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DUCK CREEK PRESS



CRIME & THRILLER

DIPLOMATIC TIES	Mpho Boshego	Political / Legal Thriller
THE PSYCHOLOGISTS	Gail Schimmel	Psychological Thriller
THE FINISH LINE	Gail Schimmel	Domestic Suspense
LITTLE SECRETS	Gail Schimmel	Domestic Suspense
THE FIRING LINE	Mike Nicol	Detective Thriller/Noir
FALLS THE SHADOW	Mike Nicol	Detective Thriller/Noir
NOW YOU BLEED	Gareth Crocker	Commercial Detective Thriller
NOW YOU SUFFER	Gareth Crocker	Commercial Detective Thriller
ANGRY WATER	Irna van Zyl	Thriller / Police Procedural
WHISPER OF DEATH	David Lambkin	Action Adventure / Espionage
DEADLY BENEFITS	Kurt Ellis	Crime / Heist

COMMERCIAL FICTION

LOVE, ZOLA	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
THE THING WITH ZOLA	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
I DO ... DON'T I?	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
MALTA INFERNO	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Adventure
HELL RUN TOBRUK	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Adventure
THE CAPE RAIDER	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Adventure
THE WOLF HUNT	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Adventure
HOW TO HIDE INSIDE A THREE	Jane Van Der Riet	General Fiction

LITERARY FICTION

CAPSTONE	Johann Rossouw	Literary Fiction
BLOOD'S INNER RHYME	Antjie Krog	Literary Autofiction
ART AND THE DEVIL	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism / Uplit
THE NICOTINE GOSPEL	Sven Axelrad	Upmarket Coming-of-Age
BURIED TREASURE	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism / Uplit
GOD'S POCKET	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism / Uplit
THE IMMORTALITES	Claire Robertson	Literary Historical Fiction
HELL OF A COUNTRY	David Cornwell	Literary Historical Fiction / True Crime
DECIMA	Eben Venter	Literary Autofiction / Environmental Fiction
JUNX	Tshidiso Moletsane	Gritty Urban / Instant Classic / Cult Favourite

SPECULATIVE / HORROR / SCI-FI

DEMON DRINK	Kris Ashton	Comedy Horror
SOUL MIRROR	Edmund Stone	Psychological Horror
THE NIGHT CREW	Brad Ricks	Vampire Horror
TO HELL WITH HALLMARK	Brad Ricks	Christmas Themed Horror Anthology
DRAW YOU IN	Jasper Bark	Horror
A BLACKENED HEART, A BLACKENED SOUL	John Ward	Historical Horror
THE UNWOVEN WARRIOR	Jon Keevy	Afro Fantasy
ARCHIVE OF THE SIXTH	Matthew MacDevette	Witchy Fantasy / Revisionist History
THE TILTED PENTAGRAM	Matthew MacDevette	Witchy Fantasy / Revisionist History
THE EXOTIC	Alastair Bruce	Literary Fiction / Grounded Speculative
POE & I	Matthew Mercier	Gothic Horror / Psychological Thriller



[SOMNIUM](#)

Deirdre Swinden

Dream Horror / Psychological Thriller

[THE THING IN THE WIND](#)

Bill Mullen

Environmental Horror

[THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL](#)

Imran Garda

Science Fiction

POETRY

[YOU GET BETTER WITH LOVE](#)

Duduzile Noleen Ngwenya

Inspirational Poetry

[WEEPING BECOMES A RIVER](#)

Siphokazi Jonas

Commercial Poetry

NON - FICTION

[A PAWFECT LIFE](#)

Dion Chang

Pet-parent Handbook / How-To

[RAISING A YOUNG ACTOR](#)

Bentia Rixon

Parent Guide / How-To

[SHIFT HAPPENS](#)

Richard Sutton

Self Help / Personal Development / How-To

[THE STRESS CODE](#)

Richard Sutton

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Self Help / Personal Development / How-To

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Nokuhle Kumalo

Pop Finance

[THE SHADOW STATE](#)

Jeff Wicks

True Crime

[DEEP BLUE: WHY WE LOVE THE SEA](#)

Veruska de Vita

Narrative Non-fiction / Nature & Wellness

[PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS](#)

Justin Fox

Narrative Non-fiction / Travelogue

[OUT OF THIS WORLD](#)

Adriana Marais

Narrative Non-fiction / Pop Science

[BLACK SUNDAY](#)

Mignonne Breier

Narrative Non-fiction / History & Politics

[KILLER STORIES](#)

Brin Hodgskiss and Nicole Engelbrecht

Narrative Non-fiction / True Crime

[PATIENT 12A](#)

Lesedi Molefi

Memoir / Mental Health

[THE ART OF WAR AND PEACE](#)

David Kilcullen; Greg Mills

Military History / Politics & Current Affairs

[DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH & POWERFUL](#)

James-Brent Styan

Narrative Non-fiction / History & Politics / Business



BOUNCE	Naomi Holdt	Parenting / Psychology / Lifestyle / Wellness
THE END OF EDEN	Adam Welz	Narrative Non-Fiction / Environment / Pop Science
PRESCRIPTION ICE CREAM	Alistair McAlpine	Memoir / Pop Science

CHILDREN’S / YOUNG ADULT / GRAPHIC NOVELS

SHOW AND TELL	Marleen Lammers, ill. Zinelda McDonald	Picture Book
ADVENTURE JOURNAL	Kat Cameron; Mische Hamilton	Non-fiction/Gift/Activity
ZWELA JOURNAL	Kat Cameron; Mische Hamilton	Non-fiction/Gift/Activity
WHEN I’M READY	Kat Cameron	Picture Book
A YEAR IN MY LIFE	Louis Pretorius	YA
THE WITCHES WAY	Jenna Bass and Chinelo Onwualu	Graphic Novel
PUMPKIN FINDS HER BEAT	Bianca Flanders, ill. Bronwyn Webb	Picture Book
PUMPKIN FINDS HER KINDNESS	Bianca Flanders, ill. Bronwyn Webb	Picture Book
PUMPKIN FINDS HER QUEEN	Bianca Flanders, ill. Bronwyn Webb	Picture Book
ME & MOO	Julia Smuts Louw	Picture Book
MANLY MEN	Daniel Snaddon and Julia Smuts Louw	Picture Book
MONKEY IS MOODY	Ashleigh Heyns	Picture Book
BEARENT	Greg Grabianski	Illustrated Early Middle Grade
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
VETPLANT FAIRIES	Antjie Krog; Ingrid de Kok; Fiona Moodie	Non-Fiction Picture Book

FICTION



DIPLOMATIC TIES

A gripping story of power, ambition, and the price of desire.

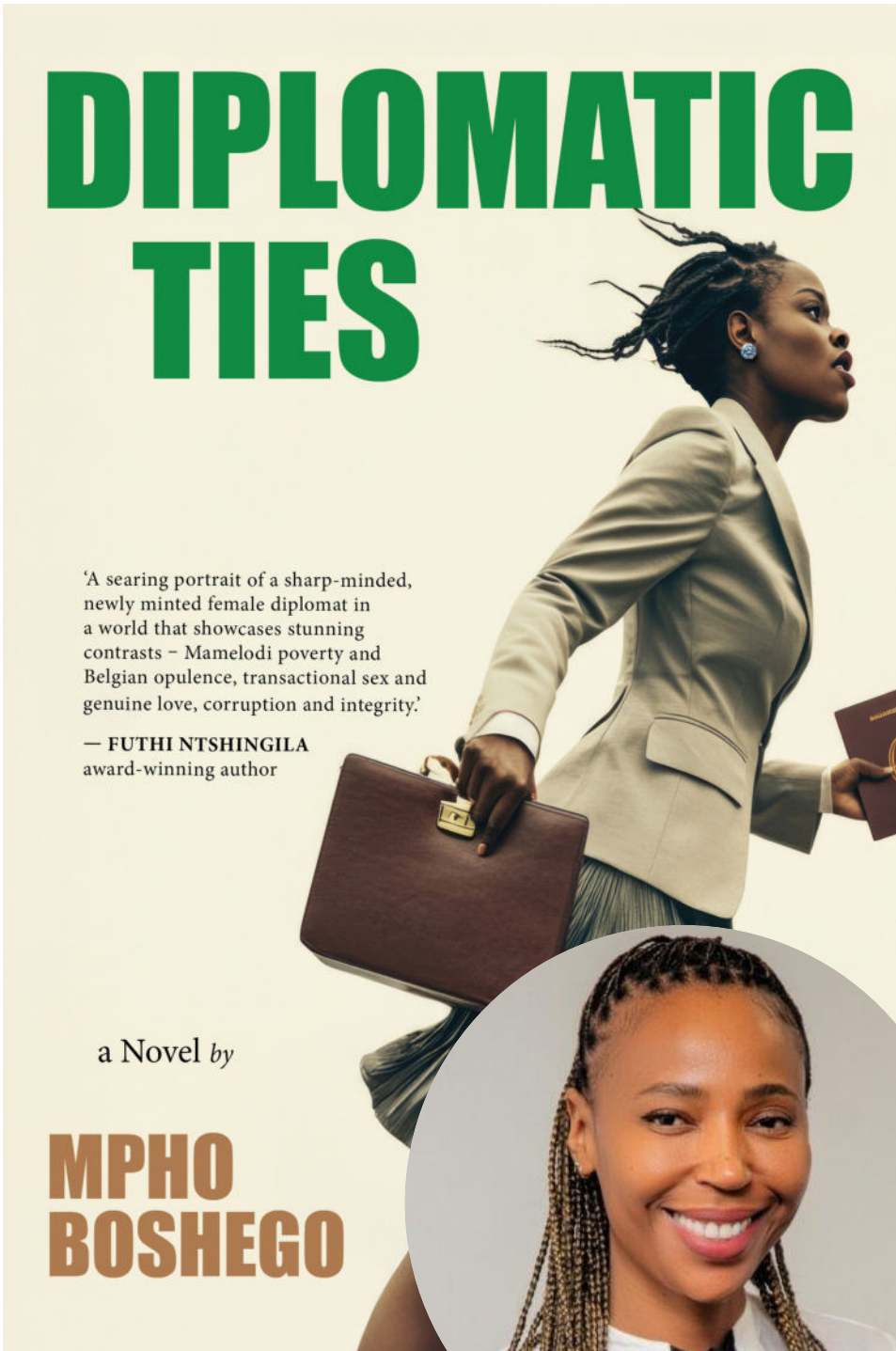
From the bustling township of Mamelodi to the heart of European diplomacy in Brussels, Mbali Langa has fought for every opportunity – and sacrificed more than she cares to admit. As a rising diplomat with a sharp mind and an unwavering ambition, she is no stranger to the delicate balance of power and persuasion.

But when an illicit affair threatens to shatter her career, and hidden enemies begin to close in, she finds herself trapped in a game where trust is a luxury she can't afford. In Brussels, behind the polished façades of diplomacy, lies a dangerous world of secrets, betrayals and high-stakes deception – where one wrong move could cost her everything.

Caught between duty, love, and the weight of her past, Mbali must decide just how far she's willing to go to secure the future she's always dreamed of.

Mpho Boshego is a former South African diplomat who served in Brussels, Belgium, from July 2007 to July 2011, navigating the intricate world of international politics and trade between the two countries. She has also worked in communications and media relations portfolios for EY Africa and SA Tourism. *DIPLOMATIC TIES* is her debut novel.

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THE PSYCHOLOGISTS

The queen of domestic noir has jumped genres - she's back with a pacy, twisty thriller in the vein of THE SILENT PATIENT and THE WIFE BETWEEN US.

Fifteen years ago, somebody framed Elizabeth for murder. And now she's back.

When psychologist Felix Archer starts an affair with a patient, he has no idea how it will end.

His ex-wife Ruth, also a psychologist, has started seeing a new patient, someone who feels oddly familiar.

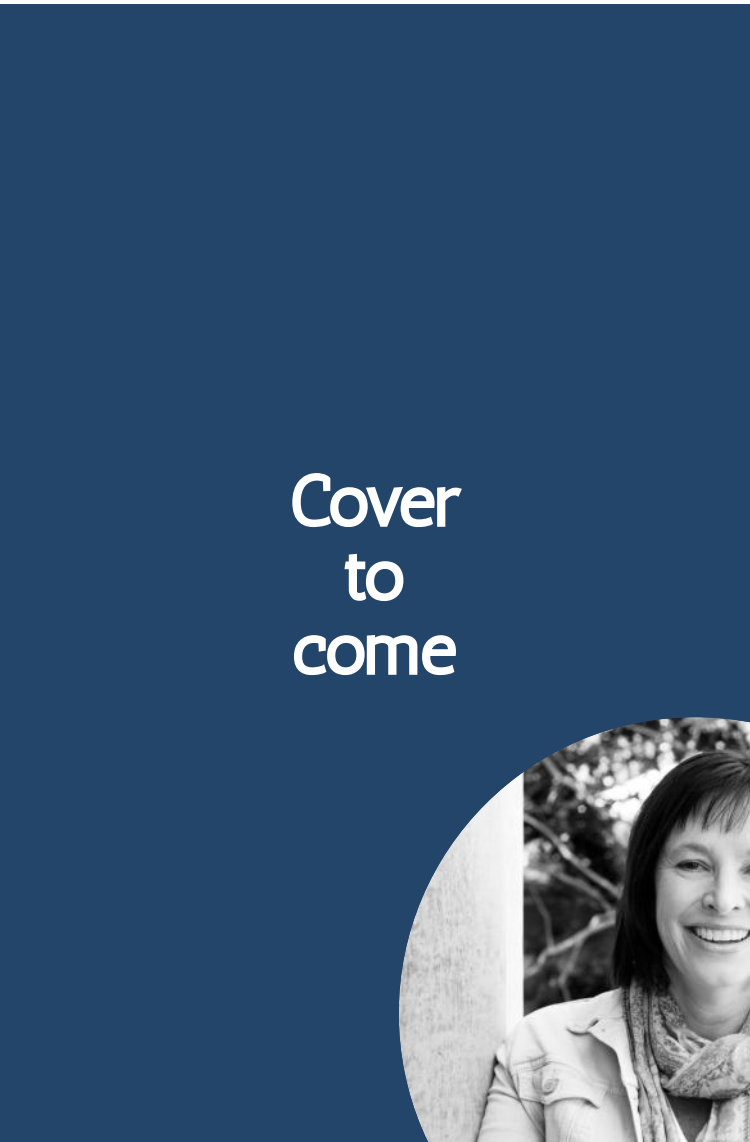
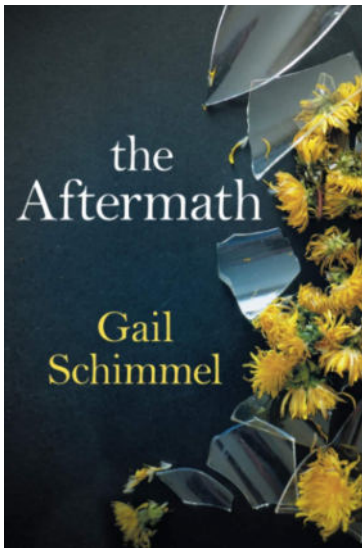
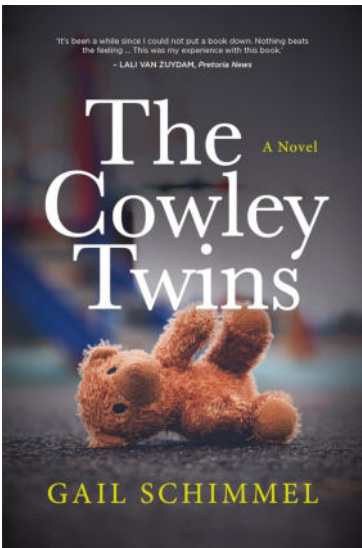
Between them, their web of patients will drag them into a situation so loaded that its shadows will stretch into the future, changing their children's lives forever.

The only thing that Felix and Ruth agree on is that they will do anything to protect their daughters.

The question is – how far will they go?

Gail Schimmel lives in Johannesburg with her husband and two children. She is the author of eight standalone page-turning domestic thrillers. As half of writing duo Katie Gayle, she has also written ten cozy mysteries. Gail is a lawyer and the CEO of the Advertising Regulatory Board.

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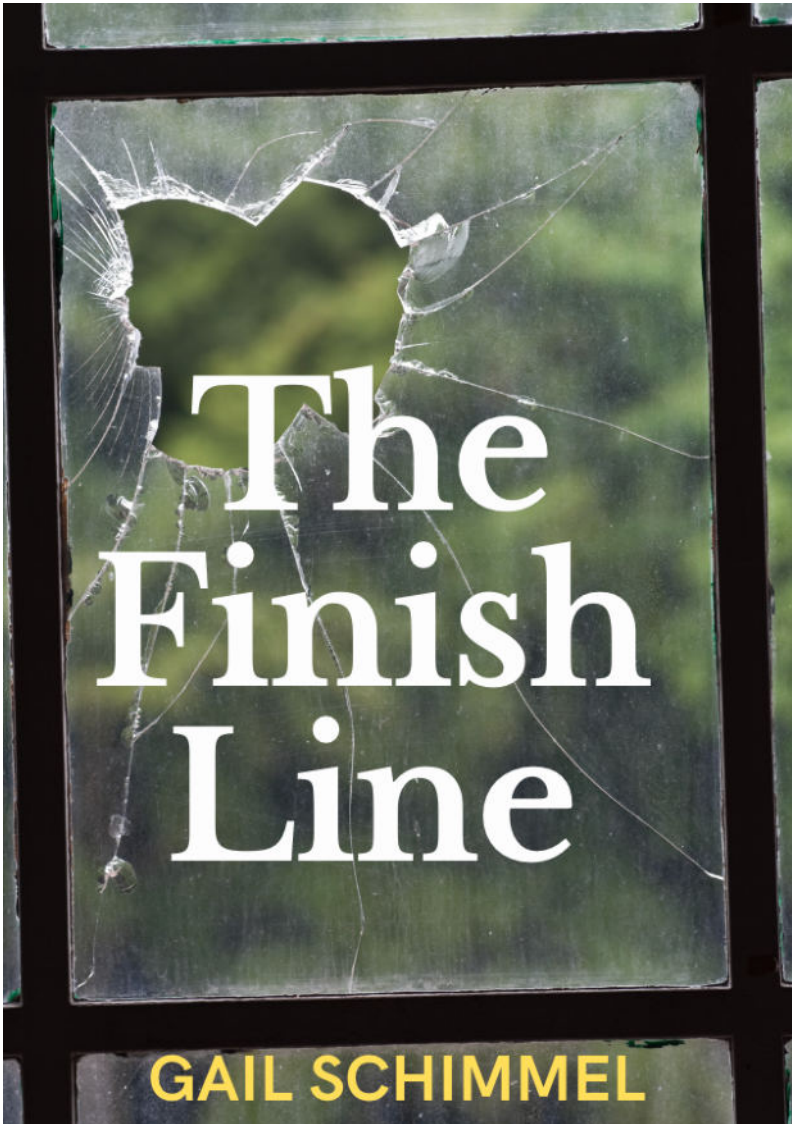


THE FINISH LINE

LITTLE SECRETS

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?



