is today. This heart-warming life story offers solace and inspiration in these trying times.

Ideal for: Bio pic; Inspirational True Story; Rags-to-riches Feature; Documentary

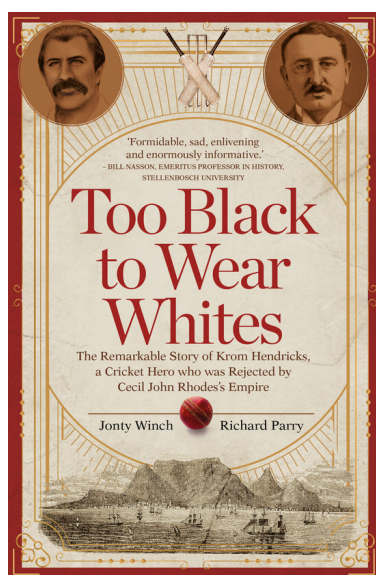
Similar to: THE QUEEN OF KATWE; WILD; THE PIROGUE; MEDITERRANEA



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TOO BLACK TO WEAR WHITES

HISTORICAL SPORTS BIO
JONTHY WINCH; RICHARD PARRY



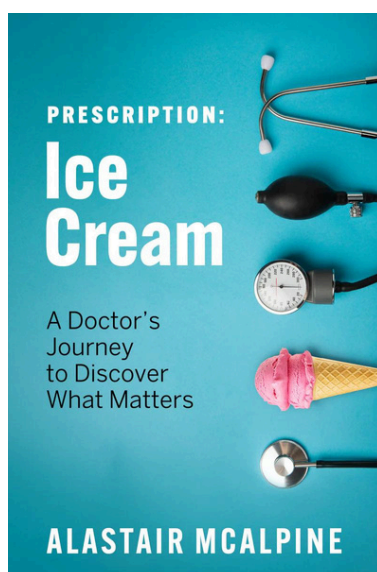
William Henry 'Krom' Hendricks was the first sportsman to be formally barred from representing South Africa on the basis of race. Hailing from Cape Town's Bo-Kaap, he played in 1892 for the South African Malay team against the touring English, who insisted that he was among the best fast bowlers in the world. This made his exclusion from South Africa's tour of England in 1894 and subsequent Test series all the more unjust. Ranged against Hendricks were virulent racism and a political alliance between arch-imperialist Cecil John Rhodes, Afrikaner Bond leader J.H. Hofmeyr, and cricket administrator William Milton. Too Black to Wear Whites documents Hendricks's tireless struggle for recognition and the public controversies around his exclusion. Krom Hendricks' life story is told here for the first time in a fascinating drama that describes the formation of a segregated South Africa through the career of an exceptional cricketer who challenged the boundaries of the system.

Ideal for: Sports Bio pic; Inspirational True Story; Feature; Documentary

Similar to: KING RICHARD; THE FIGHTER; HIDDEN FIGURES; INVICTUS

PRESCRIPTION ICE CREAM

MEMOIR; POP SCIENCE
ALASTAIR MCALPINE



A THIS IS GOING TO HURT type memoir from the front lines of palliative paediatrics.

In 2018, Alastair McAlpine, a palliative paediatrician in Cape Town, decided to share some inspiring thoughts from the children in his care. He posted: 'I asked some of my terminal paediatric palliative care patients what they had enjoyed in life, and what gave it meaning. Kids can be so wise, y'know. Here are some of the responses.' Their simple yet profound answers went viral, found their way into homes across the world and touched the hearts of millions. Yet it was never McAlpine's plan to find himself in this position. Challenged from all sides by crippling addiction, a brutal internship, and a deadly HIV pandemic, McAlpine's journey was very nearly derailed. Prescription: Ice Cream is his engaging memoir about the highs and lows of working as a medical doctor in South Africa and how, with a little help from metal music and ice cream, he was able to struggle on, find meaning in the chaos and inspire others.

Ideal for: Limited or Returnable Series

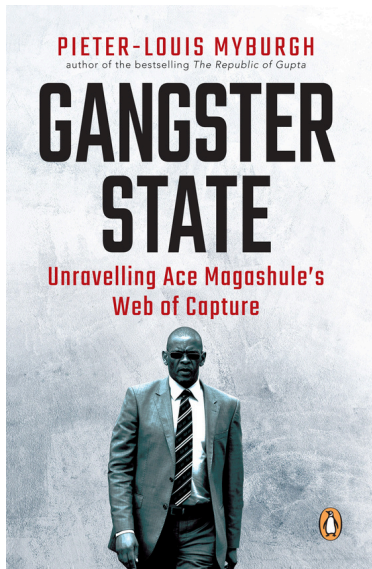
Similar to: THIS IS GOING TO HURT



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GANGSTER STATE

TRUE CRIME; POLITICS
PETER-LOUIS MYBURGH



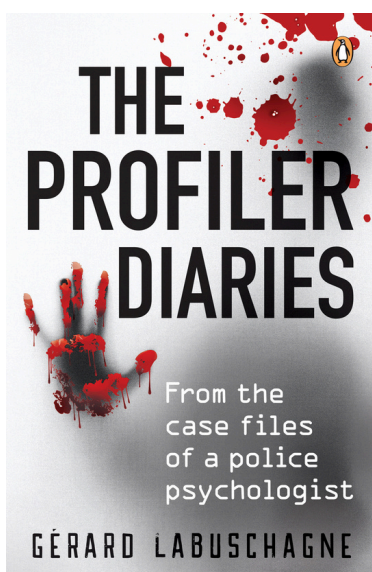
In this explosive book, investigative journalist Pieter-Louis Myburgh ventures deeper than ever before into Ace Magashule's murky dealings, from his time as a struggle activist in the 1980s to his powerful rule as premier of the Free State province for nearly a decade, and his rise to one of the ANC's most influential positions. Sifting through heaps of records, documents and exclusive source interviews, Myburgh explores Magashule's relationship with the notorious Gupta family and other tender moguls; investigates government projects costing billions that enriched his friends and family but failed the poor; reveals how he was about to be arrested by the Scorpions before their disbandment in the late 2000s; and exposes the methods used to keep him in power in the Free State and to secure him the post of ANC secretary-general. Most tellingly, Myburgh pieces together a pack of leaked emails and documents to reveal shocking new details on a massive Free State government contract and Magashule's dealings with a businessman who was gunned down in Sandton in 2017. These files seem to lay bare the methods of a man who usually operated without leaving a trace.

Ideal for: Docudrama or limited series

Similar to: STEINHOFF

THE PROFILER DIARIES

TRUE CRIME
GÉRARD LABUSCHAGNE



'You can visit the depths of hell – just don't hang around here for too long.'

An expert on serial murder and rape cases, Labuschagne saw it all in his fourteen and a half years in the SAPS. He walks the reader through the first crime scene he ever attended, his arrest of the Muldersdrift serial rapist, his experience as the head of the task team mandated to catch the Quarry serial murderer, his involvement with the Brighton Beach axe murders, and more. Despite often being stymied by a lack of resources, office politics and political interference, Labuschagne and his team were always determined to get their man – or woman, as in the Womb Raider case. The Profiler Diaries is a fascinating – and often hair-raising – glimpse into what it was like to be a profiler in the world's busiest profiling unit.

Ideal for: Limited/returning series or feature

Similar to: SILENT WITNESS; MIDHUNTER



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HOW TO HIDE INSIDE A THREE

WOMEN'S FICTION
JANE VAN DER RIET



Adulting - it's tough out there.

Leigh-Anne may look like she's keeping it together in her Southern suburbs world, but really she's unravelling. A letter has arrived from her ageing dad, asking forgiveness for some unknown sordid deed, there's the tortuous sex with her psychiatrist husband Samuel and the fact that she can't stop fantasising about her colleague. Inexplicably, one of her kids is wetting the bed while the other one's turning into a little tyrant. Her batty best friend continues to offload her crises. How is a woman supposed to cope? With chocolate and wine, and by making plenty of lists (things feel much more manageable when you write them down in threes). In her quest for answers, she will have to betray everyone she loves; only then can she truly come out of hiding.

Ideal for: Feature; Series

Similar to: ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

LITERARY FICTION; HISTORICAL
SIPHIWE GLORIA NDLOVU



A literary whodunit starring wonderful characters and set in an unnamed postcolonial African state

This is indeed a story of mercy – and the redemption it offers. On the eve of his retirement, Spokes Moloi, a police officer of spotless integrity, investigates one final crime: the possible murder of Emil Coetzee, head of the sinister Organisation of Domestic Affairs, who disappears on the same day a ceasefire is declared and the country's independence beckons. In following the tangled threads of Coetzee's life, Spokes raises and resolves conundrums that have haunted him, and his country, for decades under colonial rule. In all this, he is staunchly supported by his paragon spouse, Loveness, and his unofficially adopted daughter, the unorthodox postman Dikeledi. In her most magnificent novel yet, award-winning author Sphiwe Gloria Ndlovu showcases the history of a country transitioning from a colonial to a postcolonial state with a deft touch and a compassionate eye for poignant detail. Linked to THE THEORY OF FLIGHT and THE HISTORY OF MAN, Ndlovu's novel nevertheless stands alone in its evocation of life in the City of Kings and surrounding villages. Dickensian in its scope, with the proverbial bustling cast of colleagues both good and bad, villagers, guerrillas, neighbours, ex-soldiers, suburban madams, shopkeepers, would-be politicians and more.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: HALF A YELLOW SUN



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THE HISTORY OF MAN

LITERARY FICTION; HISTORICAL
SIPHIWE GLORIA NDLOVU



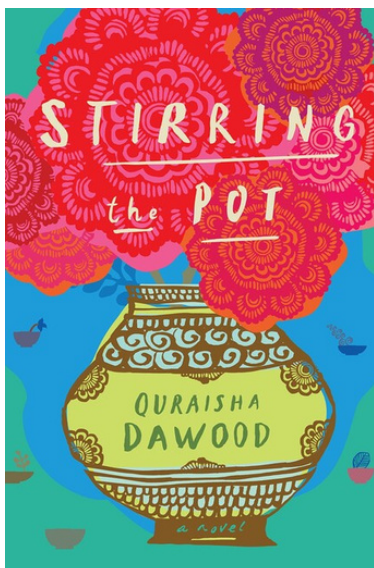
Emil Coetzee, a civil servant in his fifties, is washing blood off his hands when the ceasefire is announced. Like everyone else, he feels unmoored by the end of the conflict. War had given him his sense of purpose, his identity. But why has Emil's life turned out so different from his parents', who spent cheery Friday evenings flapping and flailing the Charleston or dancing the foxtrot? What happened to the Emil who used to wade through the singing elephant grass of the savannah, losing himself in it? Prize-winning novelist Sphiwe Gloria Ndlovu traces Emil's life from boyhood to manhood – from his days at a privileged boarding school with the motto 'It is here that boys become the men of history', to his falling in love with the ever-elusive Marion, whose free-spirited nature has dire consequences for his heart – all the while showing how Emil becomes a man apart. Set in a southern African country that is never named, this powerful tale of human fallibility – told with empathy, generosity and a light touch – is an excursion into the interiority of the coloniser.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: HALF OF A YELLOW SUN, an African GREAT GATSBY

STIRRING THE POT

WOMEN'S FICTION
QURAI SHA DAWOOD



A glimpse into the private lives of a group of women in Durban's Muslim community.

