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CRIME & THRILLER

FALLS THE SHADOW	Mike Nicol	Detective Thriller/Noir
THE FIRING LINE	Mike Nicol	Detective Thriller/Noir
HARD DECEPTION	Rand Leeb-du Toit	Thriller
NOW YOU SUFFER	Gareth Crocker	Commercial Detective Thriller
A SHORT LIFE	Nicky Greenwall	Psychological Thriller / Domestic Suspense
ANGRY WATER	Irna van Zyl	Thriller / Police Procedural
WHISPER OF DEATH	David Lambkin	Action Adventure / Espionage
DEADLY BENEFITS	Kurt Ellis	Crime / Heist
THE REED DANCE STALKER	Angela Makholwa	Commercial Thriller
THE FINISH LINE	Gail Schimmel	Domestic Suspense
LITTLE SECRETS	Gail Schimmel	Domestic Suspense

COMMERCIAL FICTION

THE THING WITH ZOLA	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
I DO ... DON'T I?	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
HELL RUN TOBRUK	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Adventure

LITERARY FICTION

M(OTHER)	Antjie Krog	Autofiction
THE EQUALITY OF SHADOWS	Charl-Pierre Naudé	Literary Fiction
THE NICOTINE GOSPEL	Sven Axelrad	Coming-Of-Age
BURIED TREASURE	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism / Allegory / Ghost Story
GOD'S POCKET	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism
THE IMMORTALITES	Claire Robertson	Literary Historical Fiction

LITERARY FICTION

ORPHAN DATA	David Cornwell	Dystopian Science Fiction Novella
HELL OF A COUNTRY	David Cornwell	Literary Historical Fiction / Crime
THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE	Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu	Gothic / Magical Realism
THE EXOTIC	Alastair Bruce	Dystopian Fiction
THE WILDEST BEAUTY	Michiel Heyns	Literary Historical Fiction
EACH MORTAL THING	Michiel Heyns	Literary Fiction
THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL	Imran Garda	Science Fiction
DECIMA	Eben Venter	Literary Autofiction / Environmental Fiction
THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER	Craig Higginson	Literary Historical Fiction
THE SECOND VERSE	Onke Mazibuko	Crossover African Fiction
MIRAGE	David Viviers	Literary Victorian Mystery
LACUNA	Fiona Snyckers	Upmarket Fiction
JUNX	Tshidiso Moletsane	Gritty Urban / Instant Classic / Cult Favourite

POETRY

YOU GET BETTER WITH LOVE	Duduzile Noleen Ngwenya	Inspirational Poetry
WEEPING BECOMES A RIVER	Siphokazi Jonas	Commercial Poetry

NON - FICTION

KILLER STORIES	Brin Hodgskiss and Nicole Engelbrecht	Narrative Non-fiction / True Crime
BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER	Heidi Chapman	Narrative Non-fiction / Memoir
PATIENT 12A	Lesedi Molefi	Memoir / Mental Health
SHOW ME THE PLACE	Hedley Twidle	Narrative Non-fiction / Literary Essays

NON-FICTION

RUN. RISK. REWARD.	Ryan Sandes with Steve Smith	Narrative Non-fiction / Sports / Memoir
THE OTHER SIDE	Sarah Bullen	Narrative Non-fiction / Esoterica
THE ART OF WAR AND PEACE	David Kilcullen; Greg Mills	Military History / Current Affairs
DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH & POWERFUL	James-Brent Styan	Narrative Non-fiction / History & Politics / Business
BOUNCE	Naomi Holdt	Parenting / Psychology / Lifestyle /Wellness
THRIVE	Richard Sutton	Self Help / Business / Mental Health
HOW TO RAISE A MAN	Megan De Beyer	Parenting
THE GUERRILLA AND THE JOURNALIST	Fred Bridgland	Biography / History
THE END OF EDEN	Adam Welz	Popular Science
PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS	Justin Fox	Narrative Non-fiction
RASSIE	Rassie Erasmus; David O'Sullivan	Autobiography / Sport
DAISY DE MELKER	Ted Botha	True Crime / History

CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS

ME & MOO	Julia Smuts Louw	Picture Book
MANLY MEN	Daniel Snaddon and Julia Smuts Louw	Picture Book
MONKEY IS MOODY	Ashleigh Heyns	Picture Book
PIA	Lindsay Jane Sedgwick	Early Middle Grade Fiction
ZWELA JOURNAL	Kat Cameron; Mische Hamilton	Non-fiction/Gift/Activity
THE FERAL	Greg Grabianski	YA

CHILDREN’S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS

THE TILTED PENTAGRAM	Matthew MacDevette	Fantasy / Alternative History
VENOM WARS	Mike de Seve	Graphic Novel
IN MY HOOD	Ridwan Moshood	Graphic Novel
FUR FORCE 5	Joe Vitale and Susan Kim and Mike de Seve	Illustrated Reader
A BOY AND HIS DUDE	Mike de Seve and Russell Marcus	Illustrated Reader
WINNIE-THE-POOH	Mike de Seve	Illustrated Reader
THE WATER BEAR	Clea Mallinson	Picture Book
TONKO AND THE SIZA MASK	Terence Maluleke	Illustrated Middle Grade / Graphic Novel
AFRONOUGHTS	Tafadzwa Hove; Lesego Vorster	Illustrated Comedy Sci-fi Adventure
VETPLANT FAIRIES	Antjie Krog; Ingrid de Kok; Fiona Moodie	Non-Fiction Picture Book

HORROR

POE & I	Matthew Mercier	Gothic Horror / Psychological Thriller
SOMNIUM	Deirdre Swinden	Dream Horror / Psychological Thriller
THE THING IN THE WIND	Bill Mullen	Environmental Horror
ONE OF THE DEAD	Richard Farren Barber	Apocalyptic Horror / Zombie Horror
QUESTION NOT MY SALT	Amanda M. Blake	Culinary Horror
IN THOSE FADING STARS	Andrew Najberg	Short Stories
MASTER OF RODS AND STRINGS	Jason Marc Harris	Supernatural Horror
BUNNY	Emma Olsen; Vere Tindale	Psychological Horror

FICTION



FALLS THE SHADOW

The edgy new detective series from master of noir Mike Nicol.

*cover coming soon

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. This 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. The thing is, the money chain goes deep into the police hierarchy, even fingers the political bosses. The order comes from on high: close her down. Kill her, in other words. Zara and her family are targets. With only one way out.

Mike Nicol is the author of twenty-four books. He has written novels, works of non-fiction and poetry. His thrillers are published in the UK and the USA, and have been translated into Afrikaans, Dutch, French, and German. His long list of accolades starts in 1979, with his debut poetry collection receiving the Ingrid Jonker Prize. His Revenge Trilogy featured in the KrimiZeit Top 10 list in Germany, as did OF COPS AND ROBBERS and POWER PLAY, while PAYBACK was shortlisted for the VN Thriller of the Year award in Holland and the Prix SCNF Du Polar 2016 in France. He lives in Cape Town.

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‘Read Mike Nicol now, before everyone else starts telling you how wonderful he is’ – JOHN CONNOLLY

‘Some of the best crime fiction you could read’ — THE SUNDAY TIMES



THE FIRING LINE

Detective Zara Dewane's day job is to head the local Internal Crime Unit that polices the police. She's good at it. Trouble is she's too good. And there're people who want her gone.

There's a clandestine ISIS training camp in a valley hidden deep in the Karoo semi-desert. The instructors are cops and gangsters. From the police generals to the minister of police, there's a coterie in on the deal, enjoying fat commissions from the terrorist organisation. When single mom Captain Zara Dewane of the Internal Crime Unit hears whispers of the camp, she drives into the wastelands to check out what's going on. It's a doomed mission. She's caught. She's assaulted. Left for dead in a burning car in the middle of nowhere. But it's not her time to die. She escapes the flames, and, being the jackal she is, starts to hunt her persecutors. Except someone's ahead of her taking out all those high-ups involved in the ISIS project. Then she learns she's next in the firing line.

Mike Nicol is the author of twenty-four books. He has written novels, works of non-fiction and poetry. His thrillers are published in the UK and the USA, and have been translated into Afrikaans, Dutch, French, and German. His long list of accolades starts in 1979, with his debut poetry collection receiving the Ingrid Jonker Prize. His Revenge Trilogy featured in the KrimiZeit Top 10 list in Germany, as did OF COPS AND ROBBERS and POWER PLAY, while PAYBACK was shortlisted for the VN Thriller of the Year award in Holland and the Prix SCNF Du Polar 2016 in France. He lives in Cape Town.

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‘Superlative talent’ – MAXIM JABUKOWSKI

*cover coming soon



HARD DECEPTION

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.

Rand Leeb-du Toit is a South Africa-born novelist and internationally awarded fine art photographer who lives in Sydney. With a unique perspective shaped by diverse cultural experiences and personal resilience, Rand brings depth and emotion to his writing. A heart transplant survivor, Rand channels his journey of survival and renewal into his art, creating works that resonate with themes of life, transformation, and the human spirit. His novels explore complex characters and rich landscapes, while his photography captures the beauty and fragility of the world around us.

All rights available

*cover coming soon



NOW YOU SUFFER

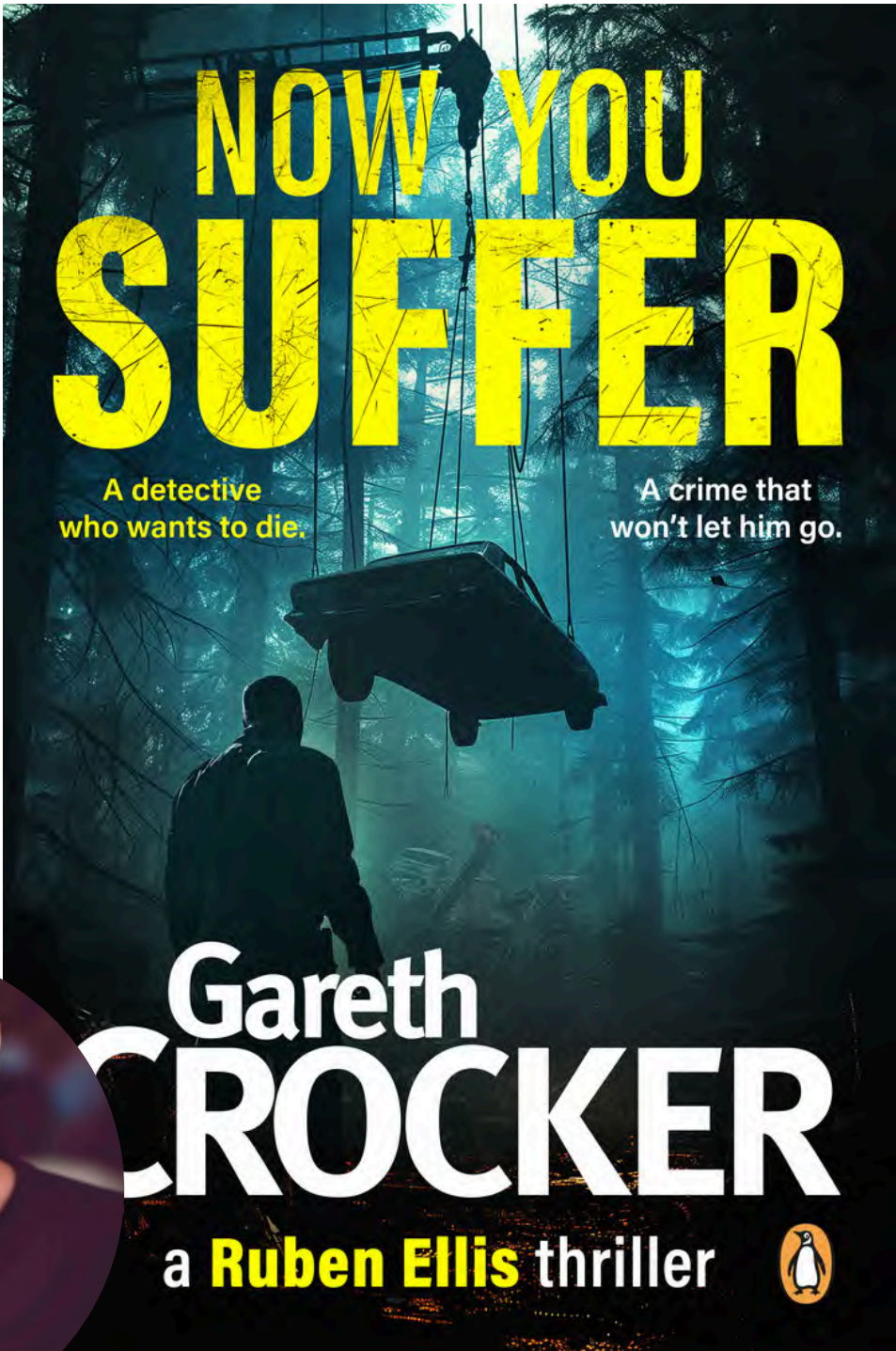
Propulsive, surprising, and very funny, this commercial detective thriller ticks all the boxes.

Detective and former South African Special Forces Brigade Operative Ruben Ellis wants to die. The only reason he hasn't killed himself yet is that first he has to hunt down the man who kidnapped and murdered his daughter, Kayla. Ruben's self-deprecating partner, Zander, and his peculiar though brilliant therapist, Melissa, are very much aware of his death wish and are subtly doing all they can to keep him alive. 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. Added to this is the mysterious case of a third young woman being held captive in a twisted fairytale-style utopia deep underground. 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. Twisty and pacy, this shouldn't be a funny read, and yet the banter between Ellis and his partner and therapist pierce what would otherwise be a wholly dark and chilling narrative. With this magic combination, Crocker weaves together a multi-decade-long twist that ties this propulsive novel into an explosive and satisfying ending. This standalone commercial detective thriller is the first in a series. Book II in the Detective Ruben Ellis Series, NOW YOU BLEED, is coming soon.

Gareth Crocker is the author of seven novels, including bestseller FINDING JACK (St Martin's Press), KING (Penguin Books) and THE LAST ROAD TRIP (Penguin Books). His works have appeared in over 20 volumes of Reader's Digest Select Editions with authors including James Patterson, Lee Child, Nora Roberts, and Jeffrey Archer. Crocker co-owns the film studio Motion Story and is the writer, creator, and director of the Netflix Original series SHADOW; the Netflix film OFFICE INVASION; and the TV series DEAD PLACES (Canal+, Netflix and AMC), and IN YOUR DREAMS (Amazon global and Canal+).

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'Gareth Crocker is that rare writer who disregards many of the conventions of writing. He has such a convincing style that he gets away with it and leaves his fans clamouring for more' – BUSINESS DAY



A SHORT LIFE

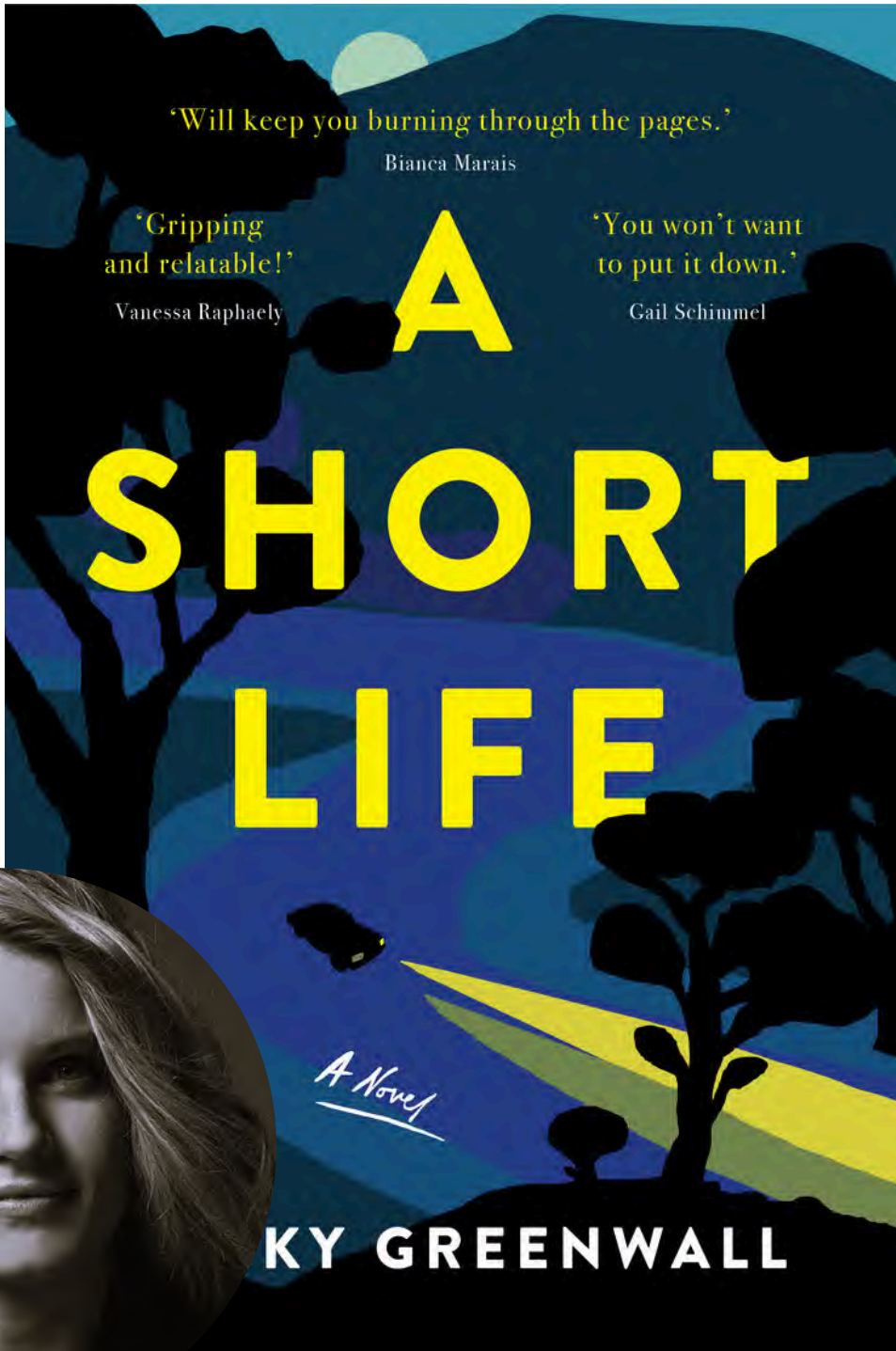
Two seemingly unrelated car accidents. The same night. The same stretch of twisting valley road.

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 and her best friend’s widower. Set in Cape Town, this 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.

Nicky Greenwall is a former broadcaster, entertainment journalist, and television producer. Her multi-award-nominated documentary series THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE – which tracks the lives of a group of foreign fashion models working in Cape Town – has now sold in the UK, Australia, Asia, Europe, Canada, The Middle East, and Africa. As a print journalist Nicky has contributed to ELLE, MARIE CLAIRE, MEN’S HEALTH, GLAMOUR, GOOD TASTE and THE SUNDAY TIMES. A SHORT LIFE is her debut novel. She lives in Cape Town with her husband Robin Fryer, and their two children – Georgie and Riley.

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**‘Razor-sharp and artfully rendered, A SHORT LIFE positively crackles with tension’ –
BIANCA MARAIS, bestselling author of THE WITCHES OF MOONSHYNE MANOR**



ANGRY WATER

When a book fair turns bloody.

Scenic coastal town Hermanus is hosting a five-day writers' festival, calling on Detective Storm van der Merwe to babysit a rowdy crowd of authors and wannabe-authors. When Isa du Bois, the town's local literary star, does not show up for her session, tongues are wagging. Soon after, her body is discovered in a nearby river. Day two of the festival, and a fisherman stumbles upon another woman's body. Both she and Isa have been killed by strangulation: a bicycle chain around the neck; plastic bag over the head. While Storm and her team are struggling to find the link between the two women, yet another is killed. This time: one of Hermanus's many prominent residents. Three days, three women. And Storm van der Merwe's case of a lifetime. ANGRY WATER is the fifth novel of bestseller author Irna van Zyl – nerve wracking and action-packed.

Irna van Zyl is the author of the popular thrillers DEAD IN THE WATER, DEATH CUP, BLOOD STONE, and the psychological thriller ONE FINE DAY. She is an award-winning journalist and was an editor and media entrepreneur. Irna was awarded the Order of Tafelberg for her business achievements. She lives in Hermanus, South Africa.

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‘Fast and pitch perfect’ – MIKE NICOL, on BLOOD STONE

‘One fine read! A pacy, thrilling page-turner’ – PAIGE NICK, on ONE FINE DAY



WHISPER OF DEATH

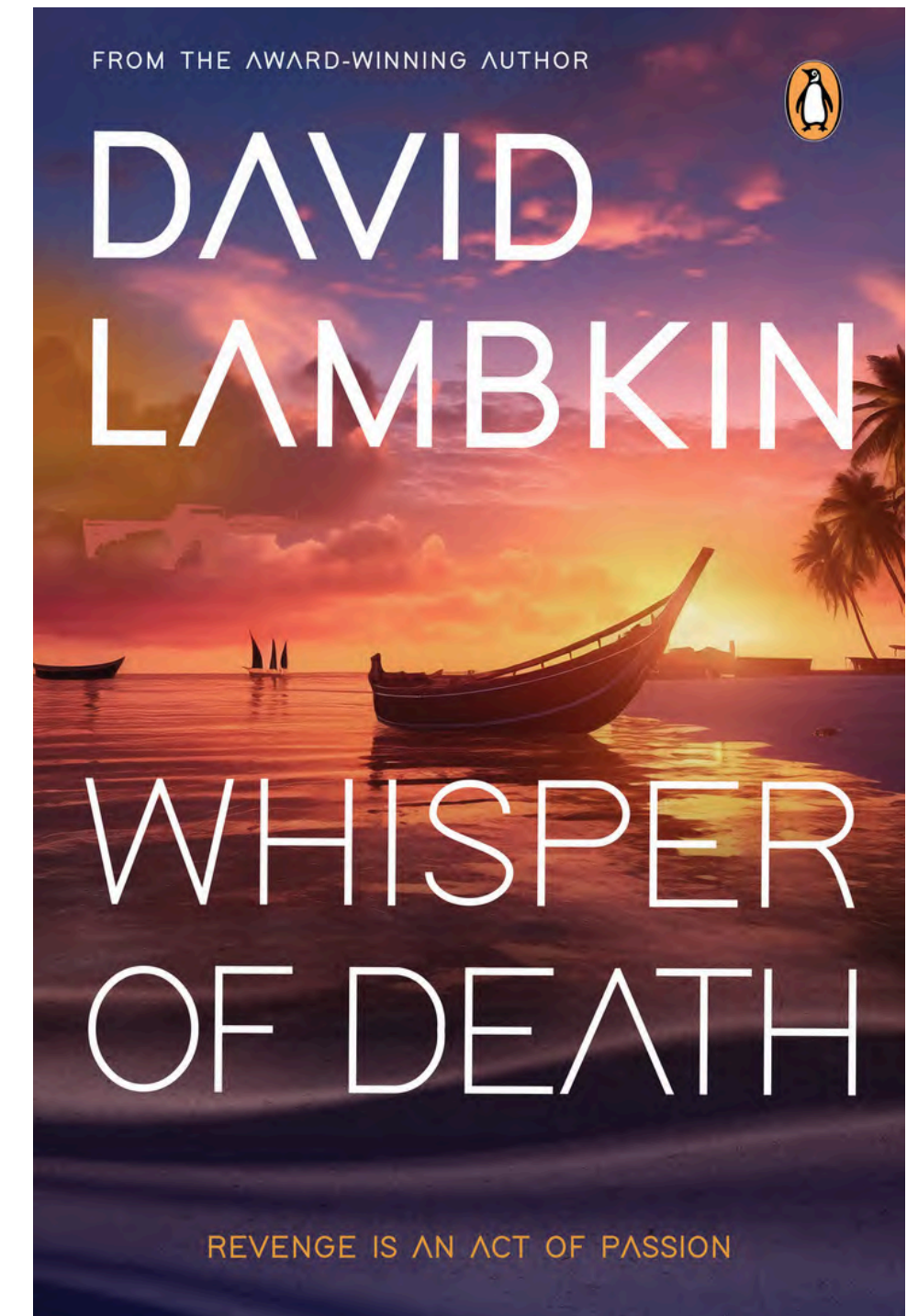
007, African style.

Paul Morgan is a washed-up novelist in Zanzibar, where he's writing an article on dhows for a travel magazine. Here he meets two intriguing characters: the elderly ex-spy Amadeo Sandollar and his charge Angelika, a striking young girl with white-blond hair and tribal incisions on her cheeks, whose lion conservationist parents were murdered by poachers. Paul is hooked by their story and gets entwined into their lives, ultimately acting as a surrogate father to Angelika. The narrative shifts between Sandollar's glamorous, dangerous days as an upper-crust 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 Angelika'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 environmentalism, a weaponized Ebola virus used as a tool by terrorists, and vaccine development. A thread of romance and poignant loss runs throughout. Paul Morgan's former lover died of cancer, and he's been unmoored since then. He's a man looking for love, and, in 007 style, having plenty of sex with powerful, intelligent, bombshell women along the way. A rollicking African adventure and the perfect escapism.

David Lambkin is the author of *PLAIN OF DARKNESS*, winner of the CNA Prize for best debut, *NIGHT JASMINE MAN*, *THE HANGING TREE*, and *THE VOYEUR*, a novella published in celebration of Penguin's 70th birthday. He was born in England but has spent many years in Africa. He divides his time between running his own advertising agency and his pursuit of solitude in the wilder parts of east, central and southern Africa. A keen amateur naturalist, clay pigeon shot and fisherman, he is also a wine lover addicted to Bach and Beethoven, and an enthusiastic but untrained cook.

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'An exquisite and disturbing novel' – BRYCE COURTNEY, on THE HANGING TREE



DEADLY BENEFITS

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

Gabriel Laucus has lost his job and his parent's home is about to be repossessed. Desperate and on the brink of financial ruin, he devises a risky insurance scam to salvage his crumbling life. This sets in motion a catastrophic chain of events. Soon, Gabriel and his friends have a psychopathic hitman, a ruthless drug lord, and a relentless investigator on their tail. As Gabriel navigates a world of fraud and dangerous alliances, he must outwit his pursuers and confront the harrowing repercussions of his choices. DEADLY BENEFITS is a heart-pounding journey through the high-stakes game of survival. The price of one wrong move could mean life or death.

Kurt Ellis is a scriptwriter and author of two novels, BY ANY MEANS and IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES. He holds a master's in creative writing from the University of the Witwatersrand. Ellis won the Harry Oppenheimer Creative Writing Award during his graduate degree and the WGSA Muse Award in 2021 for Best Unproduced Television Series Script. He lives in Johannesburg with his family.

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‘A tragedy with Shakespearean overtones’; ‘No words can accurately describe how powerful this book is’; ‘A captivating page-turner’; ‘Raw and intelligent’; ‘A thriller with depth, boldly written and terrifying, with a jaw-dropping climax’ – readers on IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES



THE REED DANCE STALKER

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

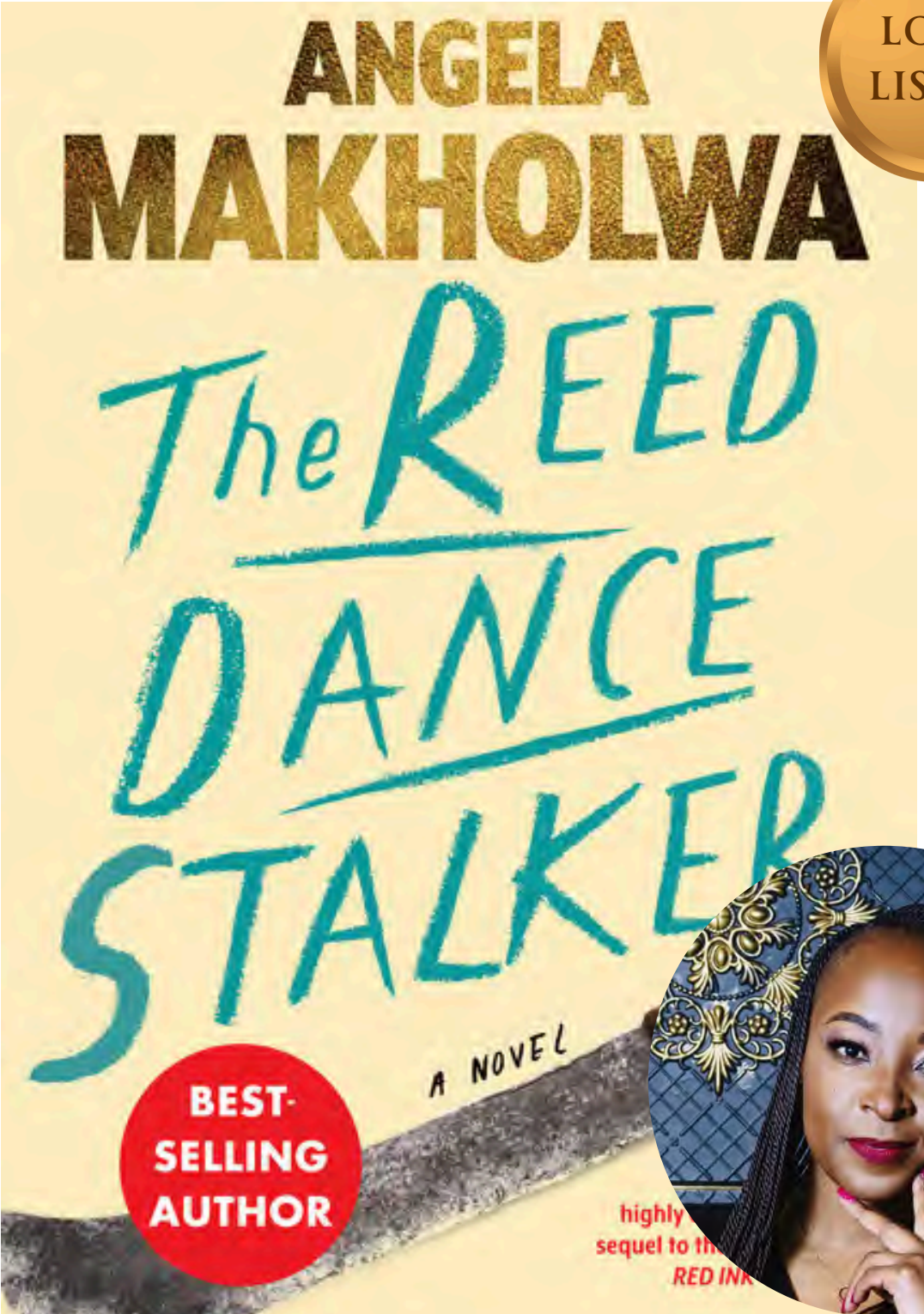
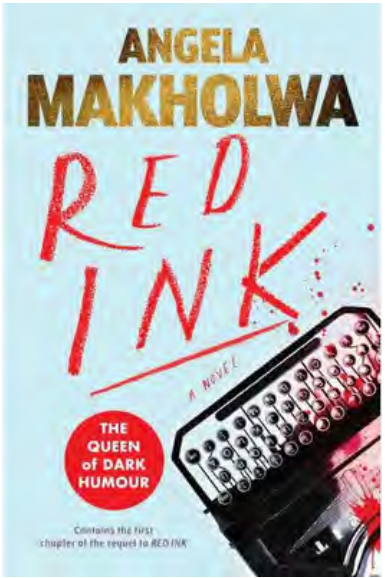
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

And in breaking news, convicted serial killer and rapist, Napoleon Dingiswayo, escaped from Pretoria's C-Max Prison at twelve-fifteen this afternoon ... Fortunately for journalist and PR maven Lucy Khambule, the alarming news, in January 2006, that her nemesis might once more be on the loose 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. Her book on Dingiswayo is a bestseller, she is in demand for talks and interviews, and her company has been chosen as part of the team organising glamorous events around the Preliminary Draw to take place at the Durban International Convention Centre ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. 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 neighbouring kingdom of Swaziland? Is this the work of an ex-convict on a deadly mission or are there other dangers lurking? When events in Durban 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.

Angela Makholwa is the much-loved author of gripping psychological thrillers and women's commercial fiction. Angela's five novels, RED INK, THE 30TH CANDLE (adapted for Netflix), BLACK WIDOW SOCIETY, the internationally acclaimed THE BLESSED GIRL, and CRITICAL, BUT STABLE are filled with entertaining escapades and the sexual misadventures of modern women.

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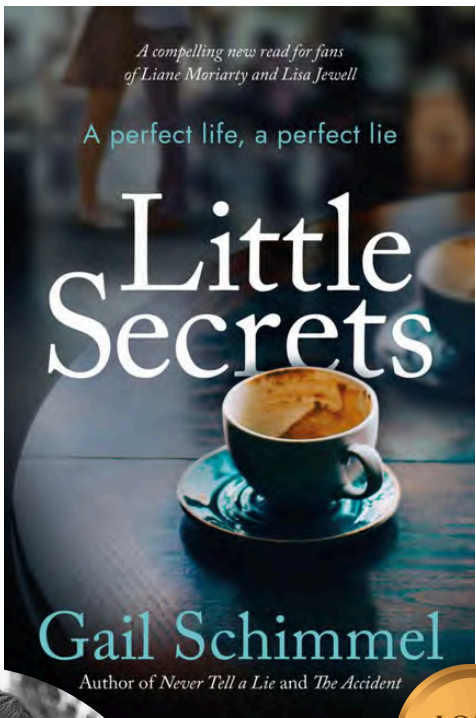
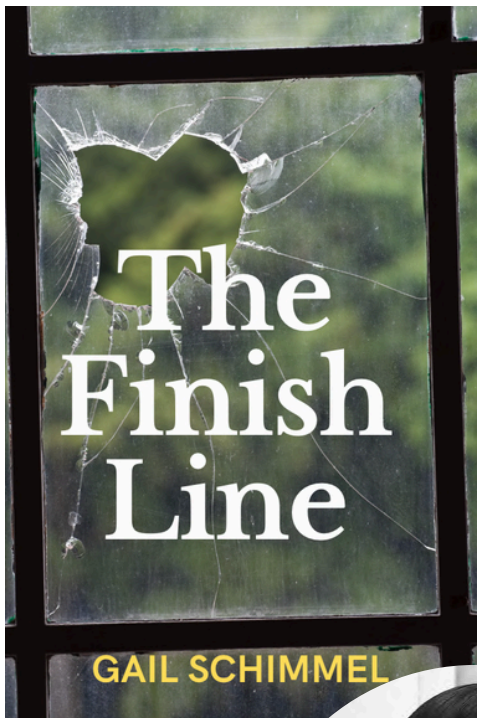
'It's Angela's wit for me. The unexpected twists and turns ... the truth in it. Things are really critical behind those high fences' – DUDU BUSANI-DUBE, on CRITICAL, BUT STABLE



THE FINISH LINE

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?



LITTLE SECRETS

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

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.

Gail Schimmel is an admitted attorney in South Africa, with four degrees to her name. She is currently the CEO of the Advertising Regulatory Board. THE FINISH LINE is her eighth page-turning domestic thriller. She has published in South Africa, the United States, Estonia, and Italy. She lives in Johannesburg with her husband and two children.