They seemed like the perfect family. 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.

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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.

Book II in the Zara Dewane series of detective thrillers. Book I, FALLS THE SHADOW, coming in 2026.

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

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

Cover
to
come



FALLS THE SHADOW

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

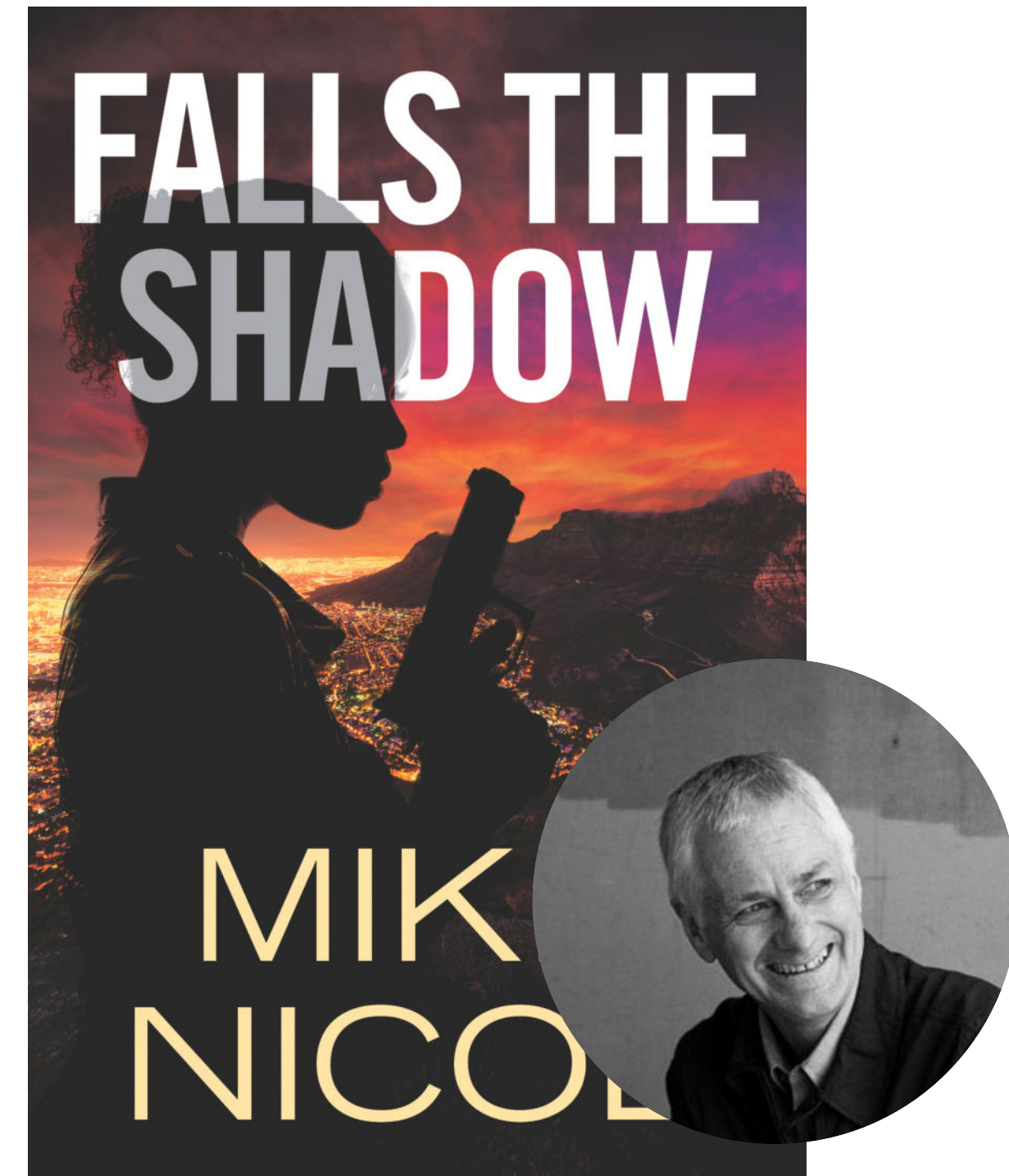
A cop in a quiet rural town kills his family and then turns the gun on himself. In his shed is a cache of weapons: Russian automatics, handguns, 9mils, .38s. You don't need forensics to work out what's going on – this is a cop with a side racket. This gets the attention of Captain Zara Dewane of the 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.

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‘Mike Nicol is not only one of the finest South African crime novelists, but also among the best anywhere. Falls the Shadow is superb.’ – JOHN CONNOLLY

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



NOW YOU BLEED

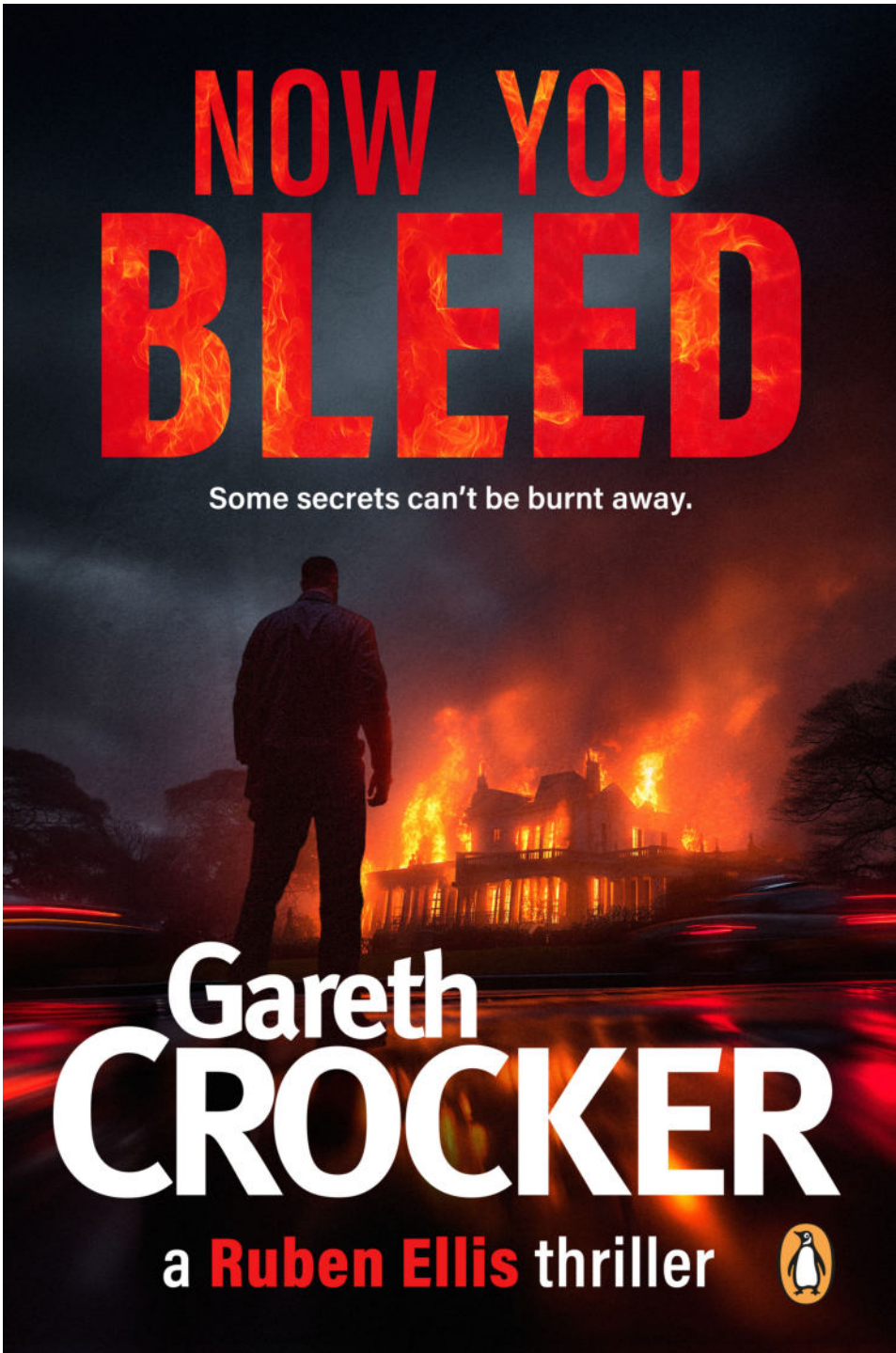
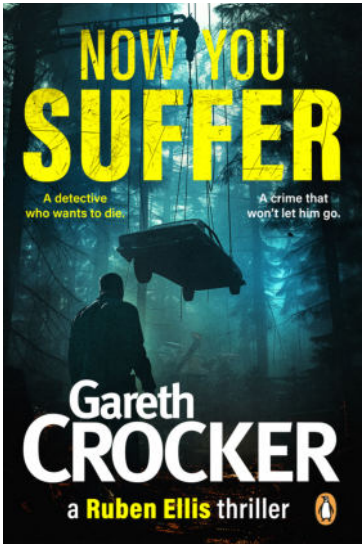
The follow up to the No.1 Amazon title in Crime and Thriller, NOW YOU SUFFER.

Cops are being murdered all over the city, each falling victim to a designer poison that causes them to bleed out. Unable to make a breakthrough in the case and with the bodies piling up, Ruben and Zander recruit Melissa to help them. Hoping that her unique insights into the human psyche might help trigger a discovery, they're expecting to hunt down some kind of deranged lunatic. Not a devilishly intelligent Professor of Human Physiology, an academic icon standing on the brink of a groundbreaking discovery. But why is he killing them? How many more have to die? Who's next on his list? And why do they need to bleed?

Some secrets can't be burnt away.

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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NOW YOU SUFFER

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2025)

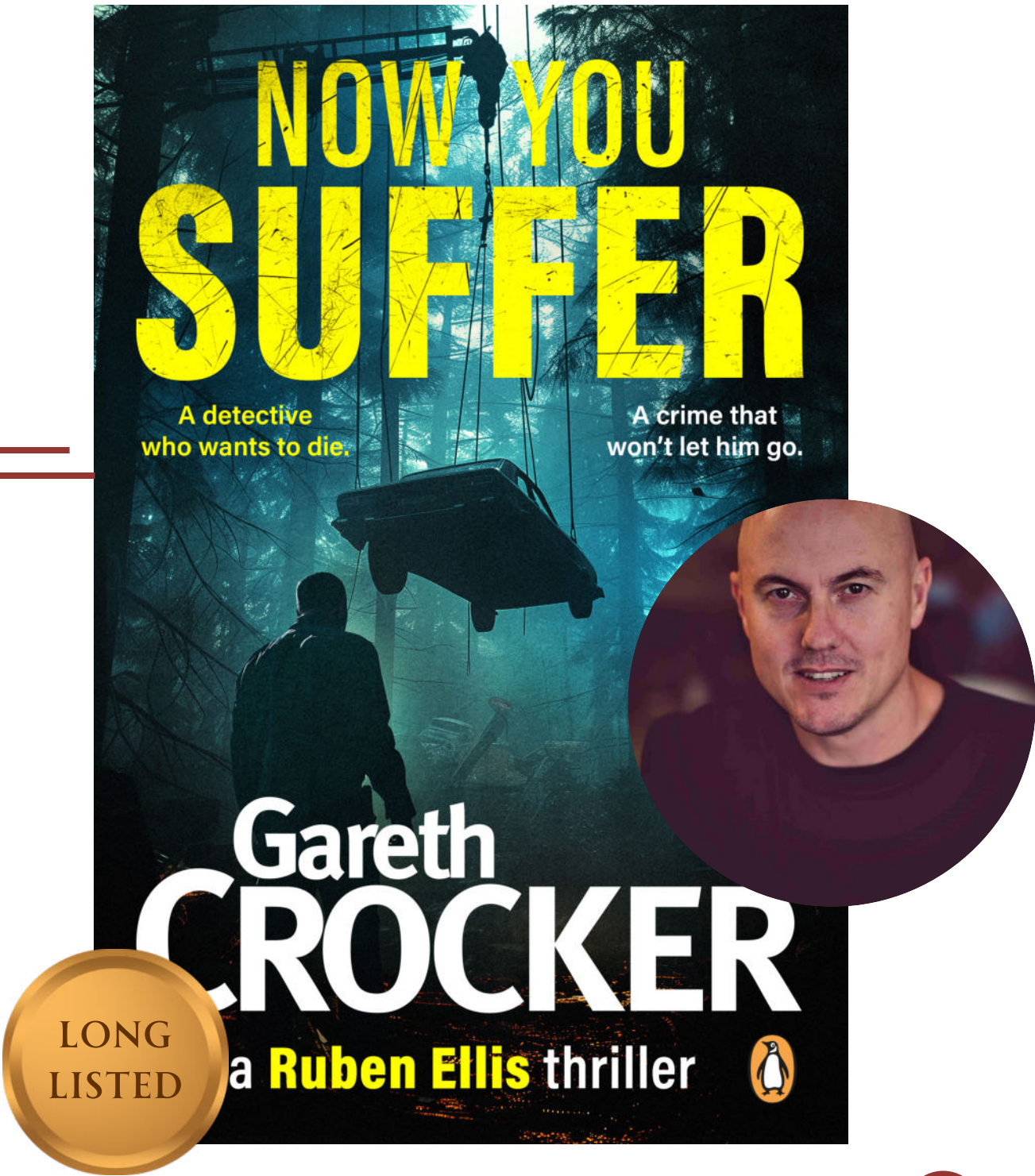
Propulsive, surprising, and very funny, this commercial detective thriller ticks all the boxes.

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.

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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



ANGRY WATER

When a book fair turns bloody.

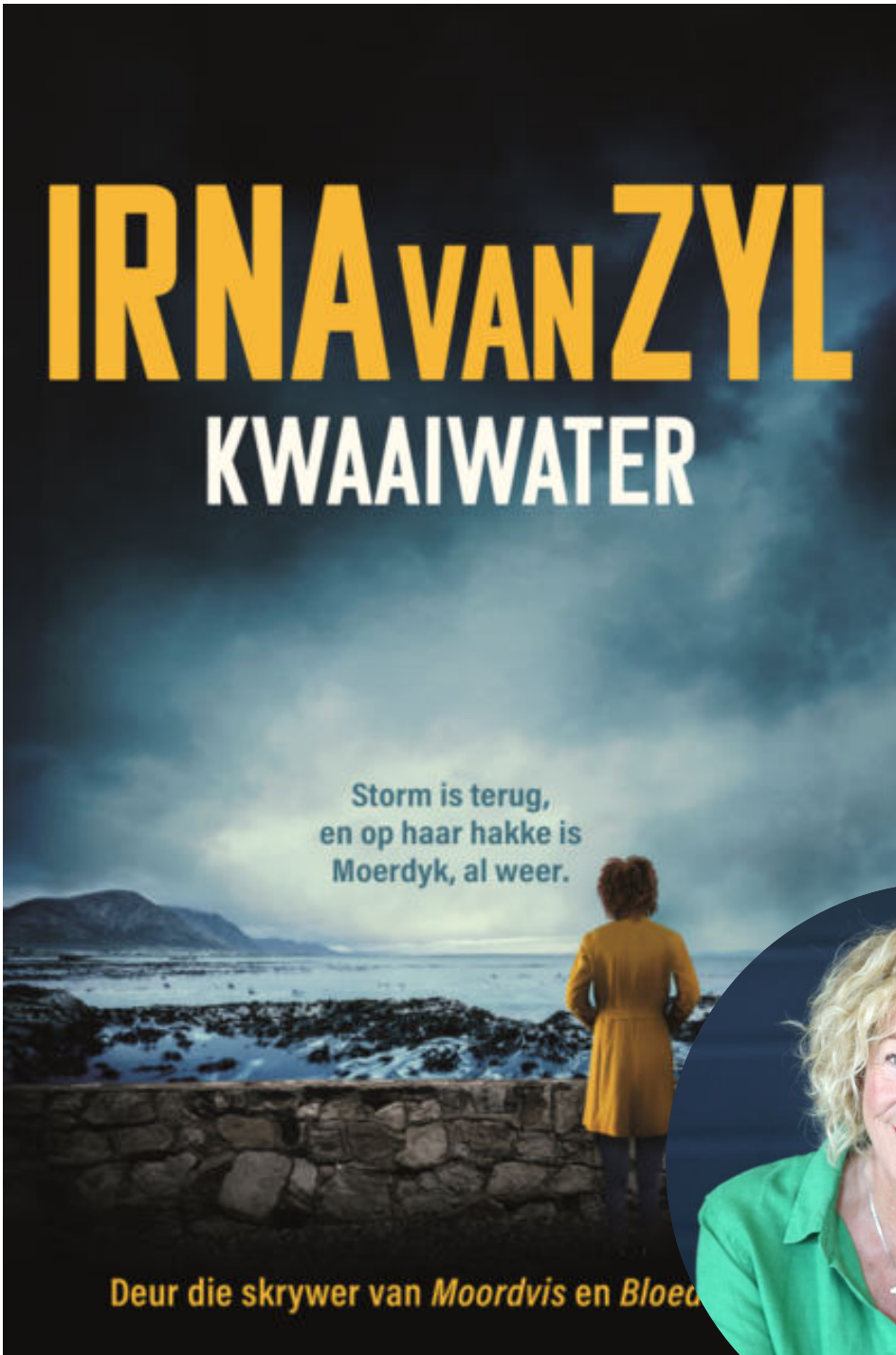
Scenic coastal town Hermanus is hosting a five-day writers' festival, calling on Detective Storm van der Merwe to babysit a rowdy crowd of authors and wannabe-authors. When Isa du Bois, the town's local literary star, does not show up for her session, tongues are wagging. Soon after, her body is discovered 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