At Summer Terrace flats in hot and humid Durban, the friendships between the women are as intricate as the curling patterns of henna tattoos. Meet old Auntie Ruki, who lives with her domestic worker, Joyce, an arrangement that ruffles many feathers. There's Zaina, who has her sights on becoming an architect, and her mother Rabia, a florist, and yes, she's divorced. Zaina hides a secret that could cause a rift in their relationship: his name is Imraan, and dating him simply isn't allowed. Dive into this swirl of madams and maids, women and their husbands, children, grandchildren and in-laws, a world bristling with life and vitality, amid judgements and forgiveness, secrets and lies, expectations and disappointments. Prepare for a wedding, a theft, Ramadaan and a passing, while delicious recipes for traditional cuisine add local spice to life at Summer Terrace.

Ideal for: Feature; series of Features; Animated Feature

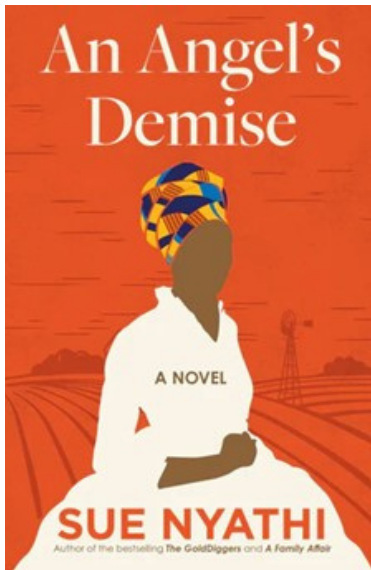
Similar to: MACADAM STORIES



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AN ANGEL'S DEMISE

FAMILY SAGA
SUE NYATHI



An epic saga that explores a contested legacy and the heartrending destiny of a family.

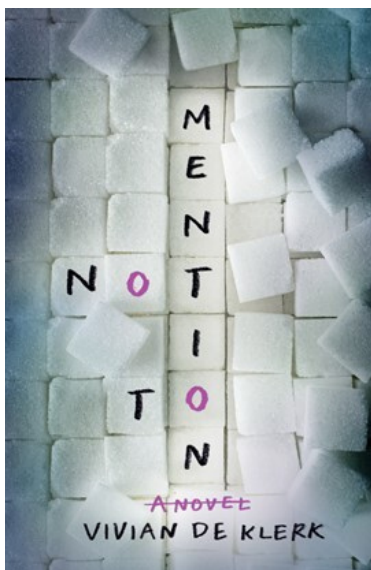
The year is 1977 and the story begins on a farm in Somabhula with the birth of Angel. The farm is run by Paul Williams, an outwardly harsh and bigoted man who holds the livelihoods of many in his hands. When Angel's parents join the liberation struggle, she is left in the care of her grandmothers, who have been in service to the Williams family for generations. Angel grows up on the farm over three momentous decades that see a complex past and inheritance unfold into an equally complicated present. Through her, we see a woman's quest to unearth her identity and assert her independence. In the process of self-discovery, Angel realises that sometimes you need to be uprooted before you can grow. AN ANGEL'S DEMISE, Sue Nyathi's fourth novel, is a gripping tale infused with spirituality. It recounts an explosive story of love, war, bloody massacre and betrayal that encompasses a harrowing history, the cruel caprice of politics, gender-based violence and what happens when ordinary people get caught up in lies.

Ideal for: Feature; Series

Similar to: HALF OF A YELLOW SUN

NOT TO MENTION

COSY CRIME
VIVIAN DE KLERK



How it feels to be 'the fat girl'.

Katy Ferreira, about to turn 21, has not left her bedroom in two years. In fact, she has not left her bed – at 360 kg/800 lbs, she physically can't. Katy tries to make the best of a bad situation. She does the crossword in the Herald newspaper her mother brings home, consumes the food she craves – biscuits, pies, doughnuts, litres of fizzy drinks – and waits in hope for insulin and a solution to her plight. To pass the time she begins to compile her own crossword in one of the Croxley notebooks that have been unused since she dropped out of school. Within each cryptic clue is a message, an attempt to explain how it feels to be 'the fat girl', how taking comfort in sweet things as a grieving and lonely child escalated into a deadly relationship with food and a psychological and physical disease. The process triggers splintered memories of dark family secrets and hints of culpability. As Katy finds her voice – quirky, macabre, devastatingly astute and viciously funny at times – the notebooks fill up. NOT TO MENTION is part diary, part love-hate letter to the mother who fuelled her daughter's addiction as steadily as the world ostracised her.

Ideal for: Feature

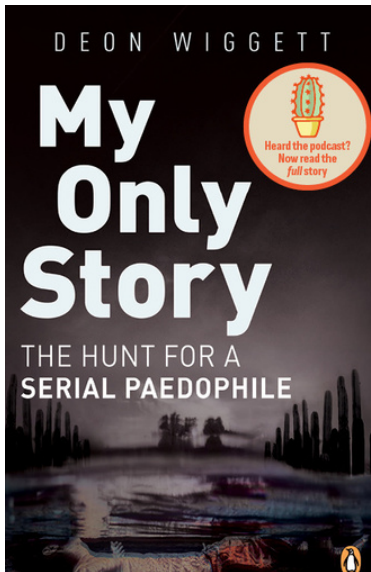
Similar to: SHARP OBJECTS



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MY ONLY STORY

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
DEON WIGGETT



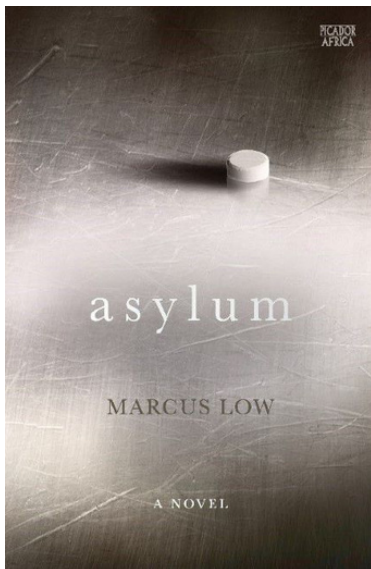
In November 2019, Deon Wiggert's sensational weekly podcasts held South Africa in thrall as he hunted down the paedophile who raped him as a schoolboy. Now, in *My Only Story*, he completes his exposé of Willem Breytenbach, the once brilliant teacher and later media luminary who led a predatory life. But his quest reveals so much more. As he traces systemic failures through schools great and small, he uncovers a culture of complicity that poses a clear and present danger to the country's children. *My Only Story* is a riveting, thoughtful and often irreverent account of one man's determination to overcome childhood trauma; to help others face their demons; and to extract some beauty from the boyhood he lost.

Ideal for: Series; Feature; Documdrama

Similar to: LEAVING NEVERLAND

ASYLUM

LITERARY FICTION
MARCUS LOW



Barry James is detained in a quarantine facility in the blistering heat of the Great Karoo. Here he exists in two worlds: the discordant and unforgiving reality of his incarceration and the lyrical, snowy landscapes of his dreams. He has cut all ties with his previous life, his health is failing, and he has given up all hope. All he has to cling to are the meanderings of his restless mind, the daily round of pills and the journals he reluctantly keeps as testimony to a life once lived. And then there's an opportunity to escape. But to escape what? And where to? Can there be a life to go back to? Is there still a world out there in the barren wasteland beyond the fence? I was sitting in the train looking out at the falling snow. I knew then that I was not going home ... I was going to an unknown place on a train full of unknown people. And even though I knew I would not be coming back, that the factories that whooshed by were instantly hundreds of kilometres behind us, that the train would not deliver us anywhere where we'd want to be, I still felt grateful for the snow, the impossible snow. For it seems to me that even in the most bleak of worlds we'll find something to hold on to ... even if that is something as impossible as snow in this god-forsaken wasteland.

Ideal for: Feature

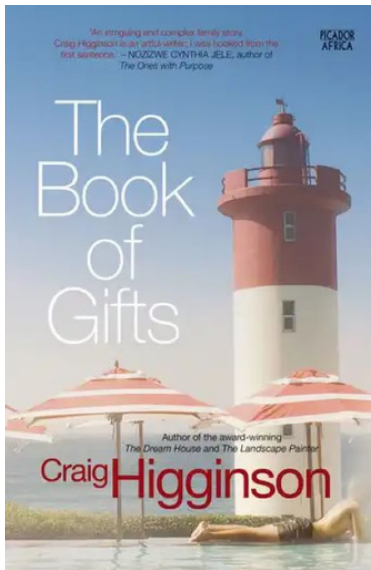
Similar to: ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST



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THE BOOK OF GIFTS

LITERARY FICTION
CRAIG HIGGINSON



What is the cost of giving a gift? What is the cost of receiving one?

At eleven years old, Julian Flint prefers to remain invisible, safe inside the architecture of adults provided by his mother, his uncle and his aunt. But when his mother, Emma, a celebrated sculptor, takes them all on a family holiday to a hotel by the sea, he meets the captivating and irreverent Clare and everything he thought he knew begins to shift – setting off a chain of events that will determine each of their fates. From the award-winning author of *The Dream House* and *The White Room* comes Craig Higginson's most gripping and nuanced novel to date. Moving from the lush beaches of uMhlanga Rocks to the stark midwinter wastes of Johannesburg and the rich and strange coral reefs of Mauritius, this masterfully plotted novel explores the fault-lines between loyalty and betrayal, innocence and accountability, blindness and perception, entrapment and flight. *The Book of Gifts* dives into the deepest and most hazardous reaches of human consciousness in order to catch the brightest fish.