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THE THING WITH ZOLA

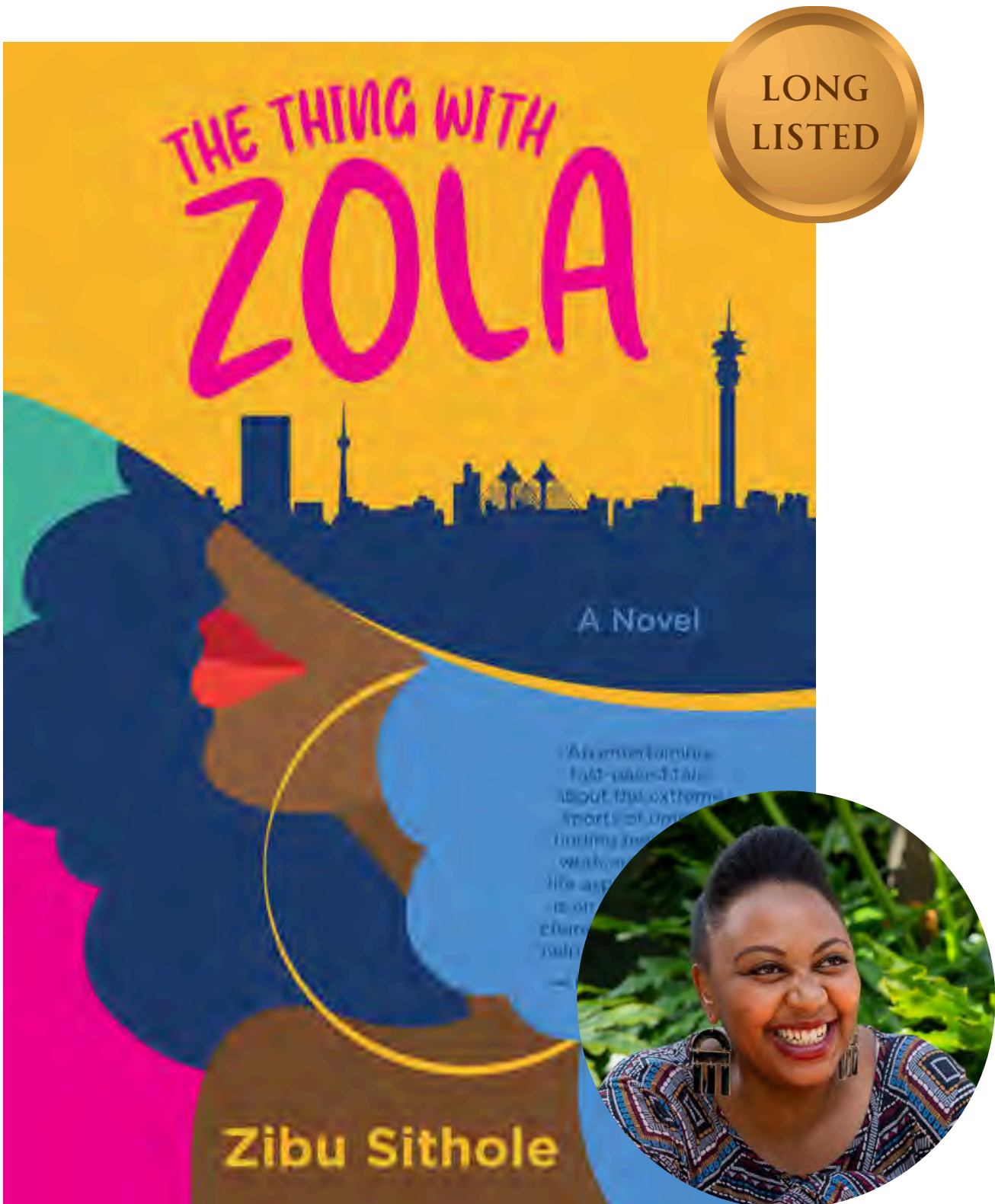
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

Twenty-nine-year-old Zola has spent the past ten years working and studying in Europe, thanks to a series of high school bursaries and opportunities that allowed her to escape the hardships of South Africa. But when her visa finally expires and there are no further prospects in sight, she has no choice but to leave behind her life, lover, and the dreams she has begun to build in Germany and return home to an uncertain future. THE THING WITH ZOLA is a humorous and sexy beach read about a young woman navigating the working world, family politics, and an unexpected office romance, all while trying to figure out her place in a country that no longer feels like home. Basically, it's complicated.

Zibu Sithole lives in Johannesburg with her son. She is a journalist with more than ten years' experience writing for television and radio as well as print and digital media. She is a published ghostwriter of mainly romance novels.

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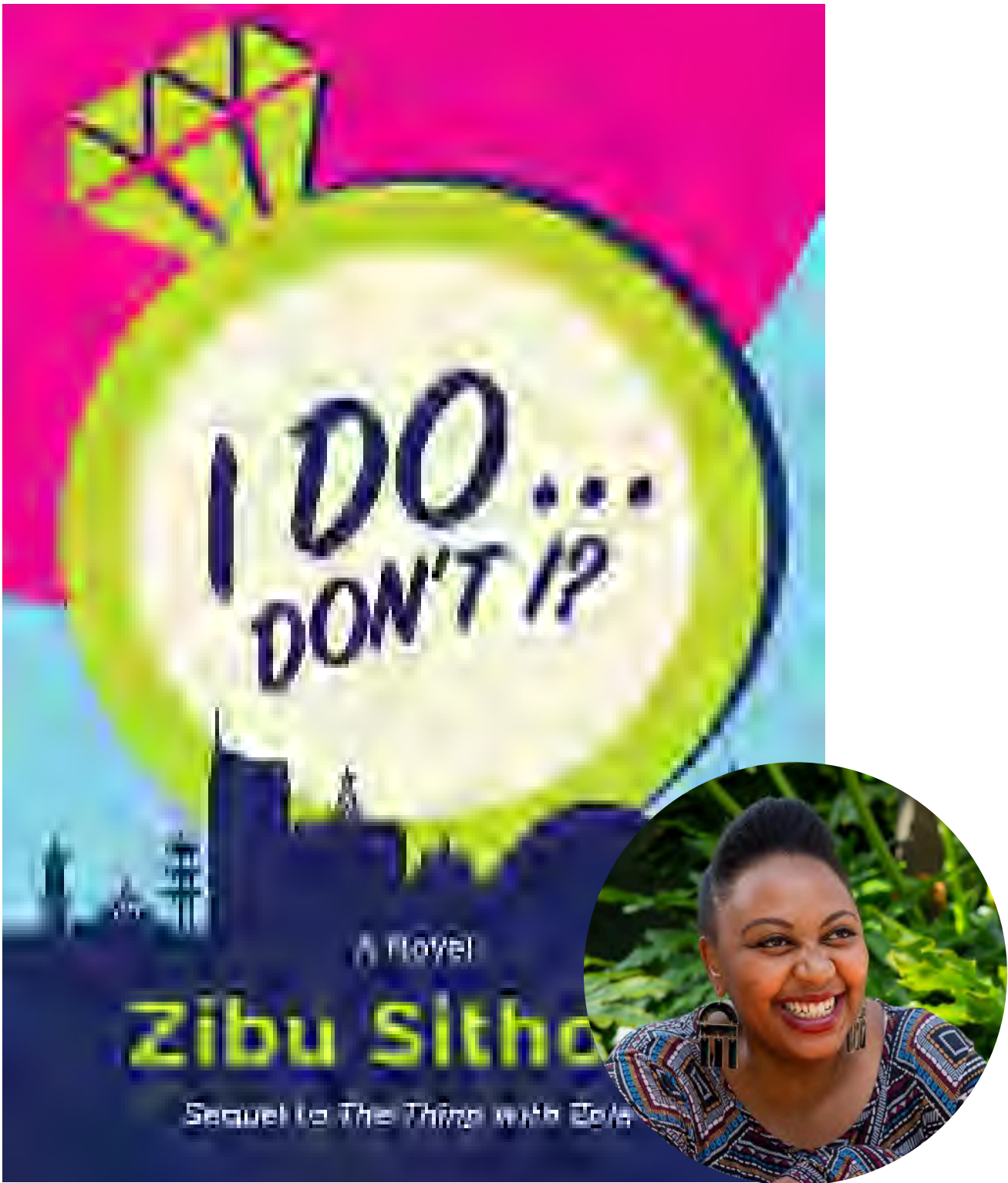
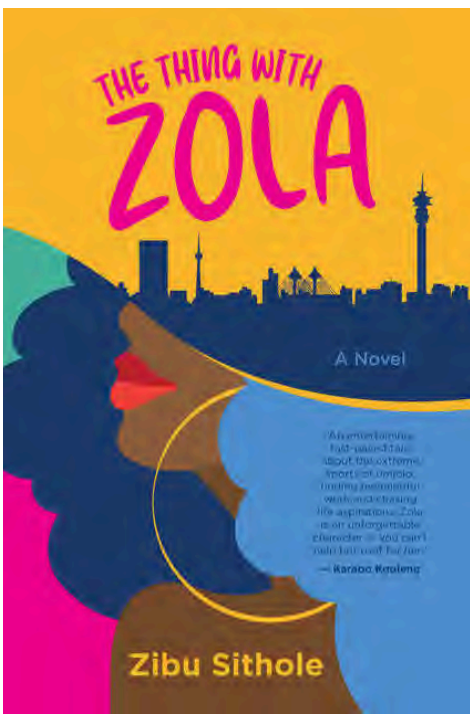
I DO ... DON'T I?

Zola is hurtling towards marriage. It's what she wants. Right?

I DO ... DON'T I? is the much-anticipated sequel to the popular novel THE THING WITH ZOLA. It continues the sparkling and tender love story of free-spirited Zola and charismatic Mbali, traversing the vibrant landscapes of Kigali and Johannesburg as they navigate a long-distance relationship and the question of commitment. Will they say I do? The cast is complete with the interweaving of the vivacious Okuhle on her heart-stirring journey to marriage, the audacious Thobile rebelling against societal norms, and the stoic Ongama navigating upheavals in her married life. Personal desires collide with expectations, painting a unique picture of the nuances of love, dreams, and the trials of responsibilities and relationshiping. The result is a whirlwind of emotions, laughter, poignant revelations and the quest for a fairytale ending. I DO ... DON'T I? is guaranteed to sweep you off your feet.

Zibu Sithole lives in Johannesburg with her son. She is a published ghostwriter and a journalist with experience writing for television and radio as well as print and digital media. Zibu's debut novel, THE THING WITH ZOLA, was published by Pan Macmillan in 2023.

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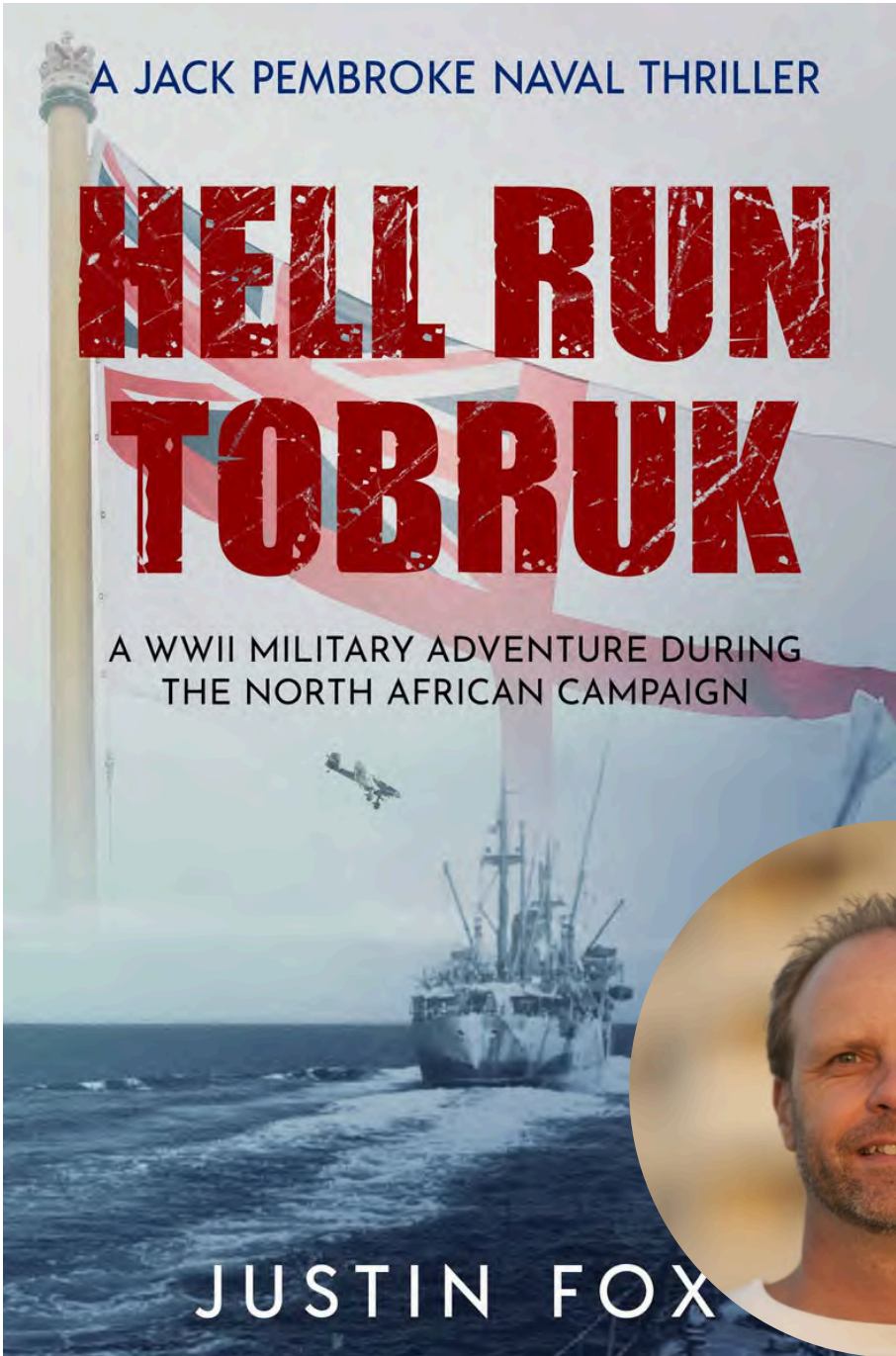
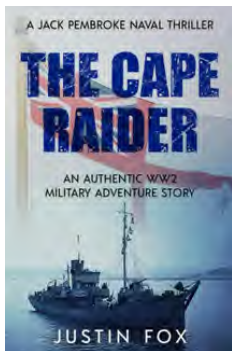
HELL RUN TOBRUK

Battles at sea off the North African coast.
Book III in the best-selling series of Jack Pembroke WWII naval thrillers

December 1941. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is ordered to join a convoy and sail his small escort ship, HMSAS *Gannet*, 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. Jack decides to rescue as many Allied soldiers as he can from the advancing Afrika Korps, but his ship gets trapped in the harbour just as German tanks roll into Tobruk. Jack must attempt a fighting departure, but his escape route is blocked by a powerful flotilla of enemy ships. After a dramatic battle and retreat to Alexandria, *Gannet* is immediately ordered back to sea to hold the line in a patch of water off a nondescript railway siding called El Alamein.

Novelist, travel writer, poet and photographer, **Justin Fox** is the former editor of GETAWAY magazine. He received his doctorate in English at Oxford, and was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town, where he has taught part time for two decades. He is the author of twenty books, and his writing and photographs have been published worldwide. Fox has been longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for non-fiction and the Olive Schreiner Prize for Literature. His debut novel, WHOEVER FEARS THE SEA, was shortlisted for Africa's richest literary award at the time, the Etisalat Prize.

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M(OTHER)

A moving meditation on Mother/Daughter relationships by world renowned poet, Antjie Krog.

In M(OTHER), poet Antjie Krog returns to the landscape of her youth. The natural beauty and lolling fields of South Africa's Freestate inspire and fill her with a great sense of connectedness to South Africa, its history, and its people. But Antjie is coming home to say goodbye to her ailing mother, Dot. Old and frail, and in many ways Antjie's antithesis, Dot has always been, and still is, an emotional and intellectual force to be reckoned with. A successful writer in her own right, Dot embodies much of the Afrikaner psyche, a cultural group Antjie has battled to understand, and has battled against, her whole life. Feisty, razor-sharp, and funny, Dot puts her daughter through her paces. For the remainder of Dot's life, Antjie's visits, also the letters they exchange, track Dot's final years. M(OTHER) is an expression of love, mutual admiration, and insurmountable difference between two highly skilled writers. Beautifully written and incisive, M(OTHER) delves into South Africa's Anglo-Boer war past, picks apart issues of land ownership, race, and then focusses its lens on interracial romantic relationships, for a long time illegal and taboo in the country. M(OTHER) is a work of autofiction that corresponds with episodes from the author's life, including intimidation and death threats by the far right. Above all, the book cuts deeply as it tracks our most primary relationship honestly and movingly, in the voice of one of the country's most celebrated writers.

Antjie Krog was a radio journalist covering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, all the while writing extensively for newspapers and journals. She and her radio colleagues received the Pringle Award for excellence in journalism for their coverage of the Commission hearings, from which came the best known of her non-fiction books, COUNTRY OF MY SKULL. She has won major awards in almost all the genres in which she has worked: poetry, non-fiction and translation. She is known primarily a poet, and has received among others the Eugène Marais Prize, the Hertzog Prize, the FNB Prize, the Protea Prize, and, for non-fiction, the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award and the Olive Schreiner Award. She is also a recipient of the Stockholm Award from the Hiroshima Foundation for Peace and Culture and the Open Society Prize.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House)

*cover coming soon



'A remarkably powerful and passionate voice' – THE MAIL & GUARDIAN



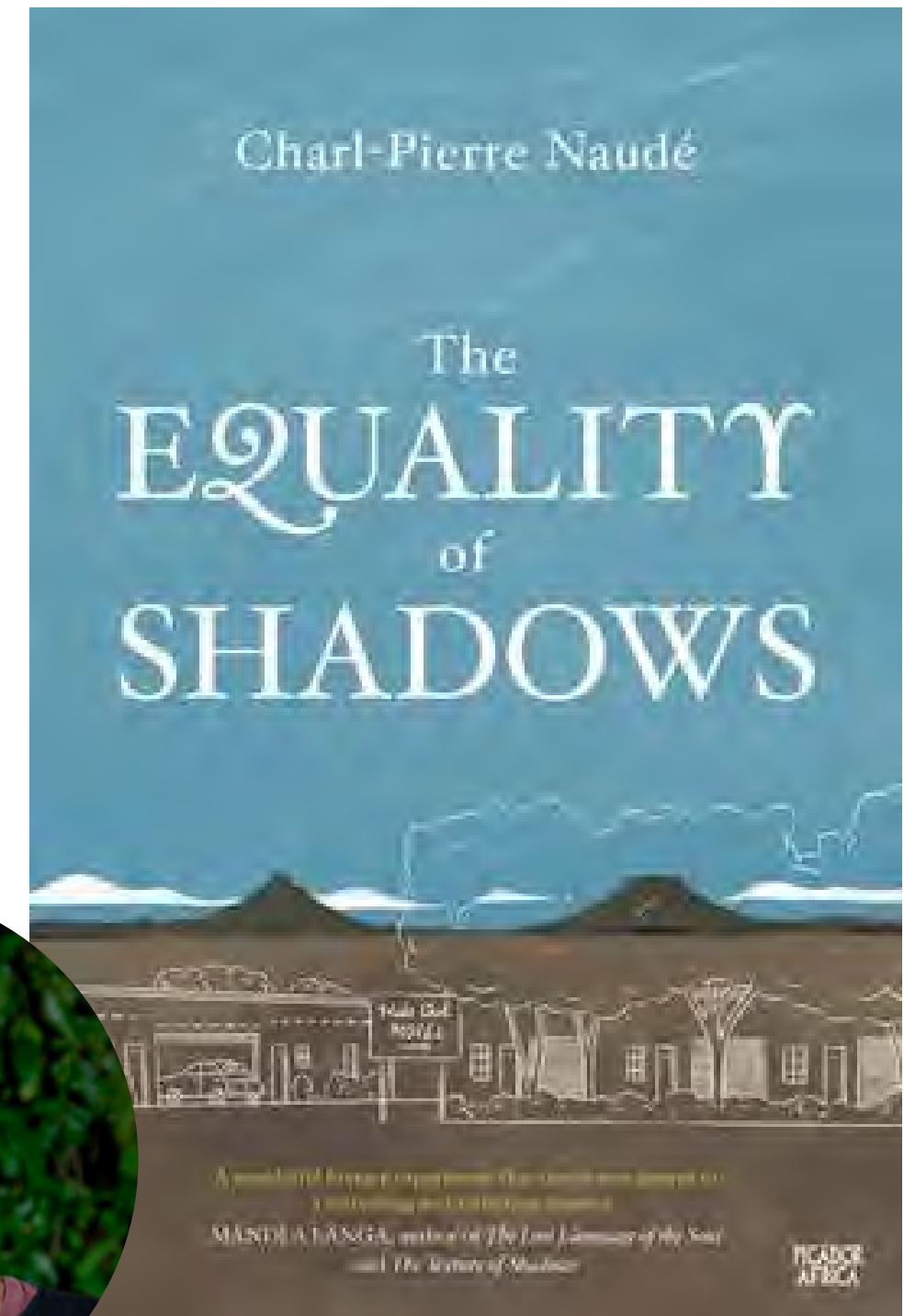
THE EQUALITY OF SHADOWS

A vanished town. A love lost. A reality turned upside down.

When an unusual building appeared overnight in a remote northern Cape community in the 1970s, and disappeared a few weeks later, it seemed to point to a series of baffling existential overlaps. Some individuals claimed that occasionally they found themselves on the other side of a restive civil war divide, in identity embodiments that were highly contrary versions of themselves. In other cases, absurd social situations seemed to mock 'normal reality' by alternating with it. When a small-town journalist reported on the events, his quiet life became cruelly disrupted by unwanted attention. 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. As the mystery unfolds, with an aura of retrieved memory, the narrator's lost love becomes an increasingly evocative presence. THE EQUALITY OF SHADOWS is a compelling novel – in some places uproariously funny, in others filled with deep pathos – about the vagaries of identity, love and time.

Charl-Pierre Naude is a South African poet and novelist as well as a published philosopher. He has featured on the literary festival and residency circuits in Europe, and his poetry has appeared in translation in literary magazines and anthologies in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Norway, France, Britain, and the United States.

All rights available except Southern African English (Pan Macmillan); and Afrikaans (Tafelberg)



THE NICOTINE GOSPEL

A freshly inventive, poignant, philosophical read, rich with intelligence and humour.

In 1987, two young brothers, Nate and Danny, must find a way to break through to their distant father, Esben, after a lightning strike kills their mother. To deal with the loss of his wife and make sense of a world seemingly governed by chance, Esben creates the Nicotine Gospel – an eccentric framework that explains the world in terms of cigarettes. For years, Esben indoctrinates his young children. According to him, an eight-by-five cardboard box containing somewhere near twenty machine-made cigarettes will tell you all you need to know about a man. The boys throw themselves into the lessons to be close to their dad, but as Nate grows up and begins to understand how strange the family gospel (and their father) truly is, he starts to worry about his younger brother. THE NICOTINE GOSPEL is a tribute to the bond that exists between brothers.

Sven Axelrad is the author of BURIED TREASURE and GOD'S POCKET, topselling novels published in his native South AFRICA. He takes pride in being a street-writer. His university degree is in commerce, but Sven is proof that you don't need a master's in creative writing, a famous mentor or a pedigree of any kind if you read often, widely and well. Son of a translator and a teacher, Sven grew up in love with words. His first creative pursuit was music. Sven played guitar in multiple bands, and performed as a singer-songwriter, with his focus always on the lyrics of his songs. Even now, music underpins each of his novels with structure and cadence. Sven's first writing professors were the novels of the Latin-American magical realists, the likes of Bolaño, Marquez, Vargas Llosa and Allende. Later he would read Zambra, Murakami, Enriquez, Saramago, Saunders, de Bernières and a thousand others. Each book contained important lessons, even the bad ones.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House)

‘An astonishing new voice’ – the Good Book Appreciation Society on BURIED TREASURE

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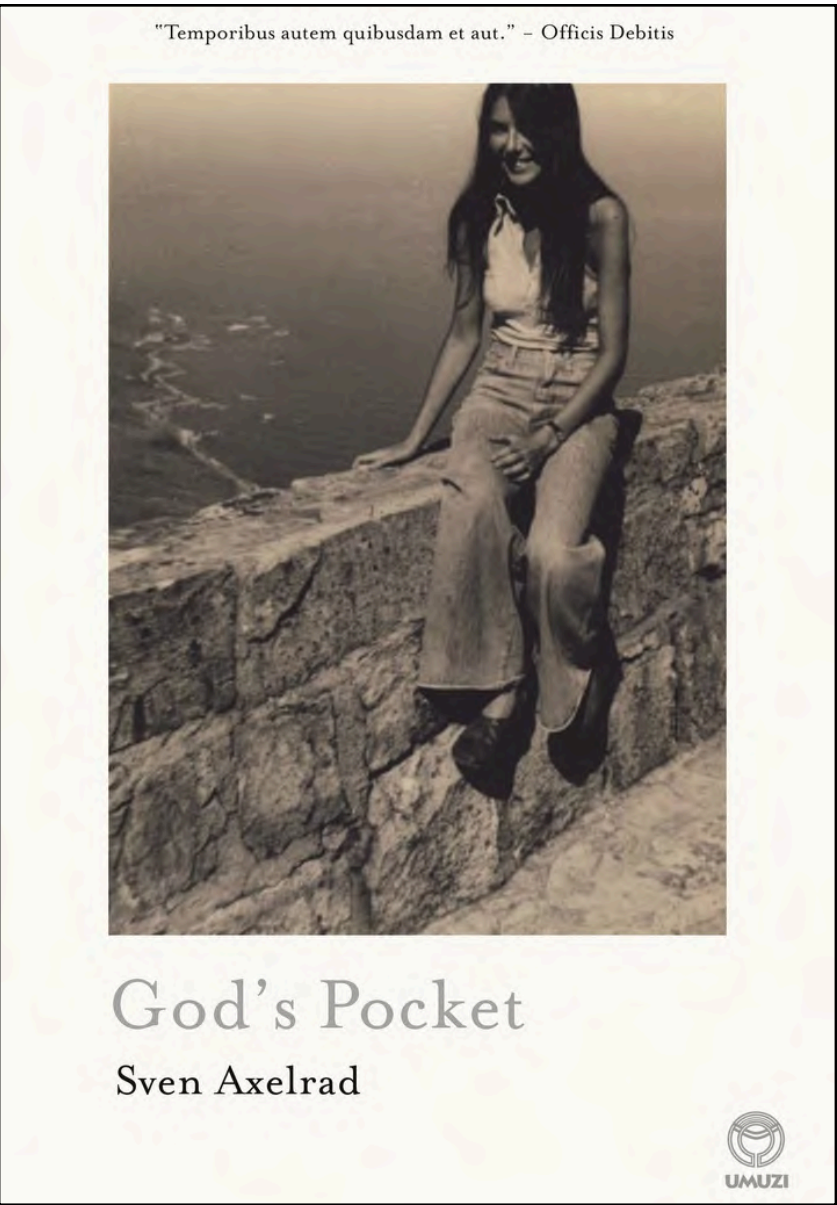
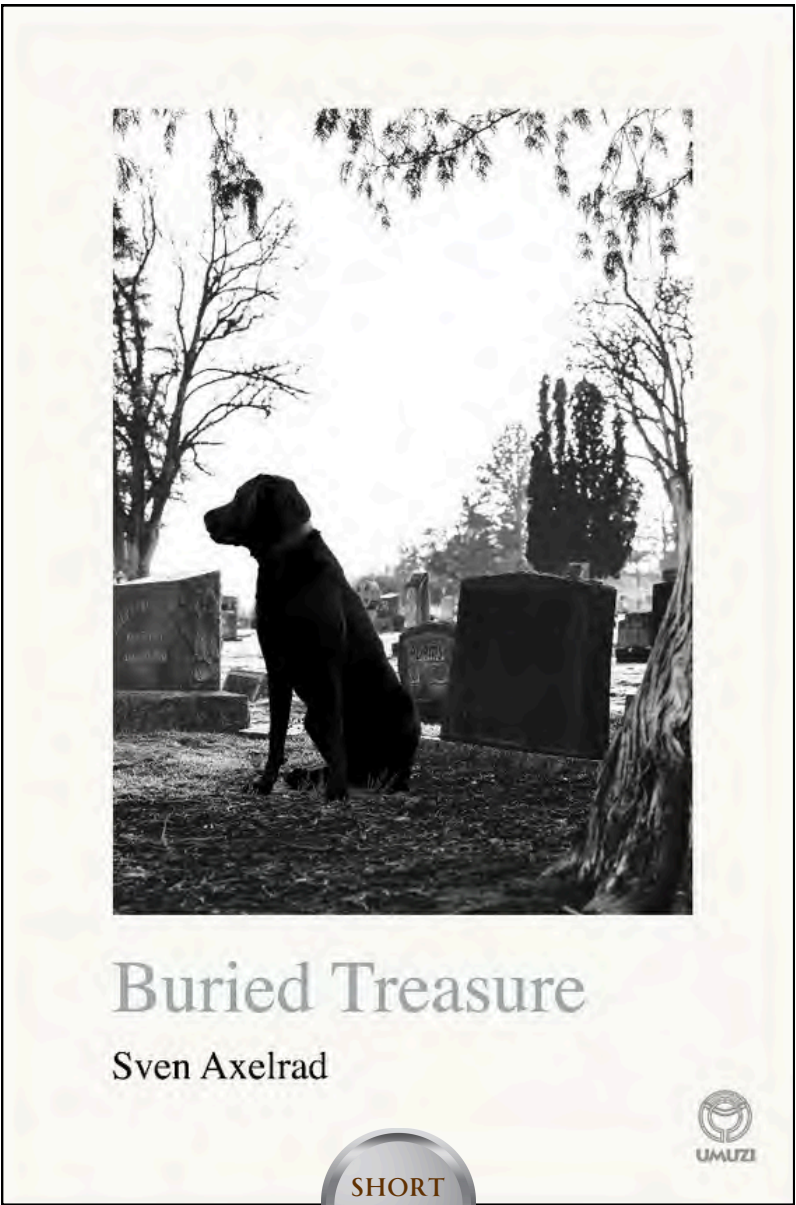


BURIED TREASURE

GOD'S POCKET

Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)
Longlisted for the SALA k. Sello Duiker Memorial Award (2024)

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. BURIED TREASURE is an Up Lit themed exploration of identity, an adventure which explores what our names mean to us and who we are without them - defined and obscured as we are by love, sexual orientation, gender expectation, and hope. The story is erudite but full of fun and a heady dose of Magical Realism. The strong female protagonist is the main focus of the narrative but there is a fun cast of supporting characters, including disgruntled ghosts, pigeons, families and even the town of Vivo itself.



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.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House)

THE IMMORTALITES

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

The new novel from the winner of the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize.

Twenty-four-year-old Ellen Kent arrives on a ship, the Immortalite, in southernmost Africa in 1834. Molested on board, and shunned by her fellow passengers, she is placed in the care of Captain Fynmore Makepeace, who must bring her to a frontier town where she is to work at an orphanage. As they await their convoy inland, delayed by yet another war with the Xhosa, Ellen helps Makepeace run a rough tavern on the beach. One night, Makepeace wins spectacularly at cards. The prize is a horse and van. And an operatic diva Mrs. Divine. The party travels inland and soon Mrs Divine's concerts prove lucrative for Makepeace. But the diva makes for a strange travel companion: bees drowse on her shoulders; fruit ripens in her lap; she collects human sounds of woe and pain, dispossession and longing. Might she be an incarnation of Aphrodite on African soil?

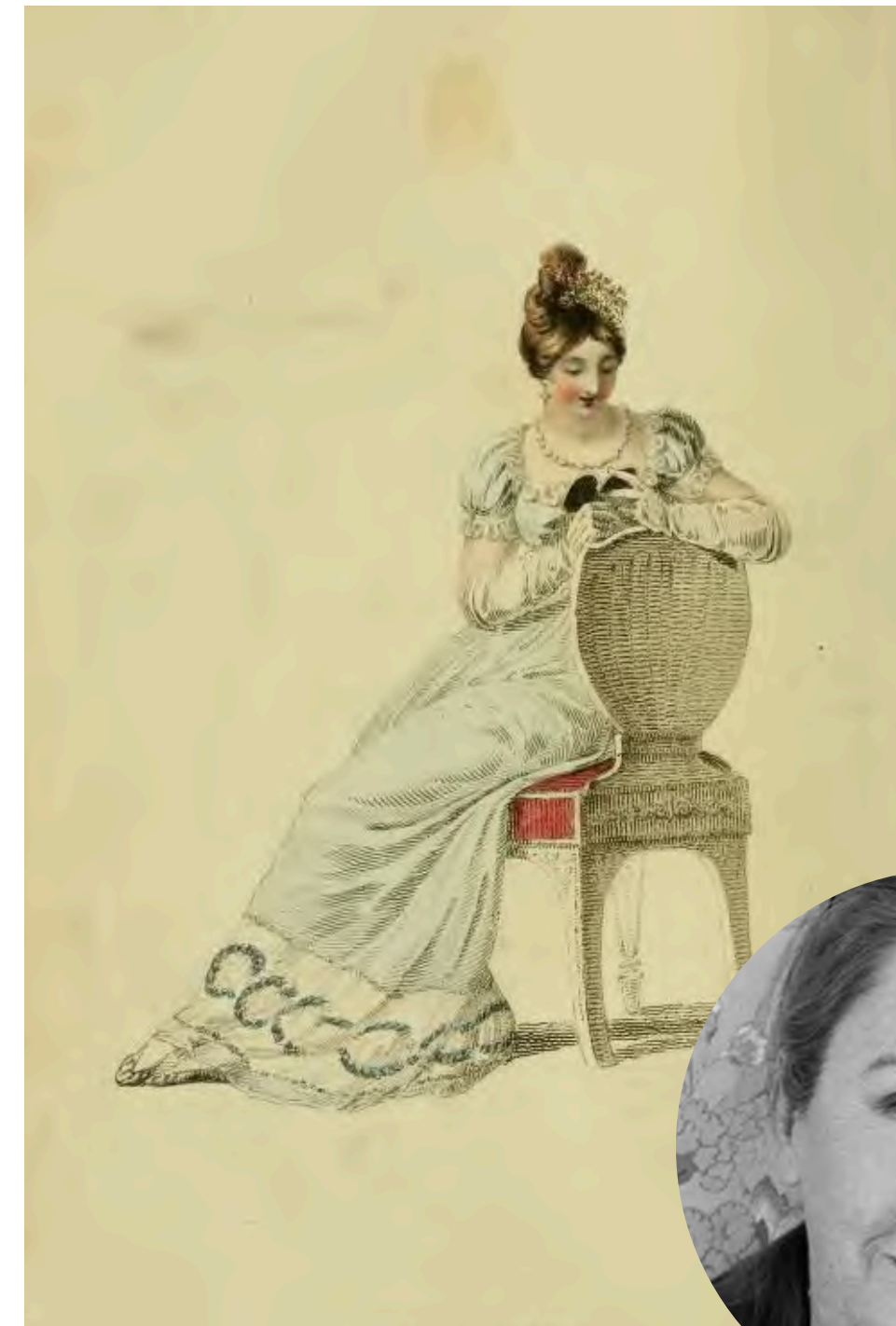
Claire Robertson's THE IMMORTALITES is an unforgettable novel written in virtuoso prose.

Claire Robertson has worked in newspapers, magazines, radio and television. Her debut novel, THE SPIRAL HOUSE, won South Africa's most important literary award, the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and a South African Literary Award, and was shortlisted for the University of Johannesburg Debut Prize. She is the author of three more novels: THE MAGISTRATE OF GOWER, UNDER GLASS, both shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize, and ISLE. She lives in Tasmania.

All rights available

'An astonishingly adept and richly imagined novel, a layered, subtle story that resonates with important ideas about history. We applaud the sensuous quality of the writing and were amazed by its remarkable language' – SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize, on THE SPIRAL HOUSE

*cover coming soon



ORPHAN DATA

A taut read in the style of Cormac McCarthy's THE ROAD.

ORPHAN DATA is a dystopian novella following Lucas Binney in the year 2037, during the Great Reboot enforced by the Global Military Alliance (GMA). Lucas lives in a world dominated by virtual reality, where societal collapse and environmental disasters ravage the outside world. When an electromagnetic pulse attack destroys the VR network, killing his sister and forcing Lucas offline, he flees his home. In his journey, he encounters a hermit named Lady and joins a community led by Chief, a former tech billionaire turned prophet. Despite Chief's utopian ideals, Lucas discovers the oppressive control mechanisms at play. The book echoes themes of Orwell's 1984 and Huxley's BRAVE NEW WORLD exploring the dangers of technological advancement and societal manipulation. Through its concise narrative, the novella offers a gripping tale contemplating the direction of humanity's technological trajectory.

David Cornwell is a novelist, screenwriter, and musician. His debut novel, LIKE IT MATTERS, was published by Penguin Random House in South Africa in 2016 to critical acclaim. The book was longlisted for the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize and shortlisted for the 9mobile Award for Best African Fiction Debut. David began publishing stories while at university, with several appearing in US literary journals and magazines such as QUIDDITY International Literary Journal and THE CHIRON REVIEW (a publication notable for giving Raymond Carver his debut). David's Afrikaans-language short film, DIE ONDERSPIT, was developed as part of KykNET's Silwerskermfees festival program. He also co-wrote a screenplay with Damon Galgut, a road trip comedy-drama tentatively titled RENATA AND JUNE. David's feature film POU (PEACOCK), an Afrikaans-language Gothic horror he co-wrote and co-produced, were shown at Idyllwild, the Buffalo International Festival, the Winter Film Awards, Razor Reel (where it received a Special Mention in the Youngblood Awards), and at SA Horror Fest (where it won Best Feature). Born in Grahamstown, he currently lives in Johannesburg.