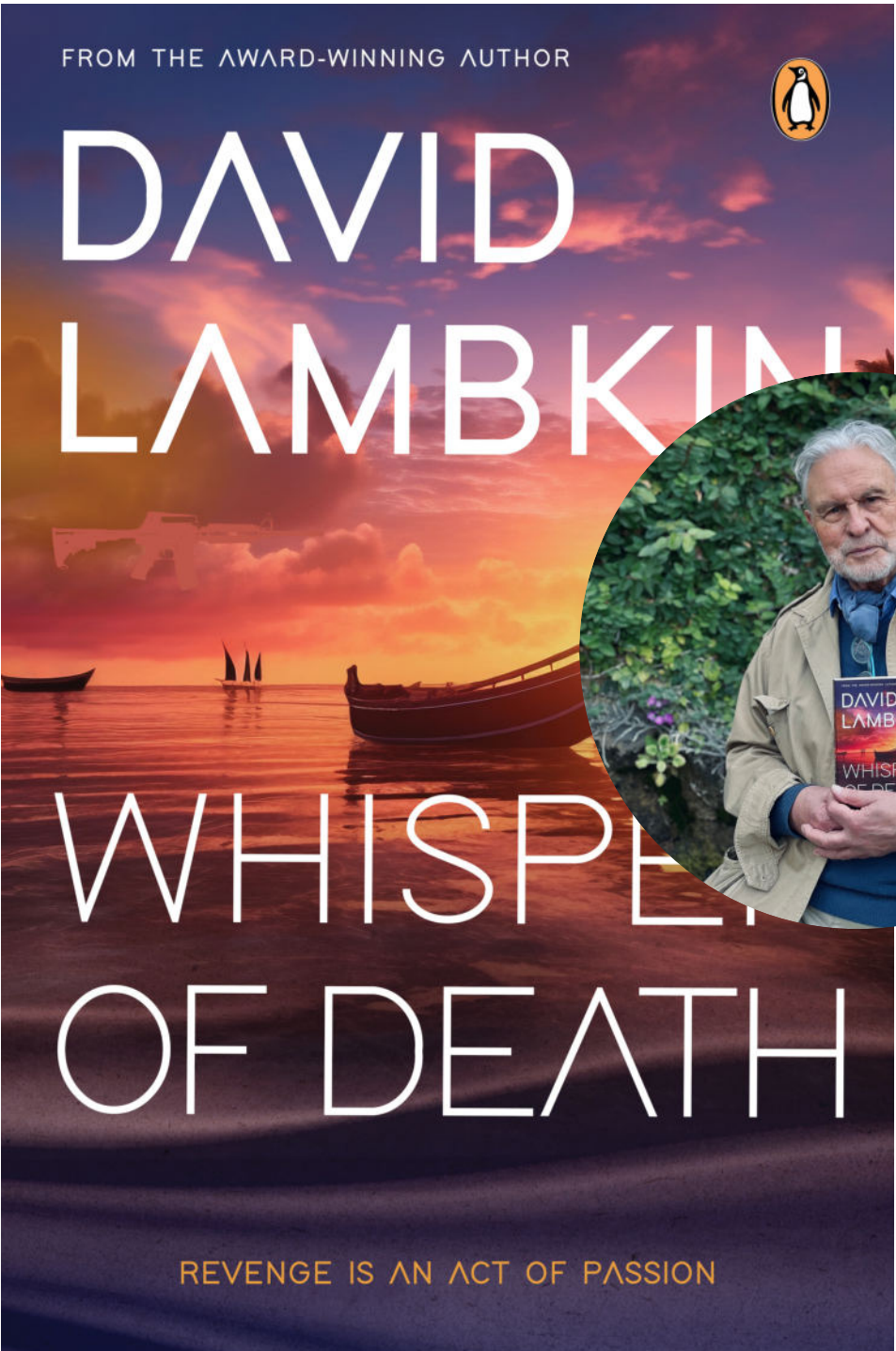
007, African style.

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

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2025)

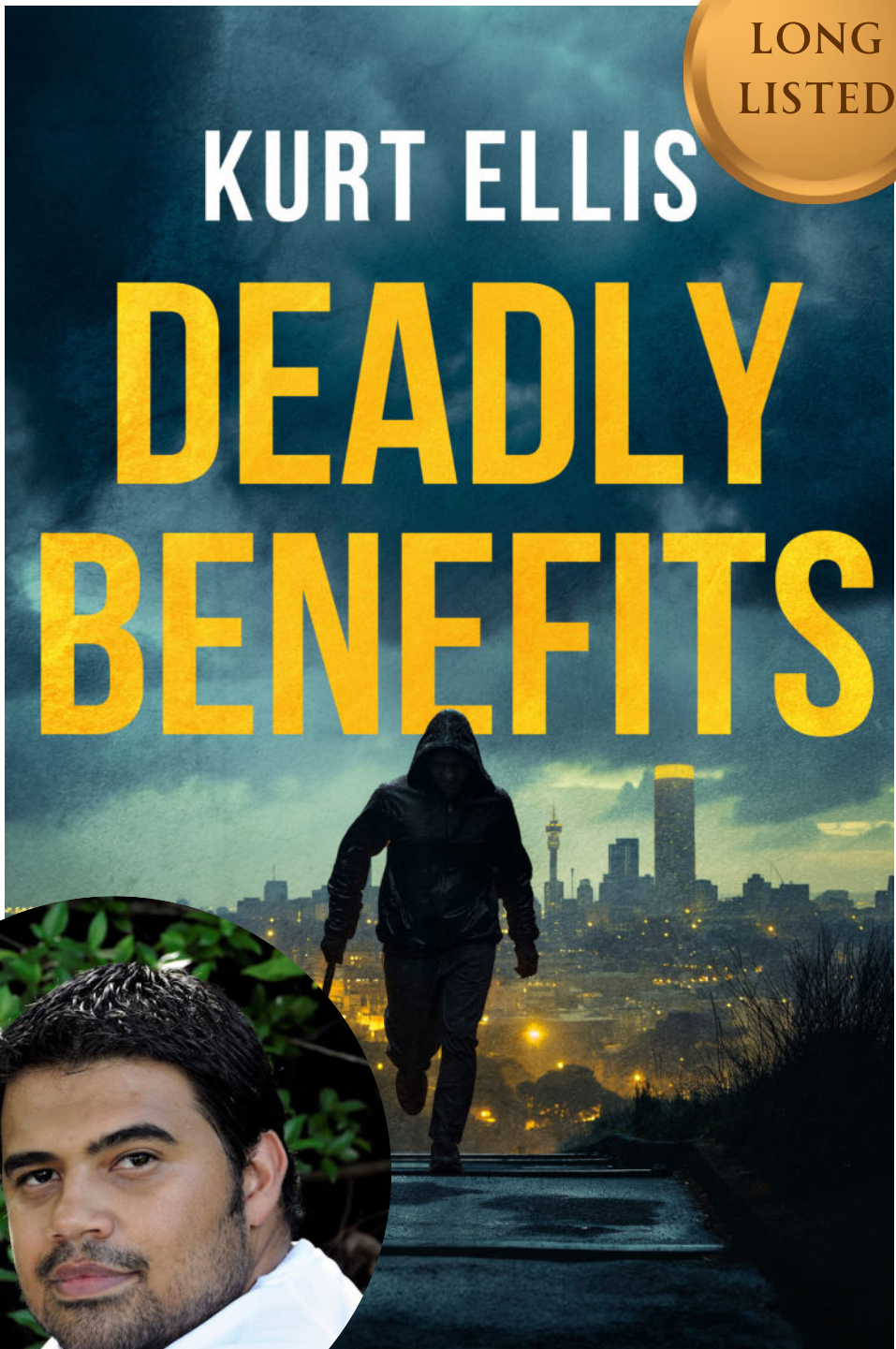
Insurance fraud, hitmen and mobsters in this blackly comic thriller for fans of GET SHORTY.

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



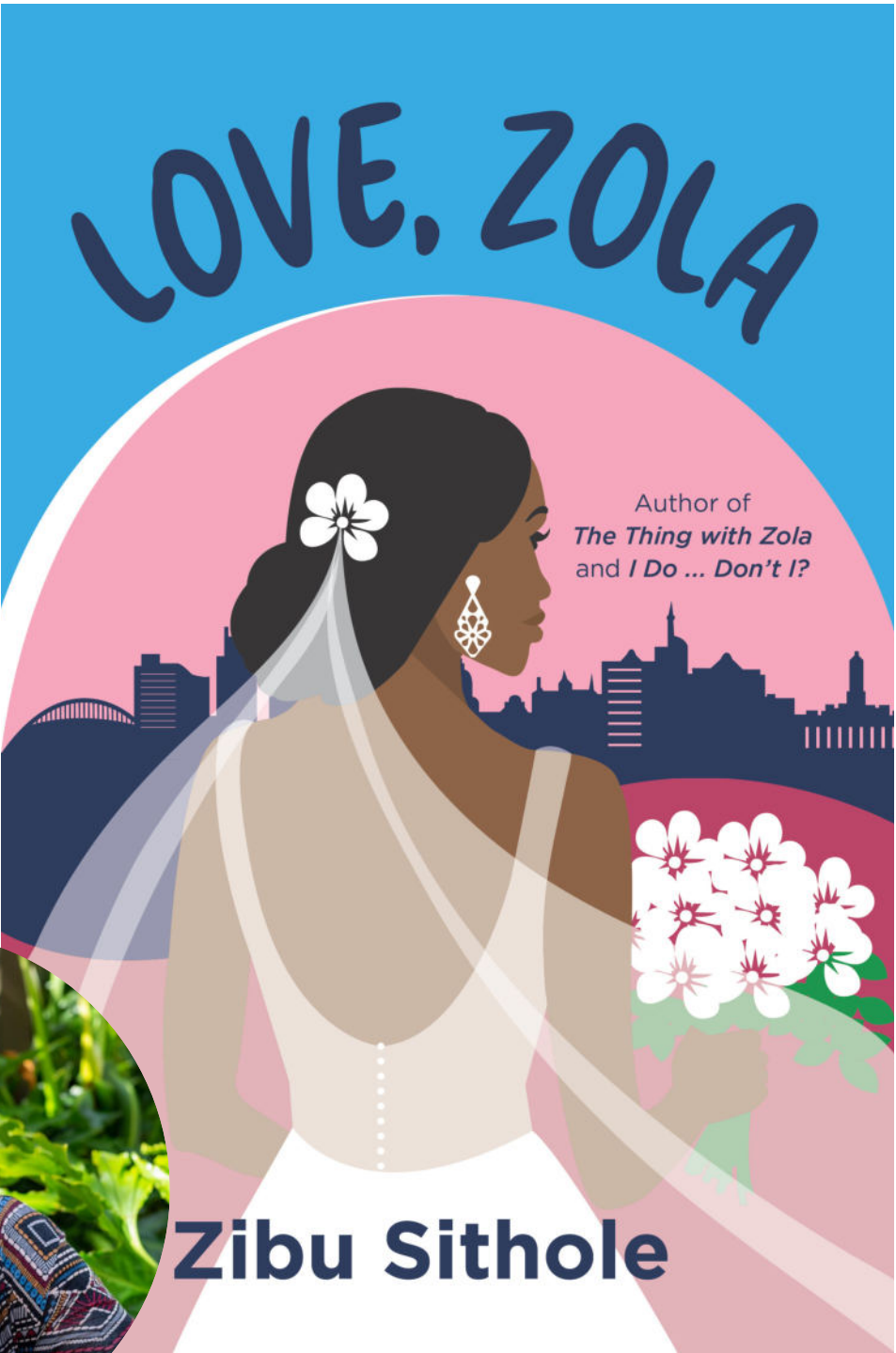
LOVE ZOLA

The final installment in the ZOLA trilogy

Love, Zola is the captivating continuation of Zola’s vibrant, heart-stirring story. From career pressures to unexpected confessions, Zola and Mbali’s journey tests their understanding of commitment and what a happy ending truly looks like. Okuhle’s return to Joburg brings unfinished business – not just with her relationship but also with Zola, whose successes only serve as painful reminders of what she’s lost. Meanwhile, Zozo’s happily-ever-after in Durban is shaken as old feelings resurface. Filled with tension, passion, and poignant revelations, Love, Zola is a story of self-discovery, second chances, and the challenges of modern relationships. Can love survive when the past refuses to let go?

Zibu Sithole released her fabulous debut novel THE THING WITH ZOLA in 2023, followed by the popular sequel, I DO...DON'T I? in 2024. LOVE, ZOLA is the highly anticipated conclusion to the series. Zibu is a published ghostwriter and a journalist with experience writing for television and radio as well as print and digital media. She lives in Johannesburg with her son.

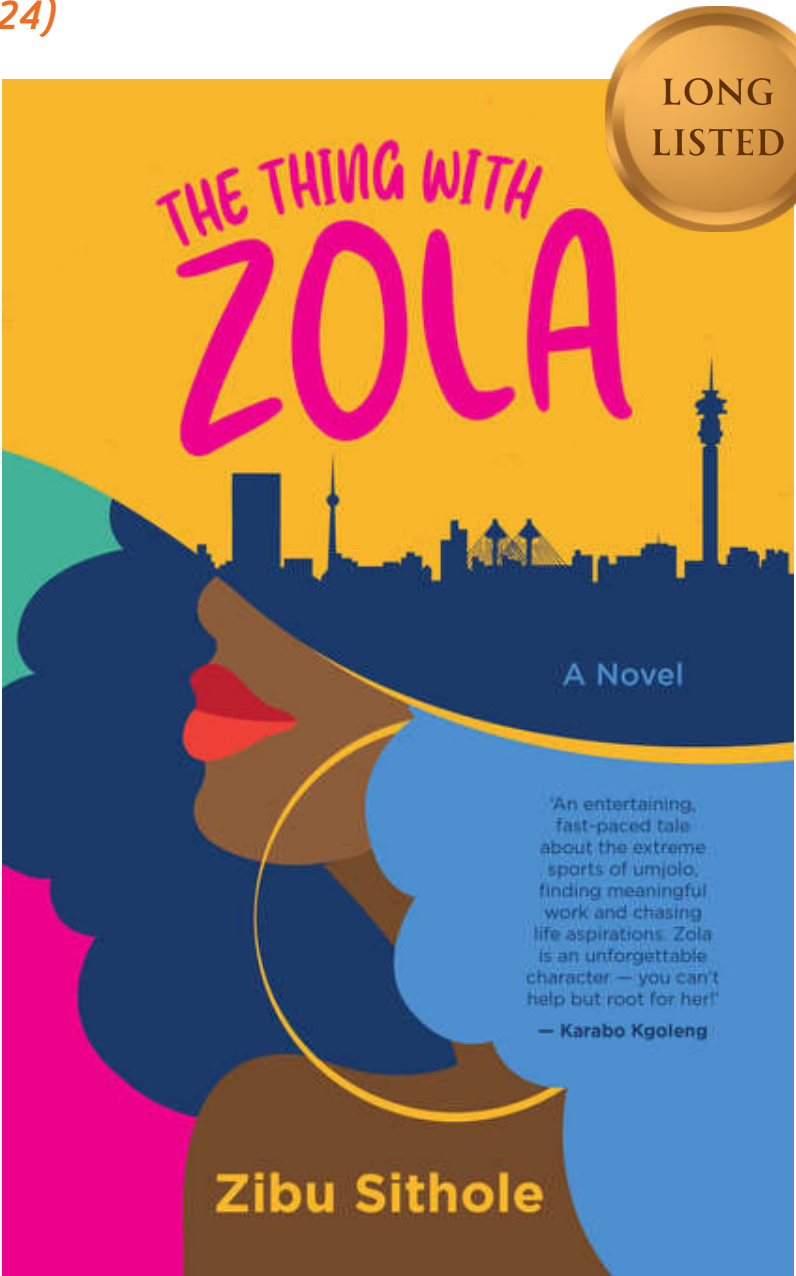
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THE THING WITH ZOLA

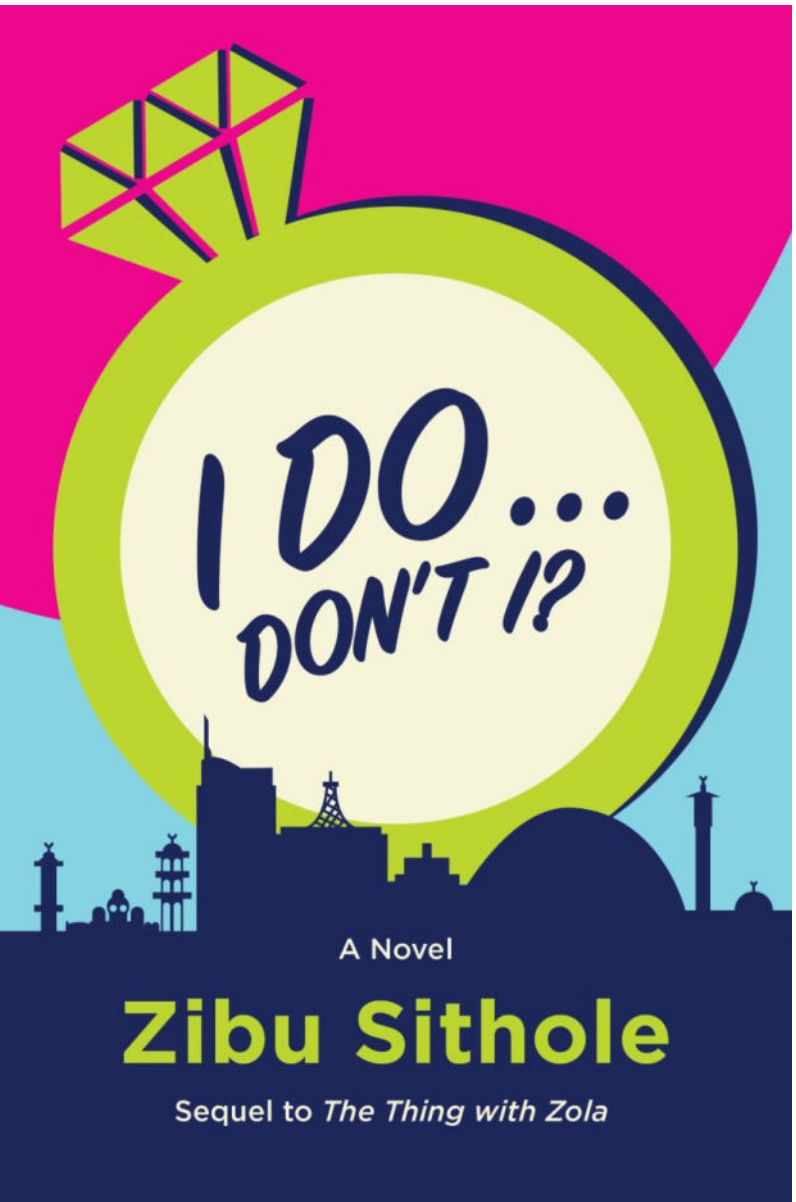
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

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.