Ideal for: Feature/ Limited Series

Similar to: MERCHANT IVORY FILMS

THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL

SCIENCE FICTION
IMRAN GARDA



In an AI world cut off from itself, fighting for a cause is the most human thing.

Elijah has recently been imprisoned for murder. Humanity is readjusting to an incident in which terrorists had cut the undersea internet cables. After each world power assumed the other's involvement, a volley of mutual attacks led them all to wipe out the remainder of each other's connectivity, plunging the world into chaos. The UK, now The Revived Union, is run by a post-war techno-democratic government, a civilian-led democracy that defers the most important decisions to The System, a ring-fenced local artificial intelligence network built from scratch that promises to reduce human error in running the affairs of the country and plans to bring the nation back online within a short while. While in prison, finding his way among rival gangs and merciless guards, Elijah is taken in by a messianic fellow inmate who unites many of these lost and condemned men to question and oppose The System. But the inexplicable suicides of young prisoners as well as a sociopathic killer among the inmates, lead Elijah into a labyrinth of inner and outer entanglements.

Ideal for: Feature; Series

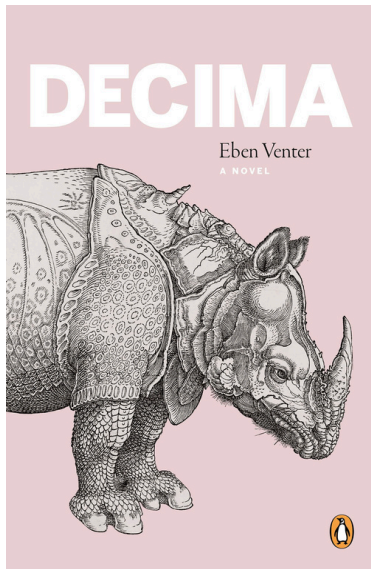
Similar to: BLACK MIRROR; THE CROWDED ROOM; RESIDUE; OZ; THE ISLAND; FIGHT CLUB; 1984; BRAVE NEW WORLD



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DECIMA

ECOFICTION
EBEN VENTER



Of mothers and matriarchs.

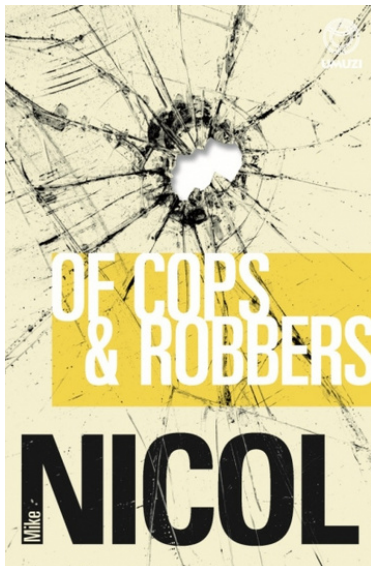
In the veld of the Eastern Cape a writer imagines her: Decima – a magnificent black rhinoceros cow. Mother to Tandeka, herself plumped up with calf, Decima and her crash of rhinos await the birth of the new baby. Decima still recalls how she became an orphan many seasons ago, and tension mounts with the passing of each full moon. Conjuring up the life of Decima, is Eben. How do you write about this animal as a sentient being? he wants to find out. With the story of the rhino matriarch and her kin, comes the various characters that impact on their lives: poachers, their clients, those who practise traditional medicine, also those whose calling it is to protect the animals. Entwined in Eben's work on the rhino, is an account of his fragile, ageing mother. But ringing loudest in his ear, is the voice of Decima. Eben Venter's book, a creative blend of autofiction, fable, mystery and scientific enquiry, is an urgent plea to save one of earth's megaherbivores. An elegiac work for numerous voices, DECIMA is a moving and thrilling lament to loss in all its many guises.

Ideal for: Series, Feature Film, Documentary

Similar to: Jane Goodall, THE ELEPHANT WHISPERER, THE LAST RHINOS, THE GREAT SOUL OF SIBERIA

OF COPS AND ROBBERS

THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



A surfer PI, his lawyer girlfriend, illegal dragracing, and a plot that twists as far as rhino poaching and corrupt politicians.

Dawn light on the mountains, a two metre swell coming off False Bay. PI Fish Pescado – lithe, blond-haired, six-pack – is surfing. To Fish this is paradise. Except, he has no work, and a diminishing bank balance. Until a young surfer paddles up: 'Hey, Fish, there's a pretty chick looking for you.' The pretty chick is Vicki Kahn, poker addict by night, lawyer by day. She's bright, sharp, lovely. The best woman he's ever had. And she's got a job for him: find the murderous bastard who wiped out a bystander at an illegal drag race. If only it were that easy. Thing is that the drag racer has connections high up. Really high up, right to the police commissioner. Thing is the police commissioner has his eye on Vicki Kahn. Thing is the police commissioner has a past, a nasty past. A past that has something to do with hit squads, assassinations, rhino horns and the kind of information that no one wants uncovered. The kind of information that involves lots of money, gold bullion in fact. The commissioner's also got a taste for the lush life. A taste that is ruthless, savage. Before long, Fish and Vicki can't tell who's a cop and who's a robber. Or who's gunning for them.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

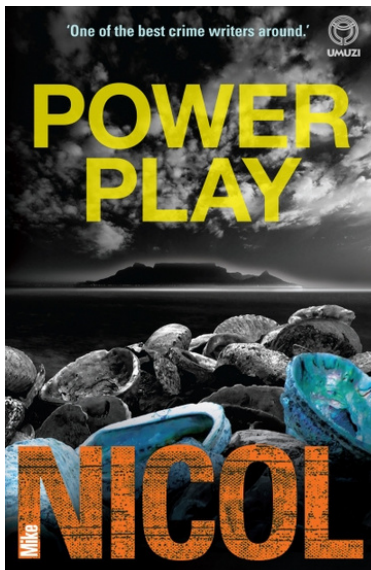
Similar to: TRUE ROMANCE, PULP FICTION, THE USUAL SUSPECTS, THE PASSENGER, BLOOD TIES, CASABLANCA, UNFORGOTTEN



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POWER PLAY

THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



A security company run by women, illegal abalone, and a gang war as bloody as they come.

Krista Bishop runs a security agency, for women only. Until she gets a call she can't refuse from the government spooks: guard two high-profile Chinese businessmen. What Krista isn't told is that the Chinese are mopping up the richly rewarding abalone poaching business. They want it all, from shore to plate. A takeover that will kick three Cape Town ganglords – known as the Untouchables – out of business and destroy their luxury lifestyles. Abalone means power, money, drugs, guns. No longer untouchable, gang boss Titus Anders fears for the life of his daughter and calls in Krista Bishop to protect her from the madness as a gang war ignites. Krista is the best. She's young, tough and a long way from the violence of the streets. Or is she? The war is everywhere. Right in her own backyard. And there is a secret agent waiting for her, with a gun in his hand ...

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

Similar to: SHOEDOG (George Pelecanos); DRIVE (James Sallis), DIRTY MONEY (Richard Stark); TATIANA (Martin Cruz Smith); THE TOURIST (Olen Steinhauer)

AGENTS OF THE STATE

THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



PI Fish Pescado and Vicki Kahn are back, this time in a dark world of child trafficking and gunned-down statesmen.

Bring in the child tracker. That's Agent Vicki Kahn's assignment, her first foreign mission for the State Security Agency. That the child trafficker is a top fashion model with connections to the president's son is an added complication. Especially when Vicki watches as the model's limp body is wheeled away at Schiphol airport. Then, in Berlin, she finds her contact dead on the kitchen floor, shot in the head. Get out, Vicki's instincts tell her. Get out now. Vicki's lover, PI Fish Pescado, is working another case. Find out who shot my husband, is his brief. The husband: a rebel colonel from the Central African Republic taken down in a spray of bullets on the steps of St George's Cathedral. As Fish digs he comes up against a local connection: none other than the South African president. Drop the case, he's warned. Go surfing. And take your girlfriend Vicki Kahn with you before it's too late. Secrets, conspiracies, vested interests, commie plots. Vicki and Fish are caught in the mix, with only one way out.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

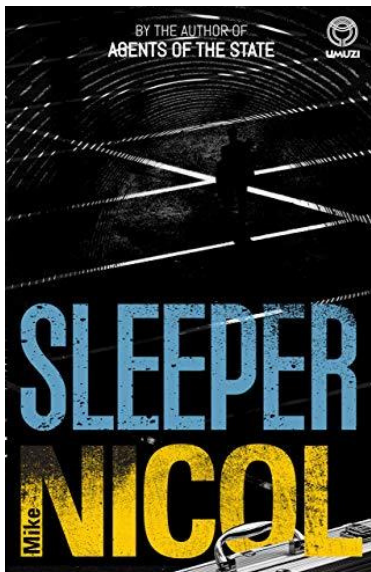
Similar to: David Peace's the Red Riding Trilogy, NATURAL BORN KILLERS



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SLEEPER

THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



Dead ministers, terrorism, PI Fish and Vicki on the case.