All rights available

*cover coming soon



HELL OF A COUNTRY

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

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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 Geemooi 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 based on real events and 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.

David Cornwell is a novelist, screenwriter and musician. His debut novel, LIKE IT MATTERS, was published by Penguin Random House in South Africa in 2016 to critical acclaim. The book was longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and shortlisted for the 9mobile Award for Best African Fiction Debut. David began publishing stories while at university, with several appearing in US literary journals and magazines such as Quiddity International Literary Journal and The Chiron Review (a publication notable for giving Raymond Carver his debut). David's Afrikaans-language short film, DIE ONDERSPIT, was developed as part of KykNET's Silwerskermfees festival program. He also co-wrote a screenplay with Damon Galgut, a road trip comedy-drama tentatively titled RENATA AND JUNE. David's feature film POU (PEACOCK), an Afrikaans-language Gothic horror he co-wrote and co-produced, were shown at Idyllwild, the Buffalo International Festival, the Winter Film Awards, Razor Reel (where it received a Special Mention in the Youngblood Awards) and at SA Horror Fest (where it won Best Feature). Born in Grahamstown, he currently lives in Johannesburg.

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'LIKE IT MATTERS is magnificent in its scope, heart-wrenching in its depth, and beautifully elegant throughout. If you read nothing else from the South African canon this year, read this'
– Gareth Langdon, AERODROME



THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE

Stupendous African Gothic, by Caine Prize judge and Yale University Windham-Campbell Prize winner

Showcasing African Gothic at its finest, *THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE* is the extraordinary tale of a nameless woman plagued by visions. She works for the Good Foundation and its museum filled with artifacts from the family's exploits in Africa, the Good family members all being descendants of Captain John Good, of *KING SOLOMON'S MINE* fame.

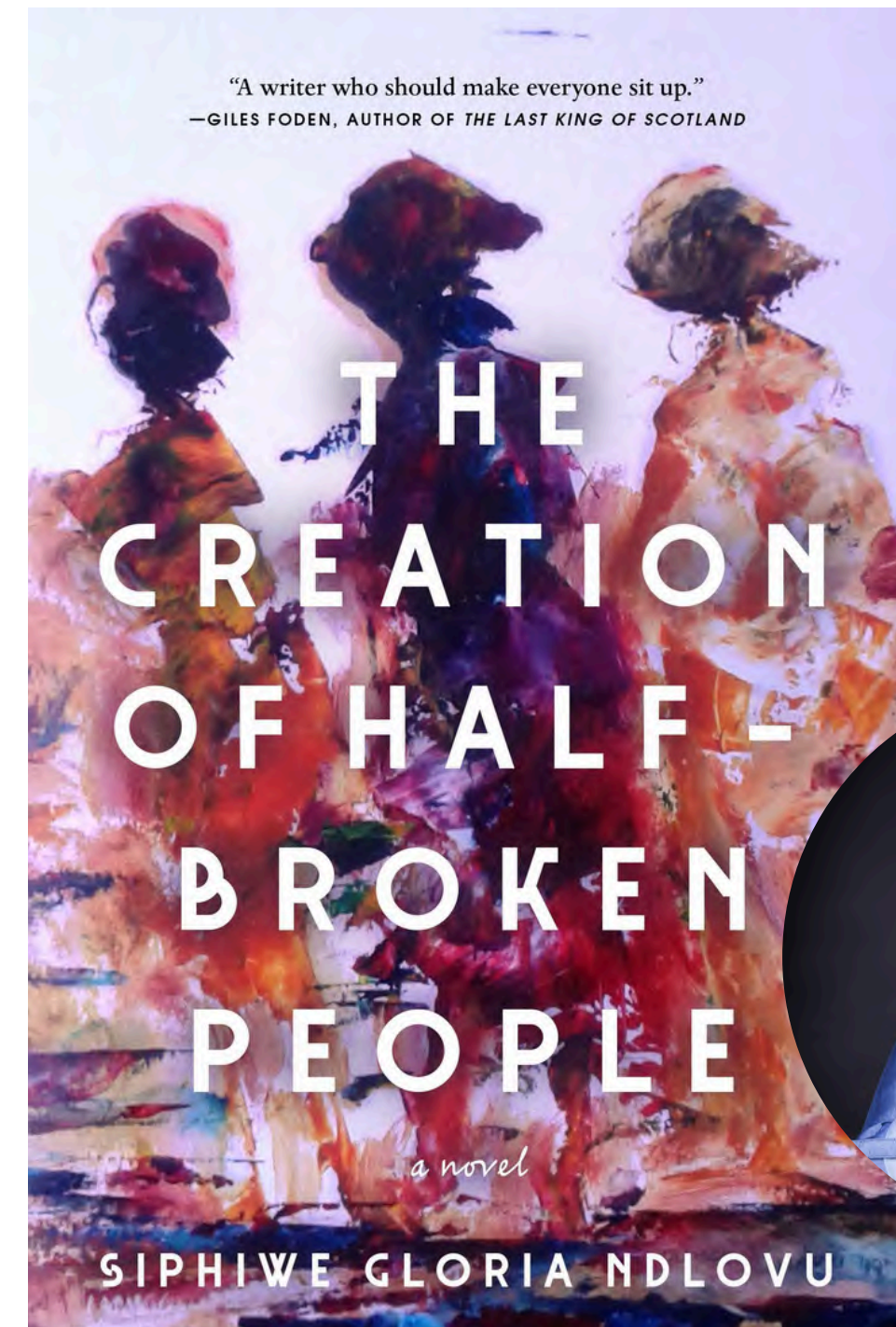
Our heroine is happy with her association with the Good family, until one day she comes across a group of protestors outside the museum. Instigating the group is an ancient woman, who our heroine knows is not real. She knows too that the secrets of her past have returned. After this encounter, the nameless woman finds herself living first in an attic and then in a haunted castle, her life anything but normal as her own intangible inheritance unfolds through the women who inhabit her visions.

With a knowing nod to classics of the Gothic genre, Sipiwe Gloria Ndlovu weaves the threads of a complex colonial history into the present through people "half-broken" by the stigmas of race and mental illness, all the while balancing the humanity of her characters against the cruelty of empire in a hypnotic, haunting account of love and magic.

Sipiwe Gloria Ndlovu is the author of a trio of novels, the bestselling *THE THEORY OF FLIGHT*, winner of the 2019 *SUNDAY TIMES* Fiction Prize and currently a school set work in South Africa, its follow-up, *THE HISTORY OF MAN*, and her latest, *THE QUALITY OF MERCY*. Her work is published in South Africa and the United States, and can also be read in Arabic and Italian translation. A winner of Yale University's 2022 Windham-Campbell Prize, she is a writer, filmmaker and academic who holds a PhD from Stanford University as well as master's degrees in African Studies and Film from Ohio University. She has published research on Saartjie Baartman and she wrote, directed and edited the award-winning short film *GRAFFITI*. She was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

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'Sipiwe Gloria Ndlovu is both a chronicler and a conjurer whose soaring imagination creates a Zimbabwean past made of anguish and hope, of glory and despair: the story of the generations born at the crossroads of a country's history' – THE WINDHAM-CAMPBELL PRIZE



THE EXOTIC

Migration and otherness in an island state.

In a future England, a girl flees through the woods. Before her mother was shot, she told the girl to return to her father in the Village, a utopian place shut off from the outside world, a place where walls have been built around forbidden, crumbling cities. But she has no recollection of either the Village or her father. Escaping with her is a young boy whose origins must be concealed at all costs from the Guards who killed his parents and who roam the forests searching for defectors. When the boy is badly injured, the girl sets off for the Village, leaving him behind. She arrives exhausted and starving, and is recognised by her father, the leader of the Village. She begs him to find the boy, but, according to him, there never was a boy – she has made him up – her memory loss attributed to trauma. But her father's rival has heard that the girl had been harbouring an 'exotic'. He accuses her of bringing the enemy to their gates, an act that threatens all their lives. The girl's father tries to save her: she must denounce the existence of the boy. She refuses.

Alastair Bruce's thrilling new novel, THE EXOTIC, is an atmospheric, allegorical work that pits families and children against the machinations of migration and otherness.

Alastair Bruce is the author of the critically acclaimed novels WALL OF DAYS (Penguin Random House, South Africa; Profile Books, UK; Kunstmann, Germany), BOY ON THE WIRE (PRH SA; Profile Books, UK), and THE WEIGHT OF SKIN (PRH SA). He was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, spending a large part of his childhood on a smallholding outside the city. He currently lives in Buckinghamshire with his wife and two young children.

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‘Brilliant! WALL OF DAYS will rank about my all-time most memorable books’ – Karina M Szczurek

*cover coming soon



THE WILDEST BEAUTY

Of wine country and the Somme, twins, and taboo love in this queer WWI novel

From the peaceful little town of Stellenbosch to the battlefields of the Somme, this novel follows the fortunes of twin brothers – the dashing, glamorous Charlie and the quiet, reflective Paul. Paul, the narrator of the novel, harbours a secret infatuation with his twin. Moving from the troubled but often hilarious days of adolescence and dawning sexuality to the intense drama of the Great War, culminating in the catastrophic battle of Delville Wood, *THE WILDEST BEAUTY* explores, with humour and compassion, the extremes of love and war, loyalty, and betrayal.

Michiel Heyns's critically acclaimed novels include *THE CHILDREN'S DAY*, *THE RELUCTANT PASSENGER* and *THE TYPEWRITER'S TALE*. He has thrice been awarded the Herman Charles Bosman Award for English Fiction in South Africa, and his novel *LOST GROUND* won the country's most revered literary award, the *SUNDAY TIMES* Fiction Prize. His novels have been translated into Afrikaans, Dutch, Spanish, and French, *THE TYPEWRITER'S TALE* winning the Prix de l'Union Interalliée in France. He grew up all over South Africa – Thaba Nchu, Kimberley, Grahamstown, and Cape Town – and was educated at the universities of Stellenbosch and Cambridge. For much of his adult life he was a professor of English at the University of Stellenbosch. *THE WILDEST BEAUTY* is his eleventh novel.

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'One of South Africa's most respected novelists' – *SUNDAY INDEPENDENT*

*cover coming soon



EACH MORTAL THING

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

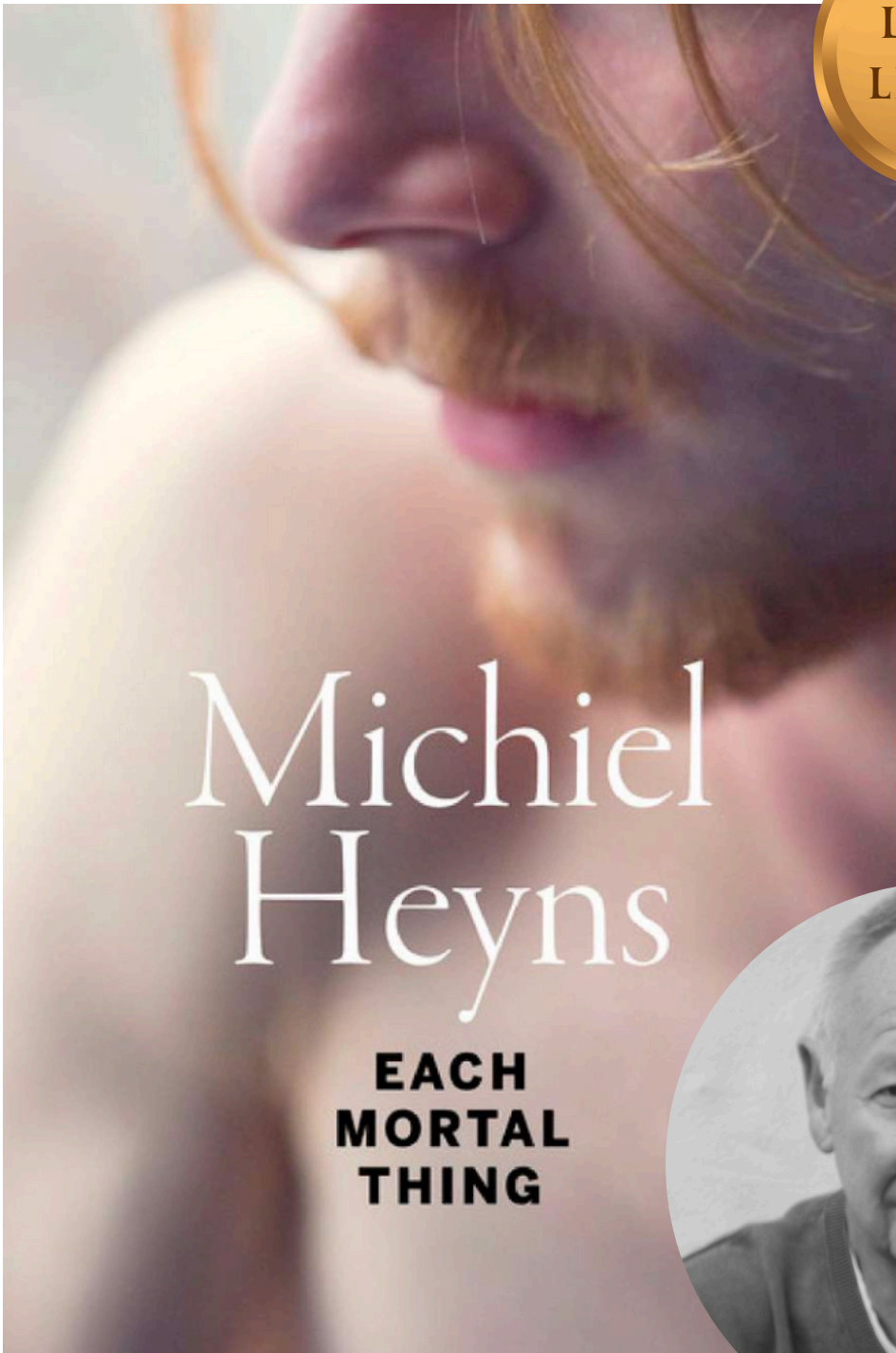
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

By the winner of the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize. When Natasha, a novice writer from South Africa, is nominated for a major British literary prize, Terence, a young university lecturer, undertakes to introduce her to the sights of London. However, London and its literary cliques are a far cry from Natasha’s Karoo hometown: through no fault of her own, she is disqualified, and their affair ends in tragedy. Terence, whose best friend accuses him of suffering from a Good Samaritan complex, now takes an interest in a rough sleeper and his dog that he meets outside a tube station. Letting Andy into his life is an undertaking not without its complications. As the ghosts of his past relationships are visited upon him, Terence is forced to reconsider the meaning of human connections – how our lives touch, and are touched by, others. Michiel Heyns’s EACH MORTAL THING shows us the metropolis through fresh eyes, calculates the cost of acts of kindness and human vulnerability, and speaks to the grace that friendship can bestow on us.

Michiel Heyns’ critically acclaimed novels include THE CHILDREN’S DAY, THE RELUCTANT PASSENGER and THE TYPEWRITER’S TALE. He has thrice been awarded the Herman Charles Bosman Award for English Fiction in South Africa, and his novel LOST GROUND won the country’s most revered literary award, the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize. His novels have been translated into Afrikaans, Dutch, Spanish, and French, THE TYPEWRITER’S TALE winning the Prix de l’Union Interalliée in France. He grew up all over South Africa – Thaba Nchu, Kimberley, Grahamstown, and Cape Town – and was educated at the universities of Stellenbosch and Cambridge. For much of his adult life he was a professor of English at the University of Stellenbosch. EACH MORTAL THING is his tenth novel.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House)

‘Part magician, part juggler and fine linguist’ – MAIL & GUARDIAN



THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL

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

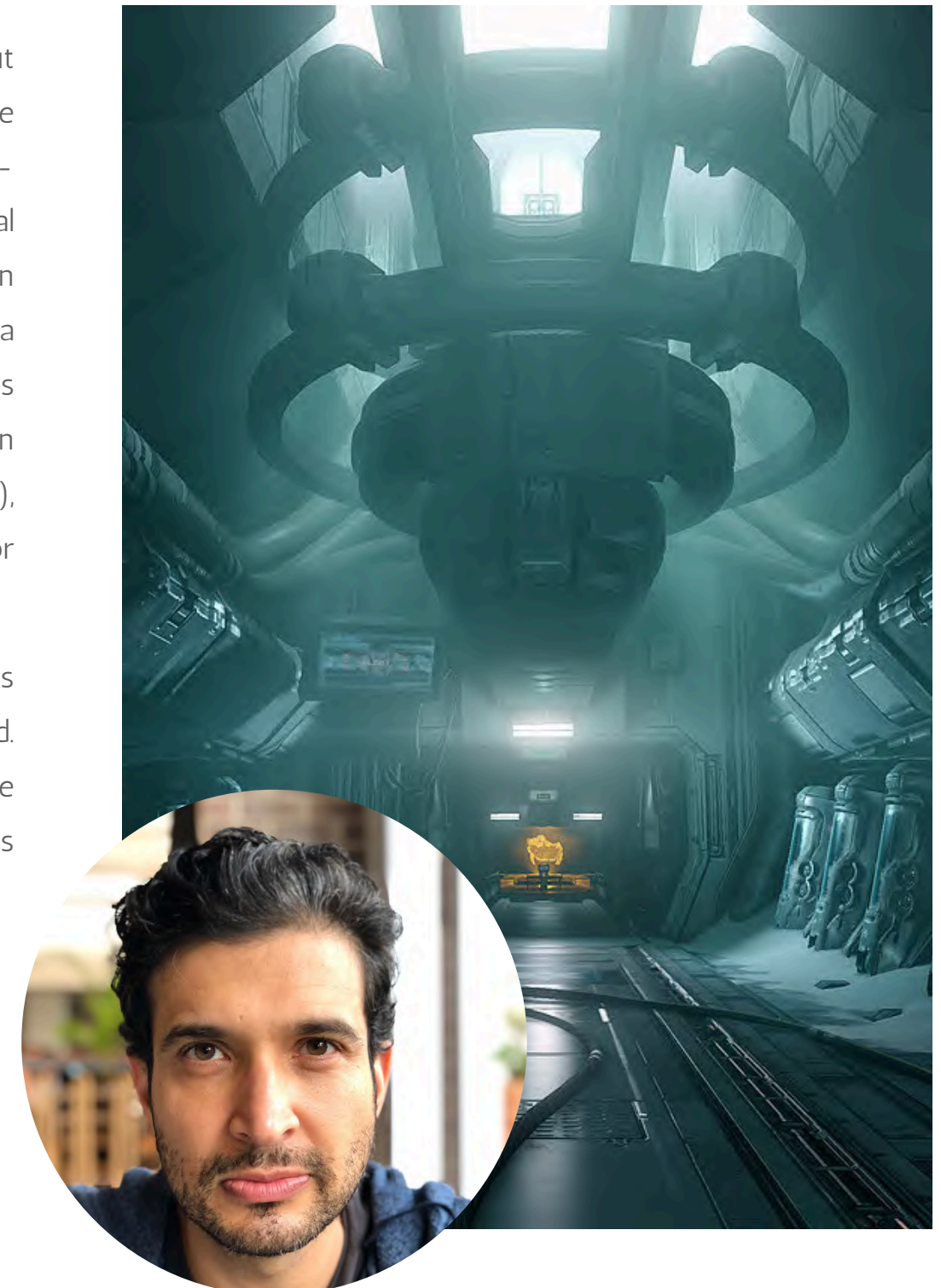
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Elijah, a troubled young Englishman has recently been imprisoned for murder. Humanity is readjusting to an incident in which terrorists had cut the undersea internet cables. After each world power assumed the other's involvement, a volley of mutual 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 Bushy Hill 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. A dystopian novel about masculinity, family, individual and collective mental health struggles related to the internet's role in our lives (and withdrawal from it), technology and human error, attempts at utopia, competing -isms, modernity vs human nature, and our human need for faith and quest for meaning and collectiveness, especially in times of crises.

Imran Garda is a journalist, news anchor and show host who has reported from dozens of countries. He has presented news and documentaries from multiple continents and has interviewed world leaders and influential figures for international news networks Al Jazeera and TRT World. Screen rights to his debut novel, THE THUNDER THAT ROARS (Penguin Random House SA, 2014) were acquired and the book won the Olive Schreiner Prize for Prose (2016). Born and raised in South Africa, Imran began his career at Supersport. He has lived in Qatar, the United States and currently resides in Istanbul.

All rights available

**‘South African literature [that] soars above the tortuous apartheid history and redefines globalisation.’
– THE OLIVE SCHREINER PRIZE, on THE THUNDER THAT ROARS**



DECIMA

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

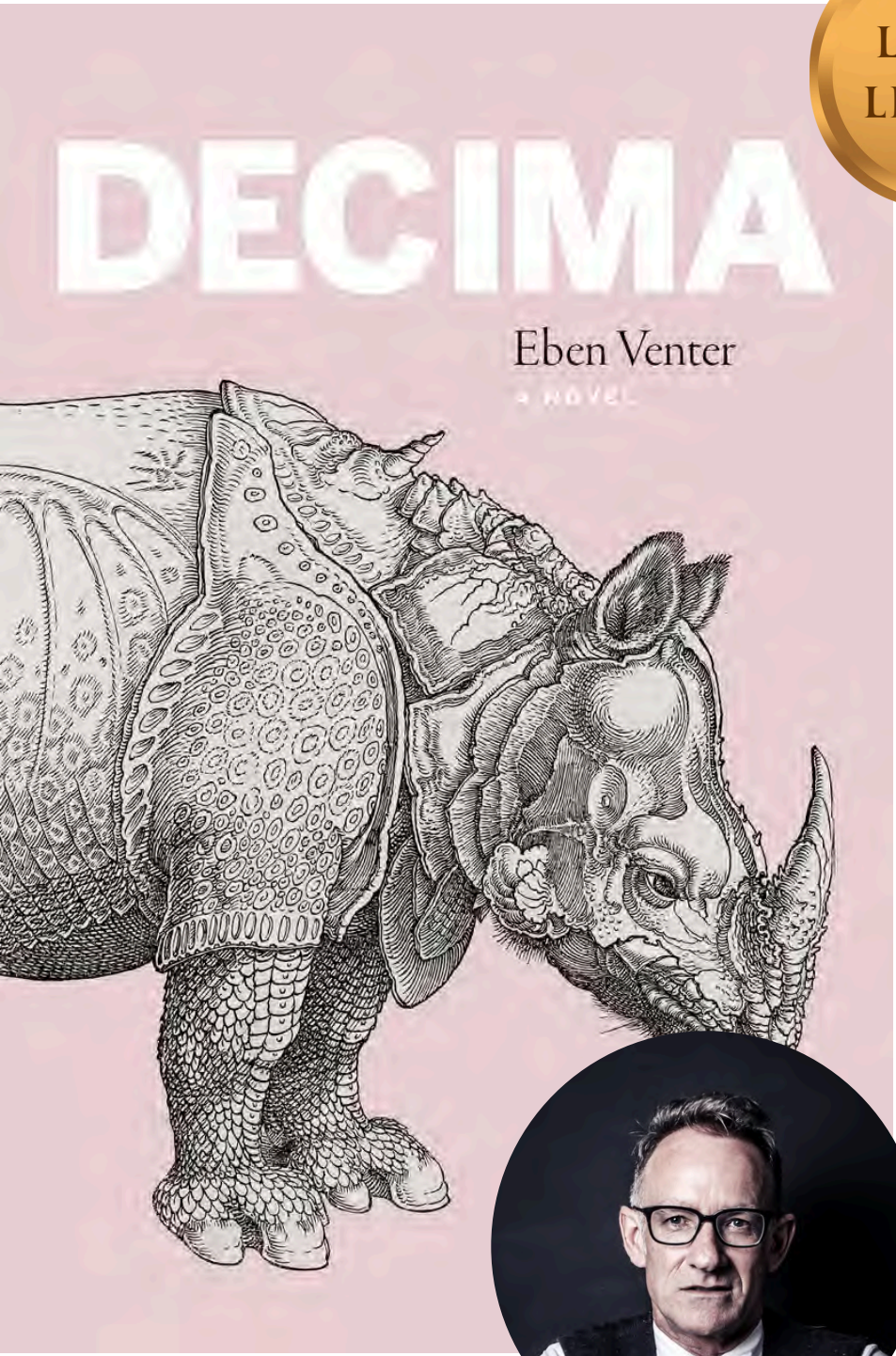
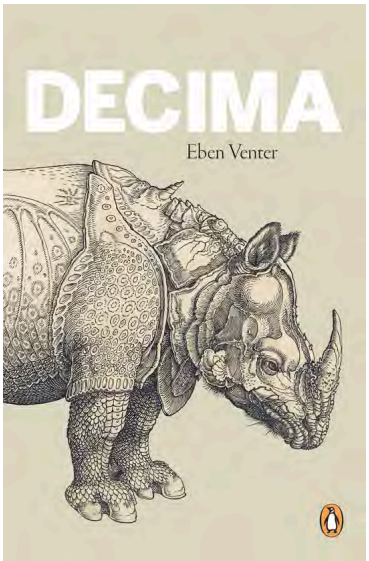
Shortlisted for the KykNET-Rapport Prize (2024)

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.

Eben Venter's nine critically acclaimed novels include TRENCHMAN, WOLF, WOLF, and GREEN AS THE SKY IS BLUE, written in partial fulfilment of a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Queensland. He is also the author of two books of short stories and a collection of columns, and his work can be read in Afrikaans, English, Dutch, and German. Over the years he has won numerous awards for his work, including the prominent KykNet-RAPPORT Prize. Raised on a sheep farm in the Eastern Cape, he lives in Australia.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House)

'We should not ... lose sight of DECIMA's excellence as a work of literature. The plots are finely contrived, the characterisation artful, and the use of literary devices restrained in ways appropriate to the subject. It is stylistically impeccable' – THE JOHANNESBURG REVIEW OF BOOKS



THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER

Winner of the HSS Award for Best Fiction Novel (2024)

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

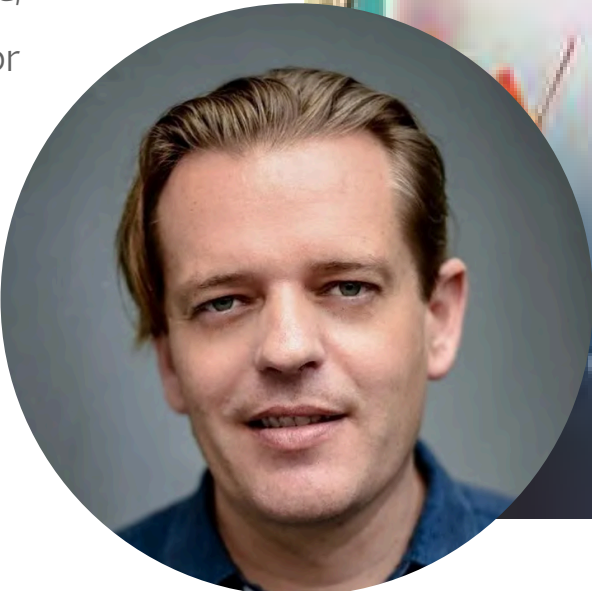
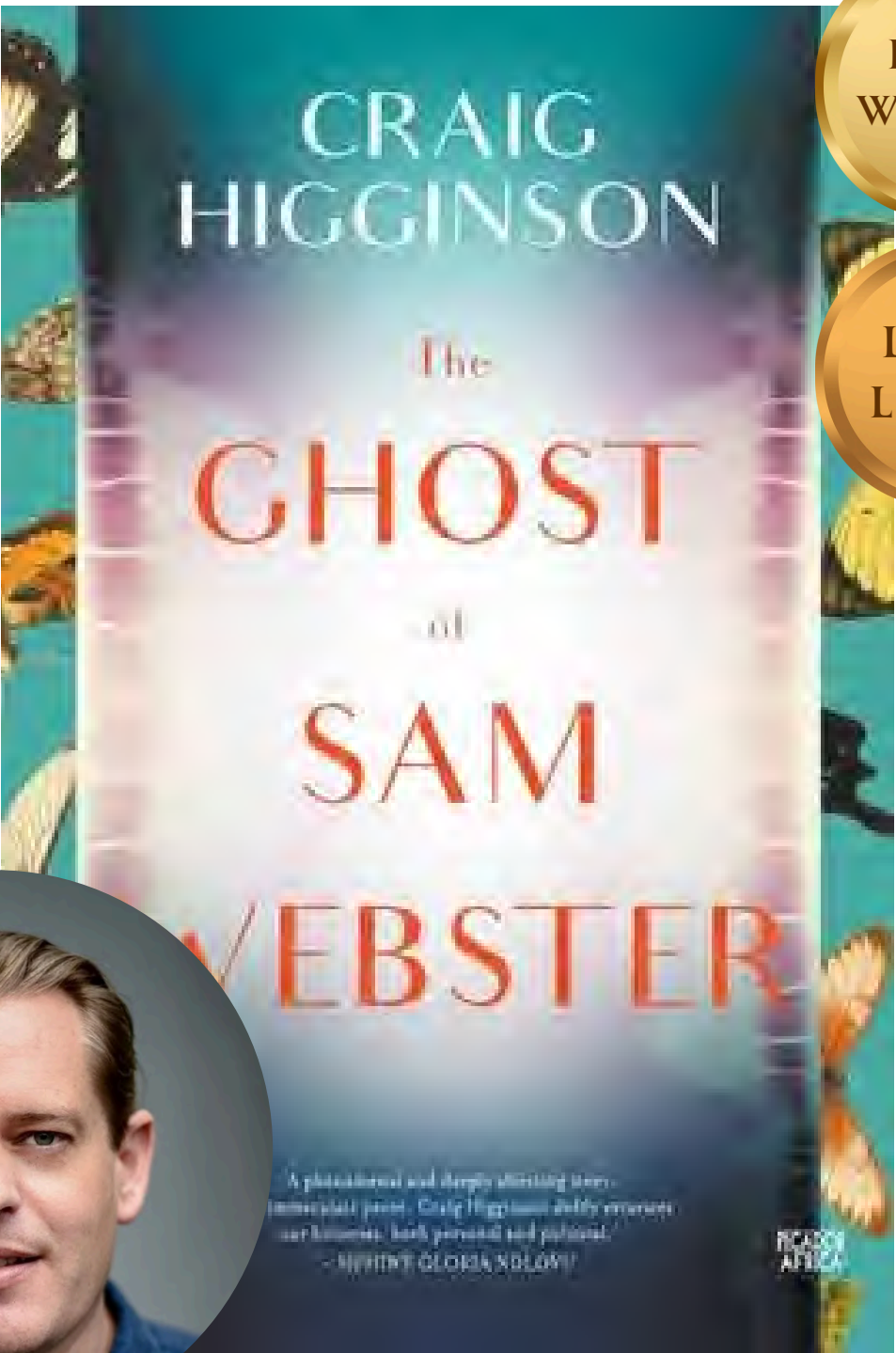
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

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. Written in Craig Higginson's masterful prose, THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER is at once a war novel, a murder mystery, a multi-layered love story and a robust reassertion of what it is to remain human during the most challenging times.

Craig Higginson is an acclaimed playwright and award-winning novelist whose plays have been performed and produced in theatres and festivals around the world. His novels include LAST SUMMER (Picador Africa, 2010; Mercure de France, 2017), THE LANDSCAPE PAINTER (Picador Africa, 2011), THE DREAM HOUSE (Picador Africa, 2015; Mercure de France, 2016) and THE WHITE ROOM (Picador Africa and St Martin's Press, 2018). THE DREAM HOUSE was a matric setwork for South African schools from 2019 to 2021.

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'An astounding book – beautifully written and enthralling – that takes us from the azure gleam of a butterfly's wing to the roaring immensity of a Zulu army.' – HAMILTON WENDE



THE SECOND VERSE

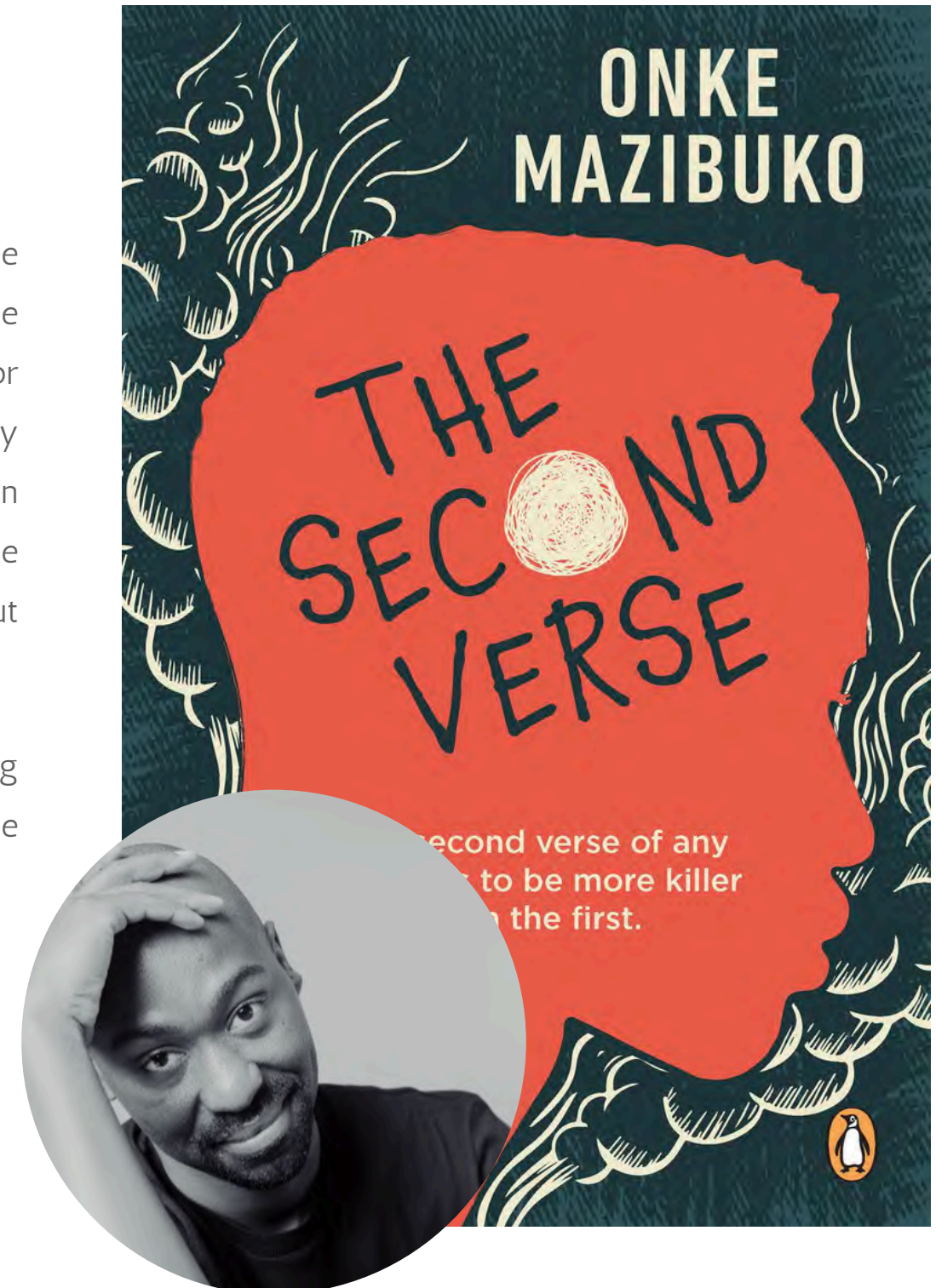
The second verse of any song has to be more killer than the first. Always. The rhythm has to slap. The lyrics must be on point. The feeling intense. And the impact mad-definitive. It's just the way it is. In the same way, if you do well once in life, then you always have to be better from that point onwards. No doubt.

East London, aka Slummies, circa 1998. Bokang Damane is a dreamer and an outsider with mad problems. Things only get worse when everyone thinks he wants to off himself just because he wrote an essay on suicide. Really? Talk about d.r.a.m.a. Life at the moment is just a sorry son-of-a-checklist of insolvable problems. Problem #1: Not black enough for the black kids and too black for the white kids. Yep, that's what happens when you attend a mad-pompous all boys' college and live in the burbs. Problem #2: Family finances are a joke – they can't even afford Bokang's initiation. Now he can't get props like any decent Xhosa man. Problem #3: An alcoholic, gambling attorney for a father who expects the world to bend to his will. What's a man gotta do? Apart from freaking the hell out? Bokang just wants to rap, sketch and be left alone. Everyone keeps yacking on about Bokang reaching his true potential but everyone keeps getting in the way. So what happens? Boy meets girl. It wouldn't be much of a story otherwise.