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.

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MALTA INFERNO

Book four in the best-selling series of Jack Pembroke WWII adventure novels

July 1942. It's the height of World War II and the fate of the Mediterranean and North Africa hangs in the balance. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is ordered to join a convoy and sail his small escort ship, HMSAS Gannet, from Alexandria, Egypt, to the beleaguered island of Malta, the last Allied outpost in the central Mediterranean. Powerful German and Italian forces have been assembled to make sure the ships don't get through.

After a fierce, four-day battle, the much-depleted convoy arrives in Malta, but Gannet has been badly damaged in the fighting and remains behind for repairs when the ships depart. Jack and his men need to adapt to life on the island and endure constant bombardment, becoming part of its resistance.

Then Jack and his ship are given an almost impossible task: to destroy a powerful radar installed on a nearby Italian island. In a daring raid, commandos must be landed at night, complete the attack and then be spirited to safety before the enemy garrison can overwhelm them. Jack must deal with his own trauma while leading his men back to Malta and safety.

Malta Inferno is the fourth book in the thrilling Jack Pembroke series, each of which is a stand-alone story.

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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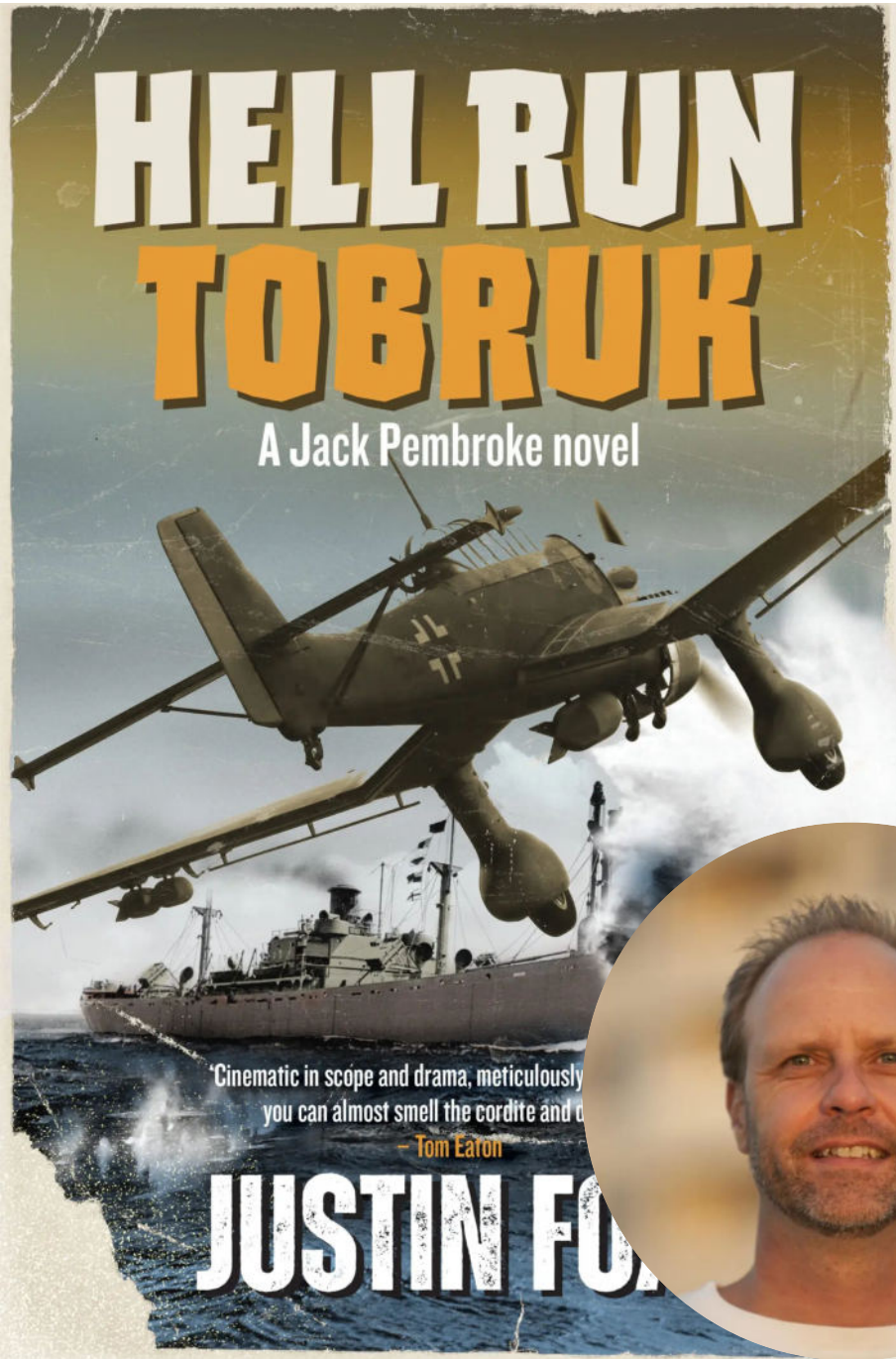
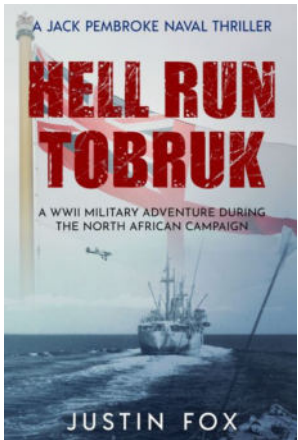
HELL RUN TOBRUK

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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THE CAPE RAIDER THE WOLF HUNT

*An Allied-Nazi showdown in the icy South Atlantic
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2022)*

Jack Pembroke is thrust from a London desk job into the jaws of World War ii. As a young naval officer, he sees his ship sunk under him at Dunkirk, an event that leaves him defeated. After recovering in London, Jack sails for South Africa to join his admiral father at the Cape where a fledgling naval force is preparing to fight the coming onslaught of German raiders and u-boats in the South Atlantic. Jack is appointed commander of a small minesweeping flotilla – an inept bunch of South African sailors who distrust this foreign captain forced upon them – and must quickly mould them into a fighting unit. Meanwhile a Nazi commerce raider, a powerful warship disguised as a neutral merchant ship, has left Germany for the Cape, intending to wreak havoc on Allied shipping. Jack and his flotilla will be pushed to the limit – and beyond. A sweeping historical adventure, THE CAPE RAIDER is the tale of a broken hero who has to find himself despite the trauma of war, a domineering father and the death of his mother during the Blitz. He must adapt to a new country, a new navy and new love, and finally he must come face to face with the Nazi raider in a fight to the death in the icy seas off the southernmost tip of Africa.



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

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

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The Wolf Hunt: All Except World English (Sapere Books); Southern African (PRH); Film&TV (Both World Productions)

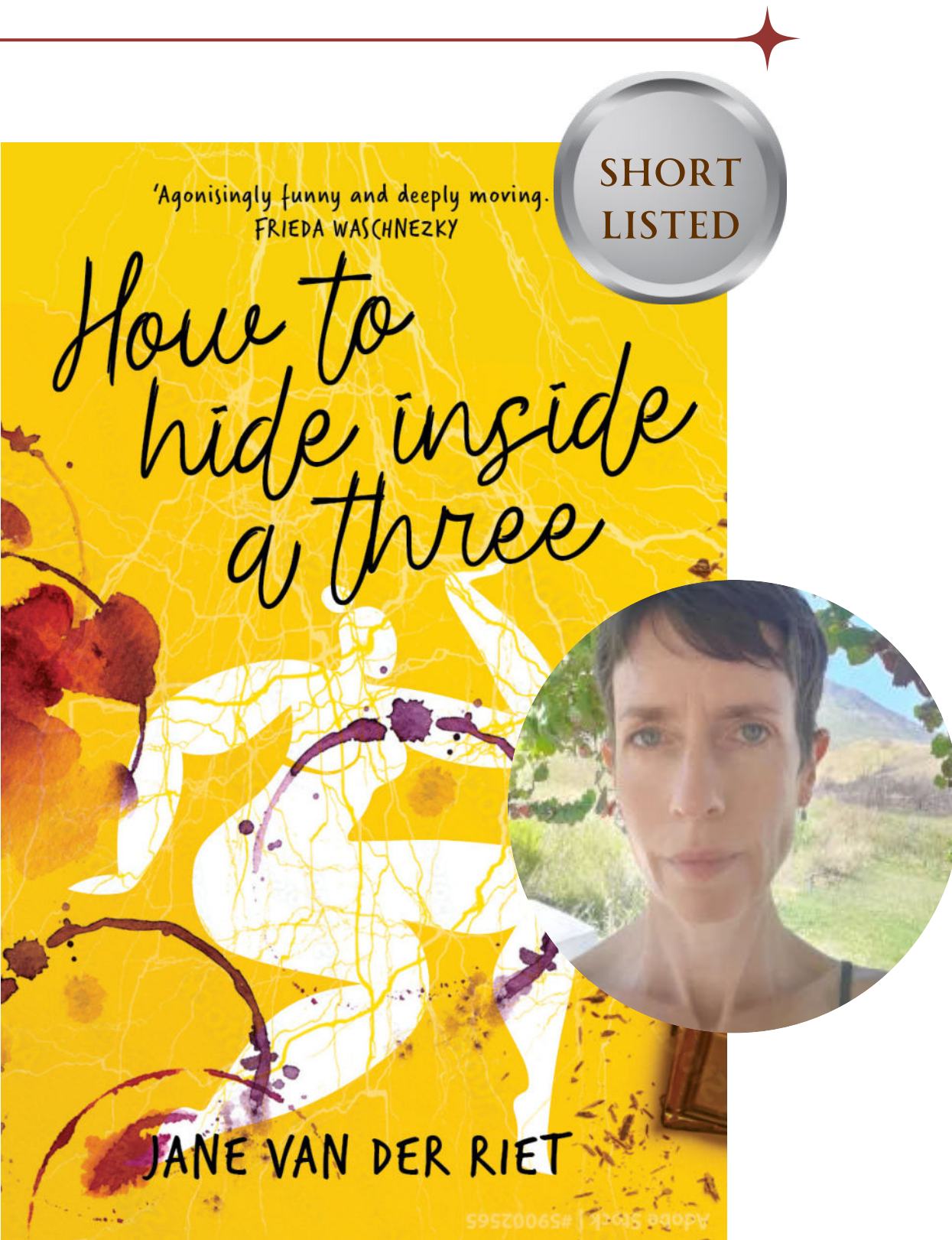
HOW TO HIDE INSIDE A THREE

Adulting – it's tough out there.
Shortlisted for the SALA debut Prize (2024)

Things I used to wish were true: 1. On the morning of your twenty-first birthday you were handed a top-secret manual explaining how to be a grown-up. 2. Mr Hoody and the legions of others in the crevices of the city had homes. 3. There were still chocolate digestives in the cupboard after last night's binge. It's 2017 in Cape Town. The dams are empty. There's a gangster in charge of the country. Leigh-Anne may look like she's keeping it together in her Southern suburbs world, but really she's unravelling. A letter has arrived from her ageing dad, asking forgiveness for some unknown sordid deed. What on earth is that about? Then there's the tortuous sex with her psychiatrist husband Samuel and the fact that she can't stop fantasising about her colleague Omar. Inexplicably, one of her kids is wetting the bed while the other one's turning into a little tyrant. Her batty best friend continues to offload her crises – the latest is a paternity test for Gwendal's troubled teenage daughter. Meanwhile, Leigh-Anne's supposed to be organising a play about sexual abuse with grade sevens in Gugulethu. It's not going very well. How is a woman supposed to cope? With chocolate and wine, of course, and by making plenty of lists (things feel much more manageable when you write them down in threes). But all is not what it seems. Leigh-Anne has a secret of her own. In her quest for answers, she will have to betray everyone she loves; only then can she truly come out of hiding.

Jane van der Riet grew up in Cape Town and joined the anti-apartheid struggle as a student. She has worked at the Social Change Assistance Trust, the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture, and as a student counsellor at the University of Cape Town. She still lives in Cape Town, where she practises as a psychotherapist. Jane has two children who teach her new things. HOW TO HIDE INSIDE A THREE is her first novel.

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CAPSTONE (SLUITSTUK)

A novice writer, his reclusive mentor, the making of a story.
Longlisted for the SALA Prize for Best Novel (2024)

It's been three years after the death of a most revered writer, and a biographer is in the country of the author's birth, researching his life. She visits the author's former apprentice to find out more about this enigmatic figure – thirty years after the two men painfully parted ways.

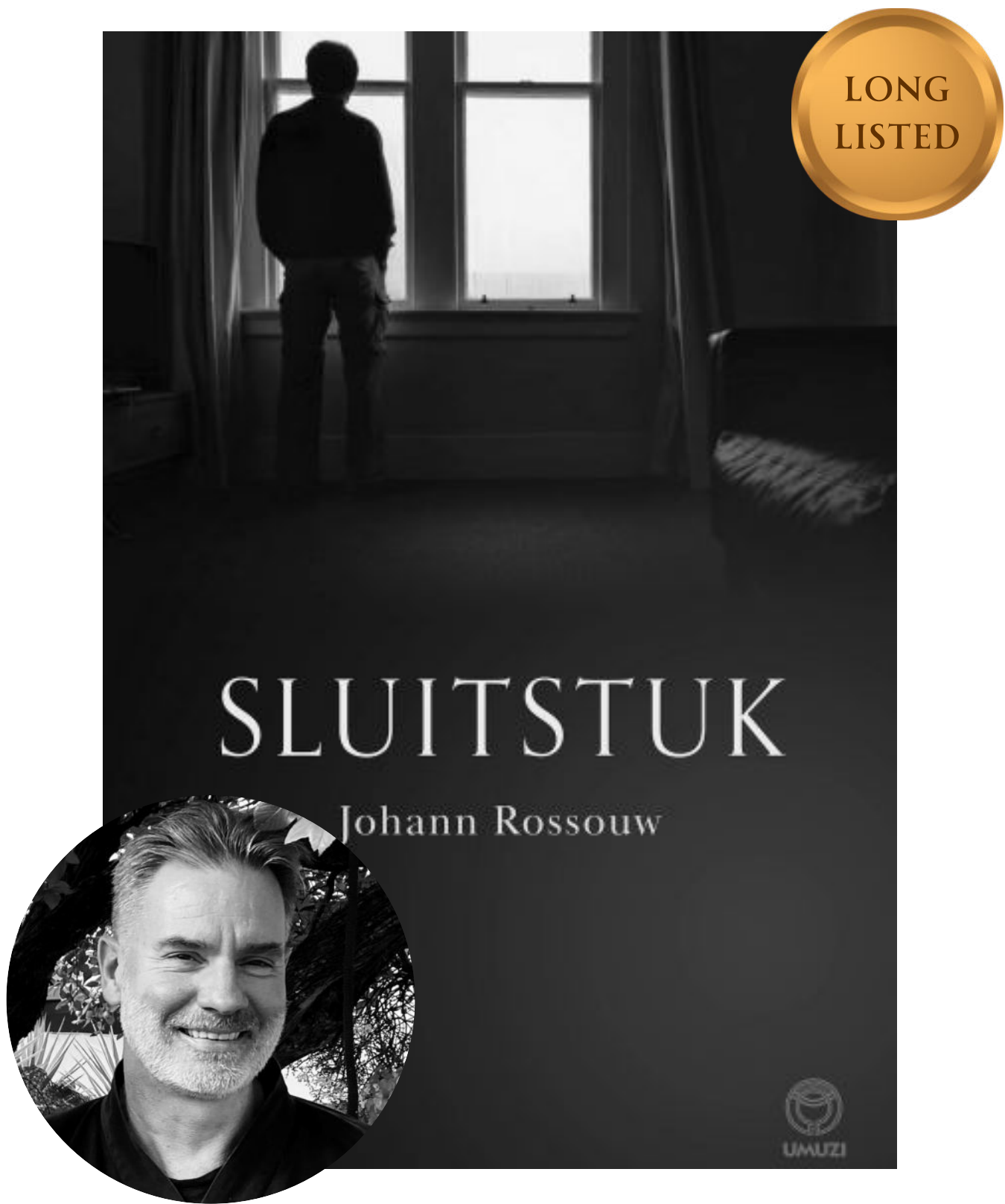
In the space of one night, the apprentice, once an aspiring writer and now a Zen monk, lays out their intertwined lives under the penetrating gaze of the biographer.