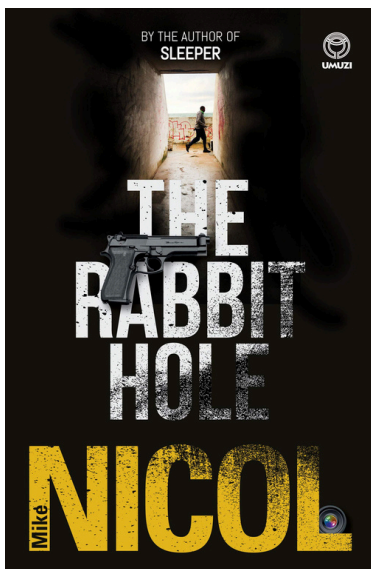
First there is the killing of the minister of energy. Then the cop investigating the murder commits suicide. Fearing a conspiracy, the minister's lover hires PI Fish Pescado to find the killer. Then she goes missing. And Fish is being stonewalled by the cops because... in the dark shadows of Cape Town there's another game being played out. One involving Iranian agents, the theft of highly enriched uranium, and the kidnapping of a top scientist. Ex-spy Vicki Kahn is bribed by her former handler to track the terrorists. The hunt is deadly and nothing is what it seems. A sleeper's been awoken. ISIS are involved. So is the CIA. There is chatter of a dirty bomb headed for Europe. And Vicki is so lost in those shadows even her surfer-boy Fish can't find her.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

Similar to: DRIVE (James Sallis), DIRTY MONEY (Richard Stark); TATIANA (Martin Cruz Smith); THE TOURIST (Olen Steinhauer)

THE RABBIT HOLE

THRILLER
MIKE NICOL



Dodgy cabinet ministers, politicians and officials eager to lend a hand. And the CIA is a player too.

Money. Money. Money. Tons of it. In US dollars. And it's all being funnelled into a government tender snagged by family-owned Amalfi Civils. Which would be great for business if CEO Angela wasn't fighting with her cfo brother Rej. Where Angela sees corruption, Rej sees cabinet ministers, politicians, officials eager to lend a hand. For a fee. It's a big pot so he's happy to oblige. And if needs be he'll take out his sister to keep the lucre. There are other players in this game. The CIA for one. The State Security Agency for another. And a black op using lawyer and spy Vicki Kahn as a honeytrap to ensnare Rej's middleman – the very same middleman that her lover, PI Fish Pescado, is investigating. With these stakes, it's only time before the killing starts.

Ideal for: Returnable Series; Feature

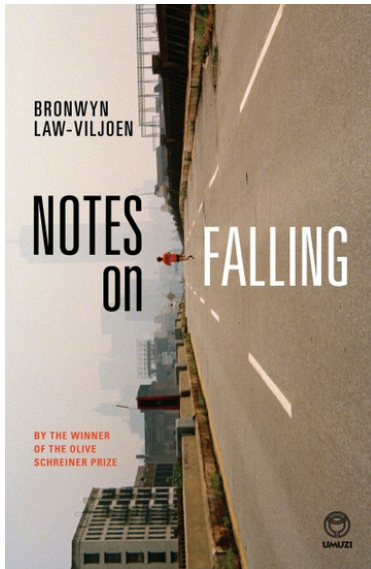
Similar to: MR PARADISO (Elmore Leonard); A WHITE ARREST (Ken Bruen), AMERICAN TABLOID (James Ellroy), THE FRIENDS OF EDDIE COYLE (George V Higgins)



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NOTES ON FALLING

LITERARY FICTION
BRONWYN LAW-VILJOEN



Of photography, experimental dance, and a missing parent.

A young photographer in search of a mother swept up in the 1970s experimental dance scene in New York.

Ideal for: Limited Series; Feature

Similar to: BLACK SWAN; FRANCES HA; BIRDS OF PARADISE;
THE COMPANY; WHITE NIGHTS; BLANK CITY;
EVERYBODY STREETS

SLUITSTUK

LITERARY FICTION
JOHANN ROSSOUW



A novice writer, his reclusive mentor, the making of a story.

It's been three years after the death of a most revered writer, and a biographer is in the country of the author's birth, researching his life. She visits the author's former apprentice to find out more about this enigmatic figure – thirty years after the two men painfully parted ways. In the space of one night, the apprentice, once an aspiring writer and now a Zen monk, lays out their intertwined lives under the penetrating gaze of the biographer. Who was the great writer really? Why was the impact of his solitary life and his work on his former pupil so enormous? Why did the author summon him to his deathbed? What is the real reason behind the woman's biography? SLUITSTUK is an elegiac novel about longing, loss, revenge and reconciliation that maps the routes to silence and to creativity.

Ideal for: Limited Series; Feature

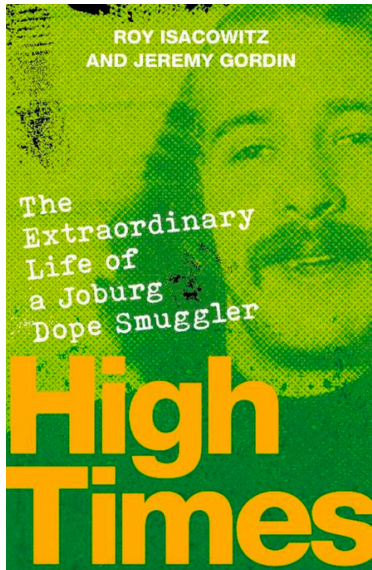
Similar to: Sándor Márai's EMBERS; Pascal Quignard's ALL THE
MORNINGS OF THE WORLD; DEAD POETS' SOCIETY,
FINDING FORESTER, ADAPTATION



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HIGH TIMES

TRUE CRIME; ADVENTURE
ROY ISACOWITZ & JEREMY GORDIN



The extraordinary life of a wild and adventurous dope smuggler.

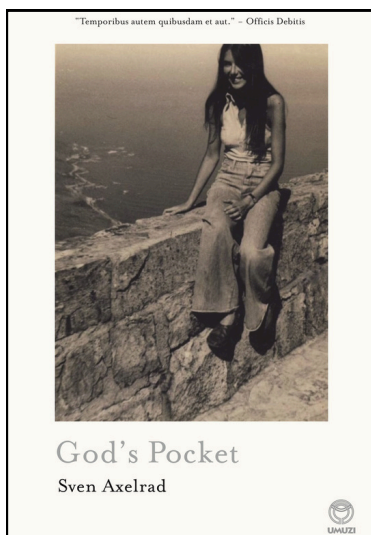
The true story of Michael Medjuck, whose taste for weed, women and the good life led him from late-1960s Johannesburg to notoriety as one of the biggest hash and weed smugglers in North America. From his base in Vancouver, Michael built up a smuggling network that supplied dealers in scores of cities across Canada and the United States. The proceeds of smuggling afforded him a lifestyle of hedonistic excess – the finest wines, the most glamorous hookers, the best weed in the world. In 1991, Michael was nabbed by US federal agents while smuggling an enormous shipload of Afghani hash into the West Coast of Canada. Put on trial as the scheme's mastermind, Michael was convicted and sentenced to 24 years behind bars. His US prison experiences, from dingy county lock-ups to brutal federal penitentiaries, are the stuff of legend. Eventually, a chance remark to his lawyer led to his early release and return to Canada. After barely a year of freedom, Michael was again arrested – this time in Spain for an ill-judged cocaine-smuggling venture – and sentenced to another prison term of nine years. This is Michael's extraordinary story.

Ideal for: Feature; TV Series

Similar to: NARCOS

GOD'S POCKET

MAGICAL REALISM
SVEN AXELRAD



A cabin. A quarry. A crazy plan. Don't study accountancy. Run away. Write a novel.

Strange things have been happening in Vivo. Maria de Luz, the local mother of mysteries, has noticed some disturbing signs in the shells. More dead animals than usual have been appearing on the only road in and out of Vivo. In the middle of all of this is a cabin at the bottom of an abandoned quarry, barely visible from the roadside. With the help of his four best friends, Filo has decided to live in the cabin while he writes his first novel. The quarry, however, isn't quite as abandoned as it seems. Something has been stuck in God's Pocket for a very long time and it needs a way to get out. Here we have love triangles, fortune tellers, Johnny Cash and Henry David Thoreau like you've never seen them before, poets, rats, university classes, monsters, and at the heart of it five very good friends trying to figure out that no-man's land between being a kid and becoming an adult. In a small cabin at the bottom of God's Pocket, these five friends are about to discover how much the making of art costs the artist. Philosophical, playful, erudite, sexy and kind. A coming-of-age story with a twist from the creator of BURIED TREASURE.

Ideal for: Series; Feature

Similar to: A magic-realist, less bleak version of THE SHINING;
SECRET WINDOW; Y TU MAMÁ TAMBIÉN



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THE NEW YORK BOOK OF HAPPINESS

NON-FICTION
BARBARA J ZITWER



New York is an energy, an omnipresence that never sleeps, is always there, always forgives, always accepts, sees your pain and suffering and brings redemption, joy, and unbridled happiness.

An intimate exploration of how New York instils toughness and grit, fosters inclusion, open-mindedness and engenders success and happiness.

Ideal for: Documentary Feature; Documentary Series

Similar to: PRETEND IT'S A CITY; THE ART OF HAPPINESS by the Dalai Lama; THE LITTLE BOOK OF HYGGE; THE HAPPINESS PROJECT; THE KOREAN BOOK OF HAPPINESS

BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER

MEMOIR
HEIDI CHAPMAN



Part Memoir, part How-To for parents of aspiring child actors, the book is This book is BATTLE HYMN OF THE TIGER MOTHER meets OUTLIERS via I'M GLAD MY MOTHER DIED.

All three of Heidi Chapman's sons were cast as child actors in big international film and television projects involving well known figures in the industry including Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp, Cillian Murphy, Steven Spielberg, Tim Burton, Ridley Scott, and Martin Scorsese to name a few. With no actors in their family or connections to the industry and coming from the vastly different worlds of medicine and science, in the beginning she could not have been more ill-equipped to be a parent on a set.

BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER charts Heidi Chapman's journey from suburban Mum to international jet-setting mother of three highly sought-after child actors.

Ideal for: Feature/ Limited Series/ Returnable Series

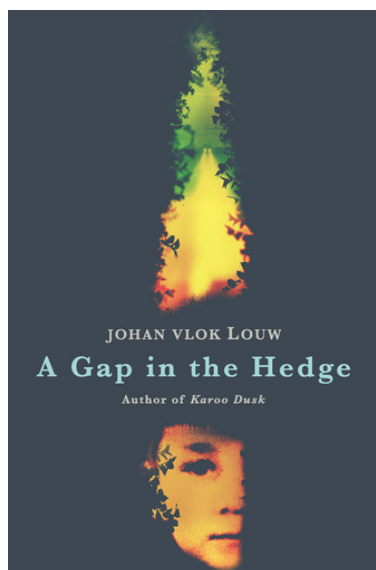
Similar to: BATTLE HYMN OF THE TIGER MOTHER meets OUTLIERS via I'M GLAD MY MOTHER DIED.