Onke Mazibuko is a psychologist working in private practice. He also dabbles in astrology, palmistry and the tarot. He loves learning from young people and does a little writing to secretly fuel his dreams. He is currently busy with a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Pretoria.

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'A remarkably powerful and passionate voice' — THE MAIL & GUARDIAN



MIRAGE

Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

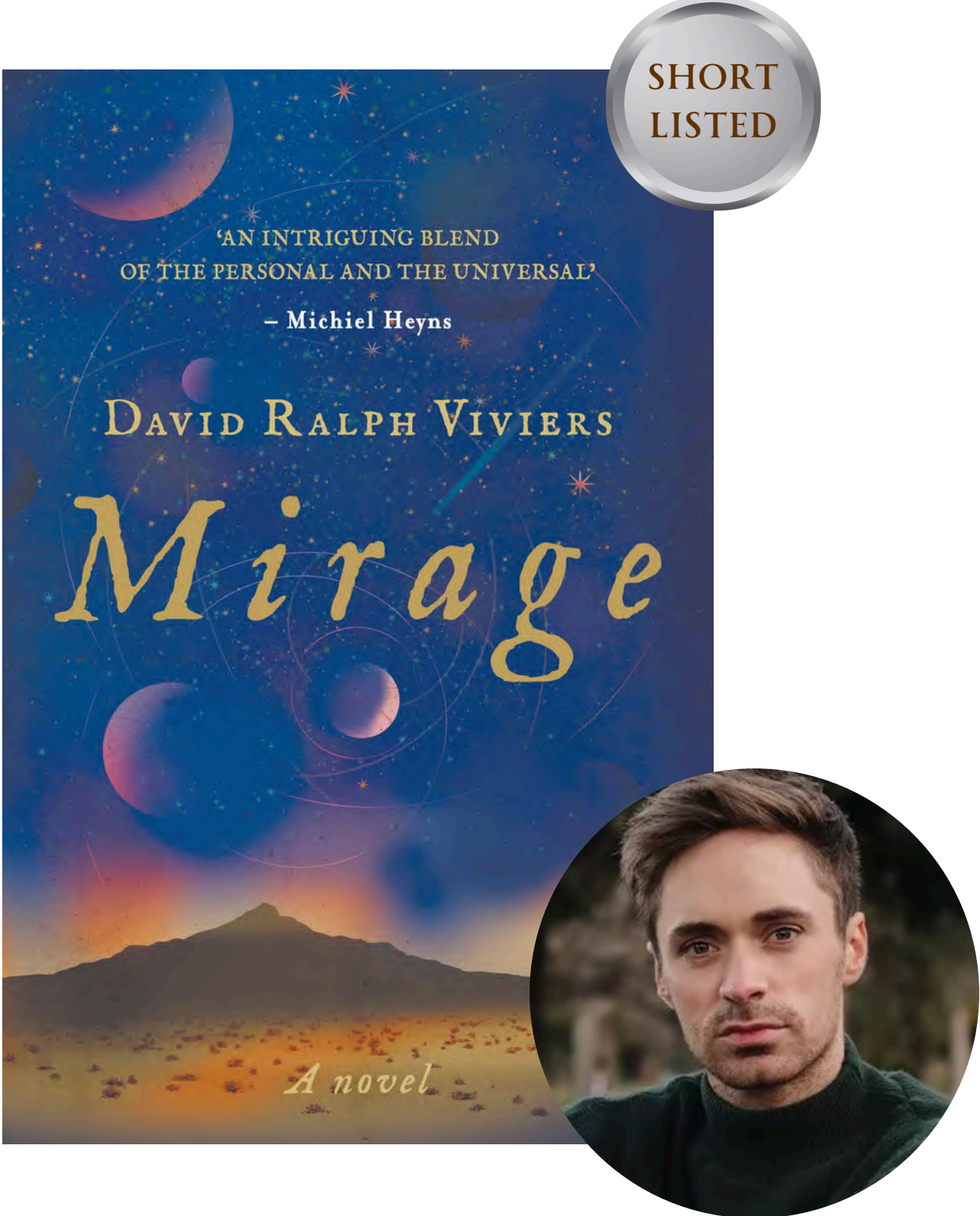
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

A century-old trunk has been dug up near the railway village of Sterfontein. Inside is the lost journal of Victorian author Elizabeth Tenant – and what appear to be the remains of a child. Michael, a university student recovering from a broken heart, is intrigued by what the journal describes: a scarlet curtain billowing above the desert, covering the entrance to another world. But things become even stranger when a line in the journal seems to be connected to Michael and his cosmologist mother, written a hundred years before their time. Without much to go on, Michael travels to the old Karoo hotel where Elizabeth wrote her novel *Mirage*. Amid talk of omens in the sky, ancient prophecies and the end of the world, he tries to decipher the journal's secrets. As one mystery leads to the next, constellation-like patterns between his own life and Elizabeth's appear, helped along by Renata, a self-proclaimed medium, and Oom Sarel, the local museum curator. But as time starts to dissolve in the mirages of the Karoo, it becomes more and more difficult to know what is real and what is not. And why can't he shake the feeling that he's been to the village before?

David Ralph Viviers is a Cape Town-based writer and film and theatre actor. He holds a BA in Theatre and Performance, as well as a master's degree in Creative Writing, both with distinction, from the University of Cape Town. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Brett Goldin Bursary award, which allowed him to study with the Royal Shakespeare Company for a month in Stratford-upon-Avon. For his work in both English and Afrikaans theatre, he won a Fleur du Cap Award in 2020 and has received several Kanna and Fiësta nominations. His film/TV work includes *BINNELANDERS*, *TALI'S BABY DIARY*, *KANARIE*, *NO HIDING HERE*, *HOME AFFAIRS 1 & 2*, *RAGE*, and *BLACK SAILS*. *MIRAGE* is his debut novel.

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'Fascinating and imaginative ... an intriguing blend of the personal and the universal'
– MICHIEL HEYNS



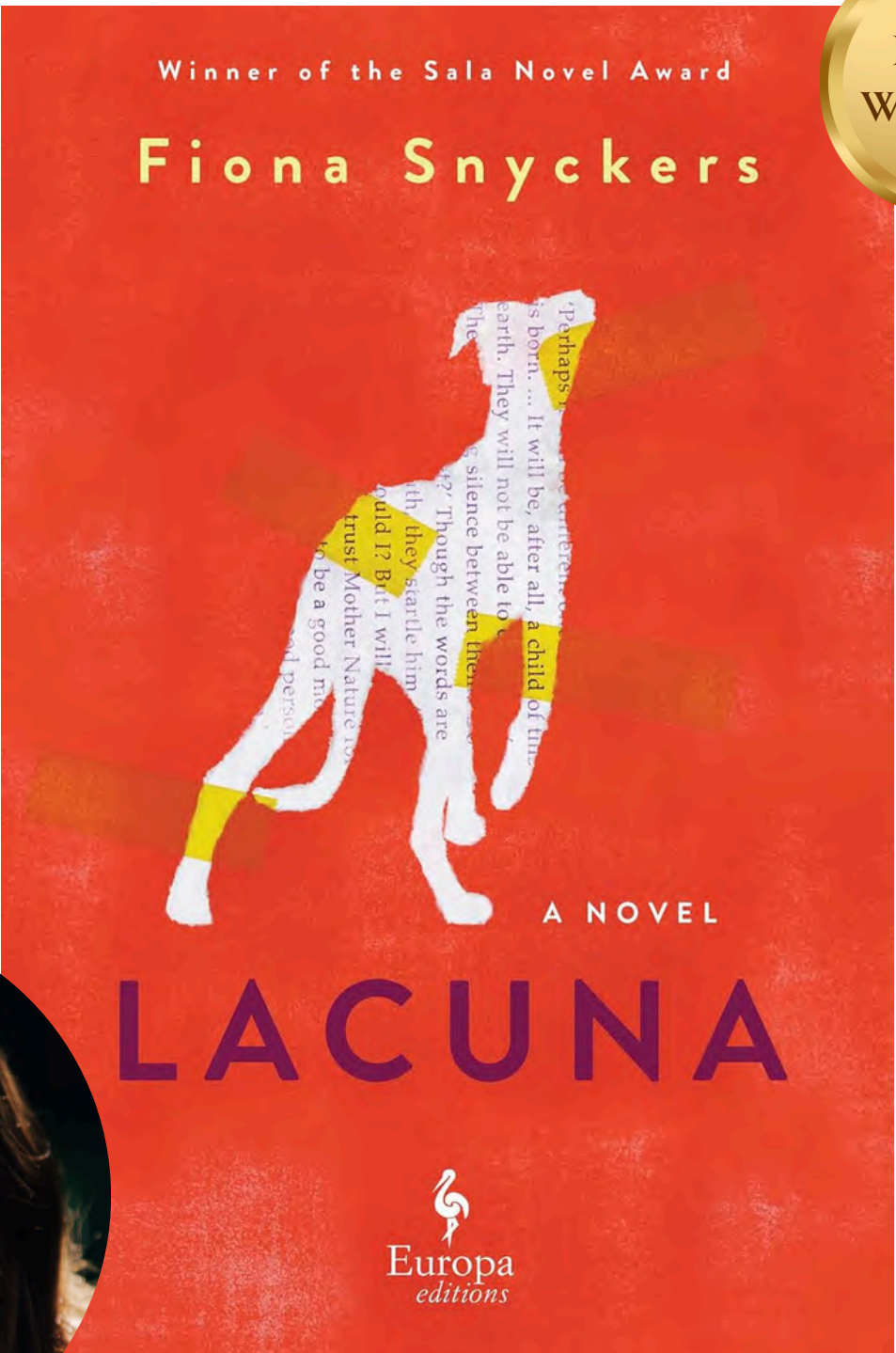
LACUNA

Winner of the Humanities and Social Sciences Prize for Best Novel (2020)
Winner of a SALA (South African Literary Award) for Best Novel (2020)

Lucy Lurie is struggling through PTSD following a gang rape at her father's farmhouse. She becomes obsessed with the author John Coetzee, a colleague of hers from the University who has made a name for himself by writing a celebrated novel that revolves around the attack on her. Lucy lives the life of a celibate hermit, making periodic forays into the outside world in her attempts to find and confront the author, to make sense of what happened to her, and to find a way to reclaim her life. LACUNA is, in part, a response to JM Coetzee's Booker Prize winning novel DISGRACE, written from the point of view of Coetzee's character Lucy Lurie. The Lucy of Coetzee's fiction is a passive, peaceful creature, almost entirely lacking in agency. She is the lacuna in Coetzee's novel – the missing piece of the puzzle. The Lucy Lurie of Fiona Snyckers' imagination is no one's lacuna. Her attempts to claw back her life and her voice after being raped may be messy and misguided, but she won't be silenced. Her rape is not a metaphor. This is her story.

Fiona Snyckers is the author of the TRINITY series of young adult novels, the EULALIE PARK series of mystery novels, and two thrillers, NOW FOLLOWING YOU and SPIRE. She has been longlisted four times for the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize and the literary novel LACUNA won the SALA prize 2020 and the HSSA 2020. Her gripping and immersive style makes for compulsive reading.

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JUNX

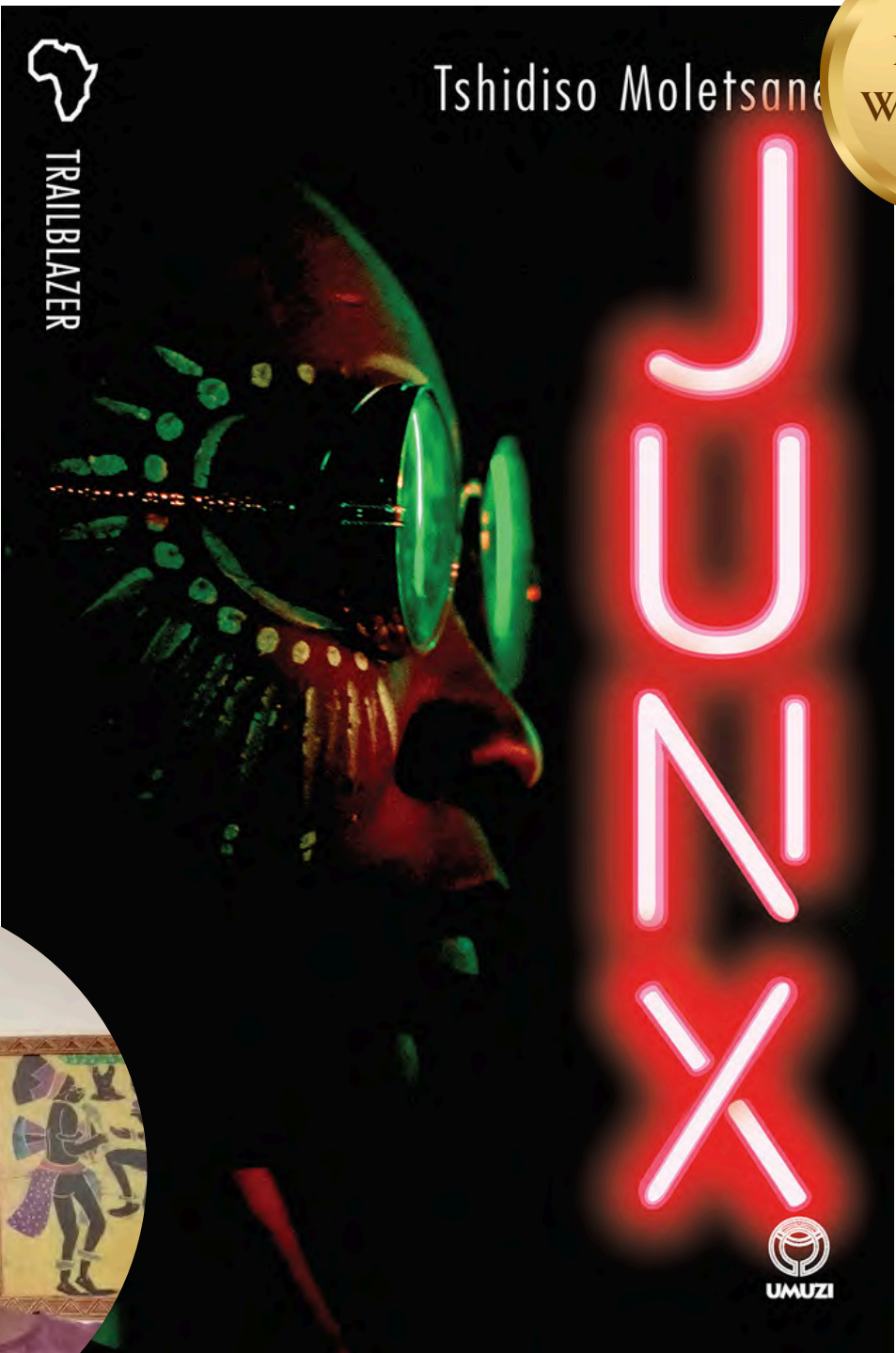
Winner of the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2022)

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.

Tshidiso Moletsane’s debut novel, JUNX, won the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize in 2022. A gifted author, known for his intelligence, humour, and humility, Tshidiso has had a lasting impact on South African Literature. Tshidiso’s journey as a writer was characterised by determination and resilience – after the original manuscript of JUNX was stolen in a traumatic hijacking, he started the book again from scratch. Tshidiso passed away in May 2024. He was both surprised and overwhelmed by the attention JUNX received – the book captured the zeitgeist, the raw emotions and struggles, of South African youth. He often spoke lovingly of his close relationship with his family, especially his mother, Lerato Moletsane, who survives him.

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‘An affecting, slow-burning novel that gives a fantastic sense of a particular place and time, and of the haunted inner life of its protagonist’ – THE MINEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE



POETRY



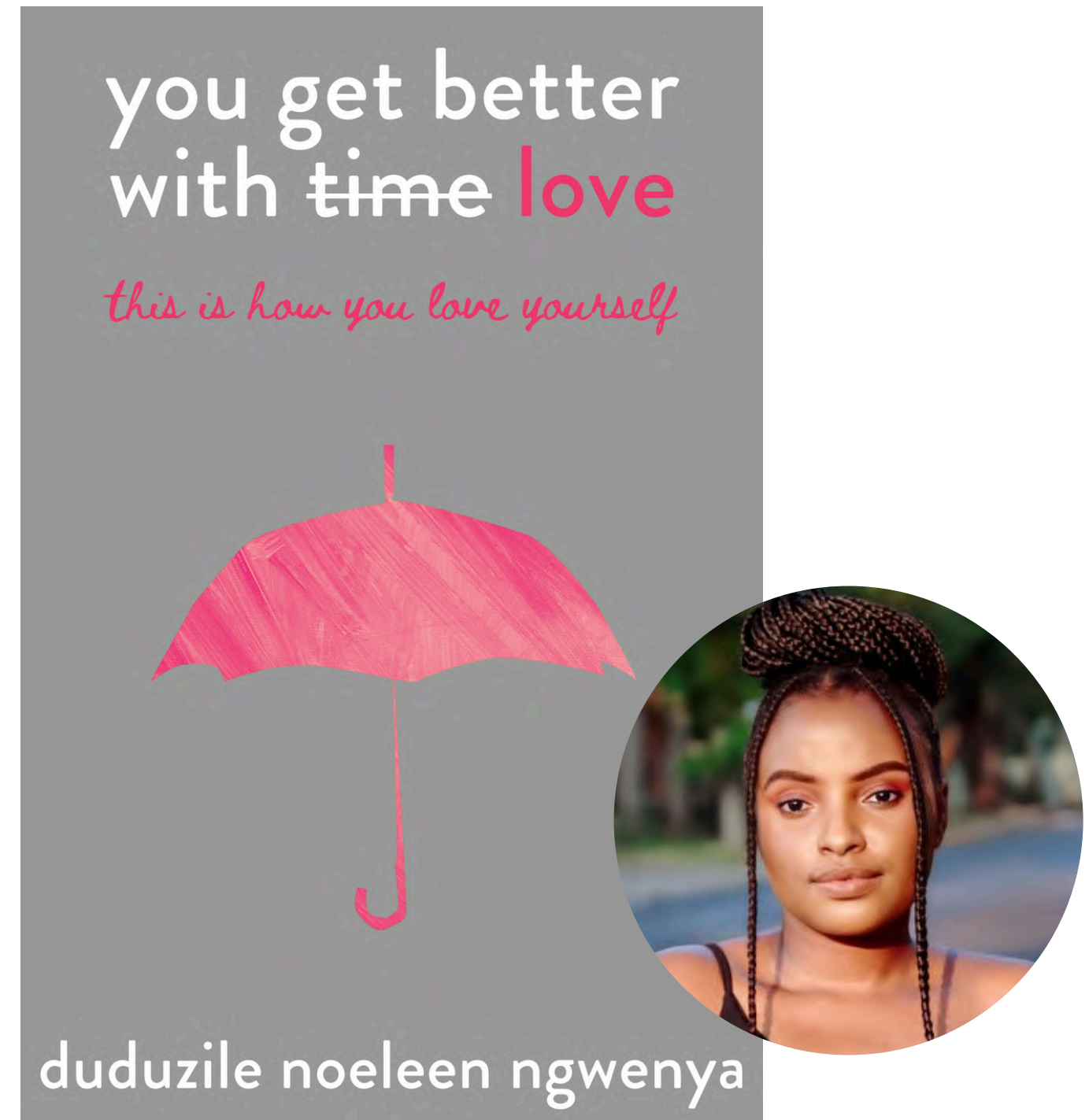
YOU GET BETTER WITH LOVE

A poetic journey through fear, love, and the power of starting again.

YOU GET BETTER WITH LOVE takes you on the journey of embracing vulnerability in its rawest form. Exploring fears, insecurities, love experiences, and the yearning for acceptance, the author weaves a narrative of prose and poetry delving into the heart of human emotion. This collection of poetry is a testament to the power of owning one's feelings and thoughts, showcasing a delicate balance between personal and universal experiences. As a way of symbolising individuality and how we don't have to constrain ourselves to one thing, the author uses lower-case typography and invites you to reflect on your struggles and triumphs. As each page turns, YOU GET BETTER WITH LOVE offers a comforting reminder that as long as we breathe, there is an opportunity to begin anew, love oneself fully, and embrace the endless possibilities that come with choosing to try again.

Duduzile Noleen Ngwenya is a writer and entrepreneur from Hammanskraal, Pretoria. The former magazine editor and life coach is passionate about mental health and self-development and aims to inspire others to heal and grow in self-love and self-acceptance. She has self-published two bestselling books, THINGS I NEVER SAID TO MYSELF and THIS TIME YOU RETURN TO YOURSELF.

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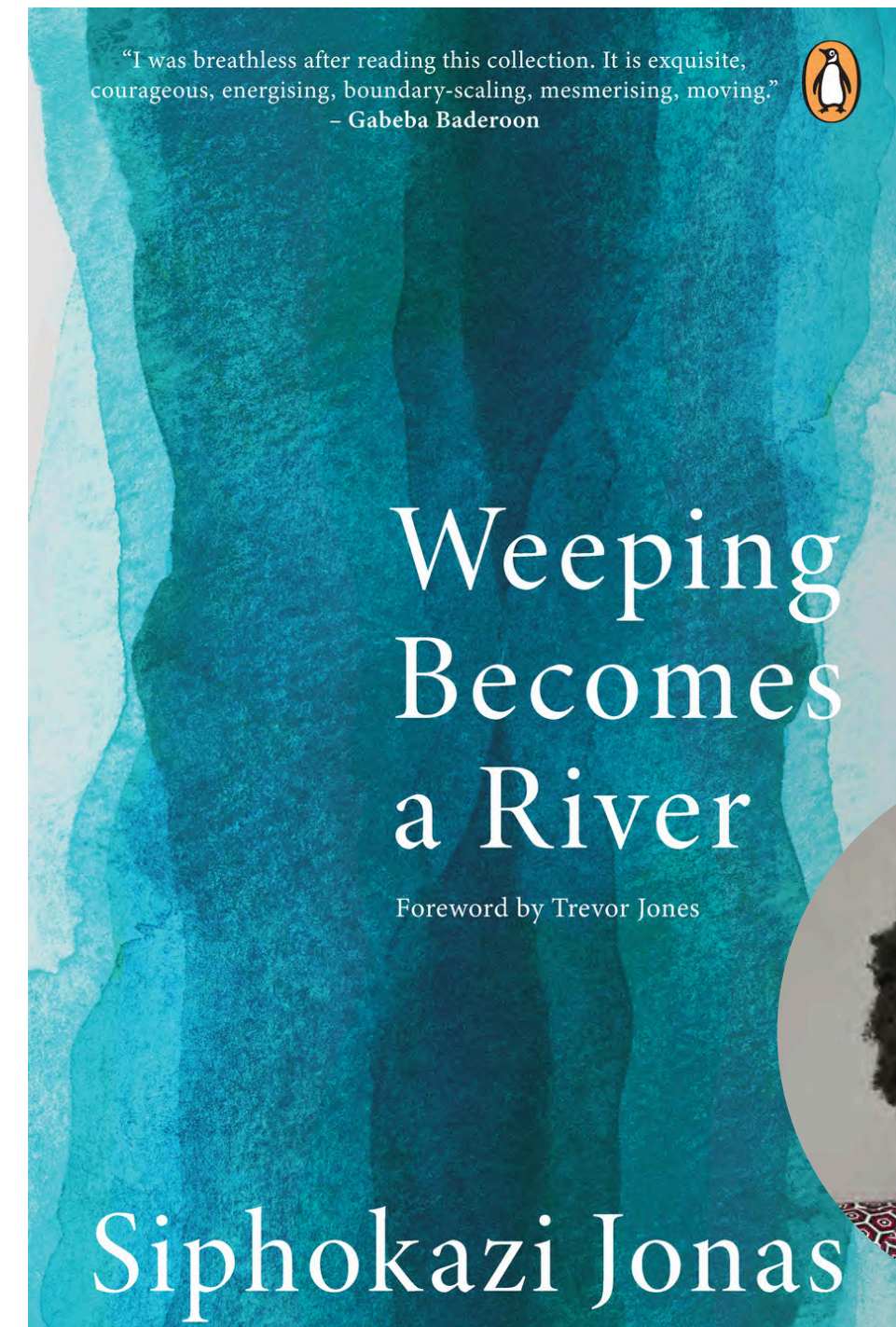
WEEPING BECOMES A RIVER

Weaving worlds, words, and history into the story of a nation's transformation.

If a Shakespearean actor, a Christian missionary and an isiXhosa praise poet walked into a bar, their conversation would sound something like the poems in this collection. Siphokazi Jonas is a weaver of seemingly discordant worlds; growing up in an Afrikaans dorpie during the transition years of a newly democratic South Africa and going on annual holidays to a village made this a necessity. Her work as a spoken word poet often fuses poetry, theatre and film, and she brings this genre-mixing to the page by using the intsomi form to weave the narrative of her poems together. Jonas's poems explore the impact of linguistic and cultural alienation as a black learner in former Model C schools in the 1990s and early 2000s. She is not only a referee of the internal war between isiXhosa and English within her, but she pieces together a language for leaving and returning between the past and the present, and a possible future. Her poems ask questions about navigating tradition, religion, migration between rural and urban spaces, and how families choose to make their own culture. WEEPING BECOMES A RIVER is a timely reflection on the cost of being the early test subjects of South Africa's democratic project.

Siphokazi Jonas is a South African poet, playwright and actor with an MA in English Literature and a BA in English and Drama. She was the 2016 runner-up for the national Sol Plaatje European Union Award and headlined as the first Featured Poet at the Poetry Africa Festival in 2021. Siphokazi received a Best Short Film South African Film and Television Award (SAFTA) as co-producer of the poetry film #WeAreDyingHere. Her work has appeared in POETRY LONDON, ATLANTA REVIEW, VERSOPOLIS REVIEW, THE POETRY SOCIETY, and STANZAS.

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NON-FICTION



KILLER STORIES

Step inside the minds of South Africa's most notorious killers.

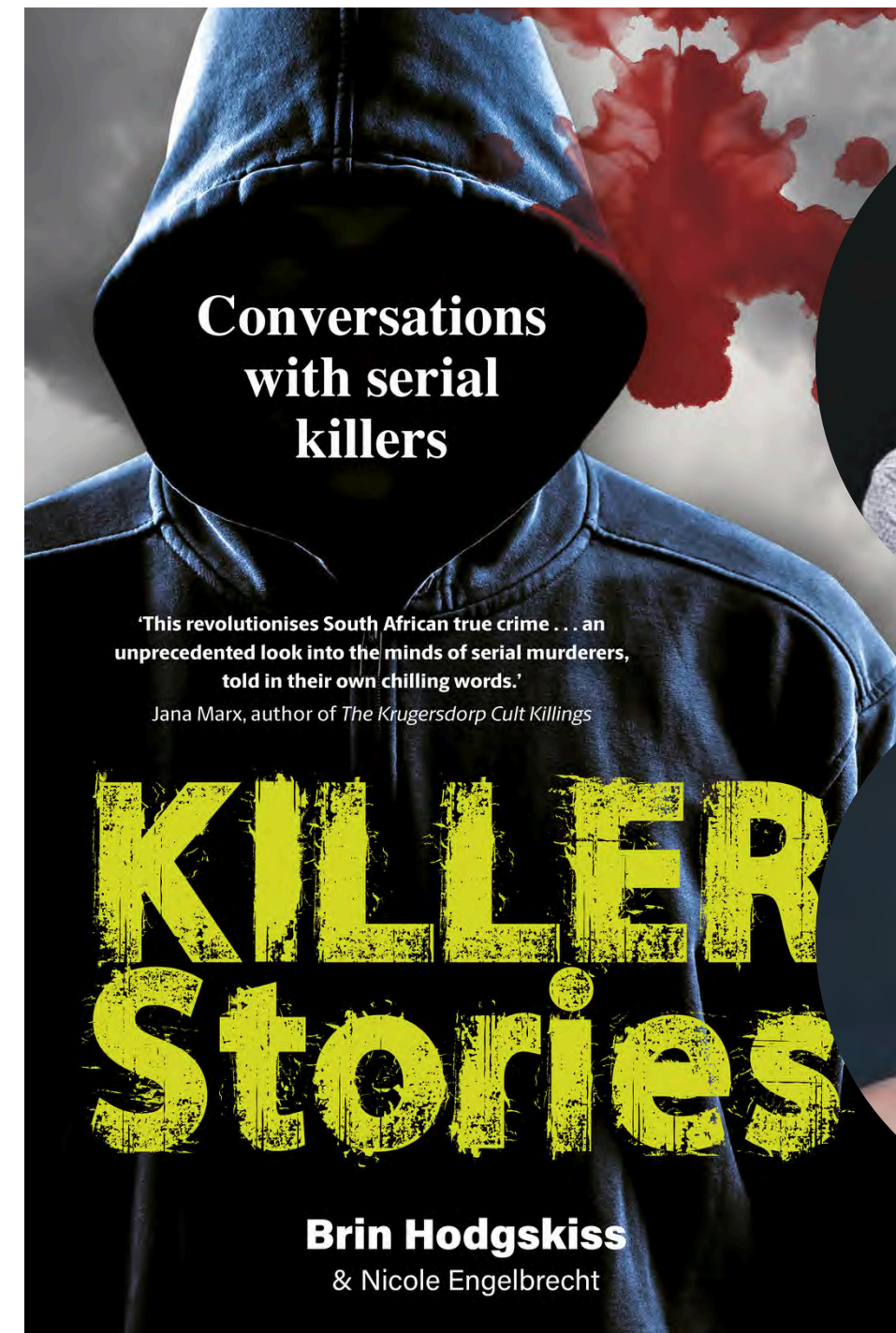
Most true-crime books end when the prison doors slam shut on the convicted. KILLER STORIES takes you behind the bars into the bowels of some of South Africa's most secure prisons. Here, the country's most terrifying serial offenders share their truths – or at least their versions of the truth – in their own words. In 2010, Dr Brin Hodgskiss got his PhD in psychology for a study based on 13 interviews he did with South African serial killers. The transcripts and recordings sat gathering dust until 2020, when top true-crime podcaster Nicole Engelbrecht found Hodgskiss's paper online. The two connected and the concept for this book was born. Hodgskiss uses each of the interviews, combined with the tenets of narrative psychology, to take the reader into the minds of the killers. Rather than a psychological analysis of the criminal psyche, Hodgskiss sets out to show the reader how the stories these men told themselves about their lives contributed to where they ended up, and how they aren't that different from the stories we all tell ourselves. The book intertwines different narrative threads: the killers' story and the true-crime story behind it; analysis of the story in narrative-psychology terms; and how Hodgskiss's own journey as a psychologist and human being contributed to his deeper understanding of the minds of these killers.

Brin Hodgkiss lives in the UK and works for the NHS. Prior to this, he spent 15 years working for the British police in investigations and intelligence, tackling everything from anti-social behaviour and burglary, to terrorism, murder and serial rape. He is from Johannesburg and while studying in South Africa, he worked with the South African police. **Nicole Engelbrecht** is South Africa's top true-crime podcaster, having launched TRUE CRIME SOUTH AFRICA in 2019. She is the author of SAMURAI SWORD MURDERER: THE MORNE HARMSE STORY.

Handling World English rights except Southern African (Jonathan Ball Publishers), and Film&TV

'A devastating, deeply moving and humane page turner – absolutely unique in its approach. Just as you despair, a kind of redemption emerges, all the more powerful because of where you have been taken' – MARK SHAW, author of HITMEN FOR HIRE

'This revolutionises South African true crime . . . an unprecedented look into the minds of serial murderers, told in their own chilling words' – JANA MARX, author of THE KRUGERSDORP CULT KILLINGS



BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER

Part memoir, part how-to for parents of aspiring child actors. BATTLE HYMN OF THE TIGER MOTHER meets OUTLIERS via I'M GLAD MY MOTHER DIED.

*cover coming soon

Everyone loves the movies, and everyone loves salacious gossip about a washed-up child actor. The public's relationship with successful child stars is a mixture of fascination and jealousy, with the assumption of a high level of privilege and good fortune. Children excel in all sorts of fields, but when it comes to child actors there is a particular kind of fascination. And in particular there's strange communal delight when they publicly fall on hard times. When this happens, in an industry with little regulation and big profits, it's always the mother's fault. All three of Heidi'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. This book is BATTLE HYMN OF THE TIGER MOTHER meets OUTLIERS via I'M GLAD MY MOTHER DIED. With anecdotes about the on and off set antics of some of the most famous people on the planet, the book is part memoir, part how-to for parents of aspiring child actors, and for film professionals alike.

Heidi Chapman is an Australian psychologist with a Phd in cognitive neuroscience. She is the mother of three grown boys, all of whom have been professional actors from a very young age.

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PATIENT 12A

One man's story of survival, reflection, and confronting the past.

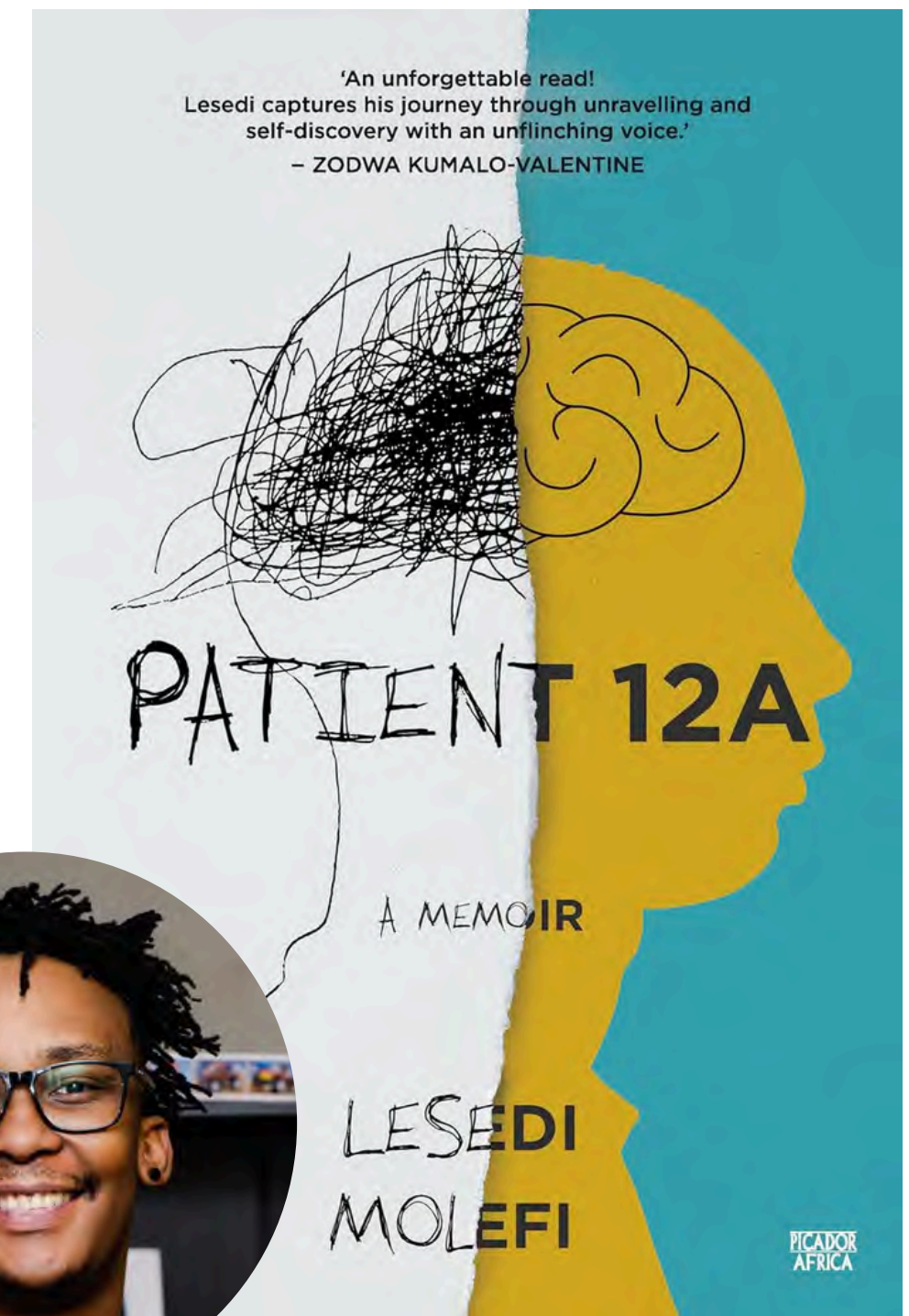
So here I am, at a psychiatric hospital, looking for myself in a building I've never been to before. A few nights ago, I was ready to rid myself of myself. I still am, only, in a different way.