Who was the great writer really? Why was the impact of his solitary life and his work on his former pupil so enormous? Why did the author summon him to his deathbed? What is the real reason behind the woman's biography?

CAPSTONE (SLUITSTUK) is an elegiac novel about longing, loss, revenge and reconciliation that maps the routes to silence and to creativity.

Johann Rossouw is the author of the novels 'N ROOI Z4 EN 'N RENAISSANCE-KASTEEL and VERWOERDBURG whose articles and columns appear regularly in newspapers and magazines. He studied in South Africa, France and Australia, and is currently a professor of philosophy at the University of the Free State, South Africa He lives with his family in Bloemfontein.

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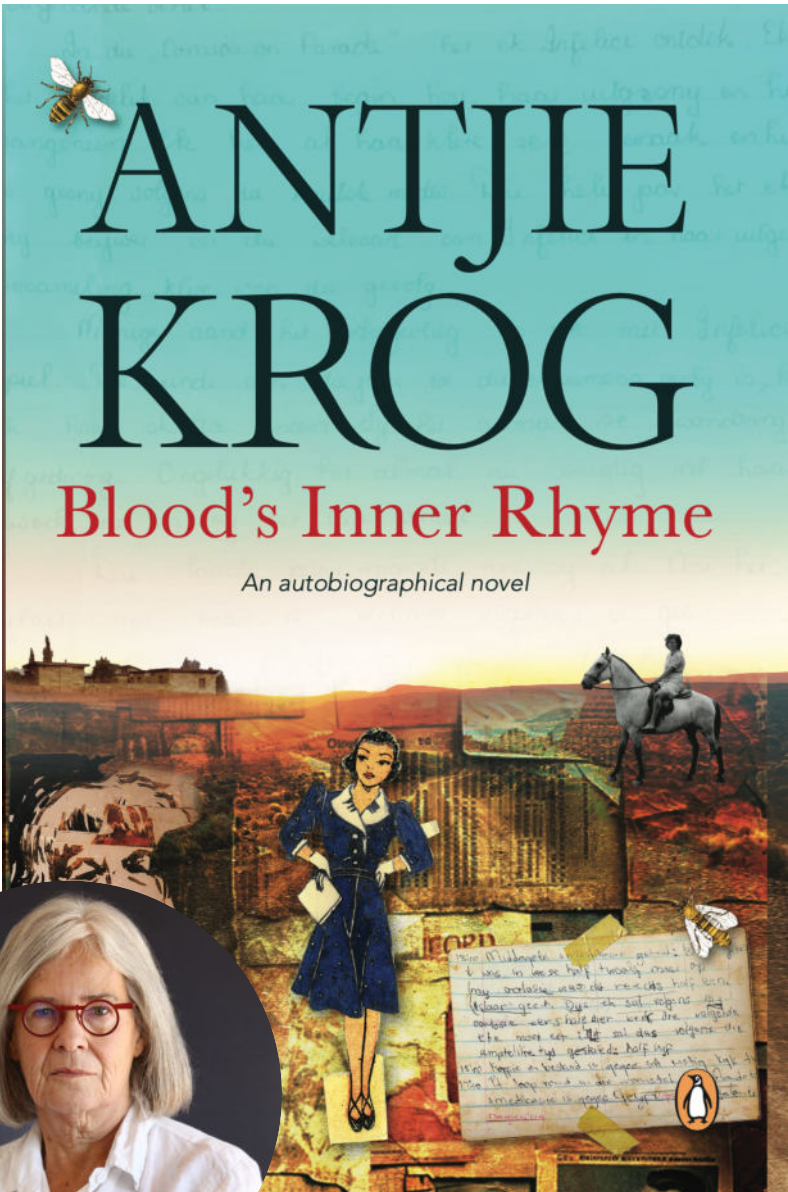
BLOOD'S INNER RHYME

A moving meditation on Mother/Daughter relationships by world renowned poet, Antjie Krog.
Prof. Antjie Krog to receive Honorary Doctorate from the University of Johannesburg.

In BLOOD'S INNER RHYME 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. BLOOD'S INNER RHYME is an expression of love, mutual admiration, and insurmountable difference between two highly skilled writers. Beautifully written and incisive, it 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. BLOOD'S INNER RHYME 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.

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‘A remarkably powerful and passionate voice’ – THE MAIL & GUARDIAN

ART AND THE DEVIL

Everything happens for a reason.

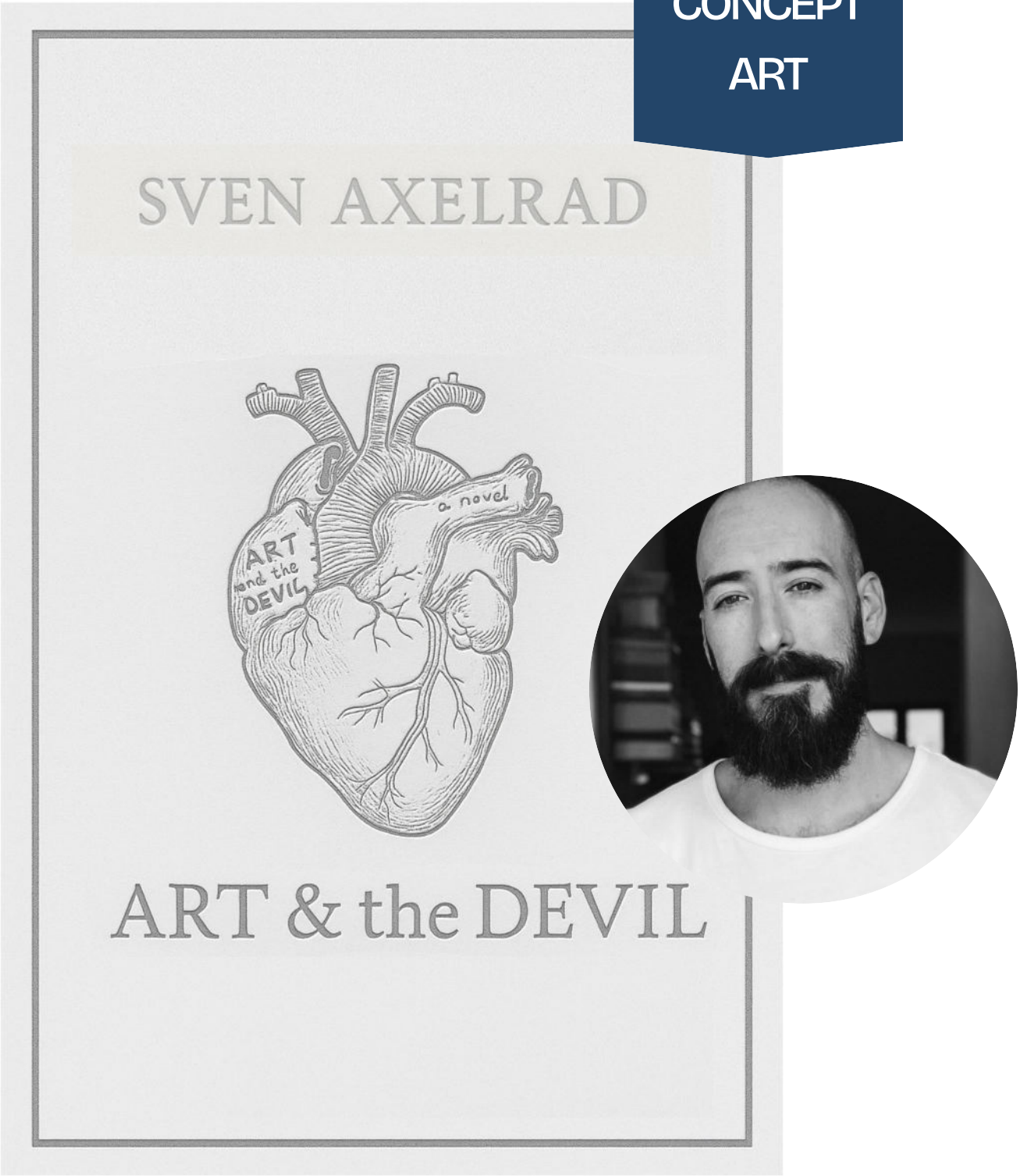
The Mean Monsoon is a working bar. It's not the nicest place, I know, but this is where we'll meet three very important friends: Arturo the Writer, Maggie the Musician and Felix the Painter. Together they form the Unsung Company of Singers, Artists and Drinkers. Each has their own problems: Art loves Maggie but has a problem with his heart. Maggie loves music and dreams of fame but is a waitress at the Mean Monsoon, and Felix loves everyone but is currently homeless. They've all heard whispers that the devil has come to Vivo. They're sure it's nothing but Vivano superstition, until a mysterious well-dressed man arrives one night and changes everything. Art & the Devil is full of philosophical charm, dark humour, sex, bookstores, friendship, and a fair amount of compassion for the plight of the artist. In these pages you will find love and joy in abundance - our young friends cannot come to ruin without them.

Sven Axelrad is an author, musician and accountant. His published novels are BURIED TREASURE (Penguin Random House SA, 2023), GOD'S POCKET (Penguin Random House SA, 2024), and THE NICOTINE GOSPEL (Penguin Random House SA, 2025). He has been shortlisted for the Sunday Times Literary Prize, The HSS Best Emerging Writer Award, and the Book Lounge Book of the Year and he has been Longlisted for the SALA Award, the HSS Best Novel Award, and has represented South Africa at the Havana International Book Fair in Cuba. Axelrad is covered in literature-themed tattoos and currently lives in Durban where he works as a tampon accountant, and spends his free time with his wife and dog, a blind Yorkie named Zoe.

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

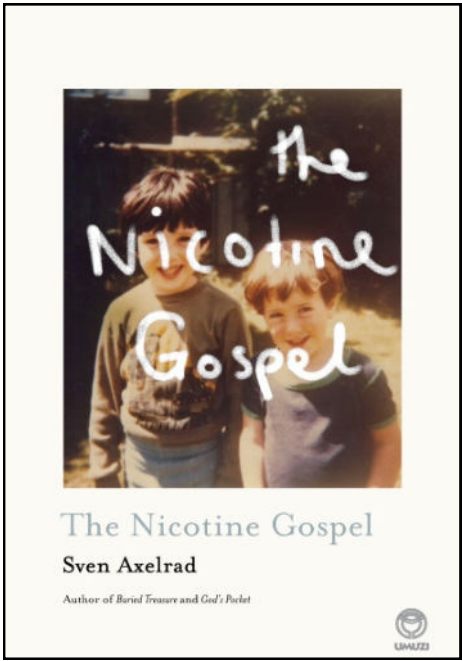
CONCEPT
ART



THE NICOTINE GOSPEL ————— BURIED TREASURE ————— GOD’S POCKET

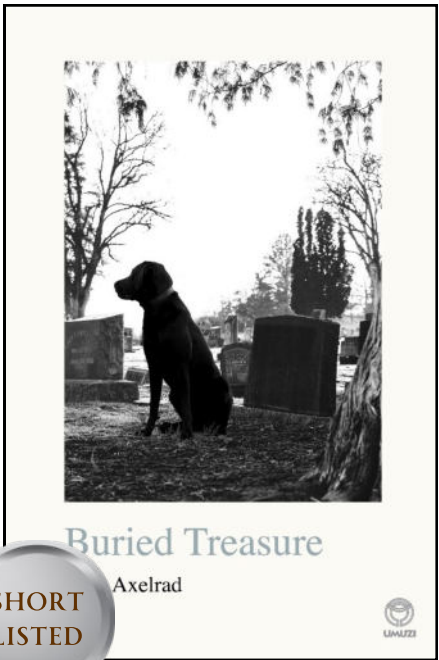
"According to him, an eight by five cardboard box containing somewhere near twenty machine-made cigarettes would tell you all you needed to know about a man."

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.



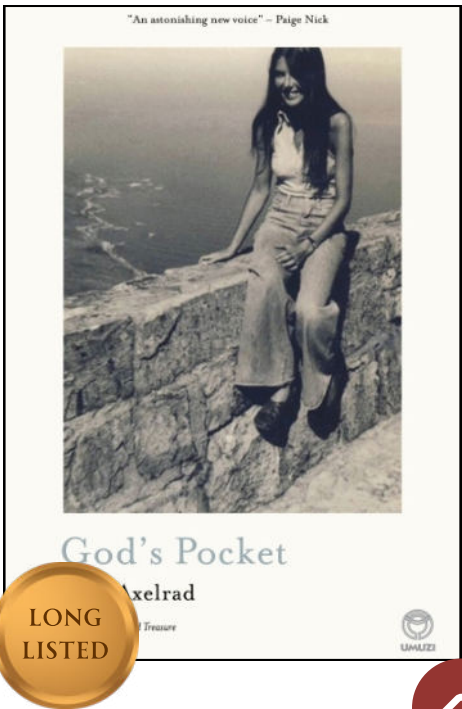
Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)
Longlisted for the SALA k. Sello Duiker Memorial Award (2024)

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.



Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2025)
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.



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.

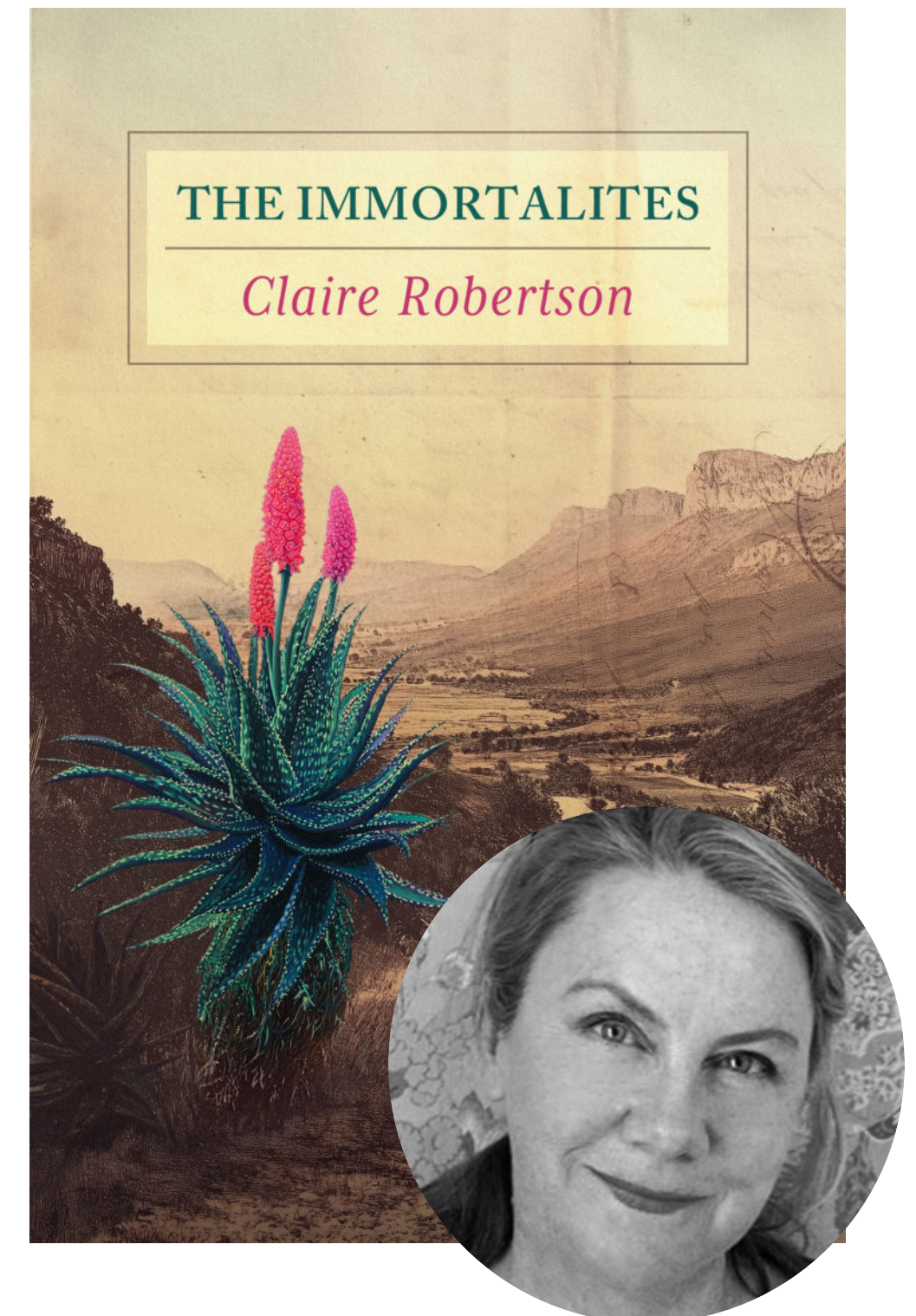
Twenty-four-year-old Ellen Kent arrives on a ship, the Immortalite, in southernmost Africa in 1834. Molested on board, and shunned by her fellow passengers, she is placed in the care of Captain Fynmore Makepeace, who must bring her to a frontier town where she is to work at an orphanage. As they await 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 Australia.