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A GAP IN THE HEDGE

LITERARY FICTION; MYSTERY
JOHAN VLOK LOUW



Who might you find on the other side?

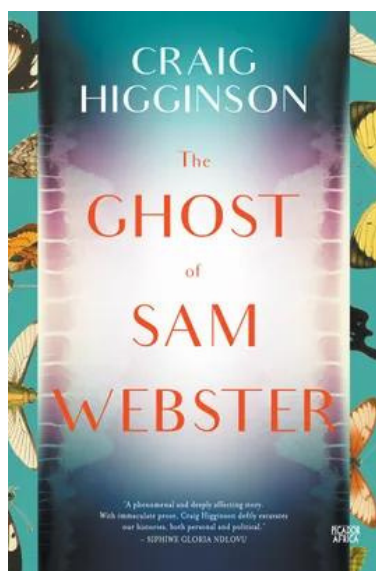
Waking up in a rundown house on the outskirts of a mining town, Karl at first is uncertain who or where he is. What is certain is the pistol and cash in a duffel bag, and the grey Ford, modified for 'leaving places quickly, but silently', in the garage. Over the next few days, as glimpses of his past emerge, Karl strikes up a friendship with his new neighbour, ten-year-old Henri. But Henri's dad is a small-time drug dealer fresh from the city, and his mother weak at protecting them against the violence of his father. All is not as it seems, however, as the real connection between Henri and Karl is revealed in Johan Vlok Louw's poignant and potent new novel.

Ideal for: Feature; Series

Similar to: BREAKING BAD; Quentin Tarantino; THE SIXTH SENSE

THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER

LITERARY FICTION
CRAIG HIGGINSON



Last summer, Daniel learnt the names of all the butterflies.'

Writer Daniel Hawthorne is packing up his mother's house in Johannesburg when he hears about the disappearance of Sam Webster, the beautiful daughter of his friend, the famous historian Bruce Webster. When the body of Sam appears briefly on the banks of the flooded Buffalo River, Daniel decides to visit the Websters' luxury lodge in the heart of Zululand. Under the guise of researching a new novel about his disgraced ancestor, the lepidopterist Lieutenant Charles Hawthorne, who fought in the Battle of iSandlwana, Daniel starts to investigate the reasons for Sam's disappearance. The lines between loyalty and betrayal, love and hate, cowardice and courage, redemption and shame, soon become blurred as Daniel gets closer to the truth. A murder mystery, a multi-layered love story and a robust reassertion of what it is to remain human during the most challenging times.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: DISGRACE; CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY



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THE THING IN THE WIND

HORROR; ENVIRONMENTAL HORROR
BILL MULLEN



A search party stumbles upon an unspeakable horror that threatens both their lives and sanity.

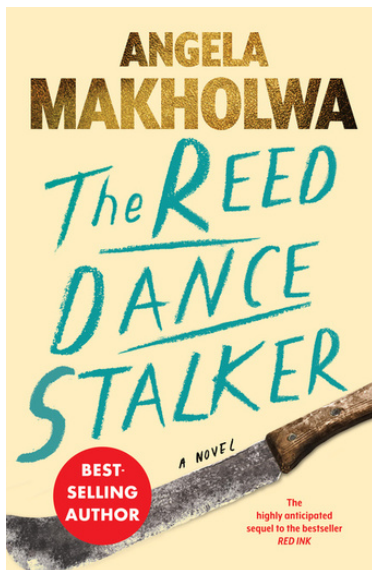
In the heart of the Canadian wilderness, a harrowing tale of survival and psychological horror unfolds in this gripping novel. Amidst the vast, unforgiving landscape, a woman's world is shattered by the mysterious disappearance of her mother in the remote reaches of northern Saskatchewan. Along with her father and a small, determined search party, she embarks on a desperate quest for answers, only to encounter an unspeakable terror lurking in the shadows of the ancient forests. As the group navigates the treacherous wilderness, their journey becomes a chilling fight for survival against not only the harsh elements but also a malevolent force that defies explanation. Haunted by eerie premonitions and the feeling of being stalked by an unseen entity, they begin to realize that they are facing a horror far beyond their wildest imaginations.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: TRUE DETECTIVE (SEASON 4); THE RITUAL; THE RUINS; ANTLERS

THE REED DANCE STALKER

COMMERCIAL THRILLER
ANGELA MAKHOLWA



A monster from her past is dead; an online stalker has taken his place.

For journalist and PR maven Lucy Khambule, the alarming news that her nemesis might once more be on the loose after he escaped from jail has proved to be false. Charred remains in a prison pipe-shaft, along with a suicide note, are confirmation that convicted serial killer Dingiswayo is dead. Once Detective Justice Morapedi brings her a copy of the note to compare with the letters the killer wrote to her, Lucy tries to put her unease aside. A year on, Lucy is flying high in her life and career. But who is the person stalking her on Facebook? And what should be made of the gruesome 'copycat' murders of two young women at the Reed Dance in the neighboring kingdom of Swaziland? Is this the work of an ex-convict on a deadly mission or are there other dangers lurking?

When events take an unexpected and terrifying turn, Lucy finds herself completely alone and in the fight of her life. The highly anticipated sequel to Makholwa's debut novel, RED INK.

Ideal for: Series; Feature

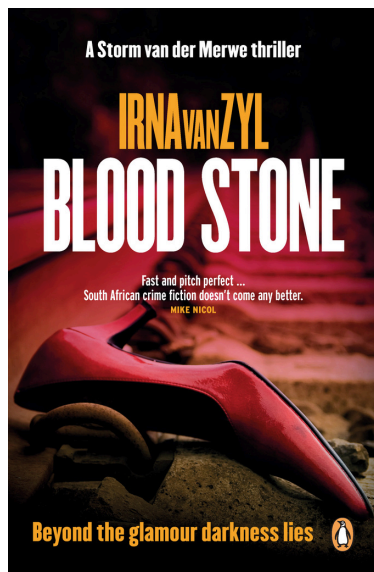
Similar to: RED INK; MARE OF EASTTOWN; HAPPY VALLEY



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BLOOD STONE

POLICE PROCEDURAL
IRNA VAN ZYL



Fashion and blood diamonds in a Storm van der Merwe police procedural.

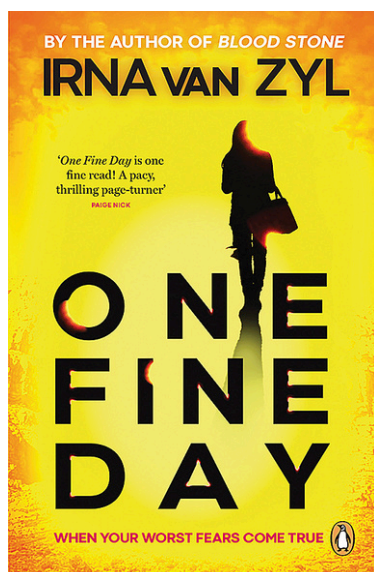
All hell breaks loose when Detective Storm van der Merwe's mom is pushed under a train at Paddington Station. Storm must rush to London, even though she's in the middle of a murder investigation: leading South African fashion designer Beebee Bukelwa Babu was found dead in a luxury Hermanus hotel. Drumming up a team to investigate Beebee's death is proving difficult in a town crippled by protest action and in the grip of a menacing charismatic prophet firing up crowds to hysteria. Storm soon realises that her mom was a deliberate target. And she is one too. Meanwhile Storm's former colleague, the bumbling Andreas Moerdyk, now a PI, is doing his best to locate a missing and very valuable red diamond. From the murky streets of London to the diamond bourse in Antwerp, from secluded Port Nolloth to Storm's beloved Hermanus, Irna van Zyl's third crime novel unfolds at a heart-stopping pace.

Ideal for: Returnable Series

Similar to: ?

ONE FINE DAY

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER
IRNA VAN ZYL



What happens when your partner does not return home from work?

When Louw Roodt vanishes after a work function, Kristien Liebenberg's worst fear comes true: her lover isn't coming home. Has Louw been in an accident? Is she having an affair? Has she been hijacked, assaulted, or worse, left for dead in the bushes and sand dunes of the Cape Flats? Or has it got something to do with their argument that morning? Then news breaks of a murdered man found in a Cape hotel – the same hotel Louw was last seen in, on the same night. And it's the very man who was the speaker at her work function. Was Louw involved in the murder? Is she on the run? That's what the police say. Or is there a connection to her mother's hijacking 21 years ago, an event which left Louw psychologically scarred? Amid all these questions and a rising sense of dread, Kristien knows Louw is in trouble, and she needs her help.

Ideal for: Feature; Miniseries

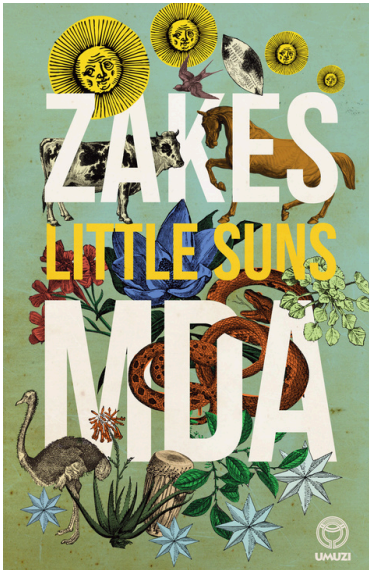
Similar to: ?



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LITTLE SUNS

PERIOD DRAMA
ZAKES MDA



Two lovers separated by a true historical event in rural South Africa.