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.

LESEDI MOLEFI is a Soweto-born writer, documentary filmmaker, photographer and copywriter who lives in Johannesburg. PATIENT 12A is his first book.

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'Brave, poetic, brutal, always honest. By leading the reader through his chaotic childhood and immersing us in a mental health treatment centre, Lesedi forces us to confront conversations that are often hard to have. I was moved and challenged' – GAVIN WEALE



SHOW ME THE PLACE

Exploring the places where history, memory, and hope intersect.

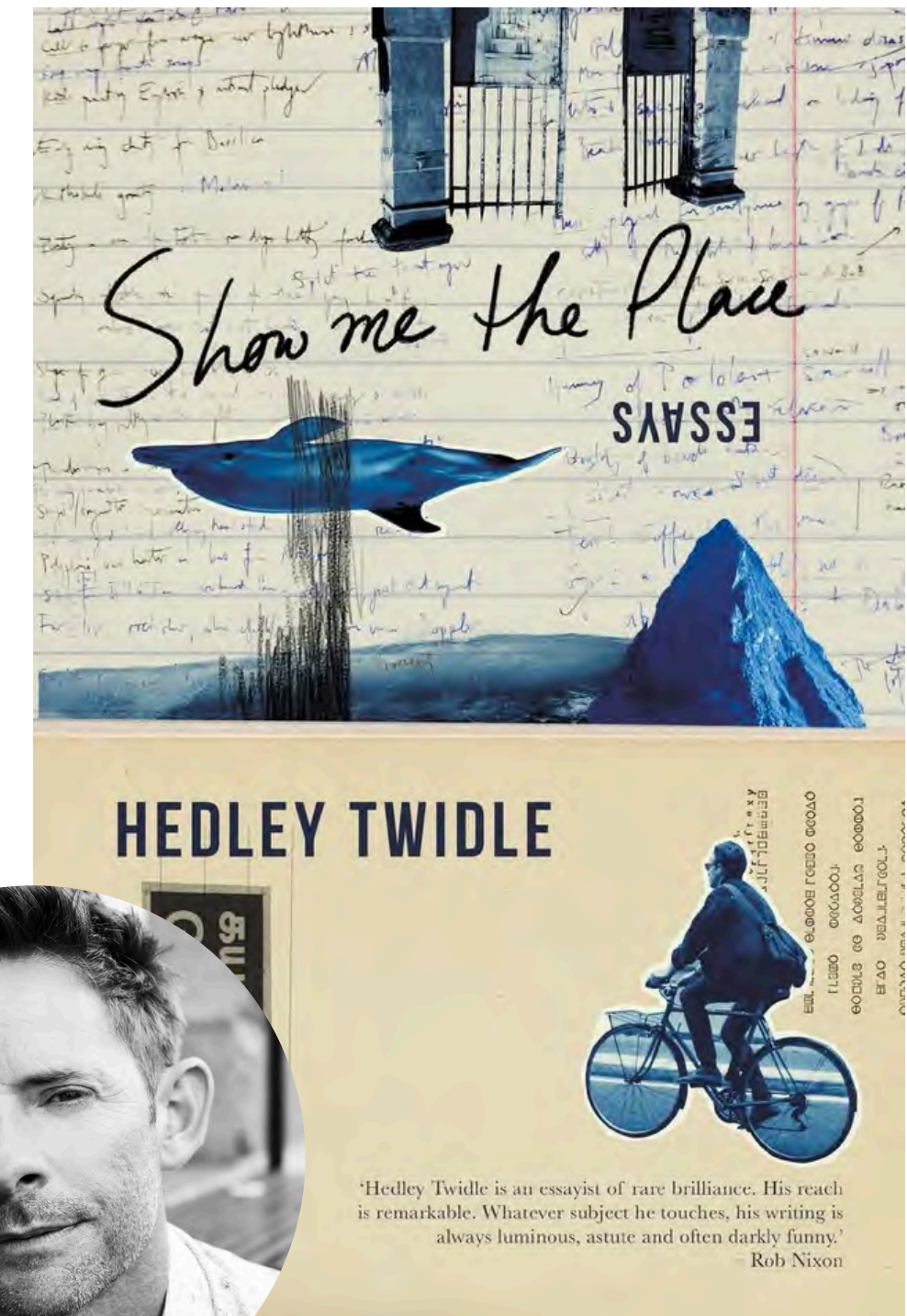
From award-winning non-fiction writer Hedley Twidle comes *SHOW ME THE PLACE*, an essay collection searching through history, memory, and literature to find glimmers of utopia. The collection is a book of elsewhere; in it, the author charts a journey to find other liveable places and spaces in a troubled world. Whether embarking on a bizarre quest to find Cecil Rhodes's missing nose (sliced off the bust of the Rhodes Memorial) or bike-packing the Scottish islands with a couple of squabbling anarchists; whether learning to surf (much too late) in the wild, freezing waters off the Cape Peninsula or navigating the fraught politics of a Buddhist retreat centre – the author explores forgotten utopias, intentional communities and islands of imagination with curiosity, hope, and humour. Threaded through the pieces in this collection are questions of friendship and human community, of environmental destruction and repair, of landscape and memory. Ranging from the science fiction of Ursula Le Guin to George Orwell's vision of the good life, from Mohandas Gandhi's South African ashrams to the 'living laboratory' of Auroville in south India, *SHOW ME THE PLACE* investigates the deep human desire to imagine social and environmental alternatives to what we take as normal or inevitable.

Winner of the Bodley Head/FT Essay prize, **HEDLEY TWIDLE** is a writer, teacher, and researcher based at the University of Cape Town. His essay collection *FIREPOOL: EXPERIENCES IN AN ABNORMAL WORLD*, was published by Kwela in 2017. *EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH*, a study of life writing and the South African transition, appeared in the African Articulation series from James Currey in 2019. His work has appeared in international publications such as the *NEW STATESMAN*, the *FINANCIAL TIMES* and *HARPER'S* magazine.

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'Hedley Twidle's work is exquisitely crafted, clever, self-deprecating, and, above all, deeply thoughtful. We are lucky to have a writer of his calibre working on contemporary South African material' – JONNY STEINBERG

'A tour de force of literary comedy' – SIMON SCHAMA, judge of the Financial Times/Bodley Head essay competition



RUN. RISK. REWARD.

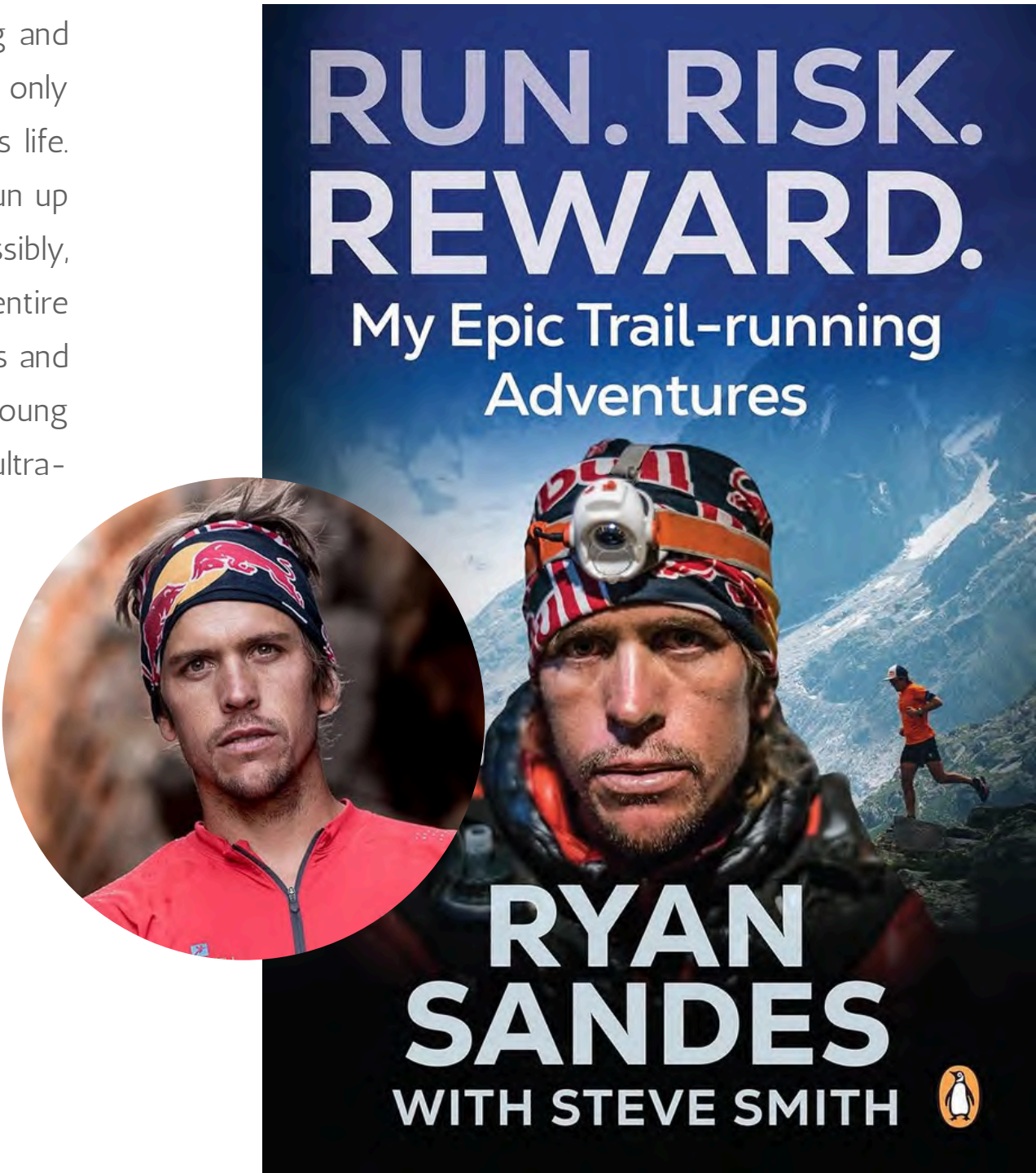
Beyond endurance: daring adventures and near escapes from an ultra-trail legend.

As a follow-up to his hugely popular 2016 autobiography TRAIL BLAZER, Ryan Sandes' new book explores the gripping and often life-threatening adventures this extraordinary ultra-trail runner has experienced around the globe since then. Not only have these projects tested the very edge of human endurance, but on several occasions, Ryan literally had to run for his life. Along with a 1 500-kilometre Himalayan adventure, read about his attempt at completing the first 700-kilometre solo run up Namibia's legendary Skeleton Coast – only to stumble upon some very angry Namibian soldiers conducting illegal and, possibly, government-sponsored seal clubbing. And, with his running partner Ryno Griessel, becoming the first people to run the entire circumference of Lesotho, during which they find themselves fighting off an attack from local herdsman armed with rocks and clubs. In between these adventures, Ryan battles to balance a challenging career with a dedicated commitment to his young family. RUN. RISK. REWARD. is packed with adventure, humour and some fascinating insights into the psyche of an ultra-endurance athlete. Trust me, these people are not like you and me.

Forty-two-year-old **Ryan Sandes** is a local and international trail-running sensation. Among his many accomplishments, he was the first person to win all four races in the 4 Desert Series, and in 2013 became the first person to ever win an ultra-trail race on all seven continents. In 2011, and on debut, Ryan won the Leadville 100-miler mountain race in Leadville, Colorado, setting the third-fastest time in the history of the race and the fastest time by a non-American. He is an ambassador for the prestigious Laureus Foundation, married to businesswoman Vanessa and is the father of Max.

Steve Smith is a successful magazine editor and writer who penned the bestselling sports autobiographies TO THE POINT, for bad-boy cricketer Herschelle Gibbs, SUPERVAN & I, for motor-racing legend Sarel van der Merwe, and Ryan Sandes' first autobiography, TRAILBLAZER. Steve is also an enthusiastic cyclist, having completed many multi- and single-day races around South Africa. He is arguably the country's most experienced magazine editor, having been at the helm of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, CAR, RED BULL magazine, SAWUBONA, and, most recently, the design-led publication VISI.

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THE OTHER SIDE

Unlocking the mysteries of life, death, and the worlds beyond.

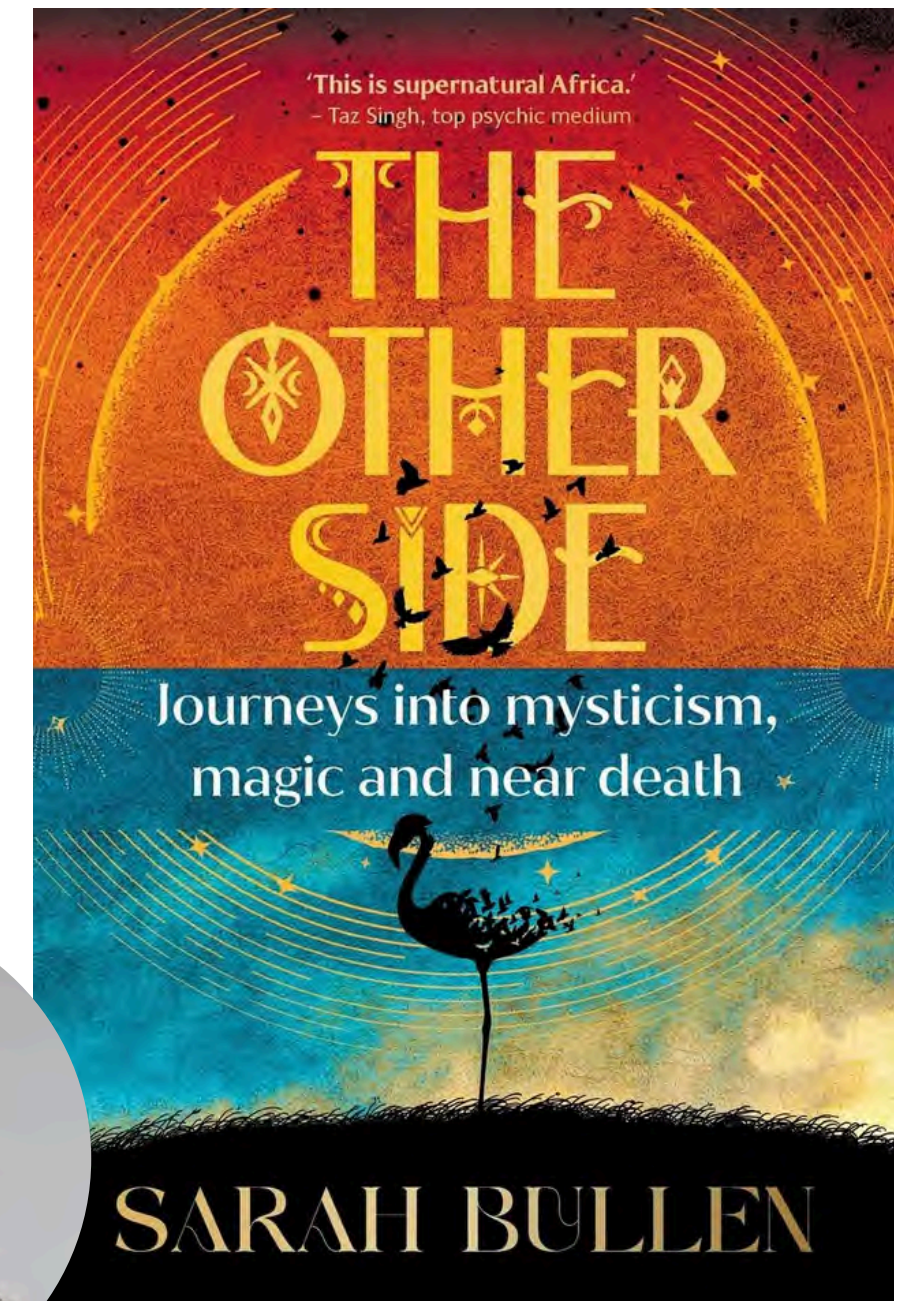
What happens when you die? How are some people able to see or communicate with spiritual worlds beyond our own? Do they have any real answers? The world is increasingly looking for people who can cross this divide, bring back answers and share them. Sarah Bullen, who has had a life-altering near-death experience herself, explores these questions and gathers riveting and radical stories from Africa of people who have crossed to the 'other side' or those who can contact it. It also brings together a fascinating collection of teachers with special abilities and who can communicate across worlds using mediumship, gifts, trance, and plants. Meet and learn from a man who woke up on the mortuary table after being shot in a violent robbery, a spiritual teacher who survived two near-death experiences on an operating table at age four, a psychic rabbi, and shamans from West and Southern Africa.

Sarah Bullen is a multi-published author and writing coach, leading international writing retreats and adventures in Europe and Africa. She is a former financial and magazine journalist writing for titles such as MARIE CLAIRE, THE GUARDIAN, COSMOPOLITAN, and PSYCHOLOGIES UK. Her most recent book is LOVE & ABOVE: A JOURNEY INTO SHAMANISM, COMA AND JOY.

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'This is supernatural Africa' – TAZ SINGH, top psychic medium

'We are lucky, and the world is lucky, that African spiritual ways are still alive. It's not gone like some other cultures, and that is why the world is interested in what has held us together, and how we live in union with the natural world and the world of ancestors' – Dr NOKUZOLA MNDENDE, professor of African traditional religions and heritage activist



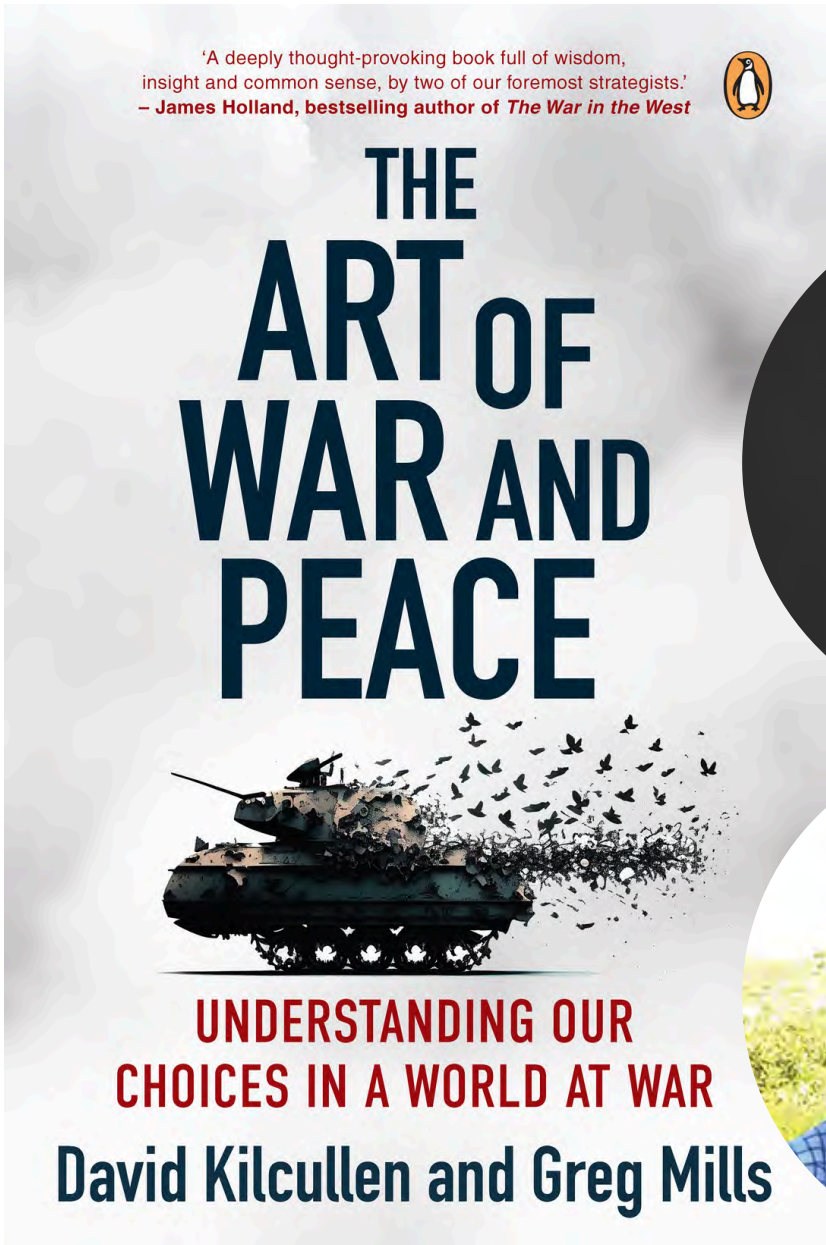
THE ART OF WAR AND PEACE

Navigating war, technology, and diplomacy in a new global order.

How have the character and technology of war changed in recent times? Why does battlefield victory often fail to result in a sustainable peace? What is the best way to prevent, fight, and resolve future conflict? The world is becoming a more dangerous place. Since the fall of Kabul and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US-led liberal international order is giving way to a more chaotic, contested, and multipolar world system. Western credibility and deterrence are diminishing in the face of wars in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, tensions across the Taiwan Strait, and rising populism and terrorism around the world. Can peace, mutual respect and democracy survive, or are we destined to a new permanent chaos in which authoritarians and populists thrive? Based on their decades of experience as policy advisors in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia and across Africa, and on recent fieldwork in Israel, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Taiwan, the authors analyse the nature of modern war, considering both large-scale, high-intensity state-on-state conflicts as well as limited-objective, irregular, low-intensity conflicts that often include both inter- and intra-state dimensions. The book investigates how technology can be a leveller for small powers against larger aggressors; how one can shape and sustain a viable narrative to ensure public and international support; the balance between self-reliance and alliance commitment; and the role of leadership, intelligence, diplomacy and economic assistance. Weighing up past lessons, present observations and predictions about the future, THE ART OF WAR AND PEACE explores how wars can be won on the battle field and how that success can be translated into a stable and enduring peace.

David Kilcullen has professorships in Australia and the US, and is a leading theorist and practitioner of guerrilla and unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency and counterterrorism, with operational experience over a 25-year career with the Australian and US governments as a light infantry officer, intelligence officer, policy advisor, and diplomat. He served in Iraq as senior counterinsurgency advisor to US general. David Petraeus, then as a senior counterterrorism advisor to US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, and has served in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Libya, and Colombia. **Greg Mills** heads the Johannesburg-based Brenthurst Foundation, is a senior associate fellow and advisory board member at the Royal United Services Institute in London, and currently serves as the strategic advisor to the president of Zambia. He sat on the Danish Africa Commission and the African Development Bank's high-level panel on fragile states. He served four deployments to Afghanistan as the advisor to the commander, and he has also worked extensively in Colombia, and with a variety of African governments to improve the conditions for stability, investment, and growth. Along with Dr Kilcullen, he is the author of THE LEDGER, which pinpoints the reasons for failure in Afghanistan.

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‘A deeply thought-provoking book full of wisdom, insight and common sense, by two of our foremost strategists’ – JAMES HOLLAND, bestselling author of THE WAR IN THE WEST



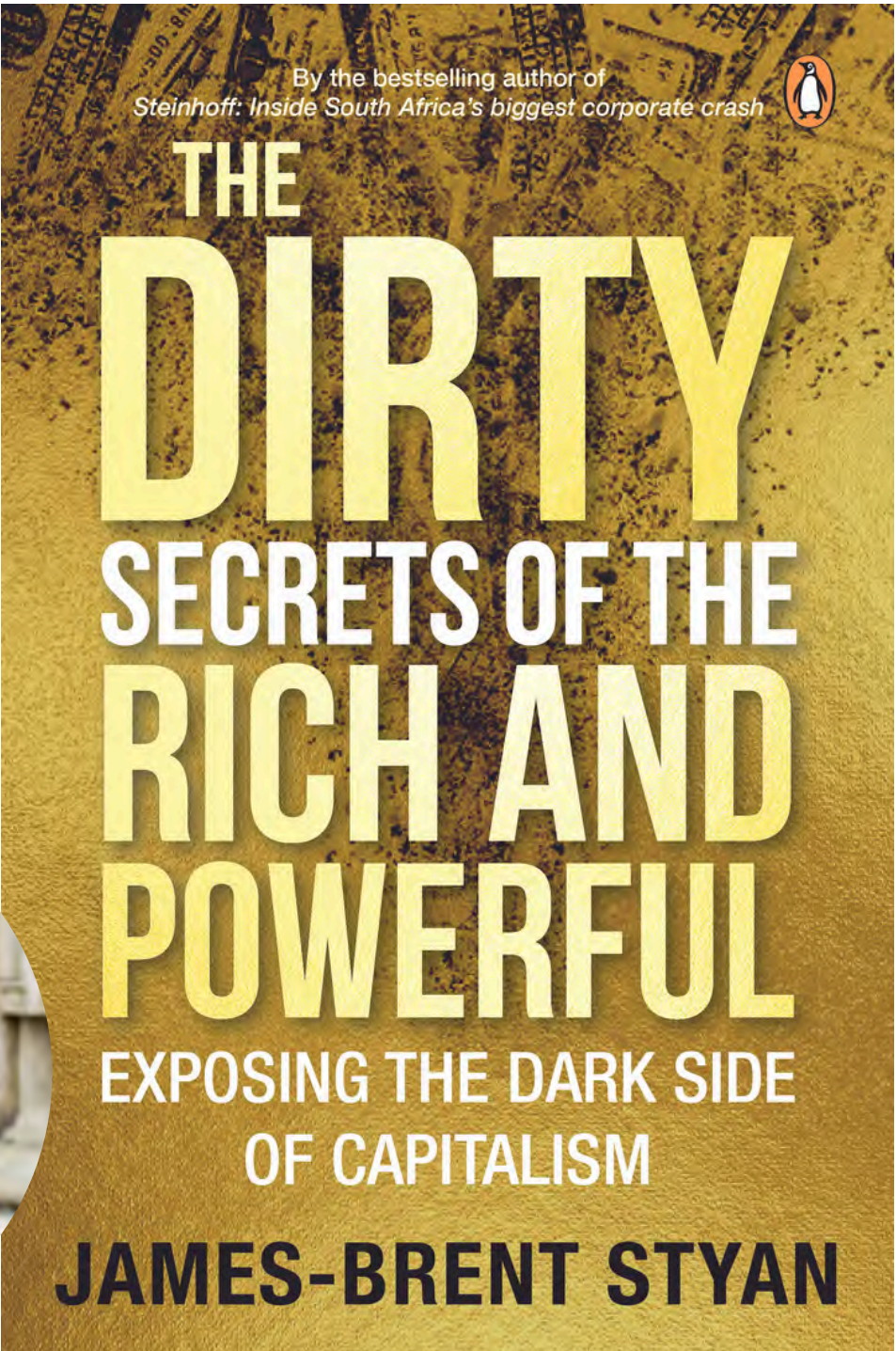
DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL: EXPOSING THE DARK SIDE OF CAPITALISM

How do the top 1% own 80% of everything?

82% of all wealth created in 2018 was claimed by the top 1% of the global population. The bottom 50% of humanity saw no increase at all. While one new billionaire was created every two days, one in every four South Africans was living on less than a dollar a day – not enough to buy a loaf of bread. Inequality has always been part of the world we live in, but in the past twenty years the situation has worsened. We have seen the rise of mega corporations, where regional companies have become global players: power brokers that are richer and more powerful than most countries. This has seen businesses record ever-increasing profits while they pay ever-decreasing taxes. How is this happening?

James-Brent Styan is a former journalist and a bestselling author of five books. His first book in 2015 exposed the state of Eskom and warned about the future of rolling blackouts in South Africa. His 2018 exposé, **STEINHOFF AND THE STELLENBOSCH BOYS**, was a number-one bestseller in both English and Afrikaans.

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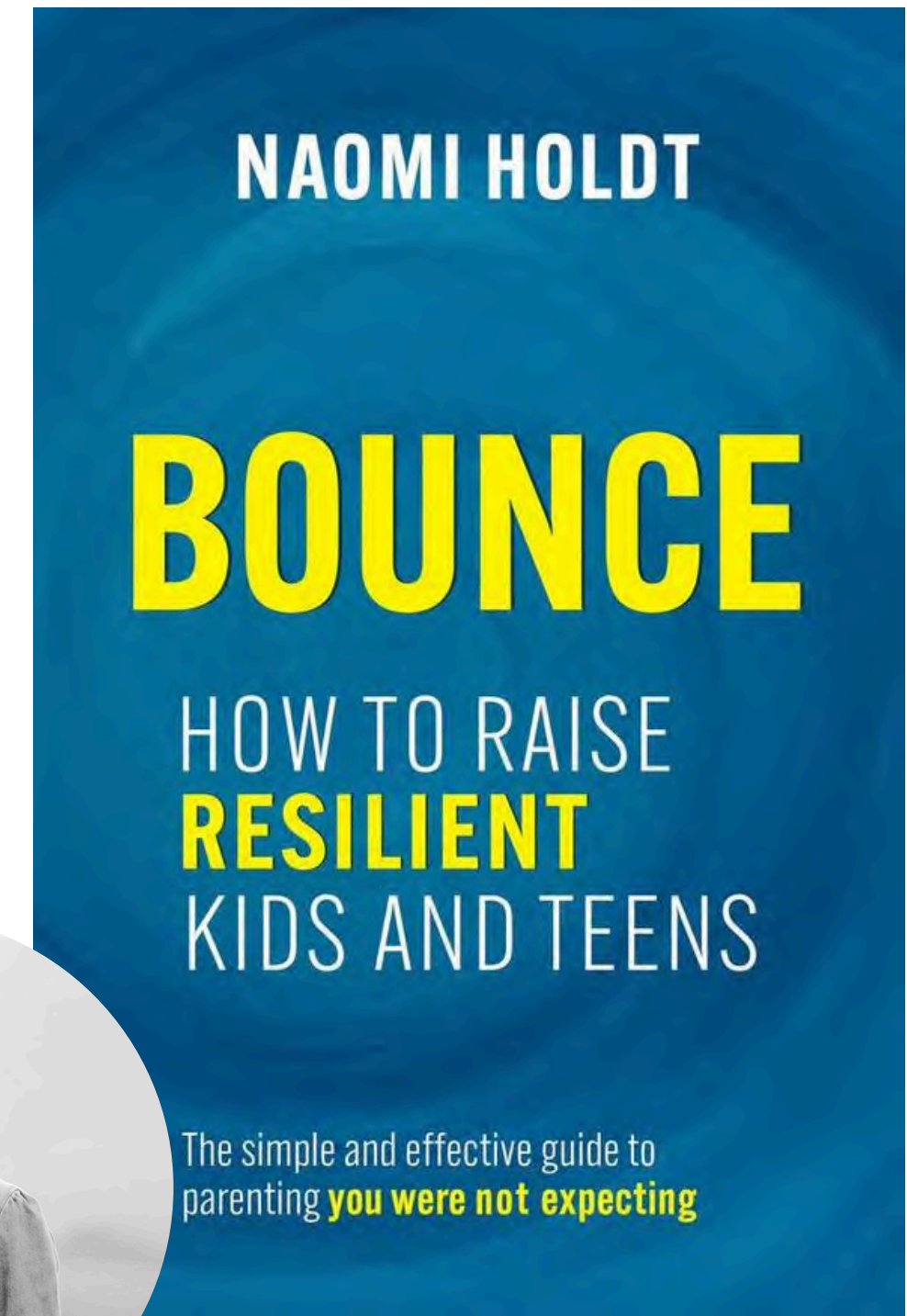
BOUNCE: HOW TO RAISE RESILIENT KIDS AND TEENS

Helping parents tackle this messy and beautiful journey of life and parenting in a very human way.

An easy-to-read, effective guide that can make an immediate difference to one's approach to parenting and to parents' relationship with their children. Based on years of experience as a parent and a parenting expert, Holdt provides accessible information and advice, thought provoking exercises, and proven techniques. BOUNCE explores issues that impact us all, including: What resilience actually is; Anxiety and depression; Building resilience in our children by working on our own resilience; Boundaries and gentle parenting; Helping children through grief; Parenting the anxious child; Tips for divorced parents; Childhood depression; Highly sensitive children and resilience. BOUNCE will help you tackle this messy and beautiful journey of life and parenting in a very human way.

Naomi Holdt is an author, speaker, and psychologist. A mum of two, Holdt has over 20 years of experience in education, educational psychology, and psychotherapy. As a parenting professional, Naomi has worked with children, teens, and parents.

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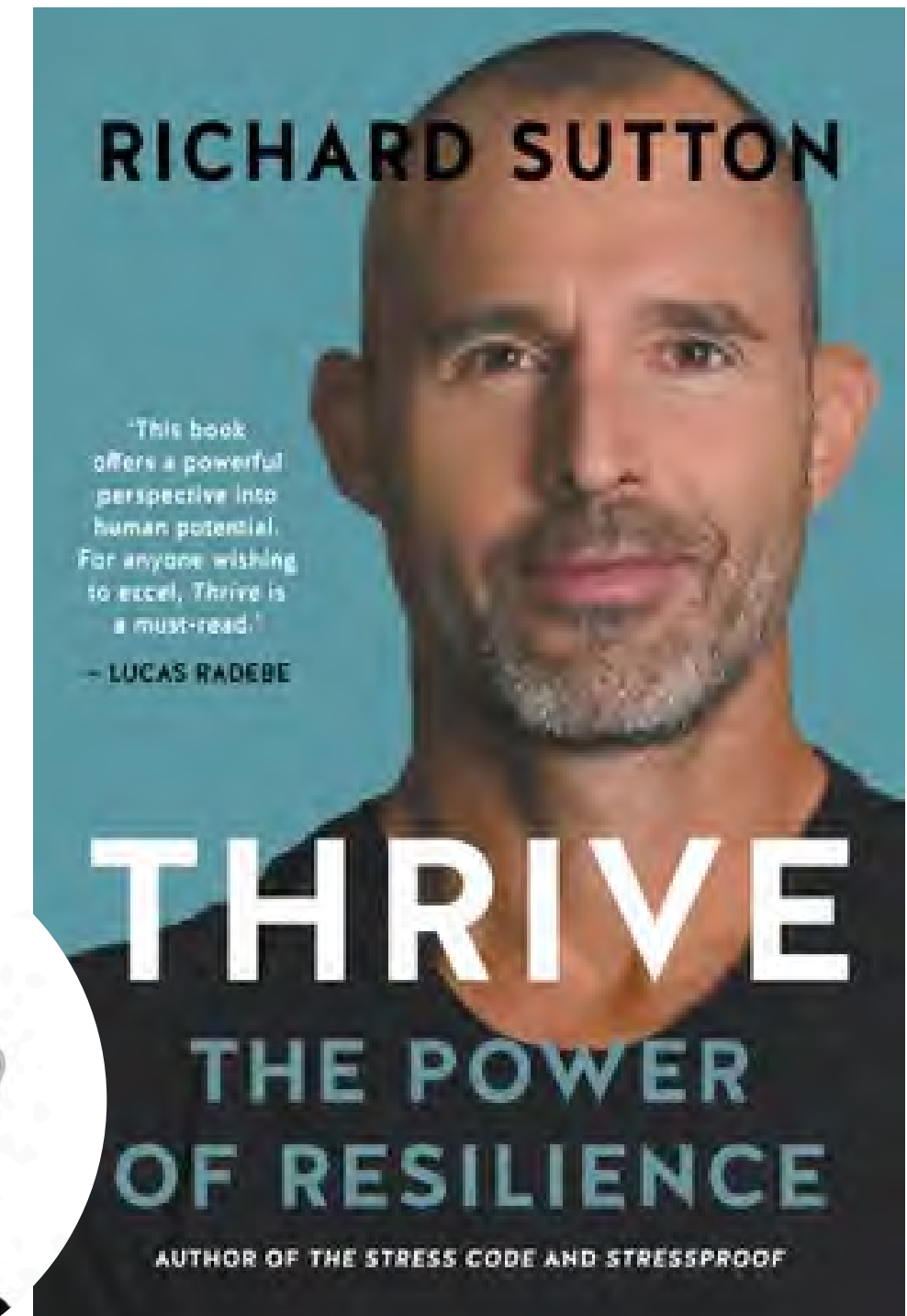
THRIVE: THE POWER OF RESILIENCE

Lessons in resilience from the world's best athletes and highest achievers.