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'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



HELL OF A COUNTRY

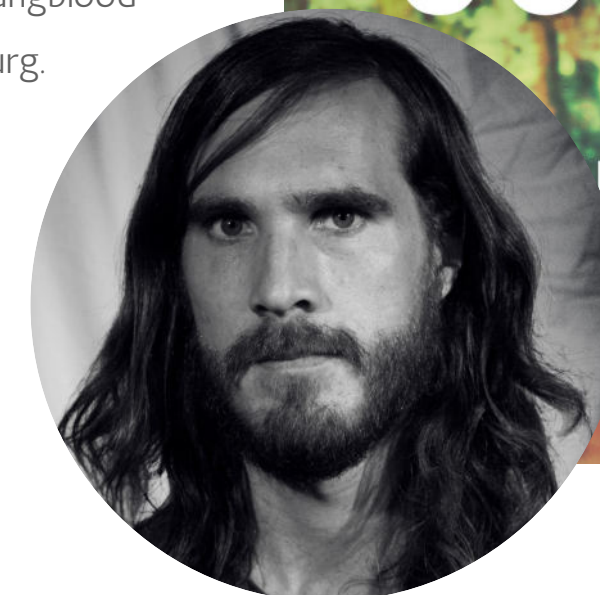
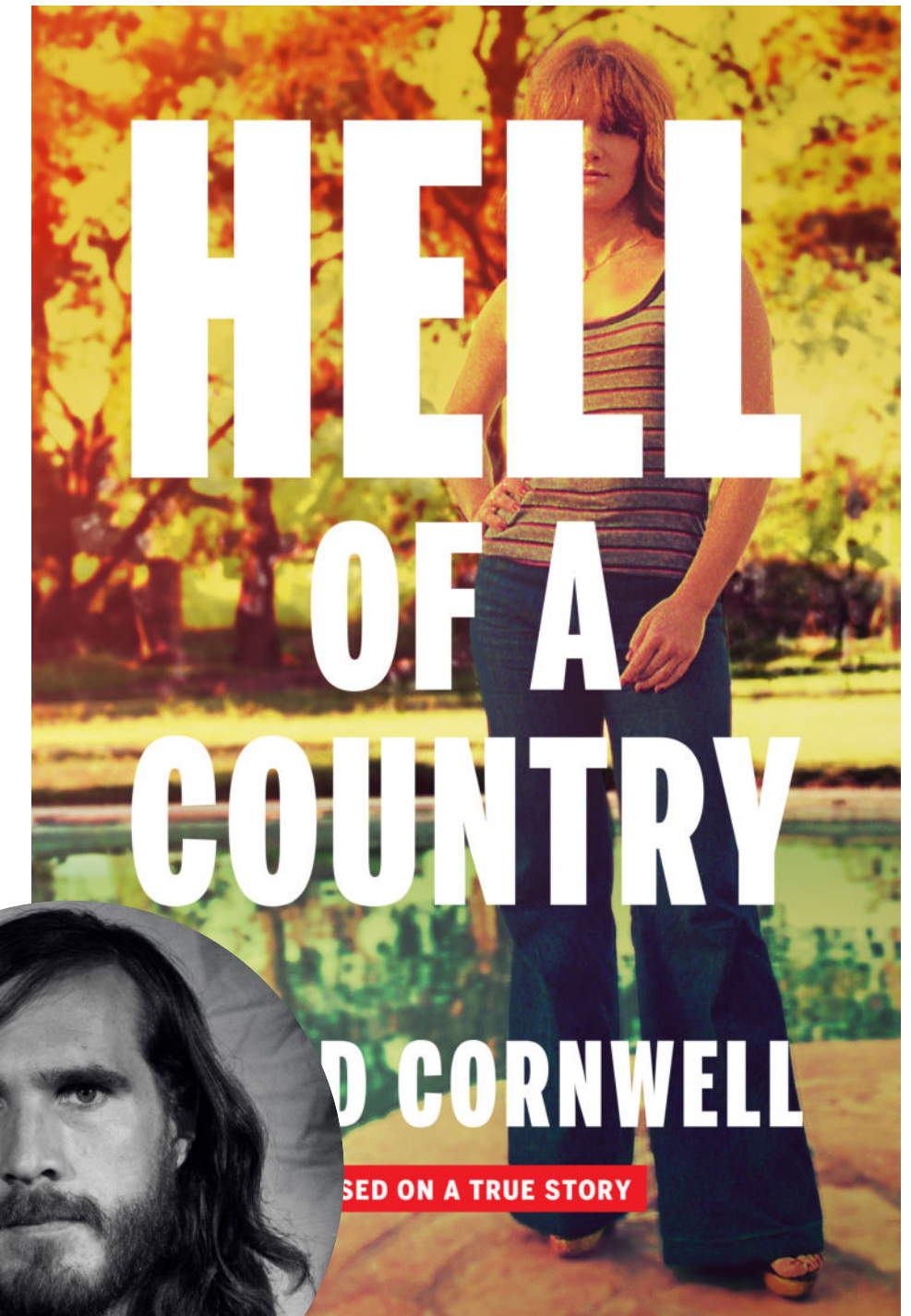
In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences.

In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences. Seventeen-year-old Lorraine van Niekerk despises the fact that her boss and lover, middle-aged André Bekker, won't leave his hateful wife for her. Driver Alfie 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* (Penguin Random House in South Africa, 2016) 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*. David's Afrikaans-language short film, *DIE ONDERSPIT*, was developed as part of KykNET's Silwerskermfees festival program. He also co-wrote a road trip comedy-drama screenplay *RENATA AND JUNE* with Booker prize winner Damon Galgut (*THE PROMISE*). David's feature film *POU (PEACOCK)*, an Afrikaans-language Gothic horror which he co-wrote and co-produced, screened 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 South Africa, Cornwell 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*



DECIMA

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)

Shortlisted for the KykNET-Rapport Prize (2024)

Winner of the Hertzog Prize for Prose (2025)

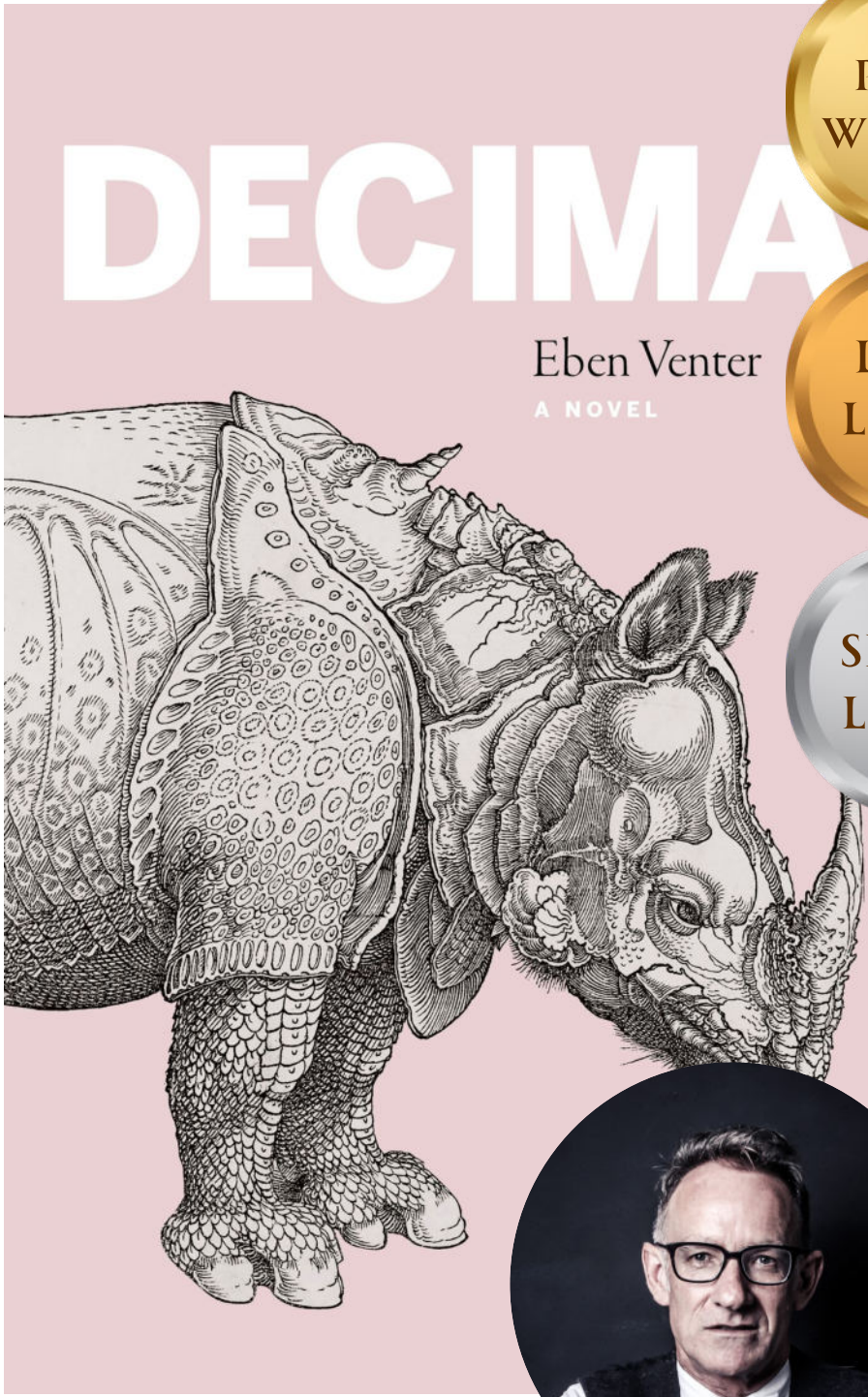
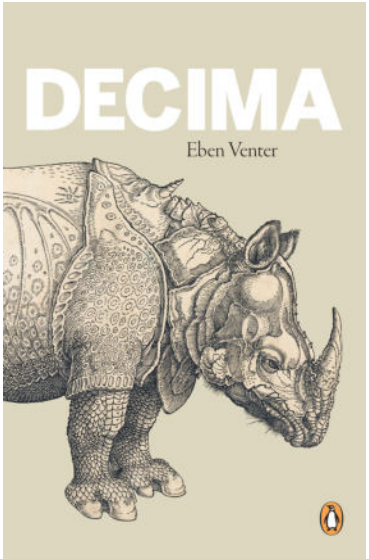
In the veld of the Eastern Cape a writer imagines her: Decima – a magnificent black rhinoceros cow. Mother to Tandeka, herself plumped up with calf, Decima and her crash of rhinos await the birth of the new baby. Decima still recalls how she became an orphan many seasons ago, and tension mounts with 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, come the various characters that impact on their lives: poachers, their clients, those who practice 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 TRENCHERMAN, 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 Herzog Prize and the KykNet-RAPPORT Prize. Raised on a sheep farm in the Eastern Cape, Venter lives in Australia.

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'We should not lose sight of DECIMA's excellence as a work of literature... It is stylistically impeccable. Few novels preoccupy me; DECIMA inhabits me' – THE JOHANNESBURG REVIEW OF BOOKS

'A masterclass in how literature can bear witness without sermonising. A necessary, haunting read for our age of unravelling' – LITNET



PRIZE
WINNER

LONG
LISTED

SHORT
LISTED



JUNX

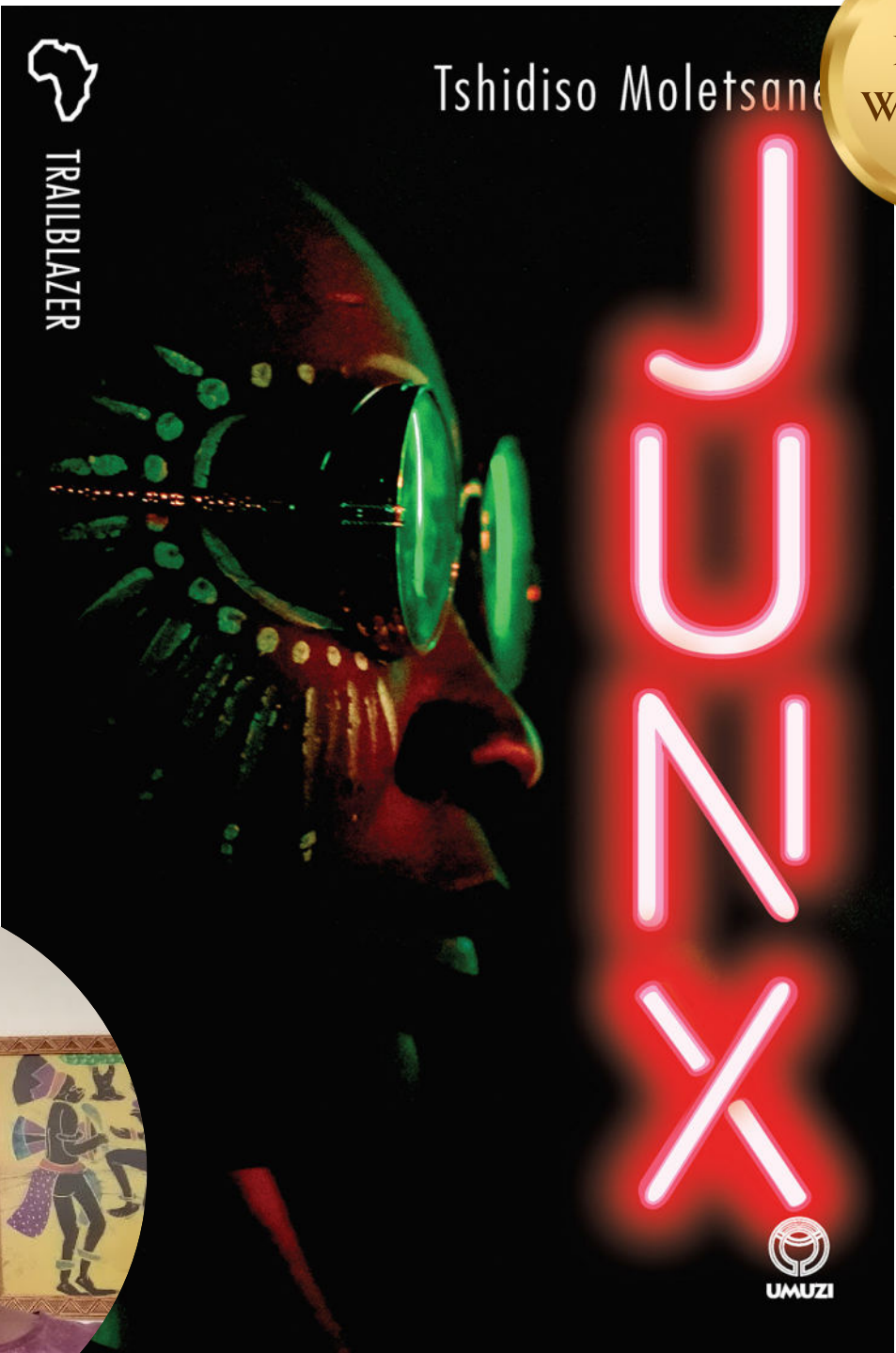
Winner of the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2022)

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.

The late **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.

All rights available except Southern African (Penguin Random House); Italian (Pidgin)

‘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



SPECULATIVE / HORROR / SCI-FI



DEMON DRINK

Can you handle your drink?

Times are tough in Black Wattle. Drought and forest fires have ravaged the town and its lifeblood, tourism, is on the wane. Nobody is feeling the pinch more than divorcee Shirley Goodsall, who is trying to keep the historic Ironstone Hotel afloat while quelling animosity between her ex-husband and their teenage daughter. So when the business manager for a microbrewery, Damon Prince, offers her a promotional deal that includes free kegs of beer, it's a deal that seems too good to be true.

And it is. Shirley's elation soon turns to horror as she discovers she has unwittingly helped Prince unleash dark forces in her town. Black Wattle's residents are plunged into a nightmare of infection and blood-curdling transformations. Shirley and a handful of survivors band together to try to foil Prince's fiendish plot, but Prince is no ordinary man. He will stare into their souls and turn their most shameful personal demons against them...

Kris Ashton has published four novels, nearly fifty short stories, and numerous essays and reviews. His work has appeared in *Aurealis*, *Midnight Echo*, *Andromeda Spaceways* and many international titles, including *The Fiction Desk*.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Western Sydney University in 1997, he has had a 25-year career as a journalist and is currently associate editor of *Open Road*, one of the longest running and most widely read magazines in Australia.

He lives in the wilds of western Sydney with his wife, two children, and a crippling mortgage.

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SOUL MIRROR

The World is what you make of it Until you turn it Upside Down

Jessica lives in an upside-down world. What's worse is she can say nothing about it. The fact she's nonverbal and has autism doesn't make the situation any better.

Her family is no help either—a foster child who's been in multiple homes with people more interested in their problems than hers. The girl has developed strategies to help her deal with her reality. One is a fascination with mirrors. She longs for a world away from hers and something inside notices. A dark entity bent on capturing her soul and those of others. How far will Jessica go to keep the thing at bay and who will help her?

Soul Mirror is a thrilling story, that takes you to a place of strange encounters and incomplete truths. The world is what you make of it until you turn it upside down.

Edmund Stone is an author and a part time boat captain, living on the Ohio River. When he's not on the water, he spins nightmarish tales of horrific proportions.

"Soul Mirror is a creative and ambitious horror-fiction triumph, written by a man whose obvious respect and caring for those on the autism spectrum shines brilliantly through. There's a reason this novel is part of the Final 32 in the Books of Horror Indie Book Brawl."— BRIDGETT NELSON, Splatterpunk Award-winning author of Deadgirl and Red Inside

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THE NIGHT CREW

Vampires, vengeance, and a quest for survival.