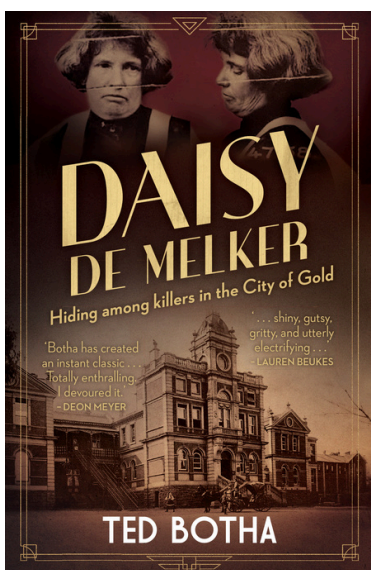
WINNER OF THE SUNDAY TIMES FICTION PRIZE. 'There are many suns,' he said. 'Each day has its own. Some are small, some are big. I'm named after the small ones.' It is 1903. A lame and frail Malangana – 'Little Suns' – searches for his beloved Mthwakazi after many lonely years spent in Lesotho. Mthwakazi was the young woman he had fallen in love with twenty years earlier, before the assassination of Hamilton Hope ripped the two of them apart. Intertwined with Malangana's story, is the account of Hope – a colonial magistrate who, in the late nineteenth century, was undermining the local kingdoms of the eastern Cape in order to bring them under the control of the British. It was he who wanted to coerce Malangana's king and his people, the amaMpondomise, into joining his battle – a scheme Malangana's conscience could not allow. Zakes Mda's LITTLE SUNS weaves the true events surrounding the death of Magistrate Hope into a touching story of love and perseverance that can transcend exile and strife.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, THIS IS A RESURRECTION

DAISY DE MELKER

PERIOD TRUE CRIME
TED BOTHA



Tagline

Were these accounts imagined or real? Real enough to the eyewitnesses. Traumatized and adrift, the journalist later wrote up his story in reportage style when a childhood friend invited him to recuperate on her farm. He believed he had narrowly escaped the disappearance of an entire region – a place nobody has ever heard of – and its people, including the love of his life.

Ideal for: Limited series; Feature

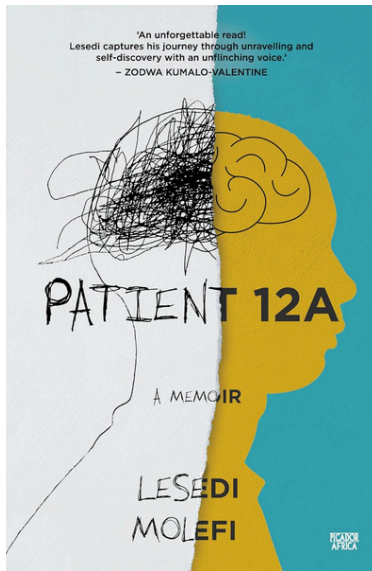
Similar to: RATCHED



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PATIENT 12A

MEMOIR; MENTAL HEALTH
LESEDI MOLEFI



Tagline

So here I am, at a psychiatric hospital, looking for myself in a building I've never been to before. A few nights ago, I was ready to rid myself of myself. I still am, only, in a different way ...

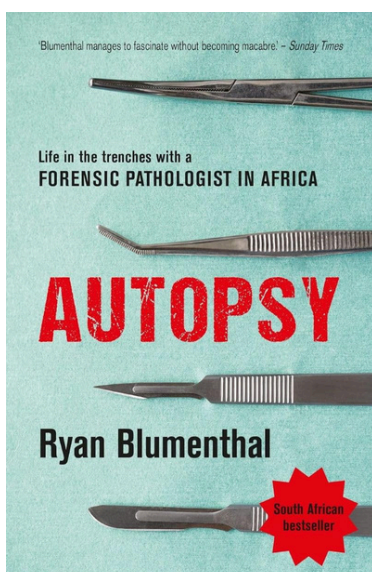
Patient 12A is Lesedi Molefi's absorbing memoir, reflecting on his time spent in a psychiatric clinic in 2016. With vulnerability and candour, Lesedi reflects on the moments, large and small, that led him there. It is at once a personal history, an observation of how childhood experiences can have a profound effect on the adults we become, and a commentary on how mental illness remains a difficult conversation in black families. More than anything, in Patient 12A, Lesedi allows himself to filter out the noise in his head to find the truth, however uncomfortable that may be.

Ideal for: Limited Series; Feature

Similar to: ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST; IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY

AUTOPSY

MEDICAL; FORENSIC
RYAN BLUMENTHAL



As a medical detective of the modern world, forensic pathologist Ryan Blumenthal's chief goal is to bring perpetrators to justice.

Blumenthal has performed thousands of autopsies, which have helped bring numerous criminals to book. In Autopsy he covers the hard lessons learnt as a rookie pathologist, as well as some of the most unusual cases he's encountered. During his career, for example, he has dealt with high-profile deaths, mass disasters, death by lightning and people killed by African wildlife. Blumenthal takes the reader behind the scenes at the mortuary, describing a typical autopsy and the instruments of the trade. He also shares a few trade secrets, like how to establish when a suicide is more likely to be a homicide. Even though they cannot speak, the dead have a lot to say – and Blumenthal is there to listen.

Ideal for: Returnable Series (Drama); Documentary

Similar to: BONES



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SOMNIUM

SURVIVAL HORROR; PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

DEIRDRE SWINDEN



Ever had a dream where you thought you were going to die?

Homnium Corporation's dream advertising technology has a glitch – one that altered the neurons in the brains of thousands, causing their bodies to react to nightmares as if they were real. Triggered by snippets of Somnium tech, Gillian uses her skills as a lucid dreamer to fight the monsters invading her sleep. But as the nightmares increase in frequency and strength, she's grown tired of living in fear and lingers on the brink of suicide. When an accident traps her in the dream reality, she is forced to rely on Somnium MCL Nathan Keller, a nightmare warrior who can jump into her dreams, and Operator Dex Cooper to navigate the horrors of her mind long enough to stay alive. But tonight, Gillian's worst fear will rise from the depths of her memory – and she must find a way to survive before terror destroys her body and unleashes a horror much more dangerous from her mind.

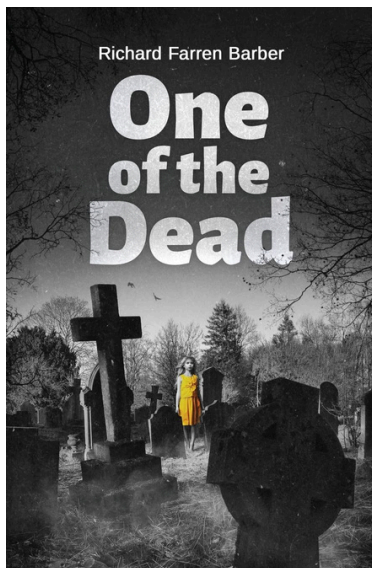
Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: BLADE RUNNER; DREAMSCAPE; THE MATRIX

ONE OF THE DEAD

APOCALYPTIC HORROR; ZOMBIE HORROR

RICHARD FARREN BARBER



Terror doesn't stumble and moan—it walks among us silently.

Nick, burdened with the rare ability to see these dead predators for what they truly are, faces a nightmare when his girlfriend, Abby, becomes ensnared by their sinister intent. These are not your typical undead. They blend in, their appearances mirroring the forgotten faces of society, making their predatory nature all the more chilling. A touch is all it takes for them to latch onto their prey, draining life in a way that leaves the body walking but the spirit doomed. As Abby becomes the focus of such a being's obsession, Nick is drawn into a desperate struggle not just for her life, but for her very soul. Their fight for survival takes them from the deceptive safety of city streets to the foreboding quiet of a cemetery, where the boundary between the living and those claimed by the shadowy grasp of the dead becomes perilously thin. It's a story of love tested by unfathomable forces, of a battle against an enemy that never rests, never forgives, and never ceases its pursuit until you become one of its own.

Ideal for: Feature

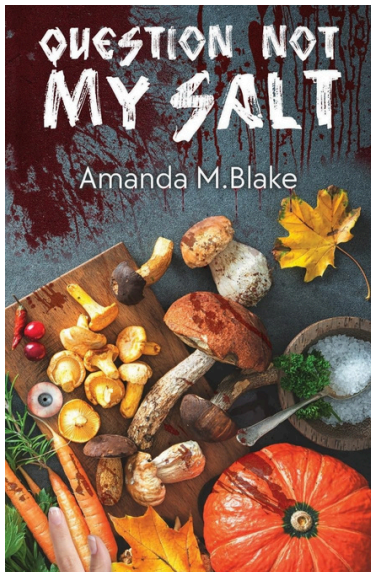
Similar to: THE RETURNED; SANTA CLARITA DIET



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QUESTION NOT MY SALT

CULINARY HORROR
AMANDA M. BLAKE



Come for Thanksgiving. Stay for the Feast.

Sierra's first American Thanksgiving promises to be unforgettable when her college roommate, Zoe, invites her to the Samuels family feast. But as the ten-hour banquet unfolds, it becomes clear this is no ordinary holiday gathering. With everyone bound by a chilling rule—eat and drink exactly as served, and enjoy it, or face dire consequences—the traditional celebration quickly takes a dark and macabre turn. Will Sierra survive the Samuels' sinister hospitality or become part of a feast far more horrifying than she could have ever imagined.

Ideal for: Feature

Similar to: THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE; THE MENU;
HANNIBAL

IN THOSE FADING STARS

HORROR
ANDREW NAJBERG



A collection of short fiction at the intersection of space, ghosts, and the just plain weird.

A father whose son fades away every day unless he passes the boy a bit of his own life. Three robots holding a séance. A man who suffers the effects of an intergalactic portal opening in his stomach. These stories exist at the intersection of science fiction, horror, and magic and explore both our humanity in the face of the weird as well as our most ordinary and fundamental relationships. Whether attempting to voyage to a distant star on a generational craft whose destination is so far no living passengers will reach it or whether a daughter's new friend is teaching her to break the trendiest of dimensional boundaries, the stories press humanity against the macro and the micro scales of the universe – but everyone of them shines a light on a little piece of our souls at the core.

Ideal for: Miniseries

Similar to: LOVE, DEATH + ROBOTS



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THE MASTER OF RODS AND STRINGS

SUPERNATURAL HORROR
JASON MARC HARRIS



When Elias learns that his sorcerous uncle is using puppets to torture his sister, he vows to learn the secrets of occult puppetry to achieve vengeance.

Elias, tormented by visions of his sister's suffering and jealous of the adulation her puppetry skills command, is drawn into the shadowy world of occult puppetry. Under the tutelage of the enigmatic Uncle Pavan, Elias seeks to master this arcane craft, but the price of knowledge is steep, and the path to vengeance is fraught with unspeakable horrors. Set against the rich backdrop of France, Harris's novella is a masterclass in suspense and dark fantasy. Critics hail it as a "masterful work" that brings to life a world where the art of puppetry descends into magical damnation. With captivating and expert prose, this story pulls readers through a fever dream of loyalty, artistic passion, and the ultimate cost of revenge. At its core, MASTER OF RODS AND STRINGS is a classic revenge story, a testament to the mastery of a craft, and a cautionary tale of ambition's potential to corrupt the noblest of intentions.