We live in a world that demands perfection. Big data, analytics, trend lines, and averages bind us to a set of norms and values that assign a numeric worth to who we are and what we are capable of. Should we fail to meet established milestones, conform to the appropriate curve, meet established targets or live up to pre-established societal expectations, we (and those around us) invariably experience the burden of a sense of personal failure, worthlessness, and fears and anxiety about a tenuous future. In truth it doesn't matter where we come from, our historic circumstances, how many milestones we may have missed, the fact that we may not have achieved the perfect average or whether we failed repeatedly over the course of our lifetime. We are all capable of extraordinary lives and should not be bound by limitations, whether self-imposed or from external sources. What can unlock our fullest potential is resilience, a consummate skill that can be developed and grown throughout the journey of our lives. This book is a resilience manual, a practical, step-by-step guide to help the reader actualise their fullest potential, regardless of their circumstances and the challenges they may face in their lives.

Richard Sutton's books include the bestseller THE STRESS CODE, STRESSPROOF, and THRIVE. He is an adviser on stress management and adaptability to industry leaders, top athletes, and Olympic teams. He is widely regarded as an expert in the field of genetics and their role in resilience, using a combination of hard data and DNA to map a 'stress footprint' based on both nature and nurture to unearth genuine resilience, recovery, and adaptability. Richard has been a post-graduate lecturer in the areas of pain management, health and athlete development for almost two decades at leading South African and international universities.

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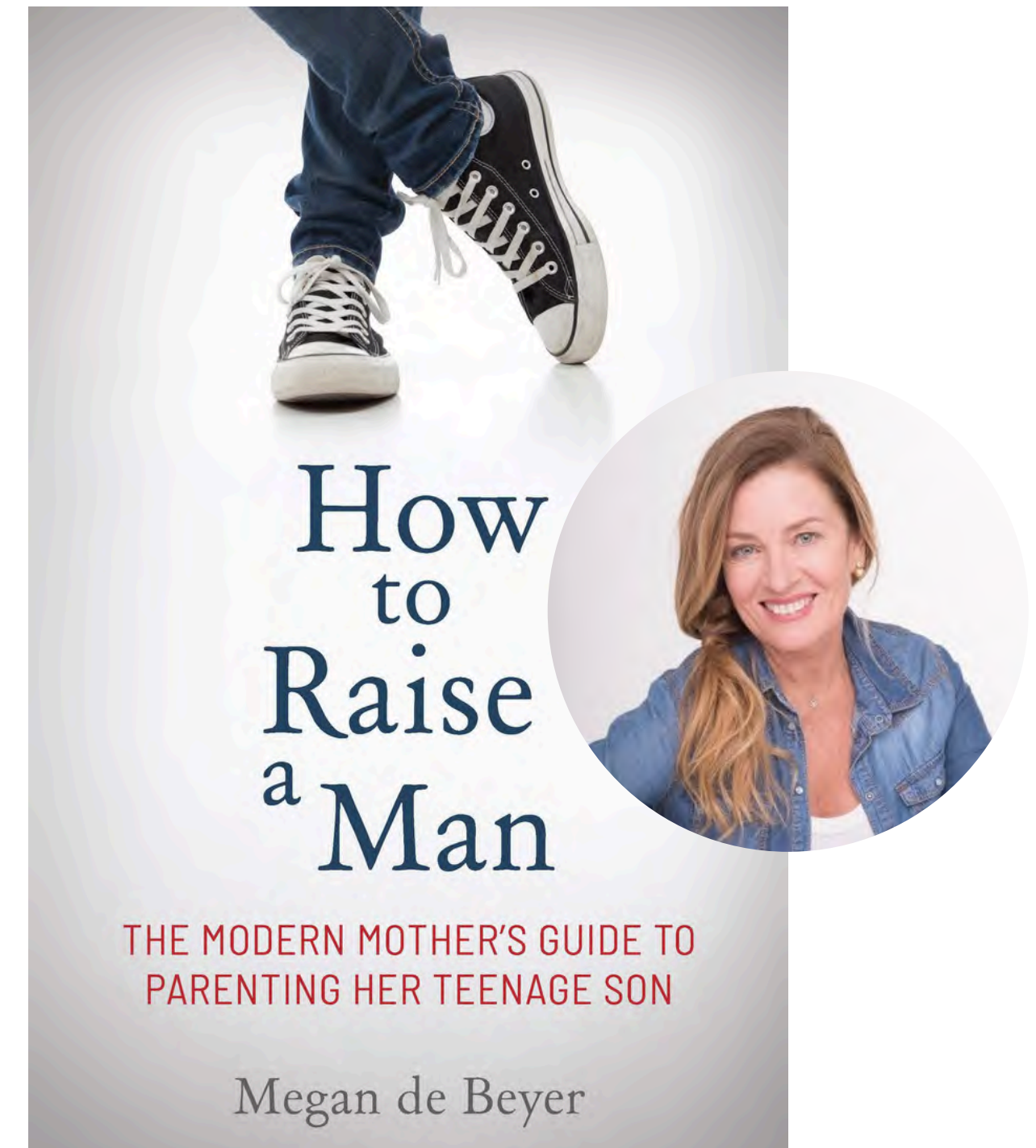
HOW TO RAISE A MAN

A parenting guide for raising boys.

In this era of #metoo and #allmenaretrash, it's evident that something is going wrong with the way men progress from childhood into adulthood, and few realise how critical the role of the purposeful and emotionally empowered mother is in a boy's journey to maturity. HOW TO RAISE A MAN helps parents learn more about the development of masculinity, identify their parenting style, and familiarise themselves with the issues facing parenthood today, and to become a more compassionate, centred, and effective parent. So, what does all this mean for mothers of adolescent boys? Like it or not, these sons are Generation Z. Many of his generation of adolescents are outwardly assertive and inwardly they are full of paradoxes. They are consequently confusing / frustrating / infuriating to manage. For parents who are confused or irritated by their pre-teen or teenage sons, or feel bewildered and hurt by their behaviour, this book is a guide to a clear understanding of teenagers in general and teenage boys in particular. Written by a parenting expert, and drawing on Western psychology as well as Eastern philosophy, the processes and ideas in this practical guide will help modern parents raise the man they want their sons to be.

Megan de Beyer, MA (Psychology), MSc (Holistic Ecology), is an international specialist parent psychologist. She facilitates the popular course Strong Mothers – Strong Sons that runs at most independent boys' schools in South Africa and Australia. She is a prolific inspirational speaker at events and conferences, and on television and radio. Megan was the teen expert at parent24.com and, along with Vanessa Raphaely, was the co-founder of The Village Facebook group, which has 35 000 followers and gives advice to parents of teens. Since 2003, Megan has written for every major women's magazine in South Africa and has frequently been interviewed on radio. She has successfully developed four parenting courses that she offers at schools around South Africa, Australia, and the USA. Megan is the mother of two young men.

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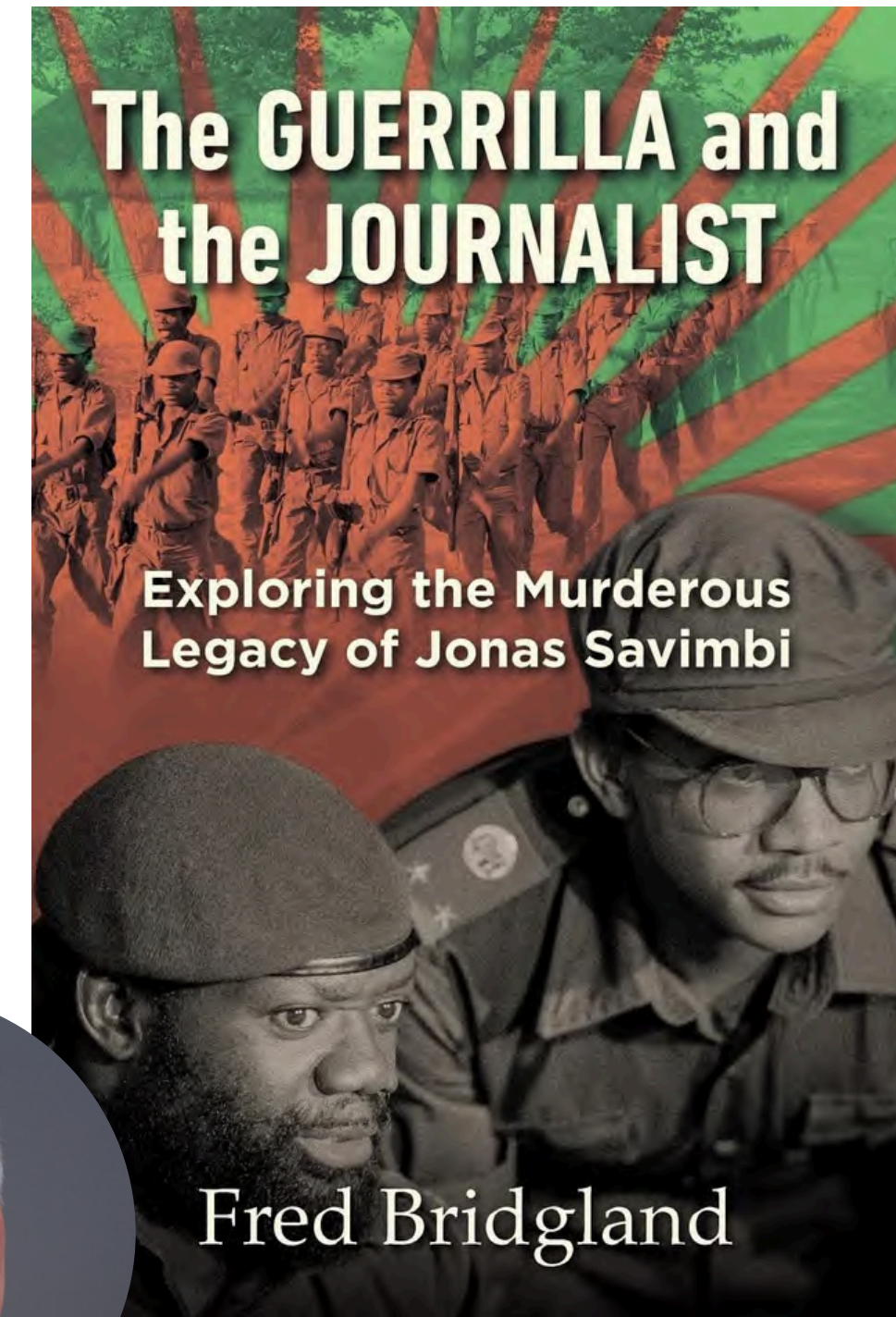
THE GUERRILLA AND THE JOURNALIST

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.

Fred Bridgland is a veteran British foreign correspondent and author who covered the Angolan civil war and the Border War for Reuters as an Africa correspondent in the 1970s and then for the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH and THE SCOTSMAN in the 1980s. In 1975 his discovery of South Africa's secret US-engineered invasion of Angola uncovered the CIA's involvement in the Angolan civil war, and was a world scoop.

World English rights available excl. Southern African (Jonathan Ball Publishers)



THE END OF EDEN: WILD NATURE IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

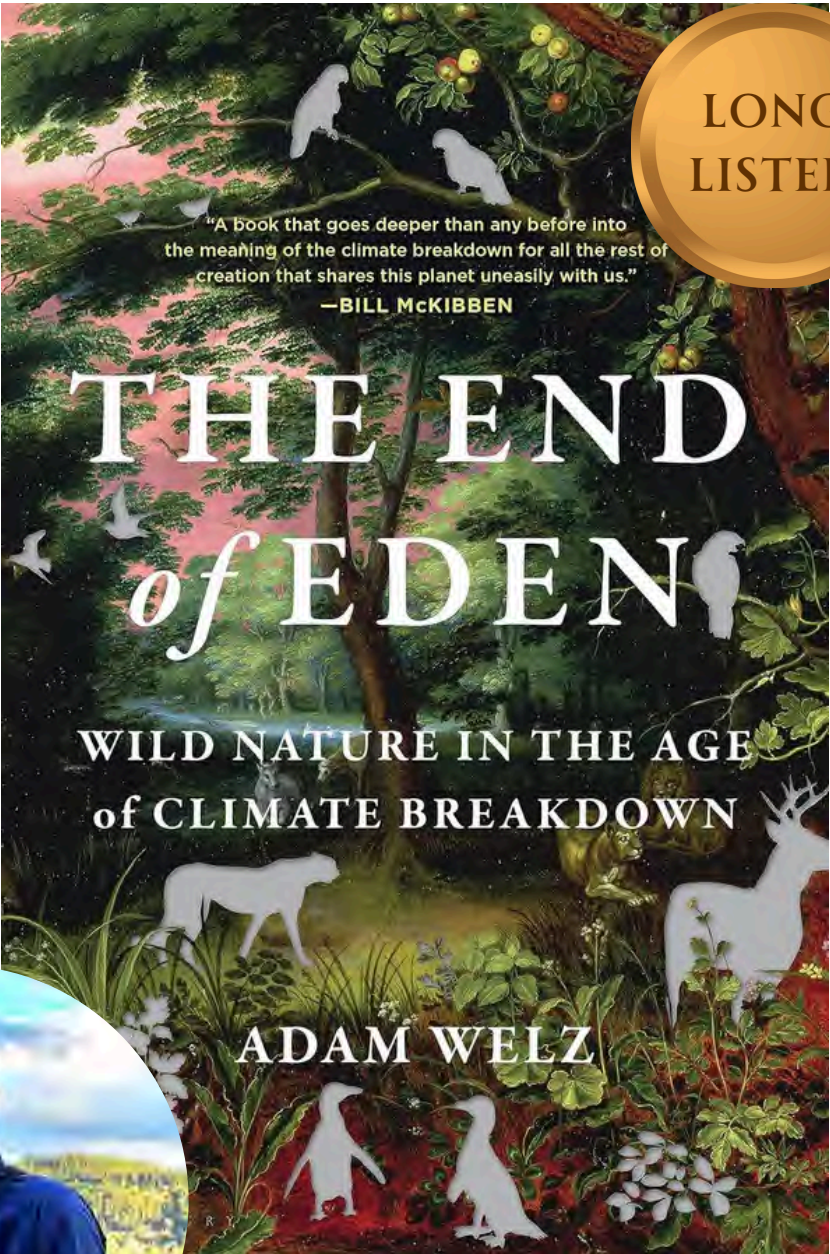
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Non-Fiction Prize (2024)

The stories we usually tell ourselves about climate change tend to focus on the damage inflicted on human societies by big storms, severe droughts, and rising sea levels. But the most powerful impacts are being and will be felt by the natural world and its myriad species, which are already in the midst of the sixth great extinction. Rising temperatures are fracturing ecosystems that took millions of years to evolve, disrupting the life forms they sustain – and in many cases driving them towards extinction. The natural Eden that humanity inherited is quickly slipping away. Although we can never really know what a creature thinks or feels, THE END OF EDEN invites the reader to meet wild species on their own terms in a range of ecosystems that span the globe. Combining classic natural history, firsthand reportage, and insights from cutting-edge research, Adam Welz brings us close to creatures like moose in northern Maine, parrots in Puerto Rico, cheetahs in Namibia, and rare fish in Australia as they struggle to survive. The stories are intimate yet expansive and always dramatic. An exquisitely written and deeply researched exploration of wild species reacting to climate breakdown, THE END OF EDEN offers a radical new kind of environmental journalism that connects humans to nature in a more empathetic way than ever before and galvanizes us to act in defense of the natural world before it's too late.

Adam Welz is a wildlife photographer, filmmaker, and writer. Adam writes on environmental issues for a range of publications including THE GUARDIAN, WILDAID, ENSIA magazine, YALE E360 magazine, DEUTSCHE WELLE, AL JAZEERA AMERICA, and 350.ORG. He has lived and worked on four continents and makes journalism, still photographs and films for international clients. He's lived in various parts of the USA including New York City and Alaska for almost ten years, taught English in Taiwan, been a truck driver in the U.K. and backpacked across much of southern Africa, Madagascar and India. He's a keen naturalist and birder with an emerging interest in obscure African mammals.

World rights with Bloomsbury. North America (Bloomsbury US); UK/ROI (Bloomsbury Sigma); India (Bloomsbury); ANZ (Bloomsbury), Southern Africa (Jonathan Ball Publishers)

'A book that goes deeper than any before into the meaning of the climate breakdown for all the rest of creation' – BILL McKIBBEN; 'At once an elegy and an exhortation' – ELIZABETH KOLBERT



PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS

Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Non-Fiction Prize (2024)

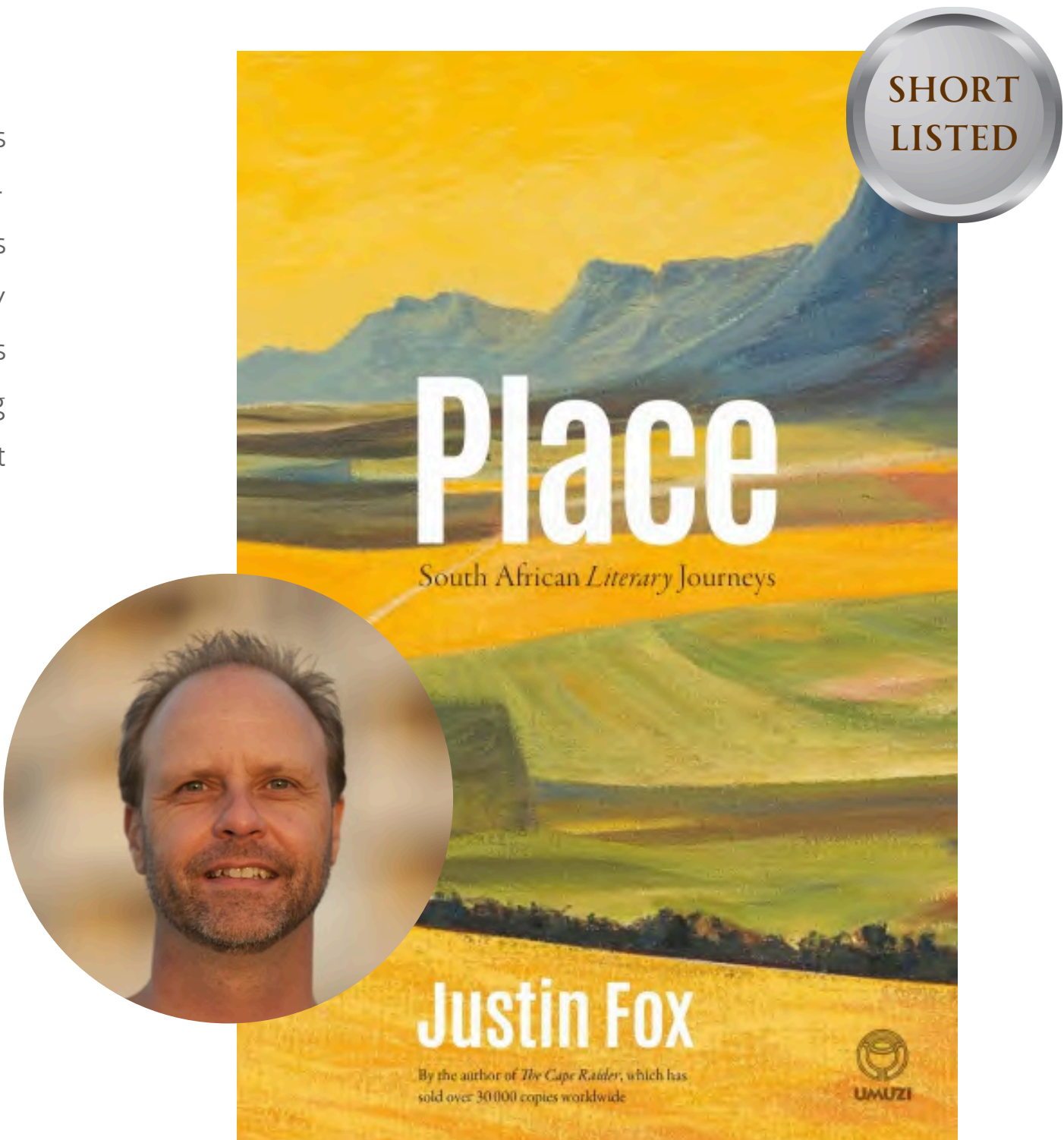
Longlisted for the SALA Creative Non-Fiction Award (2024)

In this gripping travelogue, Justin Fox goes on a one-of-a-kind journey: Marrying his love for travel and writing, he visits places he'd only read about in his favourite books. From the mountainous eastern Karoo of Olive Schreiner to the big-game lowveld of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, from Deneys Reitz's wide-open Cape interior to the bushveld of Eugène Marais's Waterberg, Fox reveals the majestic power of place. Through the savannah of Herman Charles Bosman's Marico, the dusty plains of JM Coetzee's Moordenaars Karoo, the forests of Dalene Matthee's Garden Route, and finally the sandstone crags of Stephen Watson's Cederberg, he brings to life the vistas we've only seen through characters' eyes. PLACE is a moving love letter to South Africa, merging literature and landscape, and taking the reader on a breathtaking journey – straight into the heart of both South Africa's spectacular landscape and the secret inner-worlds of its most celebrated authors.

Novelist, travel writer, poet and photographer, **Justin Fox** is the author of twenty books of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Fox was longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for Non-fiction, the Olive Schreiner Prize for Literature, and his debut novel, WHOEVER FEARS THE SEA, was shortlisted for Africa's richest literary award, the Etisalat Prize. Fox is the author of the best-selling Jack Pembroke series of WWII naval adventure novels - THE CAPE RAIDER; THE WOLF HUNT; and HELL RUN TOBRUK (Sapere Books WEL, Jonathan Ball Publishers SA).

PLACE is now in its seventh print run.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House); UAE English (NoRules Publishing)



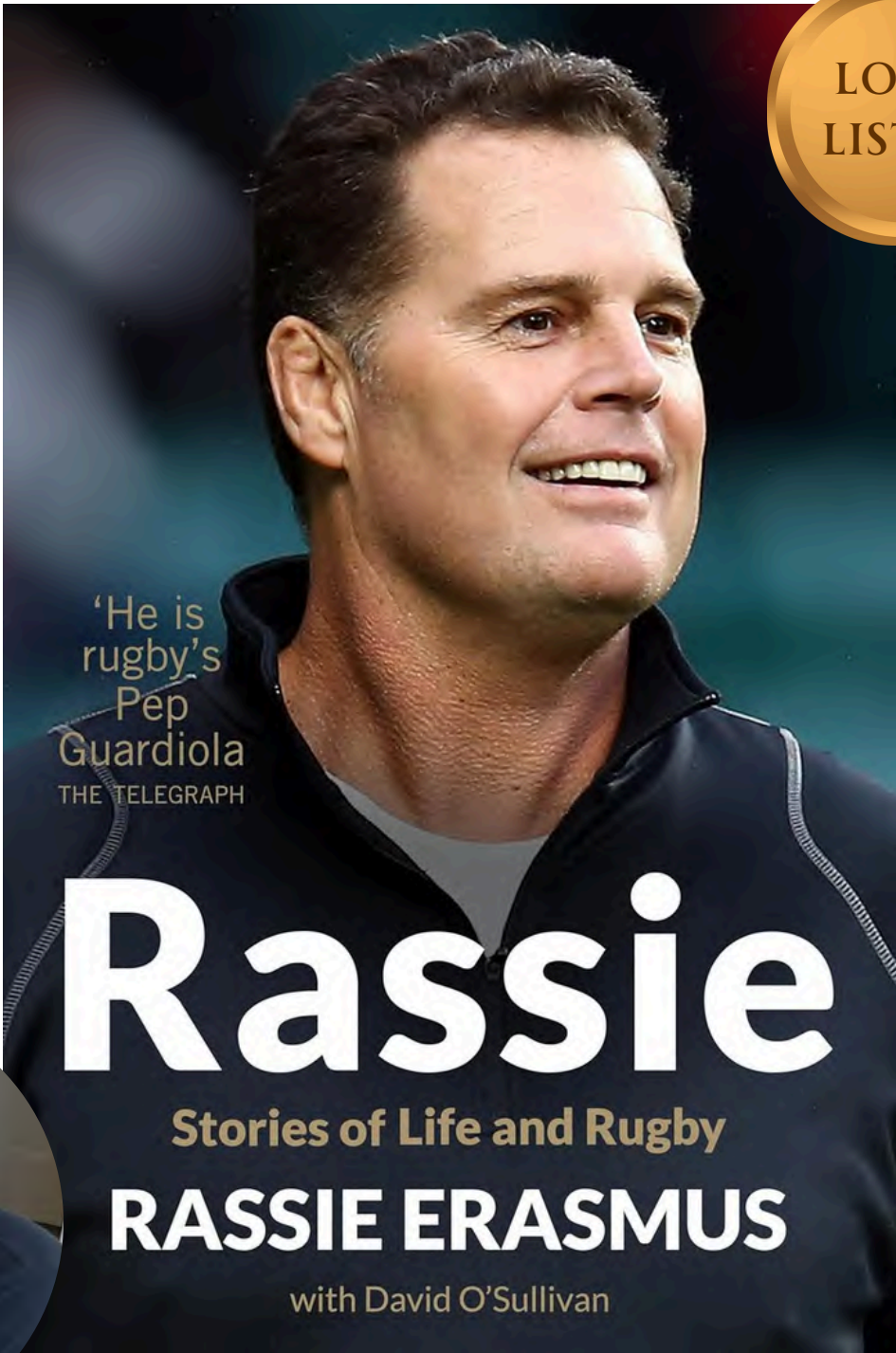
RASSIE: STORIES OF LIFE AND RUGBY

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Non-Fiction Prize (2024)
Longlisted for the SALA Creative Non-Fiction Prize (2024)

Rassie Erasmus has been called a genius. He's been called reckless. All his life, he's done things differently. Now, with his trademark candour, Rassie talks openly about his adventures and misadventures. He reveals the turmoil of living with an alcoholic father and growing up in the conservative town of Despatch. He looks back on an exemplary career as a player, whose innate rugby instincts, ability to read a game differently, and appetite for hard work set him apart. While his teammates relaxed, he preferred to watch hours of video to devise winning strategies. When given the opportunity to lead his country as Springbok captain, he refused the honour. Rassie recalls how he became an important cog in Nick Mallett's record-breaking Springbok team of the late 1990s. He remembers the anguish of the 1999 World Cup and the devastating injuries that cut short his playing career. He discusses his revolutionary coaching methods, which were initially laughed off and then eagerly adopted, how he fought the rugby establishment at the Stormers and earned the respect of Irish fans at Munster. Rassie talks about his greatest contribution to South African rugby, appointing its first black captain, Siya Kolisi, without much fanfare or controversy, as his bold plans for effective racial transformation of the national team achieved immediate success, culminating in triumph at the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Readers will enjoy the behind-the-scenes information about interactions and controversies and previously untold stories from a truly maverick life.

David O'Sullivan is a writer and award-winning broadcaster. He has presented a weekly rugby show and live rugby matches on SABC TV, and has covered news and sport over the years for Capital Radio, 702, Hot 91.9, Power FM and Kaya FM.

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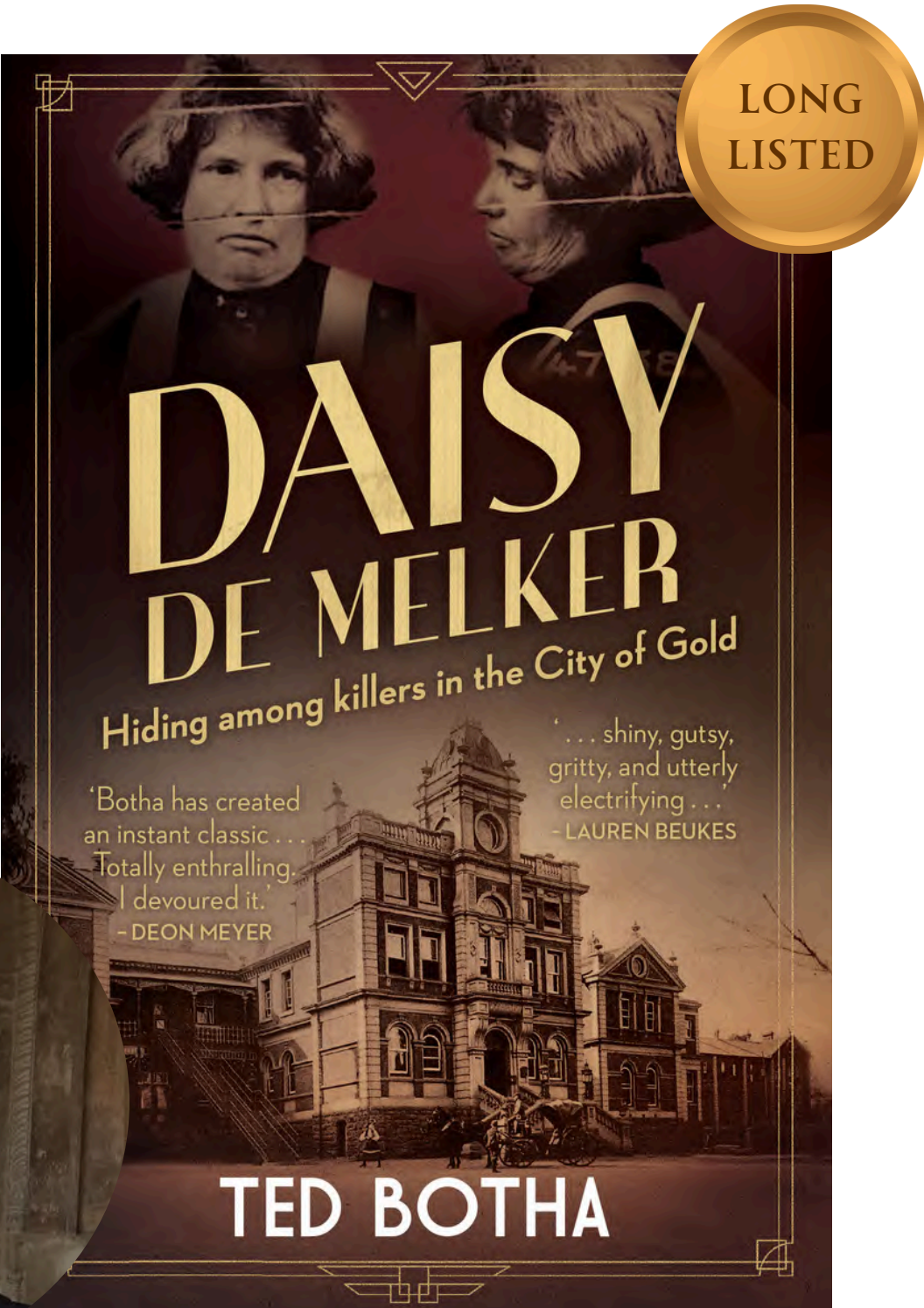
DAISY DE MELKER

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Non-Fiction Prize (2024)

A true crime classic about Daisy de Melker in ragtime Joburg – a city of murder, mayhem and gold. Ted Botha takes the reader into the underbelly of Johannesburg in the 1920s and 1930s as he traces the fascinating story of the mysterious Daisy de Melker, who was hanged for poisoning her son. Many also believed she poisoned two husbands for their life insurance money. In the shadow of ever-growing mine dumps, she went about her business quietly and unnoticed – the most unlikely of killers. Even though people close to her kept dying, no one suspected a thing for twenty years. When someone finally spoke up, it led to one of South Africa’s most sensational trials. De Melker’s story unfolds in tandem with those of colourful Johannesburg characters of the same period such as the Foster Gang, Herman Charles Bosman, the dashing conman Baron von Veltheim and a Bonny-and-Clyde-style couple, Dicky Mallalieu and Gwen Tolputt. Some cross paths with each other and also those of famous writers of the era such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sarah Gertrude Millin.

TED BOTHA is the author of several books in South Africa and in the US, including *APARTHEID IN MY RUCKSACK*, *FILAT/WHITE*, and *THE GIRL WITH THE CROOKED NOSE*. He lives in Cape Town.

Handling World English rights except Southern Africa (Jonathan Ball Publishers)



CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS



ME & MOO

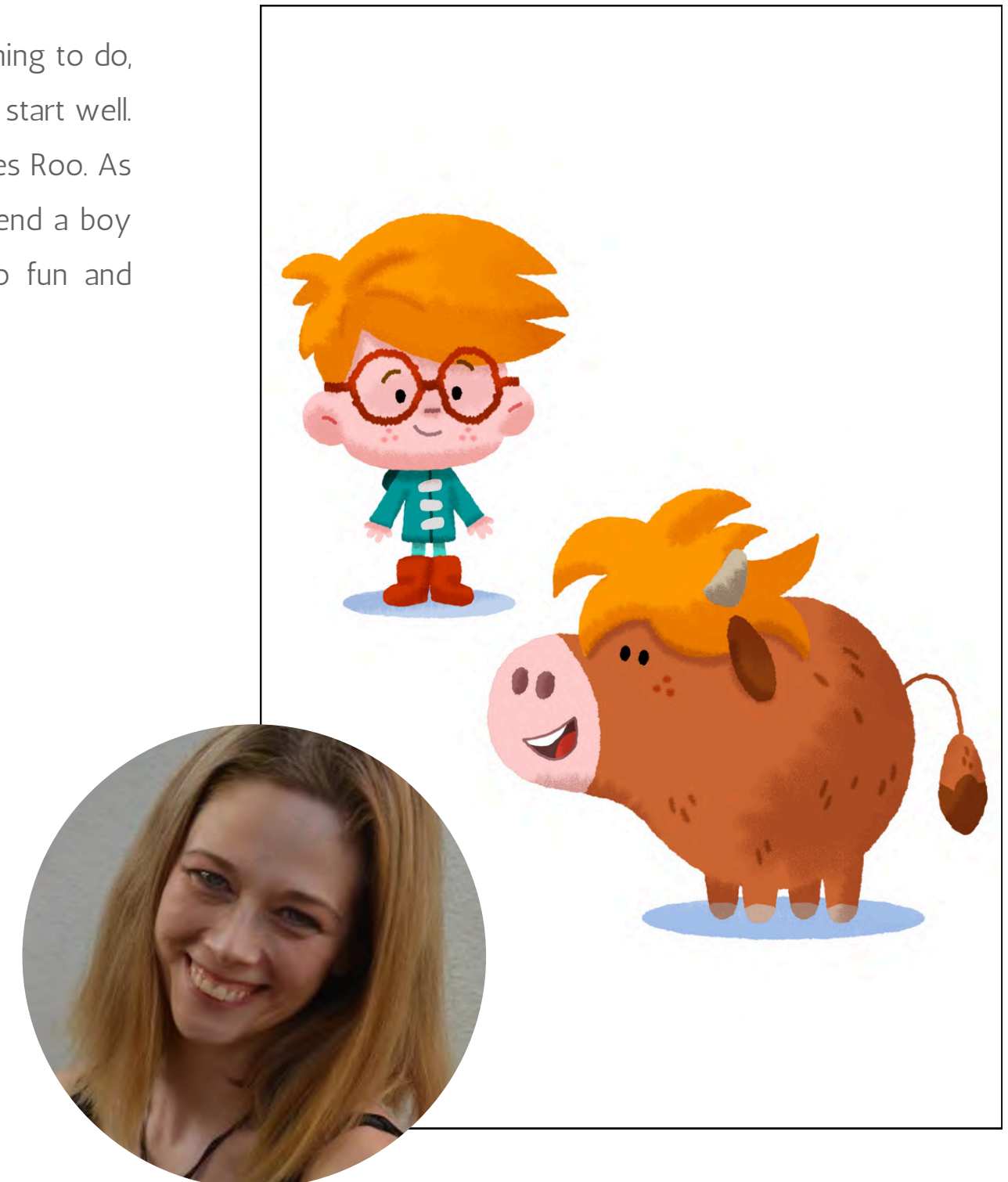
Roo and his best friend, a Highland calf named Moo, cause havoc on grandad's farm.

*cover coming soon

When Roo is uprooted from his beloved city to live with his lonely grandad, he finds himself on a remote farm with nothing to do, nowhere to skateboard, and with no one but a trouble-making Highland calf for company. Things between them do not start well. Moo causes havoc, she breaks things, steals things, muddies things – and Roo is blamed! The seasons change and so does Roo. As he learns to love his new life in the countryside he must decide if Moo is to be his farmyard nemesis, or the best friend a boy could have. Will the two continue to butt fringes, or can Roo turn Moo's trouble-making energy and antics into fun and adventure?