After the brutal murder of his wife, Michael White is thrust into a world of unimaginable horrors. With no help from the local authorities, he embarks on a personal investigation that uncovers a chilling truth—vampires are real.

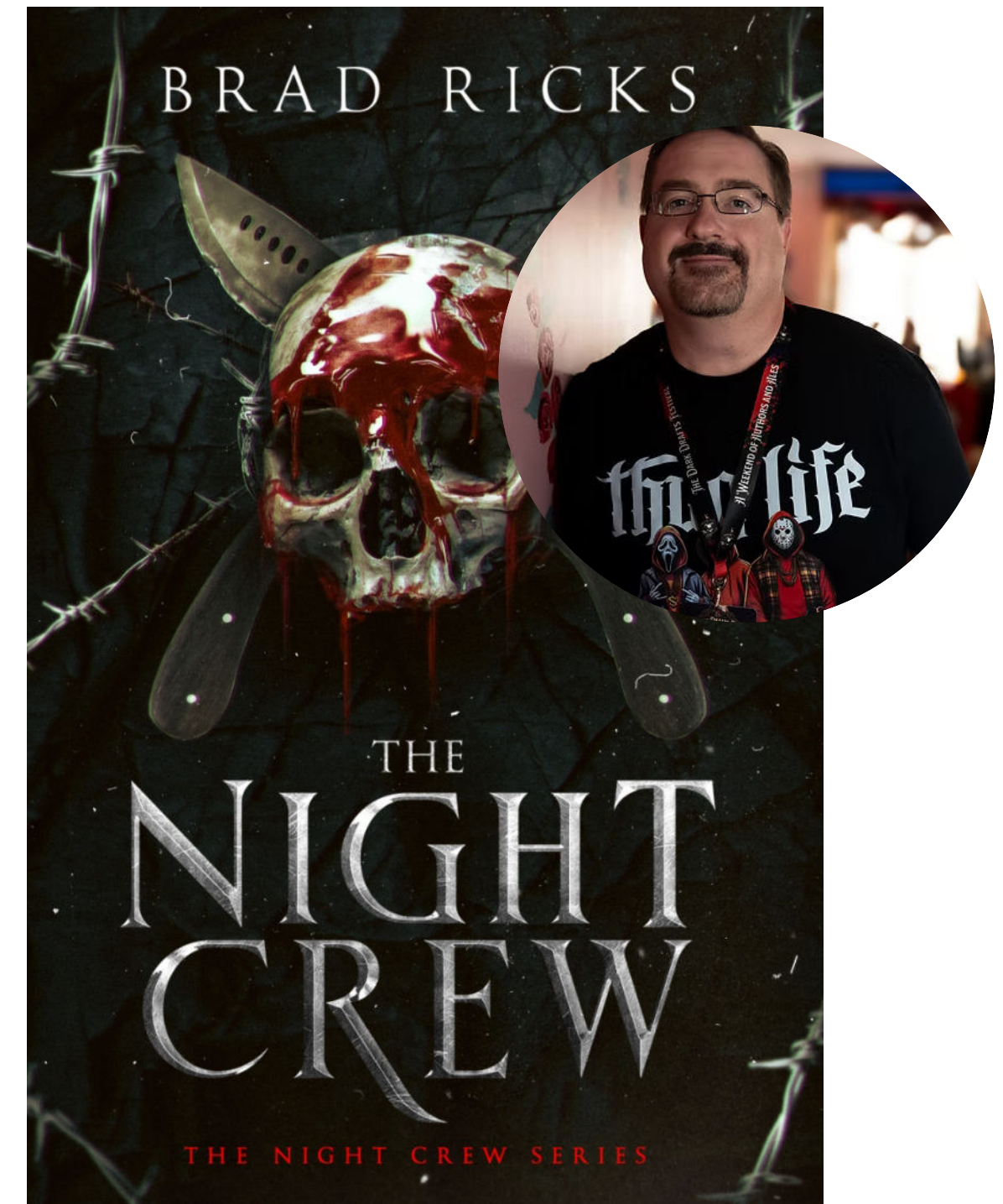
When he confronts his wife's killer, he discovers the true nature of the monster who tore apart his life—a bloodthirsty vampire who has already claimed countless victims. On the brink of becoming the undead himself, Michael is saved by a team of vampire hunters known as The Night Crew. They offer him a chance at revenge and a shot at redemption.

Teaming up with these skilled hunters, Michael must navigate a dark, dangerous world filled with vampires and other supernatural creatures. But the road to vengeance is fraught with peril, and Michael's humanity is at risk as he battles to destroy the creature that killed his wife.

Will Michael be able to seek vengeance against the vampire that shattered his life while retaining his own humanity, or will he succumb to the darkness that threatens to consume him?

Brad Ricks lives in Central Texas with his wife and a house full of teenagers. A life long horror fan, Brad pulls inspiration from both classic literature like Stoker and Poe and modern works like Stephen King and Clive Barker. Although new to the publishing world, Brad has always loved to write and tell stories.

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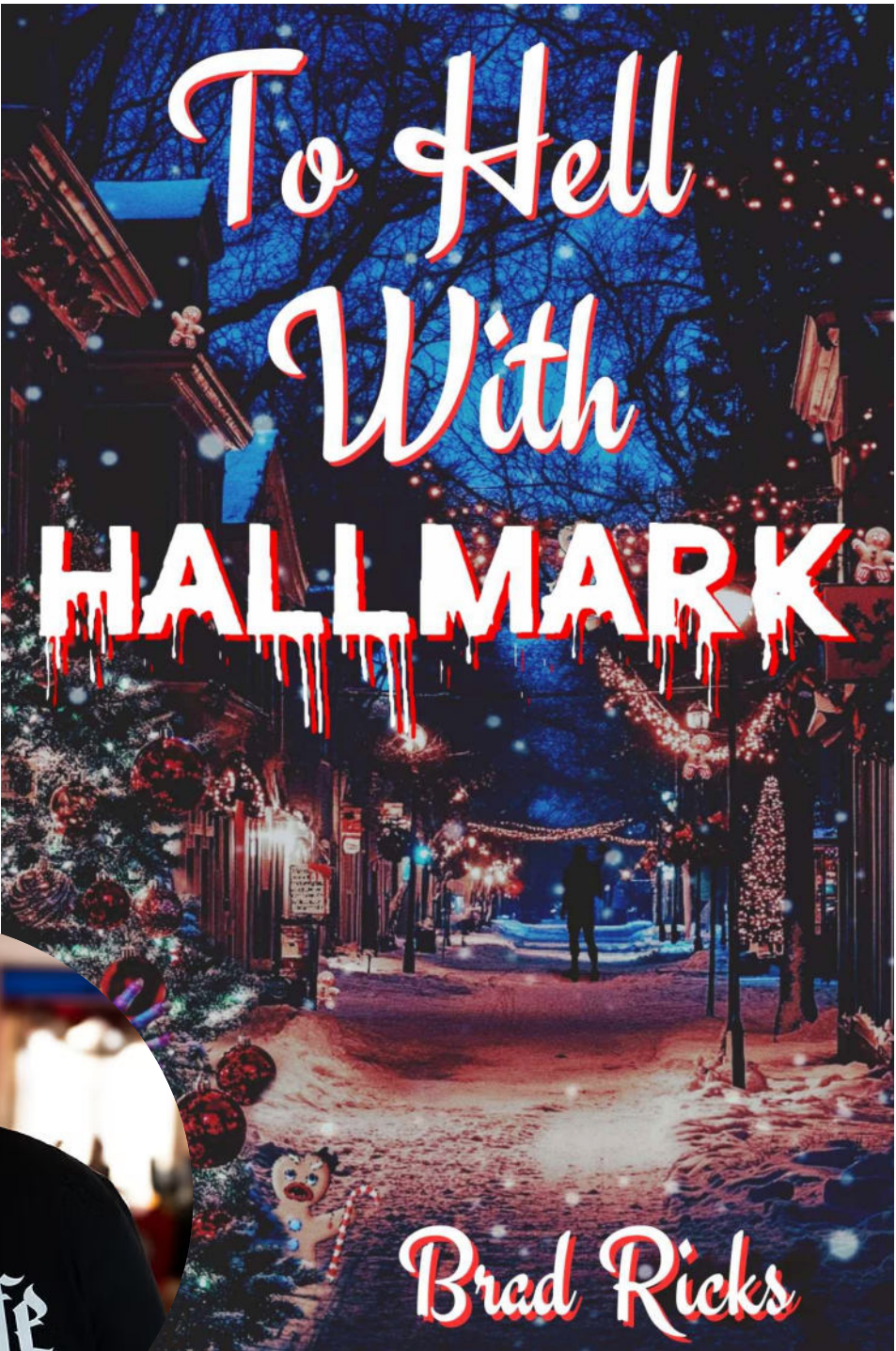
TO HELL WITH HALLMARK

Hell has come to Hallmark!

Welcome to Hallmark, Vermont, the setting for every cliched Christmas dream. Idyllic and picturesque, it's where real Christmas magic happens. Here, a lonely librarian bumps into the man of her dreams and is swept away into a whirlwind romance. A big city girl runs into her high school sweetheart and rekindles a forgotten spark. A secret prince escapes the pressures of royalty - and finds his true love. Except this year, something sinister has infected Hallmark's Christmas magic, turning Christmas morning dreams into Christmas Eve nightmares.

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DRAW YOU IN

"Kavalier and Clay" meets Clive Barker.

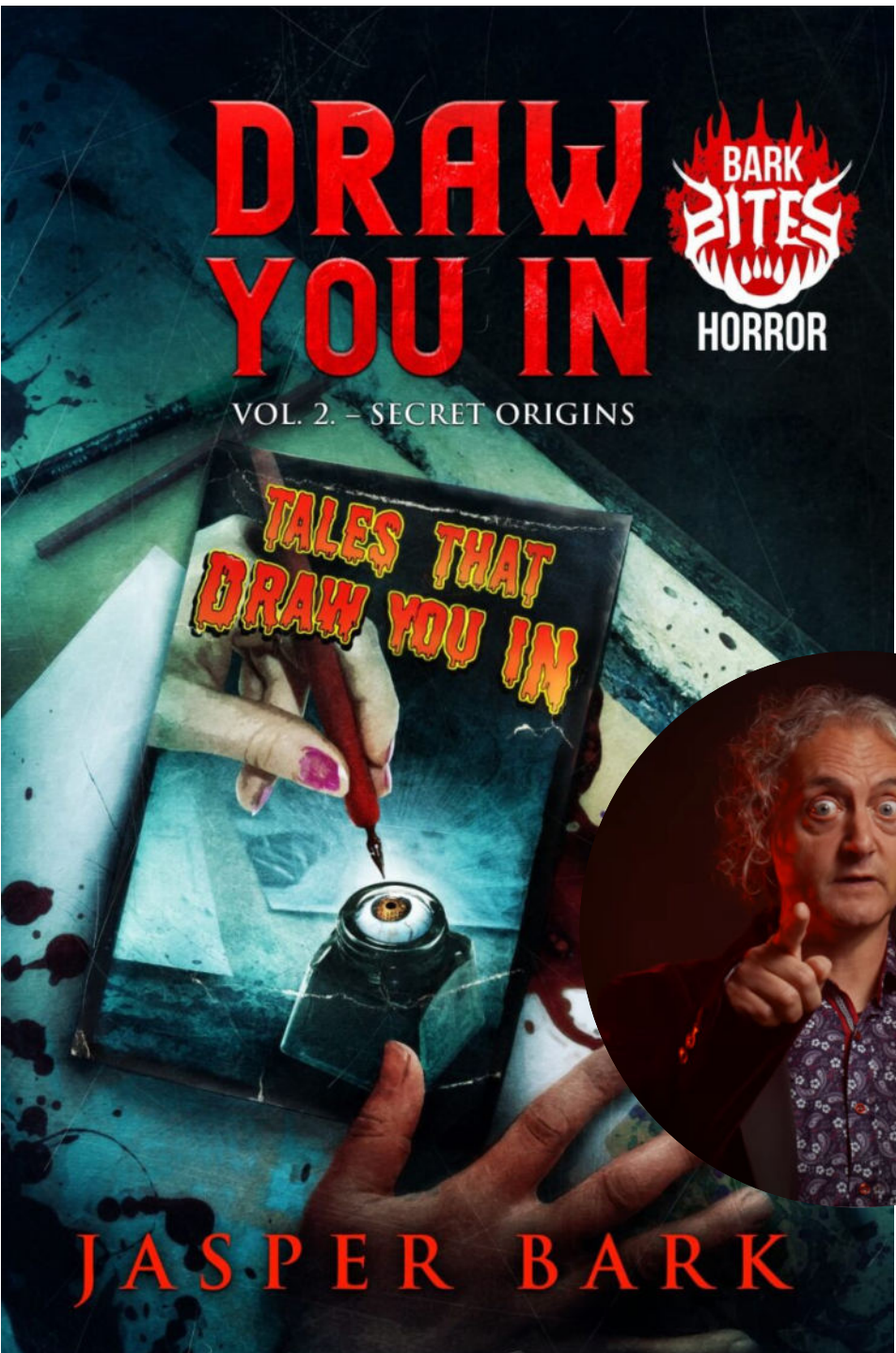
Can you disappear so completely that only one person remembers you existed?

That's what comics creator Linda Corrigan asks when her editor disappears without a trace. Drawn into an FBI investigation by Agent McPherson, Linda and comics historian Richard Ford unearth a chilling link to the forgotten comic artist R. L. Carver, whose work might just hold the key to a series of mysterious disappearances.

As they explore Carver's life, they uncover the secret history of horror comics, the misfits, madcaps and macabre masters who forged an industry, frightened a generation and felt the heat of the Federal Government. They also stumble on the shadow history of the United States on a road trip that veers into the nation's dark underbelly, where forbidden knowledge and forgotten lore await them.

Jasper Bark finds writing author biographies and talking about himself in the third person faintly embarrassing. Telling you that he's an award winning author of four cult novels including the highly acclaimed 'Way of the Barefoot Zombie', just sounds like boasting. Then he has to mention that he's written 12 children's books and hundreds of comics and graphic novels and he wants to just curl up. He cringes when he has to reveal that his work has been translated into five different languages and is used in schools throughout the UK to help improve literacy, or that he was awarded the This Is Horror Award for his recent anthology 'Dead Air'. Maybe he's too British, or maybe he just needs a good enema, but he's glad this bio is now over. You can find Jasper on his website or YouTube channel.

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A BLACKENED HEART, A BLACKENED SOUL

The Devil and his minions walk among us.

Evil exists. Watching. Waiting. Lurking in the shadows waiting for the right opportunity to strike. For Johnny Tinsley, tragedy struck at a young age when he lost his mother in a heartbreaking car accident – and evil came for him and his family. From that moment he was marked by an entity meant to destroy everything and everyone he ever loved.

Will he be able to overcome a lifelong battle with a being hellbent on taking him? Or will he succumb to the darkness?

John Ward is a horror author raised in Norton, Ohio that currently resides in Canton, Ohio. He lives with his dog, Bo, who is his best friend. Three years ago, John decided to break into the horror industry by writing his very own middle grade horror series, Scareville! He wanted to bring back fun, exciting, yet spooky stories for young readers of the modern age, while also serving up nostalgia for the adult readers as well. John loves writing horror for everyone and inspiring today's young readers. Over the past few years, John has been busy typing away on the keyboard – completing eight stories for his Scareville stories, with more on the way!

When John isn't busy cooking up new stories for the world, he can be found reading horror books, going on paranormal investigations, or taking in a new horror film. John has been a well-traveled paranormal investigator, having done dozens of investigations across multiple states in the decade plus that he has spent in the field.

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THE UNWOVEN WARRIOR

A genre-blurring fantasy novel driven by character, with fast-paced action that barely lets up.

Amkela has always fought beside his older brother Nenkani, the Lion of the West and last hope of their people against the invading Karaphi Empire.

But when they are betrayed and hunted by Imperial airships, Amkela is offered power and revenge by an imprisoned being of visions and vines called dreaming-what-is-to-come. Thrust from his brother's shadow, Amkela must lead his people to freedom while keeping secret the terrible price he's paid.

When the shadow of the Empire falls across him, will Amkela be strong enough to save his people? Will he be strong enough to survive?

Jon Keesy is an award-winning writer living in Cape Town, South Africa. Which sounds like a standard start to a biography, but it gets a little odd when he includes the title of his most successful project: Genital Jousting. It's a computer game about a penis looking for a date and it was nominated for Narrative Excellence at the 2019 IGF Awards in San Francisco. After bringing that up the biography returns to normalcy with Jon's wide-ranging body of work in prose, theatre, children's books, online content and film. As is usual with biographies, he's used a list with many different genres to handwave you past the specifics of his career. And, as is also usual, he will conclude with a humanising personal fact: as a nine-year-old he wrote stories about meeting dinosaurs. His favorite is a pachycephalosaurus.