Ideal for: Feature; Miniseries

Similar to: THE CROW MEETS THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

HARD DECEPTION

THRILLER
RAND LEEB-DU TOIT



Caught between her past and a dangerous mission, Knight's rescue of a woman and child puts her on a collision course with the Mafia—and her own demons.

In Hard Deception, former US Special Forces officer Knight has spent months drifting aimlessly across the United States on her Ducati, haunted by her past and driven by a relentless moral compass that demands she right wrongs against women. On her way to visit her estranged father, Knight pulls a woman and her son from a crashed truck, unknowingly setting off a chain of events that will force her into a dangerous undercover mission. Arrested and coerced by Interpol, Knight is thrust into the world of a ruthless Mafia boss—the husband of the woman she saved—and must navigate a deadly web of lies, betrayal, and violence to survive. Knight is a formidable figure: over six feet tall with olive skin, long hair, and a piercing gaze that belies her battle-hardened past. Despite her striking appearance, Knight's focus remains on survival, redemption, and finding closure. A true free agent, she travels light, with no ties or commitments beyond her beloved bike, a few essentials, and a drive to see justice done. In the vein of Stieg Larsson's Millennium series and Lee Child's Reacher, Hard Deception weaves a complex portrait of a woman whose sense of justice frequently thrusts her into peril. Gritty, fast-paced, and deeply personal, Hard Deception is a thrilling exploration of resilience, redemption, and the cost of doing what's right.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

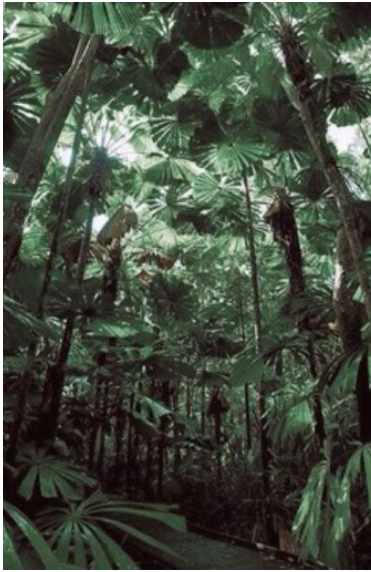
Similar to: JACK REACHER; Stieg Larsson's MILLENNIUM Series



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THE FERAL

YA; GRAPHIC NOVEL
GREG GRABIANSKI



The last wild territory, off-limits, populated by discarded genetic experiments.

In the future, an airship transporting genetically engineered foetuses accidentally loses a foetal pod over The Feral: the last wild territory in the country. The Feral is off-limits to human habitation, and populated by The Corporation's discarded genetic experiments. Hunters from an illegal anarchist outlaw village in The Feral discover the pod, and take it back to their village, finding the baby inside alive. They name the baby Johnny, and as he grows up, his talent for killing is apparent, already killing animals and hostile humans from a young age. He is made protector of the village, and given the name Johnny Lethal. On his 18th birthday, Johnny is kidnapped as part of the Migration – where all new 18-year-olds are taken willingly from their families to begin a lifetime of unpaid work for the Corporation in assigned professions. Thrown into a strange and confusing world, Johnny reacts with anger, but as his combat skills are discovered to be completely unmatched, he has to face the hard truth he's always suspected: he is a product of this horrible place.

Ideal for: Limited Series

Similar to: ENDER'S GAME; DIVERGENT

WULFIE

YOUNG CHILDREN
LJ SEDGWICK



Wulfie is just like a puppy – fluffy and adorable. But unlike a puppy, he talks. And he's purple.

Wulfie is just like a puppy – fluffy and adorable. But unlike a puppy, he talks. And he's purple. His favourite food is smelly socks. He can be small as a snail or big as a bear. He's sweet and loyal and he's Libby's new best friend. Libby longs to star in the school play, and with Wulfie's help she just might get a chance to outshine her big bad brother, Rex. A sweet and funny series about a little girl and her wolfish best friend. With a best friend like Wulfie, anything can happen! Best-selling series with 5 books in the series so far.

Ideal for: 6 to 11 Animated Series

Similar to: TURNING RED; CHARLIE AND LOLA



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SOPHIE THE GIANT SLAYER

FANTASY
KAY CARMICHAEL



An 11-year-old girl; her grandpa's sword; a gigantic destiny.

In this series of graphic novels, Sophie, an eleven-year-old girl in a post-giant world inherits her grandfather Jack's magical sword and is launched out beyond their island city into a world of treacherous adults and ambitious gods. Driven by the voice inside the sword, she and her companions hunt down the secret of where the giants came from and her own terrible destiny. Sophie finds herself adopted into a group of tree-dwelling refugees, led by a mysterious woman called Rosemara. They capture her and ask her to kill a giant called Ashkeloth, who they claim is a threat. But is everything as it seems? Who exactly is Rosemara? Soon, Sophie finds she also has to stand up for her pursuers and decide whom she can and can't trust when the giant comes knocking.

Ideal for: Feature; Returnable Series

Similar to: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON; PETE'S DRAGON;
THE IRON GIANT

PIA

CONTEMPORARY FOUR QUADRANT
LINDSAY JANE SEDGWICK



Action-packed, heartwarming tale about the true meaning of family, friendship, and the power of believing in oneself.

Nine-year-old Pia Berry possesses an extraordinary gift, when she describes her drawings they come to life. Her creations literally jump off the page and wreak havoc on the world around her. Pia's big sister Neeta is increasingly exasperated by Pia's antics and when Pia's creations thrust them into the path of the school bully, Neeta explodes. In her outburst Neeta reveals that Pia is adopted. Pia's world is turned upside down. Broken-hearted and thinking her family would be better off without her, Pia sets off on a daring and dangerous quest to locate her birth mother. Armed only with an old photo of a woman she resembles, and her notebook, Pia comes across two unexpected allies—Winston, a talking mouse, and an autistic boy called Graham. Little does Pia know, but her journey has attracted the attention of sinister Uncle Barry, a crooked policeman who sees her as a threat to his goal of being a world-class criminal Mastermind.

Ideal for: Limited series; Returnable Series; Feature

Similar to: HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON; MATHILDA



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A VIKING LEGEND: THE VIOLACEOUS AMETHYST

FOUR QUADRANT; COMEDY ACTION ADVENTURE

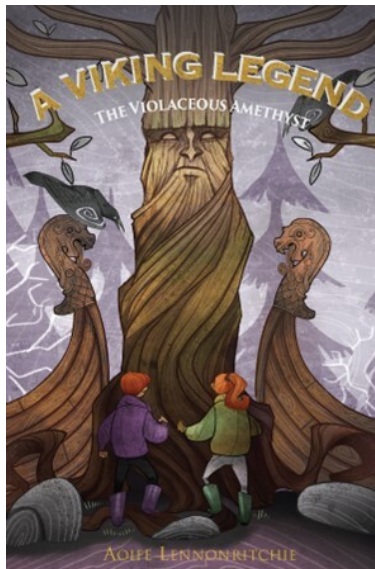
AOIFE LENNON-RITCHIE

A thrilling, funny Viking adventure.

This winter, siblings Ruairi and Dani Miller visit their ancestral homeland: the legendary Viking island of Yondersaay. Even with Granny Miller's storytelling to pass the time, the pair manage to find trouble. In less than twenty-four hours of their arrival, Ruairi is mistaken for the lost Boy King of Denmark, kidnapped by Vikings, and scheduled to be sacrificed at sundown. Granny is not pleased. But when everyone except them goes Viking, the three turn to Granny's epic tales of the legends of Yondersaay, The Gifts of Odin, and King Dudo the Mightily Impressive for clues. But not all stories end happily, and Ruairi, Dani, and Granny will have to write their own happy ending. Intergenerational family adventure featuring stories within stories. The first in a series of seven books, each one taking place a year and a day after the last. Published internationally. Set on a snowy island in the north Atlantic – not so easily transposable setting.

Ideal for: Four quadrant live-action series of Features; long-running Series

Similar to: THE PRINCESS BRIDE with Vikings



PIGEON HOLED

YOUNG CHILDREN

NIKKI SLADE ROBINSON

No pigeon holes for Little Pigeon!

Big Pigeon has an Important job to do, organising all the pigeons into their correct places. But Little Pigeon is having none of it and eventually sets all the pigeons free – to be themselves and mix happily together.

Ideal for: Preschool Series

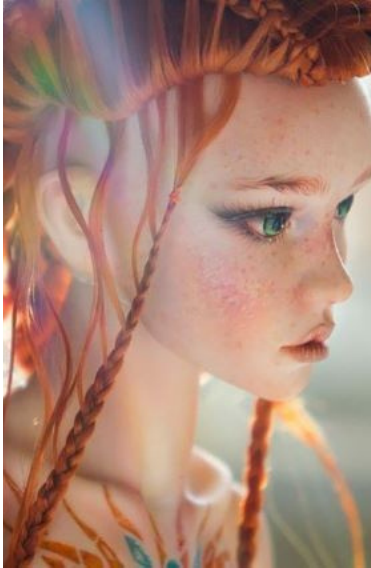
Similar to: HAPPY FEET; CHICKEN RUN



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PETAL PETUNIA: PIXIE PRIVATE EYE

COMEDY ADVENTURE
MARC DEY



Pixie to the rescue!

When mystery casts a shadow on Sunshine City, one quick-witted pixie is always on the case proving that tough comes in small, pink, festively tropical packages. She might spend most days hanging out at Frank's Spiced Pineapple Cafe, and the most dangerous thing she's ever caught was the 10-foot wave at Star Dust Beach, but when a case lands, this wise-cracking private-eye is ready for anything. Petal is a cheery force of justice, armed with a berry slingshot, a semi-functional magic coat and a wit sharper than a unicorn's horn.

Ideal for: Series of Animated Features; Long-running series; Series of half-hour specials

Similar to: PIL'S ADVENTURES; BRATZ; MIRA, ROYAL DETECTIVE

KARIBA

ADVENTURE
DANIEL CLARKE; JAMES CLARKE; DANIEL SNADDON



Adventures for a boy and girl on one of Africa's giant rivers.