Julia Smuts Louw is a screenwriter and novelist based in Cape Town. With a background in writing for animation, Julia co-wrote the Annie Award-winning Star Wars short AAU'S SONG (Disney+), for Lucasfilm and Triggerfish, and screen-wrote the BAFTA- and Emmy-winning BBCOne Christmas Day special THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS. Adapted from the international bestselling Julia Donaldson book, the film has also won the coveted Prix de Jeunesse, The Japan Prize, and several others. In live action, Julia was a writer on eTV's AMBITIONS. Other credits include MOOSEBOX (Nickelodeon), TWENDE (Multichoice), and the widely syndicated SUPA STRIKAS (Strika Entertainment). Her animated feature script, SPIKE, is in development with Submarine (Netherlands) and Diprente (Johannesburg), and has won the Thuthuka Grant (Dutch Film Fund/NFVF) as well as a Creative Europe grant. She also writes prose and poetry. Her short story LAATLAMMER was shortlisted for the Short Story Day Africa Prize in 2021 and published internationally by Catalyst Press. Julia's debut novel is forthcoming

Full text and sample illustrations available.. All rights available except Film& TV (Snipple Animation)



MANLY MEN

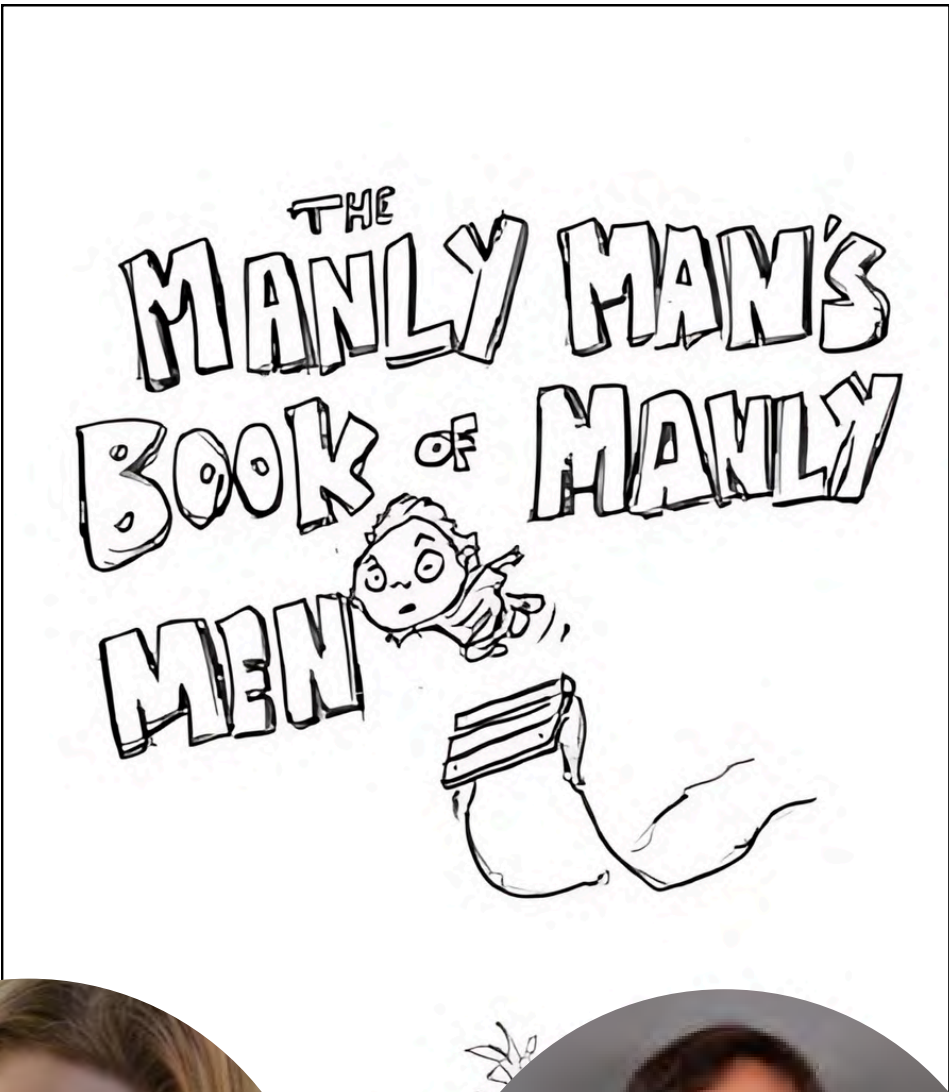
What does it mean to be 'A Man'?

When a little boy falls and bangs 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 neighbourhood, 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. Full text and scamps available.

Daniel Snaddon and **Julia Smuts Louw** are the co-founders of Sparks Flew Development Studio, developing original IP for animation. They also run a marriage as a side project. **Daniel** is a director and story-boarder with many highly awarded projects behind him, including the double-Bafta-winning BBC Christmas Special THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE, the Emmy-winning ZOG, and the Emmy-winning THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS. He is also the founder of The Cape Town International Animation Festival. **Julia** is a screenwriter, script consultant, and prose and poetry writer. She wrote on the Annie-Award-winning animated short film, AAU'S SONG, and the Emmy-winning THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS, which also recently won the Prix Jeunesse and the Japan Prize. Other projects have garnered awards at Banff, New York Film Festival, and the WGSA Muse Awards. Julia also hosts a podcast for Animation SA.

Full text and scamps available. All rights available

*cover coming soon



MONKEY IS MOODY

Monkey is grumpy but Monkey knows what to do.

Monkey is moody, grumpy, and groggy. He's looking for some peace and quiet in all sorts of places, like watering holes, anthills, and up trees. 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 Monkey's search for the perfect place to put an end to his terrible mood. When Monkey finally finds his quiet place, he breaths in and out, counts to ten ... and meditates!

A great story introducing young children to meditation and self-care. The illustrations are bright, paper cut-out collages done by hand.

Ashleigh Heyns is an author and illustrator. After trying many styles of art to create her illustrations, Ashleigh decided paper collage was the medium for her, which, although the messiest and most demanding of the styles is definitely the most fun! Ashleigh spent twenty years teaching kindergarten and says that it was through teaching that she learned the most. She lives in Marondera, a small town in Zimbabwe with her family, four cats and two dogs.

Full text and sample illustrations and scamps available. All rights available



*cover coming soon



PIA

A magical adventure unfolds as a girl's drawings come to life and lead her on a quest for truth.

*cover coming soon

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.

A former journalist, **Lindsay J Sedgwick** is a versatile and imaginative award-winning screenwriter and playwright. A screenwriting tutor, Lindsay was Screenwriter in Residence at Maynooth University and Kildare County Council Arts & Libraries Service. She is a graduate of Moonstone ScreenLabs, was a New York University 'Gregory Peck Scriptwriting Course' scholar, and has an MA Screenwriting from Leeds Metropolitan University. Lindsay has worked in a wide range of media and for a wide range of audiences and clients. From short films to features to creating TV series, from family films to psychological thrillers, from games and apps to children's animation, from books for adults, YA and children to non-fiction, from stage plays (14 productions in the UK and Ireland) to interactive narrative and character creation.

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ZWELA JOURNAL: SA ADVENTURE

Four weeks of writing prompts, activities and games. The first in a planned series.

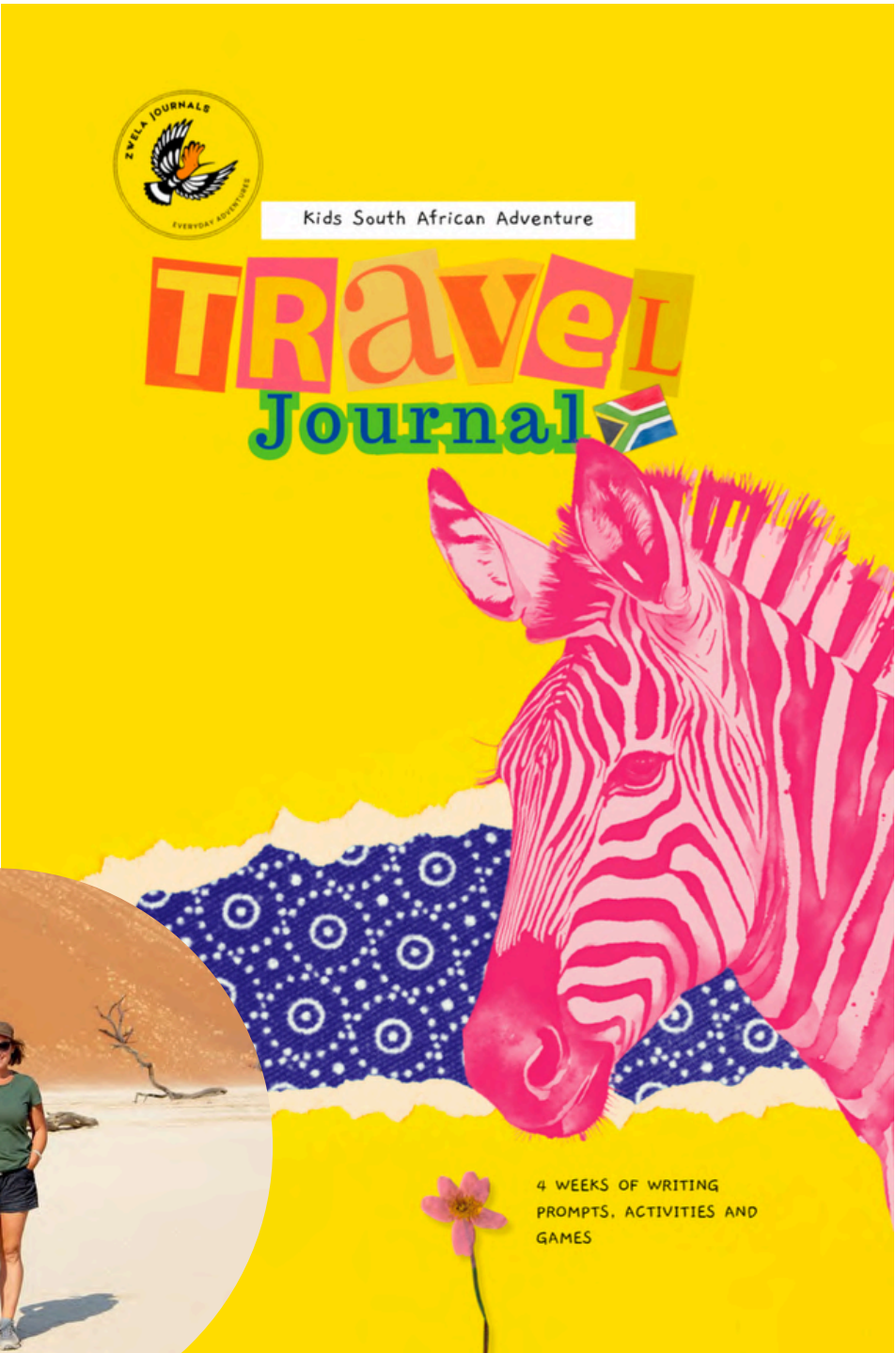
Welcome to your very own Travel Journal, a magical book where you can document all your amazing adventures and discoveries during your trip. This journal is like a treasure chest, ready to be filled with your memories, drawings, and stories from the places you visit.

Included in this journal is a special guide to South Africa. It's packed with fun facts about the country's history, culture, wildlife and amazing places to visit – but there's so much more to explore. Grab your pens, unleash your creativity and let the adventures begin!

Created by **Mische Hamilton** and **Kat Cameron**, both creatives from South Africa. Misché, a photographer and avid journaler, saw a gap in the market for kids' journals that offered more than blank pages with repetitive prompts. This is her first foray into professional writing. Kat, a children's book illustrator, helped make each page interesting and unique with quirky drawings and design. The project has been a journey inspired by sharing a love of adventure with their children.

'We want kids to embrace the adventure of life, using all their senses to take note of the little things, celebrate the big things, and understand their important role in growing and nurturing the world.'

Full text and illustrations available, complete layout available. All rights available



THE FERAL

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

*cover coming soon

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.

Greg Grabianski is a novelist, screenwriter, and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several other of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide. A writer on BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD, Greg was a staff writer on late-night talk shows THE TONIGHT SHOW and THE KEENEN IVORY WAYANS SHOW, and he co-wrote the movies SCARY MOVIE and SCARY MOVIE 2. Greg built a career in children's animation, writing on shows SKUNK FU and ANGELO RULES for Cake Entertainment, LOUD HOUSE for Nickelodeon, PICKLE & PEANUT for Disney TV Animation and RAINBOW BUTTERFLY UNICORN KITTY for Nickelodeon, TAFFY for TBS, ANGRY BIRDS: SUMMER CAMP MADNESS for Cake/Netflix, PRESTO! for TeamTo, AGENT 203 for Toon2Tango/Super RTL, and PETS & THEIR TOYS, a new, no-dialog show for Million Volt Studios/Netflix.

All rights available



THE TILTED PENTAGRAM

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

When 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.

Matthew MacDevette studied in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, and Oxford before settling in Johannesburg where he happily remains with his wife and two terrible/wonderful cats. He spends most of his time on international development projects that try to make the best use of foreign aid in sub-Saharan Africa, and the rest writing novels that have nothing to do with that. Matthew is drawn to dark stories told with hope and humour, and can often be found trying to convince people to listen to The Offspring and watch LORD OF THE RINGS movie marathons.

All rights available except Southern African (Mirari Press); Armenian (Edge Publishing)

'Every once in a while, dark stars align and a book is birthed in a fiery nebula as if it has been written just for me. THE TILTED PENTAGRAM is such a book' – NERINE DORMAN, author of DRAGON FORGED



VENOM WARS

The fate of an ancient realm is in peril and its only hope for salvation is swift, savage and, well ... fluffy.

VENOM WARS is an action adventure comedy animation series in development. For children aged 7 to 11, it's an epic fantasy in the tradition of THE DARK CRYSTAL – strange and mysterious ... intimidating, yet intriguing ... hypnotic and frightening ... but with bunnies. It begins with the great Eagle King, his queen, and their Royal Egg. When the royal baby hatches, it will be as the new ruler of the entire realm. And as with all birds, it will imprint upon, and inherit the traits of, the first person it sees. But the egg is eggnaipped by Hillmaken – a wicked reptile corrupted by the evil-inducing Venom Crystal – which sets off a ticking clock that threatens to destroy the world. To save the future without panicking the present, the Eagle King must reach out to his old – like, really old – right-hand man (er, tortoise), Honu, to launch a secret rescue mission.

Mike de Seve is an Emmy-nominated animation writer and director working in feature films and television. He is founder of Baboon Animation, a collective of some of the most accomplished animation writers in the US, with 31 Emmys among them and clients including Disney, Netflix, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Warner Brothers.

Suitable for adaptation from animation to Graphic Novel.

All rights available. A pitch bible with sample artwork and scripts are available.

*cover coming soon



IN MY HOOD

The new guy, his wild alter ego, and one crazy city.

Lagos: home of Nollywood, Afrobeat, bonkers traffic, a rad floating city within a city, and 15 million people, including Shades. Like every young Lagosian, Shades is in the city in search of his place in the sun. Shades might not know his new hood yet, but he knows his way around astronomy and all things paranormal. He works hard and has fallen – hard! – for Yetunde. Problem is bratty rich-kid Desmond likes Yetunde too. Where will Shade find the guts to tell her how he feels about her?

The lovely Yetunde – Science major by day, kung fu fighter by night – has enough courage for both of them. But Shades has an enemy bigger than jerky Desmond.

Enter The Deuce. He's cool, smart, strong. A rebel thirsty for power. Worst of all, he lives inside Shades, taking over his life any chance he gets. When you're facing a mobster or a deranged goat armed with a bazooka, The Deuce comes in handy; but the guy is crazy dangerous, and Shades gets left with the chaos The Deuce leaves in his wake. IN MY HOOD is in development as an animated adventure comedy series featuring superb characters and would make a terrific graphic novel series.

Ridwan Moshood is a multi-talented creative force hailing from Lagos, Nigeria. With a passion for storytelling and a keen eye for visuals, Ridwan has made a name for himself as an accomplished animator after winning the Cartoon Network Africa Creative Lab initiative. Ridwan is the author, creator and art director of GARBAGE BOY and TRASH CAN.

Suitable for adaptation from animation to Graphic Novel.

All rights available. A pitch bible with sample artwork is available.



FUR FORCE 5

When you're walking the dogs of supervillains, you just have to be a hero.

13-year-old ZADIE ZINN is a goofy dog-walker who just got a new customer. Score! Too bad he turns out to be the world's most dastardly super-villain. Whoops.

Soon Zadie's working for all his buddies in the super-evil LEAGUE of HYPER EVIL as well. Now she's really got a job to do: save the world from all her clients' evil schemes. Good thing their awesome pets are all on board to secretly help. And they've never had so much fun. Go Fur Force 5!

FUR FORCE FIVE is an animation series in development with Baboon Animation and would make a terrific series of animated middle grade novels in the vein of CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS and DIARY OF A WIMP KID.

Baboon Animation's Head of Series **Joe Vitale** has written for global hit shows including GIGANTOSAURUS, ODDBODS, ANGRY BIRDS TOONS, TAFFY, POCOYO, INSECTIBLES, SUPER WINGS. His feature credits include films for DreamWorks, Lionsgate and Shout! Factory, and his work has aired globally on Disney Channel, Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon. Joe specializes in assembling writing teams for series and films, while leading the development of new and original IP. Four-time Emmy nominee **Susan Kim** has written for more than three dozen TV series, including THE OCTONAUTS, WONDER PETS!, ARTHUR, JUNGLE JUNCTION, OSWALD THE OCTOPUS, COURAGE THE COWARDLY DOG, and SPEED RACER. Her international credits include POCOYO and JELLY JAMM (Spain), CLOUD BREAD (Korea), FIX and FOXI and THE PEPPERCOMS (UK), and SUNSHINE KATHY (Norway). She has also recently story edited the new Sprout/NBC Universal series ASTROBLAST! Her work has earned five Writers' Guild award nominations to date. Susan has also written two graphic novels with Laurence Klavan: CITY OF SPIES (artwork by Pascal Dizin) and BRAIN CAMP (artwork by Faith Erin Hicks). Both were published by First Second Books, earning awards from the American Library Association, Junior Library Guild, Scripps Howard News Service, and others. She has written and produced documentaries for PBS, National Geographic, HBO, and AMC, and won the Writers' Guild of America Award for the PBS documentary PAVING THE WAY. **Mike de Seve** is an Emmy-nominated animation writer and director working in feature films and television. He is founder of Baboon Animation, a collective of some of the most accomplished animation writers in the US, with 31 Emmys among them and clients including Disney, Netflix, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Warner Brothers.

A pitch bible with sample artwork and scripts are available. All rights are available.

*cover coming soon



A BOY AND HIS DUDE

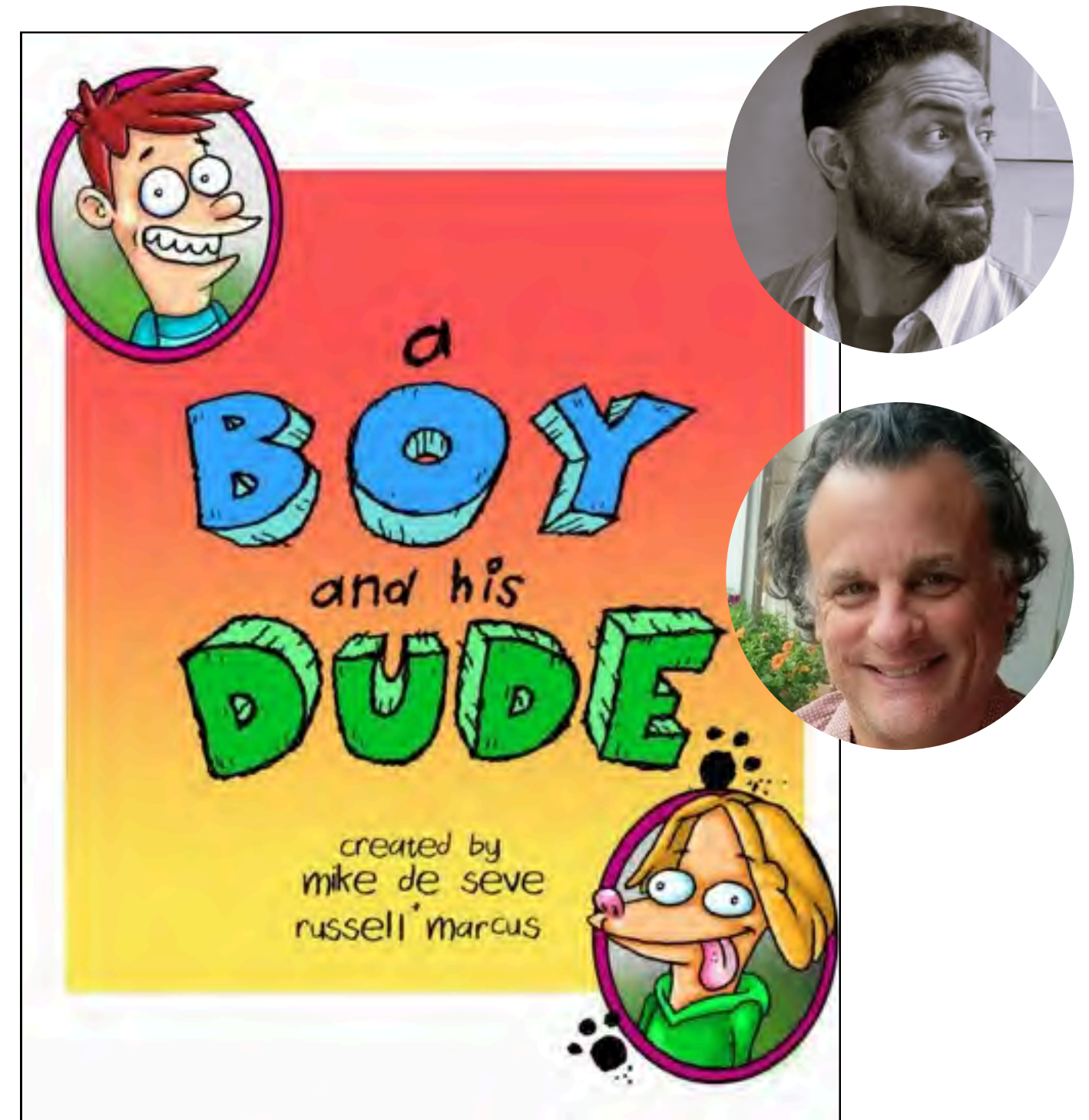
To save him, they had to SHAVE him.

When 12-year-old Henry learns his neighbour has framed his dog for a bite that never happened, he hatches an ingenious plan to save his pooch from the pound – he SHAVES Doodles of all his body hair, throws some clothes on him, and takes him to school as 'Dude,' his laid-back, long-haired 'cousin' from California. Together this boy and his Dude navigate classes, dodge the dogcatcher, and foil any spoil-sport who threatens their fun in this hilarious, heartwarming high-wire act that proves friendship knows no bounds – no matter what species you are.

A BOY AND HIS DUDE is a comedic animation series in development with Baboon Animation and would make a terrific series of animated middle grade novels in the vein of CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS and DIARY OF A WIMP KID.

Mike de Seve is an Emmy-nominated animation writer and director. He is founder of Baboon Animation, a collective with 31 Emmys among them and clients including Disney, Netflix, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Warner Brothers. At DreamWorks, Mike was a script consultant for MADAGASCAR, SHREK 2 and SHREK 3, and he co-wrote the original story, with Mark Osborne, for MONSTERS VS ALIENS. At Paramount, Mike was a director and writer on the feature film BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD DO AMERICA. In Television, Mike has head-written for and/or directed ANGRY BIRD TOONS, SESAME STREET, POCOYO and SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. He's lately focused on applying his company's skills toward progressive causes – such as the launch of Baboon Animation Africa, integrating BIPOC talent, and addressing climate change with kids' content. **Russell Marcus** has written on popular American comedies as diverse as GOLDEN GIRLS and SOUTH PARK. Marcus co-ran the iconic hit MARRIED WITH CHILDREN, created the sitcom FAMILY RULES for UPN and has written live action pilots for ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC. In animation, Marcus created and ran Disney Channel's BRANDY AND MR. WHISKERS for two years; was story editor for Teletoon/Nick's RICKY SPROCKET and for Marathon's QPIZ, and has written animation pilots for Disney, Comedy Central, Nick, Hub, FX, and Spike. He also developed animated web series for Comedy Central, wrote the teleplay for SHREDDERMAN RULES on Nickelodeon and had a humour book published by Simon and Schuster.

A pitch bible with sample artwork and scripts are available. All rights available.



WINNIE-THE-POOH

The Winnie-the-Pooh you never knew! He's funny and cute and a kid like you!

Now that AA Milne's much-loved character Winnie-the-Pooh is in the public domain, Mike de Seve, a writer behind series like ANGRY BIRDS and SESAME STREET, is developing a brand-new animation series of Pooh adventures to enthrall old and new alike. With a mad craving for honey and twisted logic that would make Douglas Adams scratch his head till it's sore, Winnie-the-Pooh is a creature of great passion and terrible ideas. Too bad he's the only one who can save his home and all his fuzzy friends. The Hundred-Acre Wood will be taken over by the biggest belching honey plant that the industrial revolution ever spawned, and in three days, Pooh's pals will all be kicked out for big-hive development. Their only hope: prove they have the deed to the land. That's no problem - the deed is right over there in the honeypot. Oh bother, where did Pooh put it? Detective Pooh decides to head to a beehive, but many many bee stings makes Pooh delirious. Ah, there's the solution! The vast honeycombs he sees before him lead to ... the future! This is a brand-new animated series of Pooh adventures, by one of the minds behind iconic series like ANGRY BIRDS and SESAME STREET. The following episode scripts are available: CATCHING THE SUN, A SNOW DAY (Juliette Rogasik), EGG DROP SOUP (Joe Vitale), POOH'S TREASURE HUNT (Juliette Rogasik), CHRISTOPHER ROBIN'S BIG SURPRISE (John Reynolds, Jeff Hylton, Mike de Seve), THE THUNDERSTORM (John Reynolds, Jeff Hylton), WINCH WINCH IS WINCH? (Nedra Gallegos), THE BALOON ROCKET, ICE PIGLET, THE KITE.

Mike de Seve is an Emmy-nominated animation writer and director. He is founder of Baboon Animation, a collective with 31 Emmys among them and clients including Disney, Netflix, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Warner Brothers. At DreamWorks, Mike was a script consultant for MADAGASCAR, SHREK 2 and SHREK 3, and he co-wrote the original story, with Mark Osborne, for MONSTERS VS ALIENS. At Paramount, Mike was a director and writer on the feature film BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD DO AMERICA. In Television, Mike has head-written for and/or directed ANGRY BIRD TOONS, SESAME STREET, POCOYO and SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. He's lately focused on applying his company's skills toward progressive causes - such as the launch of Baboon Animation Africa, integrating BIPOC talent, and addressing climate change with kids' content.

There are scripts available. All rights excl. podcast rights are available.

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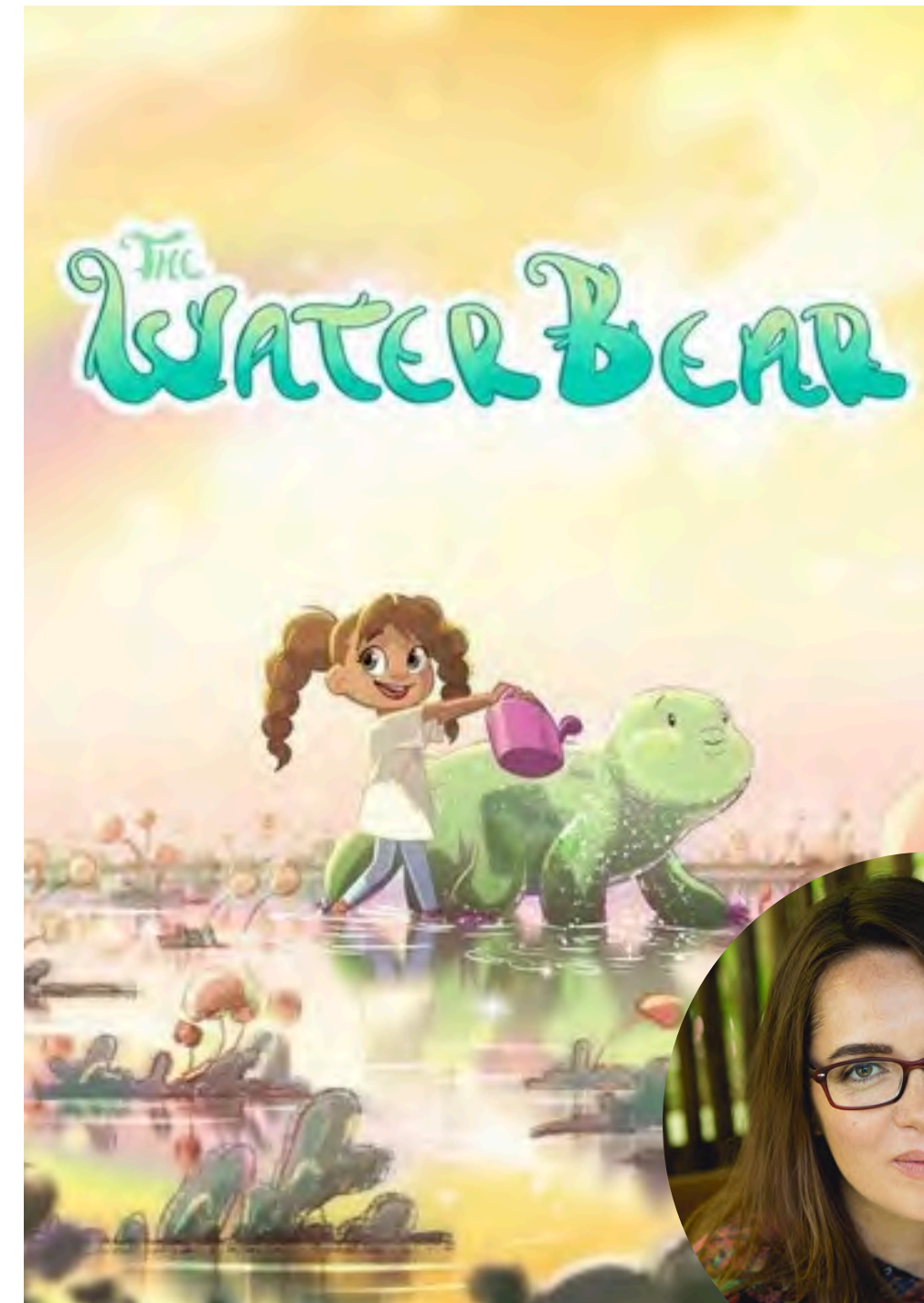
THE WATER BEAR

A big friendship in a tiny world.

The tiny but mighty adventures of nature-loving Maybel, who is burning to do good for the world. Easier said than done ... Maybel's only 7 years, 11 months and 4 days old and stuck in her tiny UK flat, with her overprotective dad and demanding little brother. Oh how she longs to be saving the planet alongside her eco-hero, Mom, back in South Africa! But not every girl would think to SAVE the piece of moss growing on their bedroom wall ... and when Maybel looks at it through her new portable MICROSCOPE, her world is turned inside out ... A magical connection with a water bear transports her into the MOSS KINGDOM. As she places her hand in Monsoon the water bear's paw print, the bridge between their two worlds is completed, but their story has only just begun ... Maybel is ready to explore and JUMP IN to help sort out ANY problem that pops up in the Moss Kingdom. She eagerly shepherds rogue leaf sheep, and readily babysits emoji bugs, but, as her self-appointed guide, Monsoon tries to slow her down long enough to actually ENJOY herself in the Moss Kingdom. Where else can you find photosynthesising slugs, dancing lichen flowers and a waterfall that gives you ideas? When Maybel remembers to connect with the very things she is fighting for, transformative magic BEAMS through Monsoon that gives the challenge at hand a helpful 'leg up.' And as each adventure brings a new opportunity for connection, their tiny but mighty friendship sparks up the lost magic of the Moss Kingdom. THE WATER BEAR is in development as an animation series for young children with Triggerfish Animation Studios.

Clea Mallinson has worked for Triggerfish animation studios as an editor on multiple projects, including REVOLTING RHYMES, AAU'S SONG and SUPA TEAM 4. She has an MA in screenwriting, has pitched twice in Animation Du Monde at Annecy, and has been awarded grants for three of her projects as well as a residency at Ciclic Animation.

A pitch bible with sample illustrations is available. Handling publishing rights for Triggerfish Animation. All rights available except Film&TV.



TONKO AND THE SIZA MASK

There's no hiding behind THIS mask!

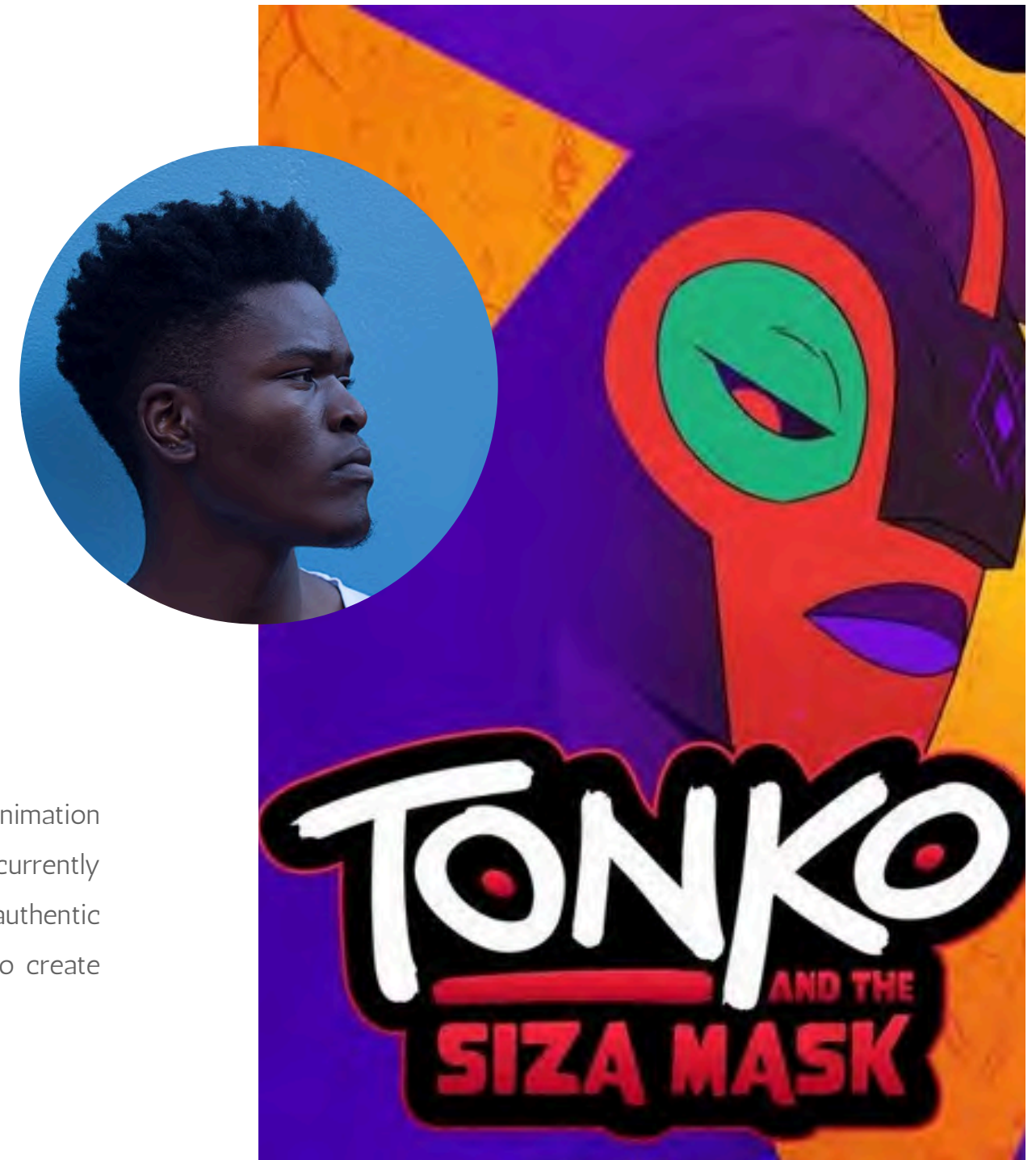
Nestled below a strange rock-formation known as Star Mountain is Siza, a one-street, one-horse, many-cows town surrounded by maize fields, cattle farms, and one massively understocked grocery store (unless you love corn and milk). You can only get wif-fi at the Post Office and there isn't one single sneaker store. For Tonko, small-town life sucks ... And don't even get him started on all the cow pats! All Tonko wants is to go back to the city - UNTIL he finds his family's ancient Siza mask, allowing him to transform into his ancestors and harness their mystical powers. The Siza mask allows Tonko to transform into multiple ancestors including his grandfather, Msizi, a warrior with a shield forged from the sun's rays; his great-aunt Bombisani, a camouflaging prankster who bends 'n breaks the rules; and Uncle Ogya, who has the strength to bench press two cows, but the temper of a buffalo stung by a hornet! But family doesn't come without baggage. As Tonko becomes entangled in an intricate and powerful family legacy, he discovers that with great powers come great ... complications after he transforms into his great-uncle Felani, who puts the mega into megalomania and, unwittingly, opens a portal to the ancestral realm of Azania, releasing everything from cow zombies and shape-shifting leopards to granite baboons. Now, Tonko must learn everything he can about his ancestors (and himself) if he is to harness their powers to protect his new community, while Felani, now unleashed and growing in power, is plotting to get the mask back - just as soon as he escapes the Mr T bobblehead on the dashboard of a taxi!

TONKO is a comedy adventure currently in production with Triggerfish Animation Studios aimed at 6- to 11-year-olds. A pitch bible with sample artwork is available.

Terence Maluleke is a character designer and visual developer from Johannesburg. He has worked as a lead concept artist for Triggerfish Animation and as art director for major brands. Terence has created key designs for South African superhero comics SUPA STRIKAS and KWEZI. He currently runs a Visual Development company called Tribal Universe, a concept art and visual development collective that focuses on creating authentic African visuals and stories that can also appeal to the world. Terence is one of the founders of Kasi Sketchbook, a program that aims to create drawing clubs in the townships to encourage young artists to daily 'Draw Your World' in their Kasi Sketchbooks.

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‘A celebration of self through family lineage ... the unmasking of ourselves to unleash our potential’



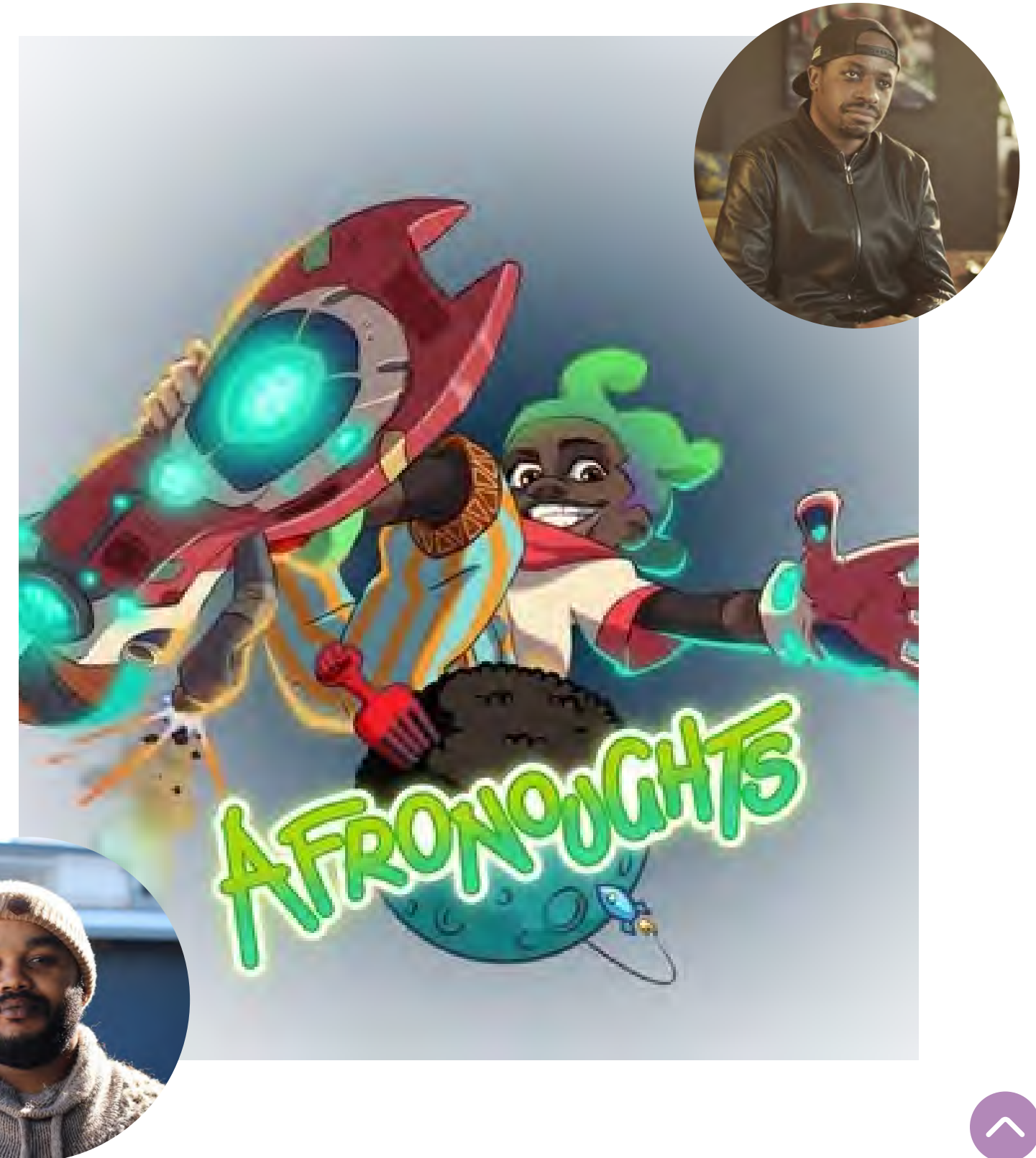
AFRINOUGHTS

Zero-gravity Zeroes.

Keso is a cheeky, charismatic misfit kid living in your typical RURAL VILLAGE except ... it's a kaleidoscopic carnival of the quirkiest beings from across the universe ... And on an ASTEROID floating through deep, deep space ... He has a ride-or-die anthropomorphic goat BFF, aka Spot, a traditional dad set in his ways, a gangster-esque lil sis, Rue, and a Mom that's AWOL ... He spends his days having karaoke jam offs, running from rabid space chickens, and reluctantly working at his dad's barbershop, which serves the most bizarre clientele in the universe. Keso's universe is flipped upside down when a free ticket to the elite Planet Swagtopia - the Disneyland meets Met Gala of Space - comes up for grabs. A ticket that is awarded to the coolest kid on Instaglam. Hyped with a dream, Keso, Spot and their growing squad of misfits the streets mockingly call the 'AFRINOUGHTS', swap their sheltered rural village life for wacky intergalactic adventures - battling celestial toddler time cops, chocolate zulu warriors and much more - in their quest for Instaglam cool points. This puts Keso in conflict with his traditional father, who insists he takes over the barbershop. And if that is not enough, Keso will have to overcome space bullies, and his Instaglam Rivals like Egghead, who are determined to beat him to the exclusive ticket And then there's the small issue of ARDO, a menacing inter-dimensional Celestial AI hell-bent on conquering all of reality who Keso accidentally sets free. OOPS! AFRINOUGHTS is a comedy sci-fi adventure in development as an animation series for children aged 6 to 11 with Triggerfish Animation Studios. A pitch bible with sample illustrations is available.

Tafadzwa Hove is a versatile filmmaker who wrote and directed MUKUDZEI, a short, animated film part of KIZAZI MOTO: GENERATION FIRE, an African Animation Anthology for Disney+. With a deep passion for animation and a commitment to challenging stereotypes surrounding Africa, his work revolves around narratives that explore the experiences of outsiders and celebrate the triumph of hope, through genres like sci-fi and humour, whilst weaving stories that defy expectations and shed new light on the continent. **Lesego Vorster** is a Soweto-born-and-bred director keenly engrossed in the furthering of authentic African aesthetics. His first love is art direction and his love for the unconventional can be seen in the soon to be released short film he directed as part of the Disney+ KIZAZI MOTO anthology. A graduate of Gobelins Ecole de L'image in Paris, he has gone to co-found a studio, The Hidden Hand Studios, in Johannesburg, which has worked with the likes of Adult Swim, Studio La Cchette and Comedy Central among many others.

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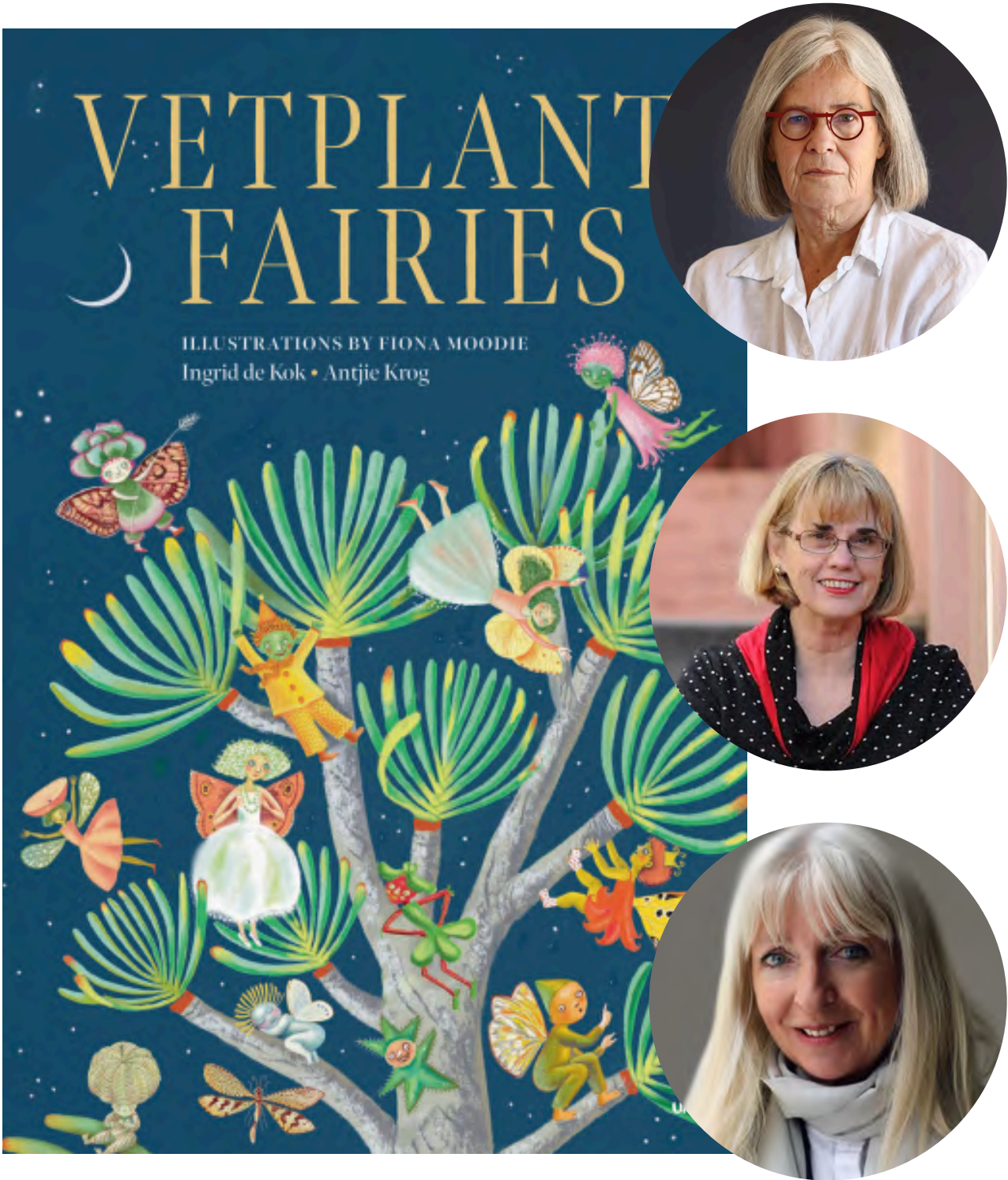
VETPLANT FAIRIES

Fairies among the succulents!

Southern Africa has the richest and most diverse grouping of succulents in the world. VETPLANT FAIRIES is a collection of verse for children about indigenous succulents and the imaginary beings who live among them, written by two of our finest poets, Ingrid de Kok and Antjie Krog. The book is beautifully illustrated in full colour by Fiona Moodie in the style of FYNBOS FAIRIES, its hugely successful predecessor. The scientific name for each plant is included in this enchanting new classic.

Fiona Moodie is an artist and writer. VETPLANT FAIRIES is one of seventeen children's books she has illustrated since her first book, BENJAMIN ROCKING HORSE, was published in Switzerland in 1979. Since then, her children's books have appeared in numerous countries and in many languages. In 1996, NABULELA, her eighth book, was published in seven South African languages. Her illustrations have been exhibited in prominent galleries, including the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and the Chihiro Art Museum in Tokyo features her work in its permanent collection. She is the recipient of the MER Prize among others, and has been honoured by Unicef. She lives in Cape Town. **Ingrid de Kok** is the author of the celebrated poetry collections FAMILIAR GROUND, TRANSFER, TERRESTRIAL THINGS, and OTHER SIGNS. Her poems have been published locally, internationally and in translation, and a volume of selected and new work, SEASONAL FIRES, appeared in South Africa and the United States. Among her prizes are the Herman Charles Bosman Award, a South African Literary Award, and the 2019 Ritratti di Poesia Prize from Fondazione Culturale Arte in Rome. She lives in Cape Town. **Antjie Krog** has published many volumes of poetry, three of them collections of children's verse: MANKEPANK EN ANDER MONSTERS, VOËLS VAN ANDERSTE VERE, and FYNBOS FAIRIES. She has been awarded the Hertzog Prize among many other awards, and is the author of the acclaimed COUNTRY OF MY SKULL, which won the Alan Paton and Olive Schreiner awards. She lives in Cape Town.

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Complete layout with print-ready illustrations available.



HORROR



POE & I

Welcome to Poe Cottage ... Would you like a tour?

Jonah Peabody takes a job as caretaker and docent for the last home of Edgar Allan Poe in The Bronx, but from the moment he moves into Poe's Basement – where the caretaker must live – he finds himself also living inside a Poe story, stalked by a man who seems to be his doppelganger and who seeks revenge for past misdeeds. Jonah claims to be hunting for his lost sister, but as the narrative shifts between past and present, it's clear that he's not telling us the entire story. What is he hiding and why? Haunted by the violent ghosts of his own family and Poe himself, Jonah must reconcile with his dark past before the dual shadow of guilt and grief buries him alive. Living in Poe's Basement might just be his last chance at redemption. The author himself lived in Poe Cottage many and many a year ago, and POE & I is loosely based on that experience, but this is no memoir. It's pure fiction. Or, as Poe might say, a hoax.

Matthew Mercier is a writer and storyteller living in the woods of the Hudson Valley. He's worked as a tour guide at the Mystic Aquarium, run a youth hostel in Albuquerque, been slimed as a salmon packer in Naknek, Alaska, provided showers for homeless men on the Bowery, and proudly served three years as head docent and caretaker for the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage in The Bronx. He earned an MFA from Hunter College where he taught writing and children's literature. His work has appeared THE BROOKLYN RAIL, MISSISSIPPI REVIEW, GLIMMER TRAIN, ROSEBUD MAGAZINE, CREATIVE NONFICTION, THE FAIRY TALE REVIEW, SHOTGUN HONEY, and MYSTERY TRIBUNE. He's told stories live on stage with The Moth and been heard on NPR's The Moth Radio Hour, as well The Story Collider, RISK and The Truth podcasts. He's been awarded the Leon B. Burstein scholarship from the New York chapter of the Mystery Writers of America, and a residency from the Saltonstall Foundation. Currently, he is writing and producing radio dramas for Radio Free Rhinecliff in Rhinecliff, NY.

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SOMNIUM

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

Immerse yourself in a terrifying blend of psychological horror and high-tech science fiction in this riveting novel where dreams can kill. Gillian Hardie experiences nightmares so intense they threaten her very existence, thanks to a glitch in Somnium Corporation's groundbreaking dream advertising technology. Every night, her sleep unleashes monsters that her body reacts to as if they were real, pushing her to the edge of despair. Armed with her lucid dreaming skills, Gillian battles these horrors, but when an accident traps her in a perpetual dream state, she must rely on Nathan Keller, a nightmare warrior, and Dex Cooper, an Operator, to navigate this nightmarish reality. With her darkest fears manifesting like never before, Gillian faces a race against time to survive a threat that could unleash unimaginable horrors from the depths of her mind. Dive into a story that explores the shadowy boundaries of fear and technology. For fans of cutting-edge psychological thrillers and high-stakes survival horror, this novel promises a journey through the darkest corridors of the human psyche, where the next dream could be your last. Join Gillian in her fight against the darkest corners of her mind – before it's too late.

A successful writer/editor in the corporate world for more than two decades, **Deirdre Swinden** is currently living and writing in North Carolina. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from Arcadia University and has published short stories in GRIFFEL LITERARY MAGAZINE and GRIM & GILDED. Early in her writing career, she won the Popular Short Story Contest at the 2000 Philadelphia Writers' Conference with her short work, 'Shooting Televisions.'

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THE THING IN THE WIND

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. This suspenseful narrative weaves together the threads of environmental horror and the mysteries of the unknown, crafting a story that is as thought-provoking as it is terrifying. With a strong female protagonist at its core, this novel explores the depths of human resilience and the bonds that tie us to the natural world. Dive into this gripping horror novel, where the beauty of nature collides with the darkest corners of the human psyche, and the hunt for missing people unravels a mystery that might have been better left undiscovered.

Bill Mullen was born in England and holds an MFA from the Bluegrass Writers Studio. He now lives in Kentucky where he teaches literature and writing at Eastern Kentucky University. His first novel, RED NOCTURNE, was published in 2016. THE THING IN THE WIND is his second novel.

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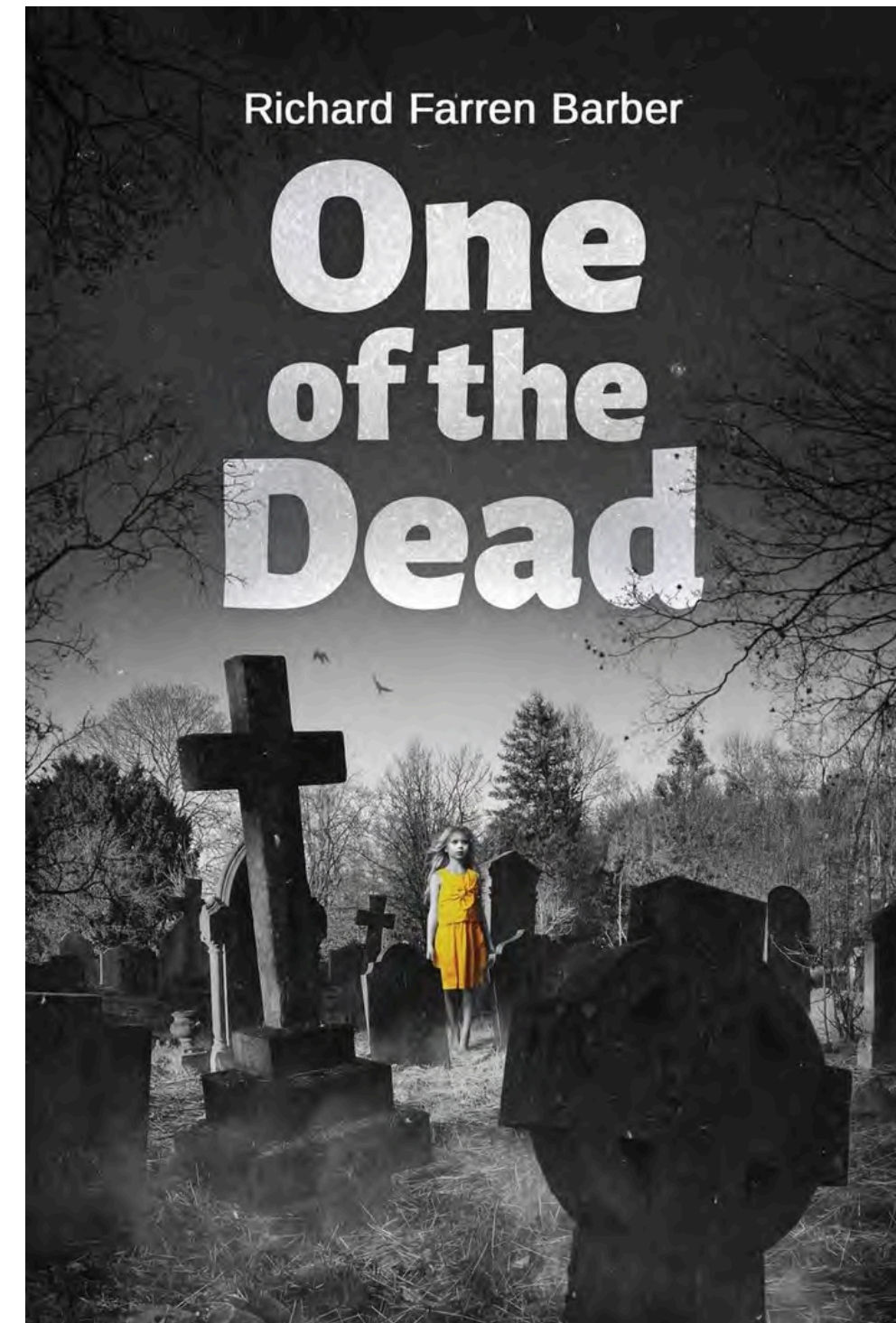
ONE OF THE DEAD

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. ONE OF THE DEAD weaves a tale not of a zombie apocalypse, but of a quiet invasion, a creeping horror that targets the heart. 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.

Richard Farren Barber was born in Nottingham in July 1970. After studying in London he returned to the East Midlands. He lives with his wife and son and works as a manager for a local university. He's fairly confident people only read these bios to check if the author is a serial killer. (Spoiler alert: he's not.) He has over 80 short stories published, eight novellas, and two novels.

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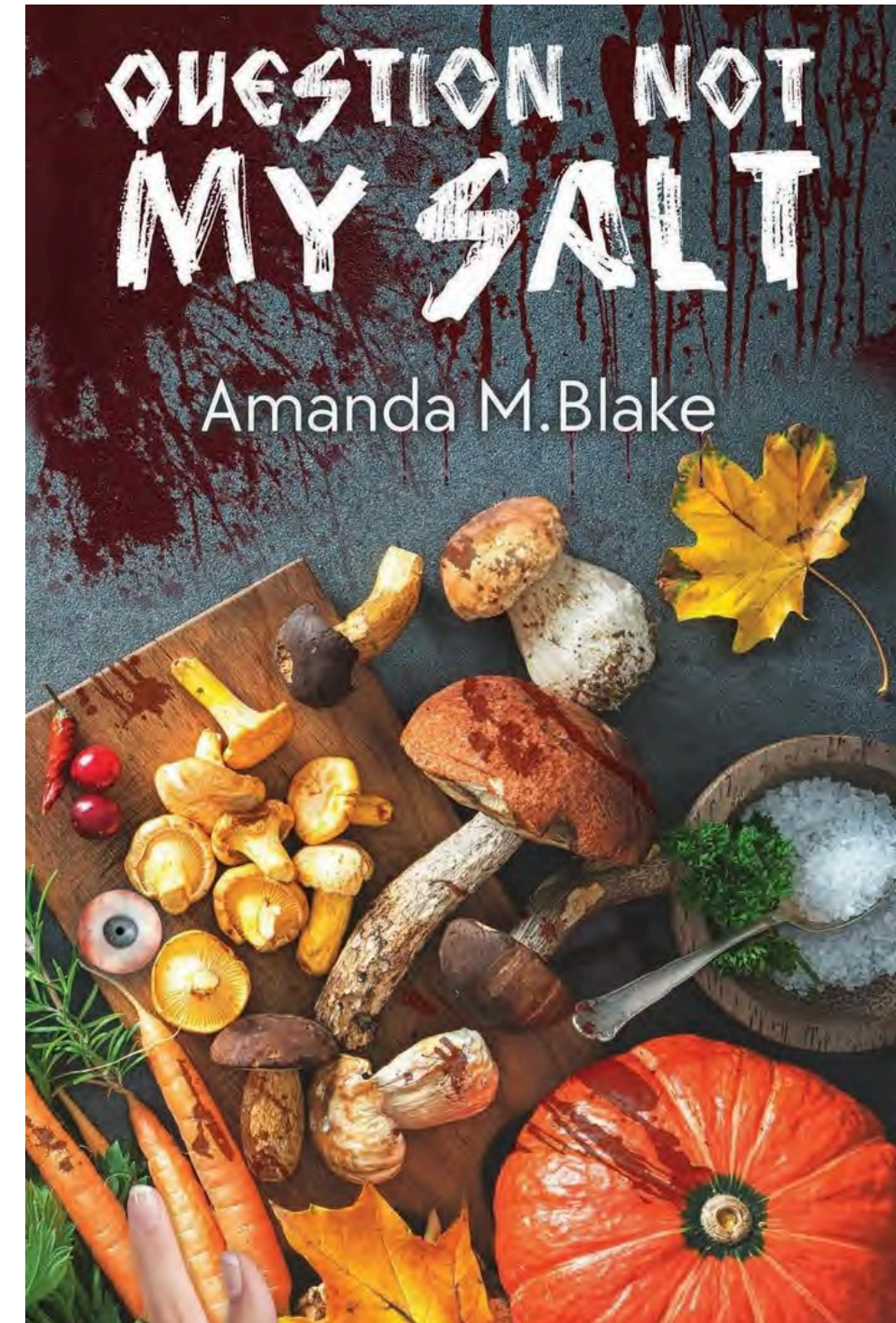
QUESTION NOT MY SALT

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. A gripping tale blending the terror of THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE with the culinary horror of HANNIBAL and THE MENU.

A mass of tentacles and rose vines masquerading as a person, **Amanda M. Blake** is the author of such horror titles as QUESTION NOT MY SALT, DEEP DOWN, and OUT OF CURIOSITY AND HUNGER, the dark poetry collection DEAD ENDS, and the Thorns fairy tale mash-up series.

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IN THOSE FADING STARS

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.

Andrew Najberg is the author of the novels *THE MOBIUS DOOR* (Wicked House Publishing, 2023), *GOLLITOK* (Wicked House Publishing, 2023), *THE NEVERBORN THIEF* (Olive-Ridley Press, 2024) as well as the forthcoming collection of short fiction *IN THOSE FADING STARS* (Crystal Lake Publishing, 2024) and *EXTINCTION DREAM* (Wicked House Publishing, 2025). His short fiction has appeared in *FUSION FRAGMENT*, *KHOREO*, *TRANSLUNAR TRAVELERS LOUNGE*, *UTOPIA SCIENCE FICTION*, *PROSE ONLINE*, *PSYCHOPOMP REVIEW*, *SOLAR PRESS HORROR ANTHOLOGY*, and is forthcoming in *MAKE YOUR PRESENCE KNOWN*, and the *GODS AND GLOBES III Anthology*. Currently, he teaches for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and is serving as a senior editor for *SYMPOSEUM* magazine.

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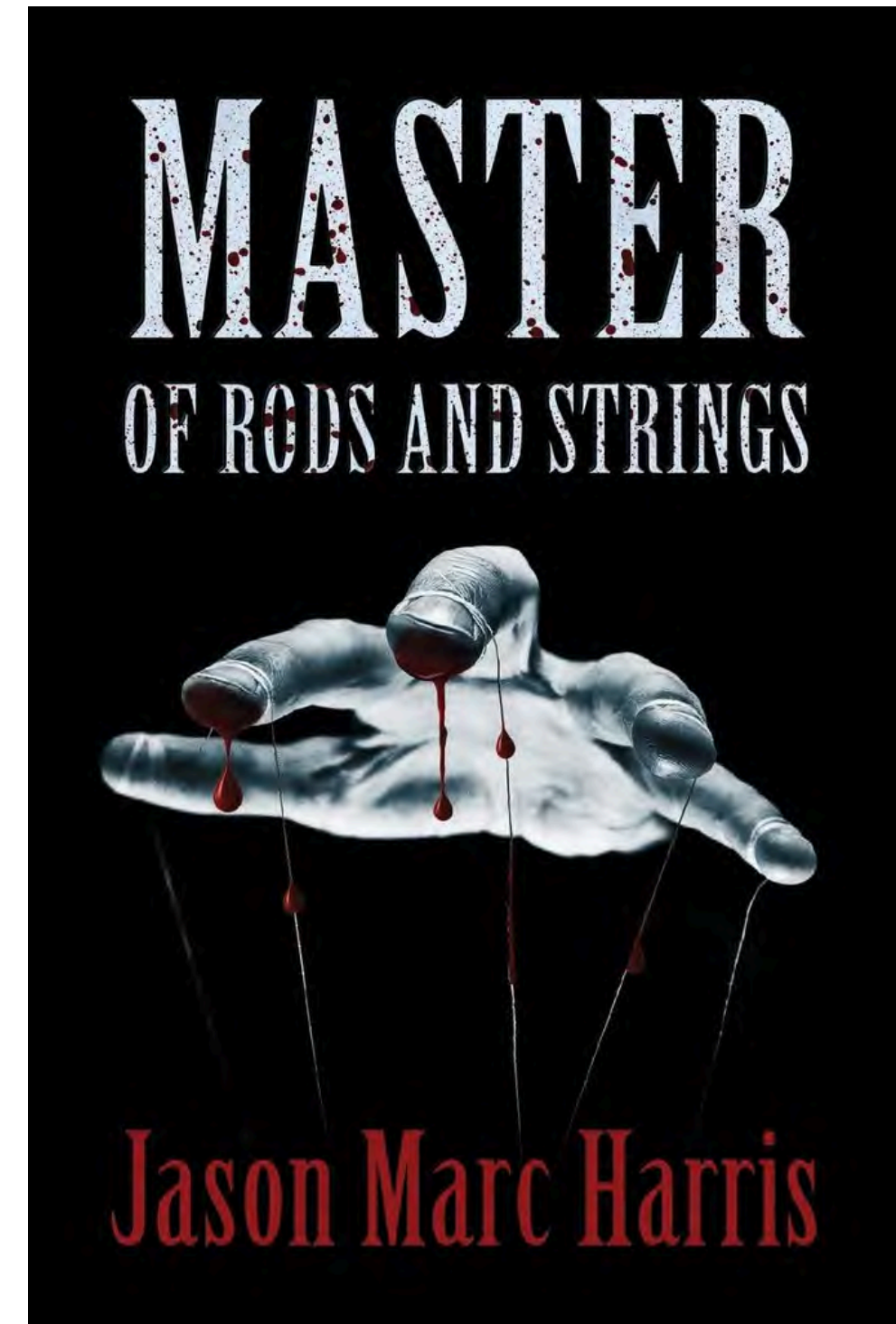
MASTER OF RODS AND STRINGS

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.

Jason Marc Harris teaches creative writing, folklore, and literature, and is the Creative Writing Coordinator at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. He graduated with a Ph.D in English Literature from the University of Washington, and an MFA in fiction from Bowling Green State University. Creative work has appeared in journals such as APEX and ABYSS, ARROYO LITERARY REVIEW, MARVELS AND TALES, MIDWESTERN GOTHIC, PSYCHOPOMP Magazine, THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, and WRITING TEXAS. He's written two folklore books based on fieldwork – THE TROLL TALE AND OTHER SCARY STORIES and LAUGH WITHOUT GUILT (both collaborations with Birke Duncan) – and the critical book FOLKLORE AND THE FANTASTIC IN NINETEENTH CENTURY BRITISH FICTION (Routledge). He's currently working on a sequel to MASTER OF RODS AND STRINGS (Crystal Lake Publishing, 2024). He's also practicing the Dance of Outside while travelling the Astral Plane, polishing up some short stories, screenplays, and a novel, and contemplating sundry eldritch matters.

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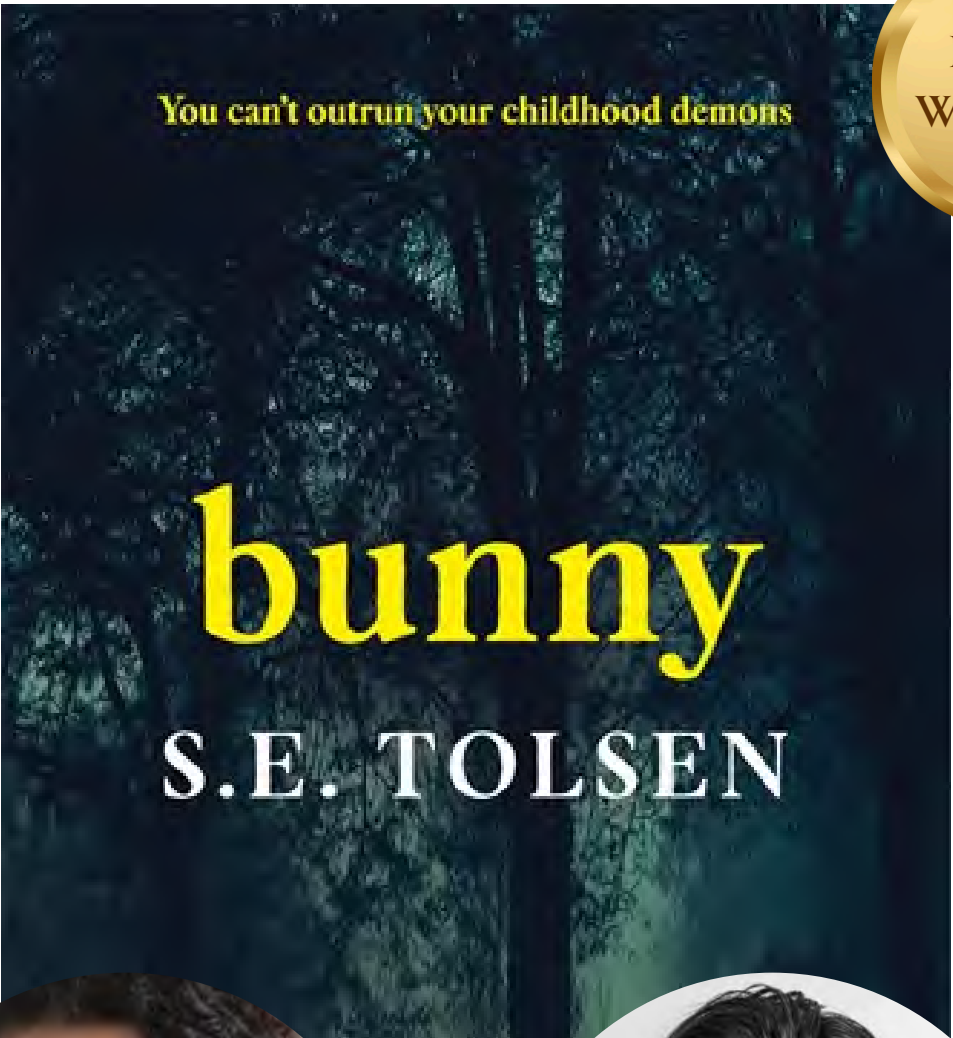
BUNNY

Winner of the Aurealis Award for Best Horror Novel (2023)

Silas didn't have a happy childhood. Aunt Bunny made sure of that. Now an adult, he and his girlfriend Rose are on the brink of success as screenwriters, they quit their survival jobs in order to rewrite their script. Three weeks is the deadline and with rent due soon, the two decide to pack up and head back to Silas's childhood home. Back to the woods. Back to the darkness. Back to Bunny ... Silas has a mission – get in, three weeks, get out. Back home, and back in the presence of Aunt Bunny and his hedonistic mother, Lou Lou, Silas discovers both women living through the ravages of alcoholic codependency and what seems to be mental illness. At the homestead, a nearby lake, and even a roadside diner, 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 which is working to draw Silas back into the family. It will not let him go, and neither will Aunt Bunny.

Emma Olsen, a New Zealander of Fijian, Indian, Italian, and Norwegian descent, is an award-winning stand-up comedian. **Vere Tindale** is a New Zealander/South African and graduate of The Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York City with a BCA from Victoria University of Wellington. They specialize in nuanced, atmospheric, and scary-as-hell horror. Their original Horror script CREPUSCULAR was nominated for Best Screenplay in the Woman in Horror Film Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Ilustrata

KOREA

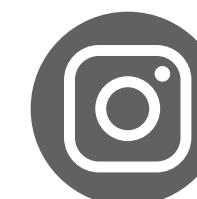
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