KARIBA follows Siku and Amadeo, one the daughter of the river spirit Nyami Nyami, the other the son of the engineer in charge of the construction of a massive dam in the river Kariba. Unaware of who her father is, Siku must journey upriver to discover the answers to the mystery of her powers, and the strange events occurring in the river and its surrounding forests. A growing respect and friendship develops between Siku and Amadeo as they are thrown together on an adventure where they are pursued by river pirates and must overcome obstacles both real and magical. From the acclaimed graphic novel.

Ideal for: Animated Feature; Animated Series

Similar to: In the tradition of Miyazaki, Moebius, Craig Thompson, Jeff Smith and Alex Alice



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BEARENT

AGED 6 TO 11
GREG GRABIANSKI



Because a bearent is lots more fun than a parent.

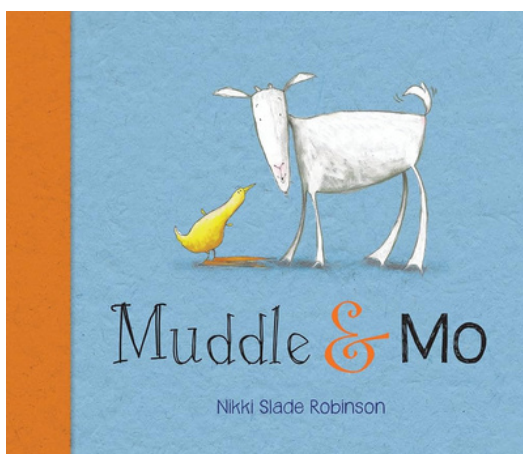
In this irreverent, wild and unpredictable illustrated humour book series, ten-year-old Iggy doesn't have a father, so he creates one by shaving a talking bear named Ziggy and dressing him in human clothes. Now Iggy is in control of his own 'adult'! Together with their friend Mika, they help others by going to outrageous lengths to infiltrate the hallowed, mysterious world of grown-ups. Electric clippers. A dress shirt. Sandals. A tie. Some slacks. A wig. That's all Iggy needed to make his own 'dad'. Oh, and a talking bear named Ziggy. Iggy grew up with Ziggy, who came out of the woods every day to play. They're both ten years old now. But at age ten, a bear is seven feet tall, 400 pounds and fully mature (not that there's anything mature about Ziggy!) When his fur is shaved off and he's dressed up in human clothes, Ziggy passes for a man. An odd-looking man, but a man. With his mom always working, Iggy has endless quality time with Ziggy. Having his own adult gives Iggy incredible power: the ultimate hack to infiltrating the uncharted, mysterious world of grown-ups. Together, Iggy and Ziggy use that power to right wrongs, help the helpless and do incredibly stupid, irresponsible things together.

Ideal for: Animated Series; Pre-school Bridge 6 to 11

Similar to: SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS; PHINEAS AND FERB;
BEN 10

MUDDLE & MO

PRE-SCHOOL
NIKKI SLADE ROBINSON



An adorable duckling and his friend Mo the goat.

Muddle is a loveable, slightly confused yet enthusiastic little duckling who asks lots and lots of questions. Mo is a long-suffering, not very adventurous white goat who has lots of patience. They are best friends, but Muddle is rather confused about what type of animals they both are. Fortunately, during the course of their walk together Mo helps Muddle get his duck identity sorted out.

Ideal for: Pre-school Series

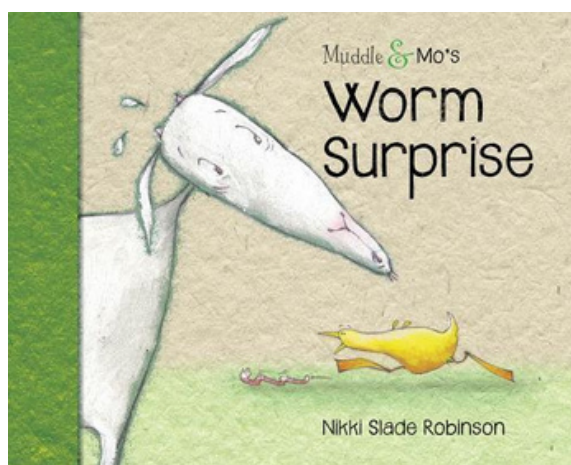
Similar to: KIPPER



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MUDDLE & MO: WORM SURPRISE

PRE-SCHOOL
NIKKI SLADE ROBINSON



Being a friend is being considerate.

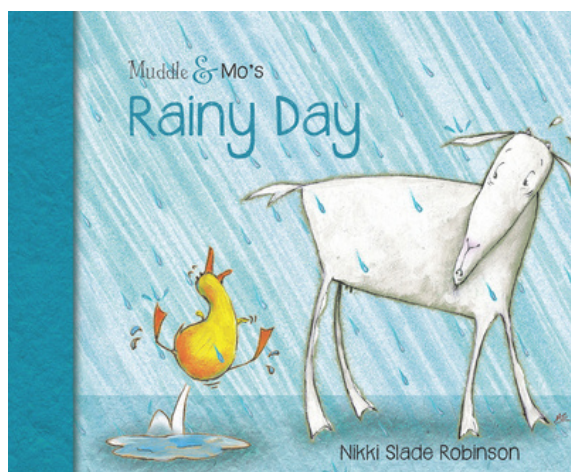
Muddle is a loveable, slightly confused yet enthusiastic little duckling. His best friend Mo is a long-suffering, not very adventurous white goat who has lots of patience. In this sequel to MUDDLE & MO, Muddle is preparing a surprise picnic for Mo. Mo doesn't like worms, so will he like what's in the basket?

Ideal for: Pre-school Series

Similar to: KIPPER

MUDDLE & MO: RAINY DAY

PRE-SCHOOL
NIKKI SLADE ROBINSON



Muddle gets Mo to try something new.

Another delightful tale of the unlikely best friends Muddle and Mo. Big raindrops are falling. Muddle likes the rain but Mo is a goat and goats do NOT like the rainy days. Will a special Muddle-cuddle save the day and get Mo to try something different?

Ideal for: Pre-school Series

Similar to: KIPPER



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MONKEY IS GRUMPY

PRESCHOOL/BRIDGE
ASHLEIGH HEYNS



Monkey is grumpy but Monkey knows what to do.

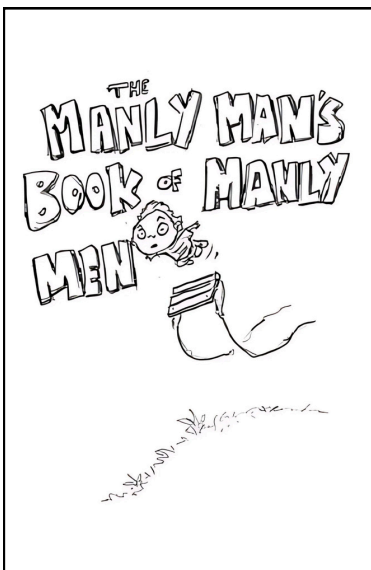
Monkey is grumpy but Monkey knows just what to do. Monkey must meditate. But before Monkey can do this, Monkey must find the right place that is quiet and has space to meditate. Seems easy enough doesn't it? But this story wouldn't exist if that were the case. Through the voice of Monkey comes a narrative that takes its readers through the jungle on Monkeys search for the perfect place to meditate and put an end to his terrible mood, a quest that leads Monkey to find peace within himself.

Ideal for: Preschool Series

Similar to: CURIOUS GEORGE

MANLY MEN

PRESCHOOL/BRIDGE
JULIA SMUTS LOUW & DANIEL SNADDON



Tagline

When a little boy falls and bashes his head, his older brother tells him to stop crying and 'be a man'. The little boy asks his brother what exactly a 'manly man' is, and the older boy finds he doesn't really know. They hurry to their dad's office to ask his advice. Dad believes being a man is about working to provide for one's family. But it turns out Dad's answer is also a little lacking... surely Mom ALSO provides for the family? Does that make HER a man? And what about their Grandpa, who has retired? Now with dad in tow, the boys go on to ask others in their neighborhood, and beyond. Wherever they go, their question turns up deep-seated insecurities. It seems no-one is able to give them a simple answer. What exactly IS a manly man? With a rollicking refrain and a tongue-in-cheek plot in the vein of The Emperor's New Clothes, The Manly Book of Manly Men pokes holes in some age-old assumptions and offers a genuinely affirming answer that parents and kids alike can take to heart.

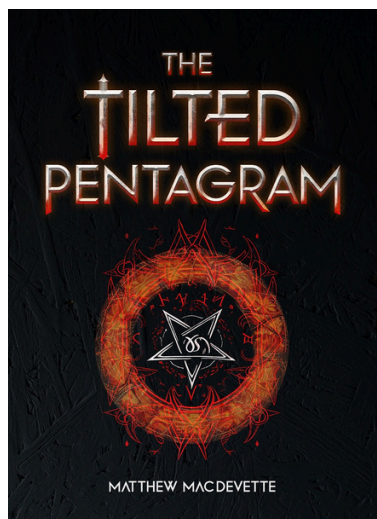
Ideal for: Preschool Series



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THE TILTED PENTAGRAM

ADVENTURE; ALTERNATIVE HISTORY
MATTHEW MACDEVETTE



In a world where Europe is ruled by the Church, a young woman hunted for witchcraft must find out the origin of her family's dark powers.

When second year Dresden University student Nell Blythe is accused of witchcraft in 1942, there is more at issue than a legal battle. For one, she's guilty. Well, not guilty, exactly: she hasn't the faintest idea about spells and has no idea where her abilities come from. But with her dead mother the most infamous witch in the Holy Roman Empire, fighting back can only end at the stake. Nell flees and is taken in by a group of heretics agitating for a second Reformation, but they are not the most dangerous company she has to keep. A powerful stranger with abilities like hers offers her a bargain: pieces of her mother's lost journal in exchange for completing five rituals that will reveal the origin and dark purpose of her powers. Desperate to discover more about the mother she never knew, she agrees. But as the lessons turn violent and her mother's writing grows ever more disturbing, she must choose between keeping her hands free of blood and uncovering the secrets her mother died for.

Ideal for: Limited Series; Returnable Series

Similar to: DIVERGENT; a younger-skewing A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES



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