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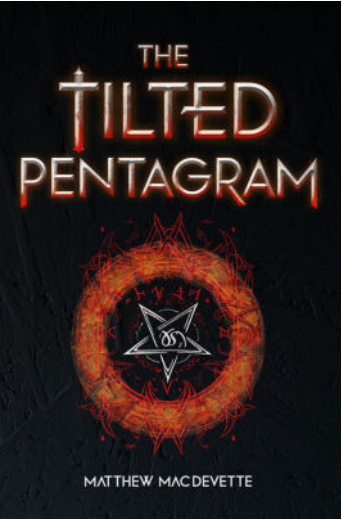
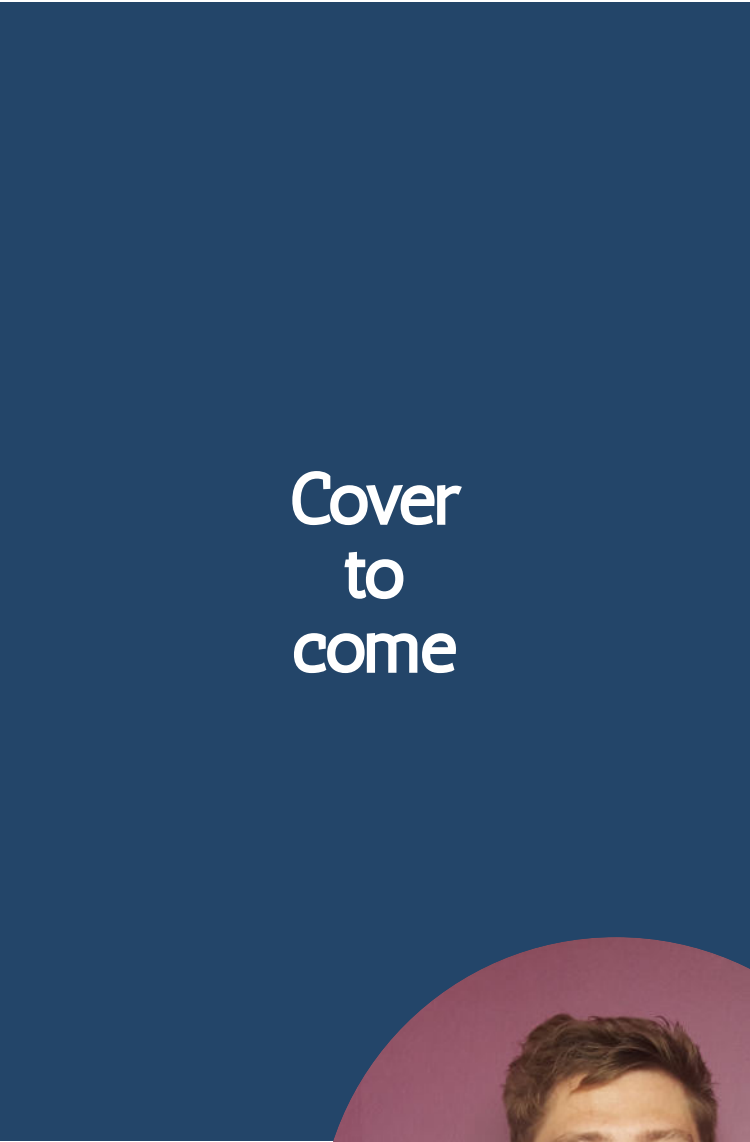
ARCHIVE OF THE SIXTH

Caught up in the dangerous politics of a second Reformation and hunted by an old adversary, Nell must discover the secret history of the Order of the Shard and face the darker parts of her abilities.

The Holy Roman Empire is alight with rebellion. The Church's hold is slipping. Still reeling from her mother's final revelations, Nell takes refuge with the eccentric Elector of Saxony at his castle in Bohemia. There, she is caught up in the dangerous politics of a second Reformation. Surrounded by old enemies and new allies with murky intentions, she is forced to rely on a man she barely knows and does not trust: her father. With his help, she must find the strength to kill the adversary hunting her or die by his hands. But Nell believes there is a third path. One found in the secret history not only of the mysterious Order of the Shard, but of the Holy Office itself. To find it, she must push herself closer to her own darkness than the Order's rituals ever did.

Matthew MacDevette 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. Matt studied in Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Oxford and lives in Amsterdam with his wife and daughter, and their two terrible/wonderful cats. ARCHIVE OF THE SIXTH is the hotly awaited sequel to THE TILTED PENTAGRAM.

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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.

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'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



THE EXOTIC

Migration and otherness in an island state.

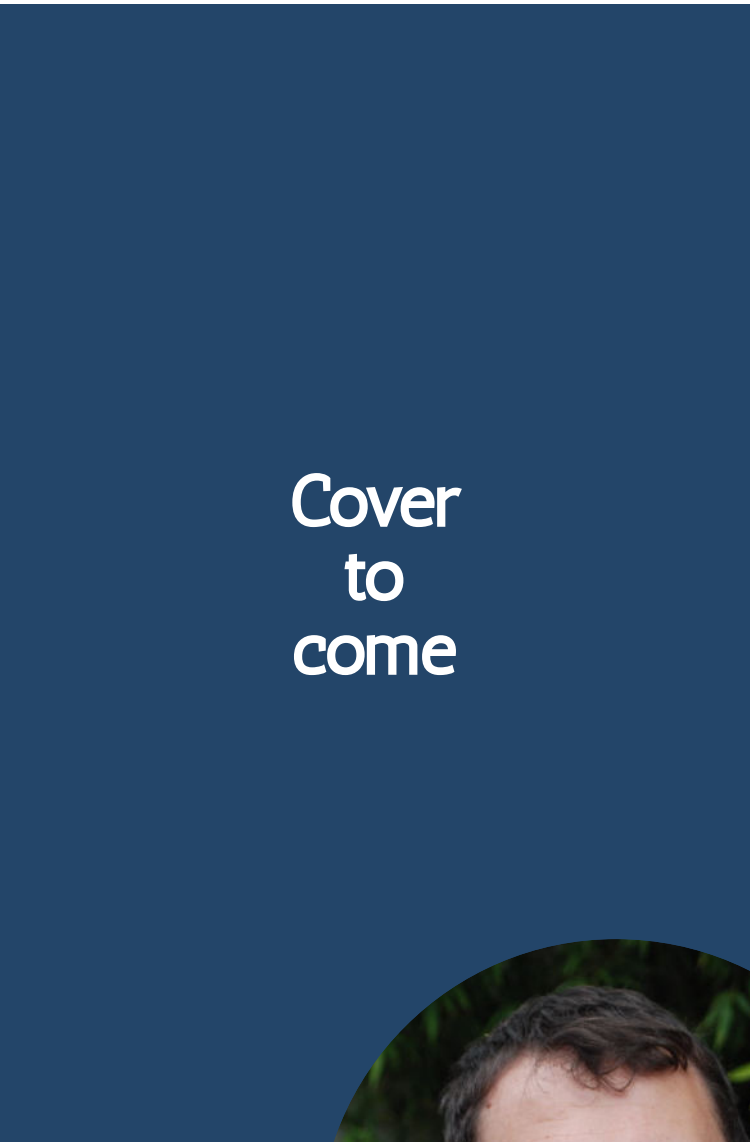
In a future England, a girl flees through the woods. Before her mother was shot, she told the girl to return to her father in the Village, a utopian place shut off from the outside world, a place where walls have been built around forbidden, crumbling cities. But she has no recollection of either the 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 for help, 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 is an atmospheric, allegorical work that pits families and children against the machinations of migration and otherness. A retelling of the Joan of Arc story, it is reminiscent of Kazuo Ishiguro's THE BURIED GIANT and the Jude Law series THE THIRD DAY via M. Night Shyamalan's THE VILLAGE.

Alastair Bruce is the author of the critically acclaimed novels WALL OF DAYS (Penguin Random House, South Africa; Profile Books, UK; Kunstmann, Germany; Armaenia, World Spanish), 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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‘An elegantly sustained parable of tyranny, loss, and memory.’ The Guardian review of WALL OF DAYS
‘WALL OF DAYS is a brilliant debut novel; in fact it is a brilliant novel altogether.’ Cape Times



Cover
to
come



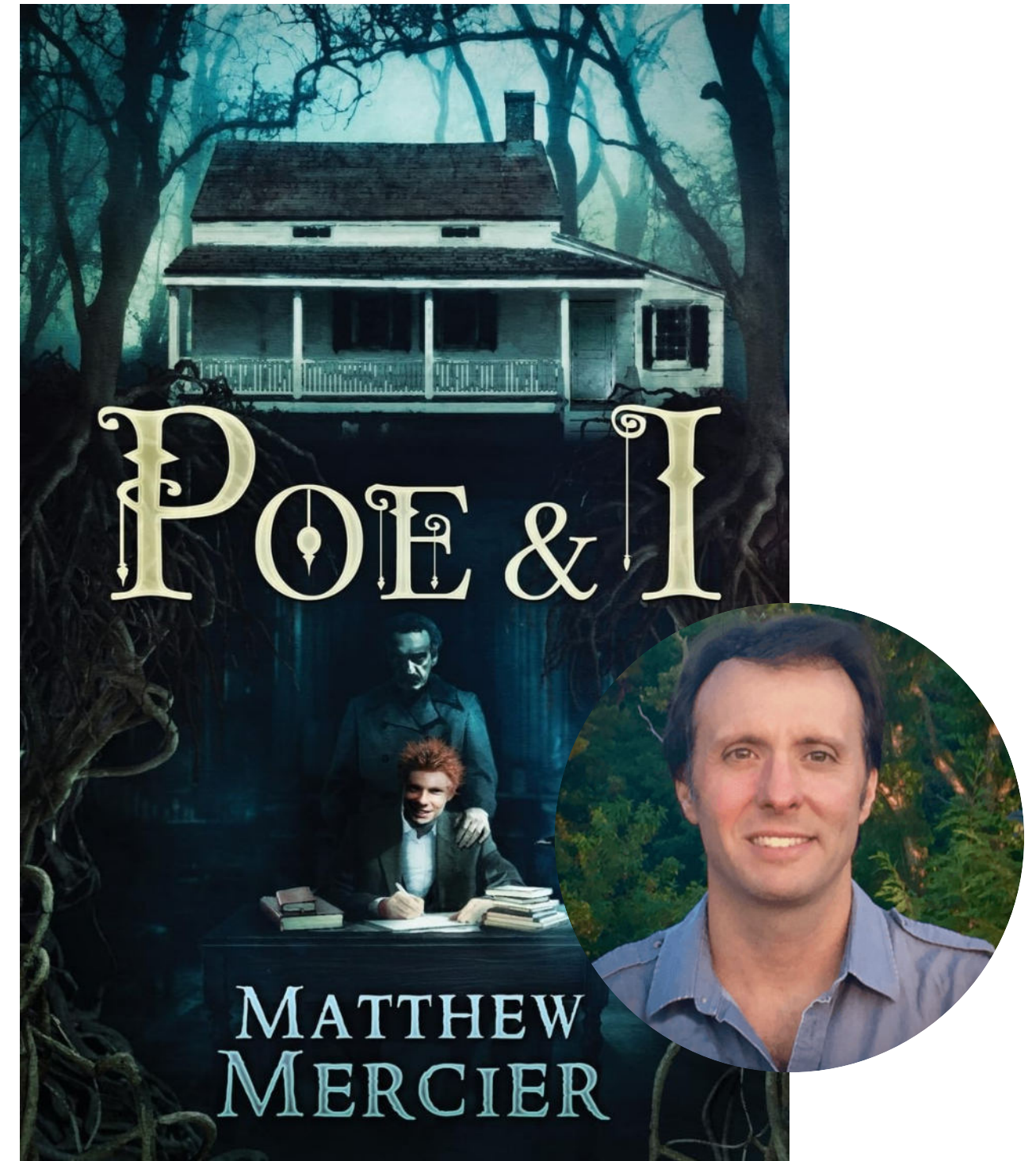
POE & I

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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THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL

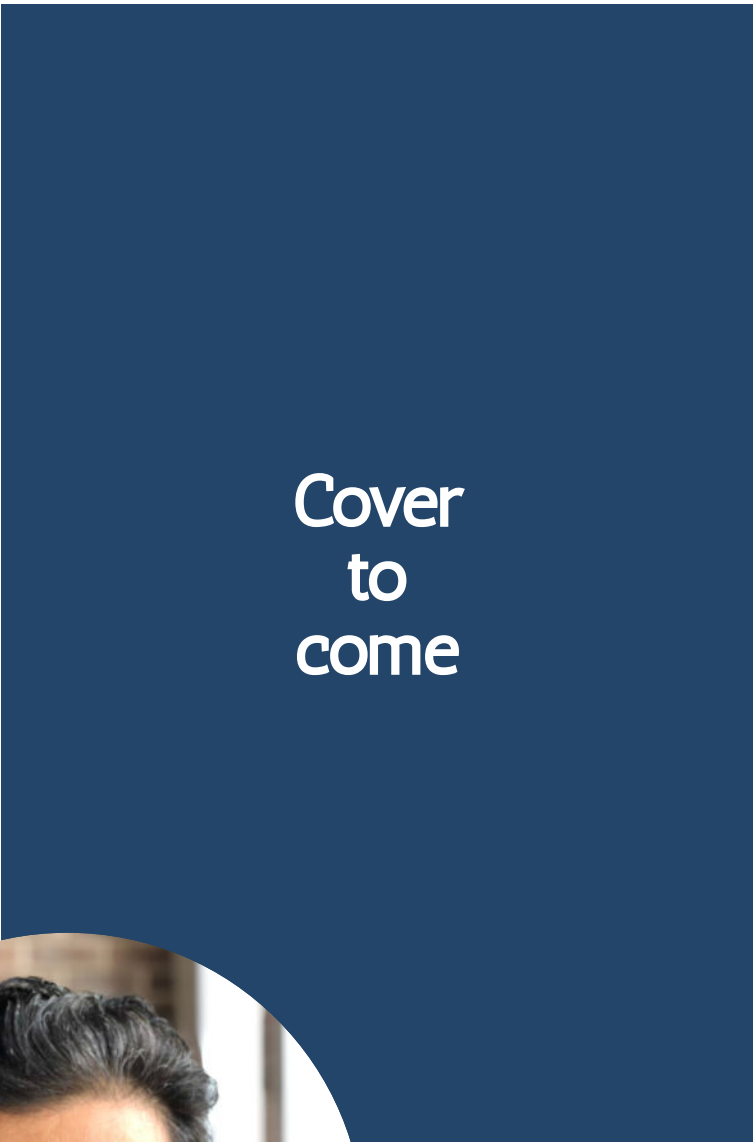
In an AI world cut off from itself, fighting for a cause is the most human thing.

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.

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



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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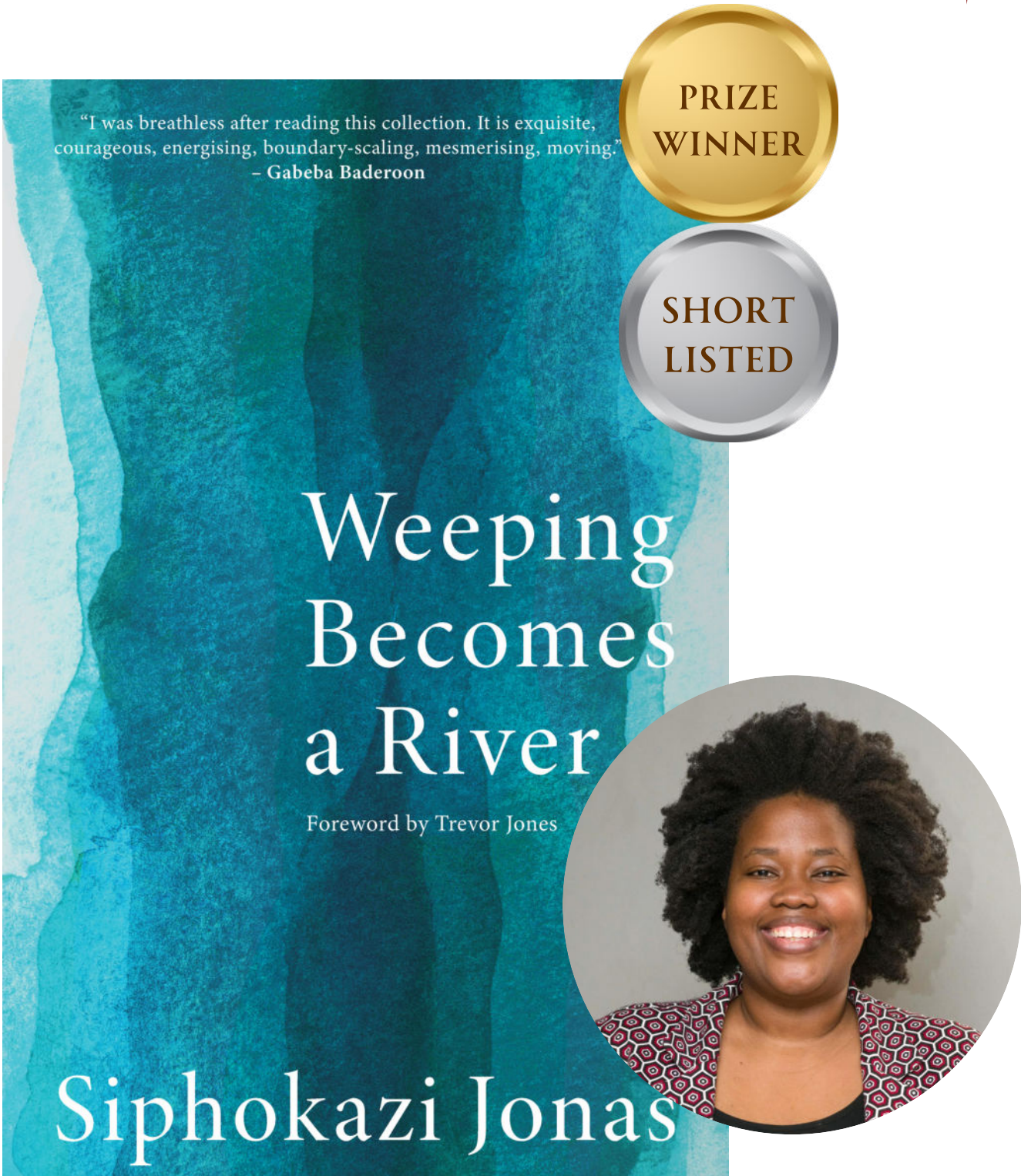
WEEPING BECOMES A RIVER

*Winner of the 2025 University of Johannesburg Debut Prize.
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



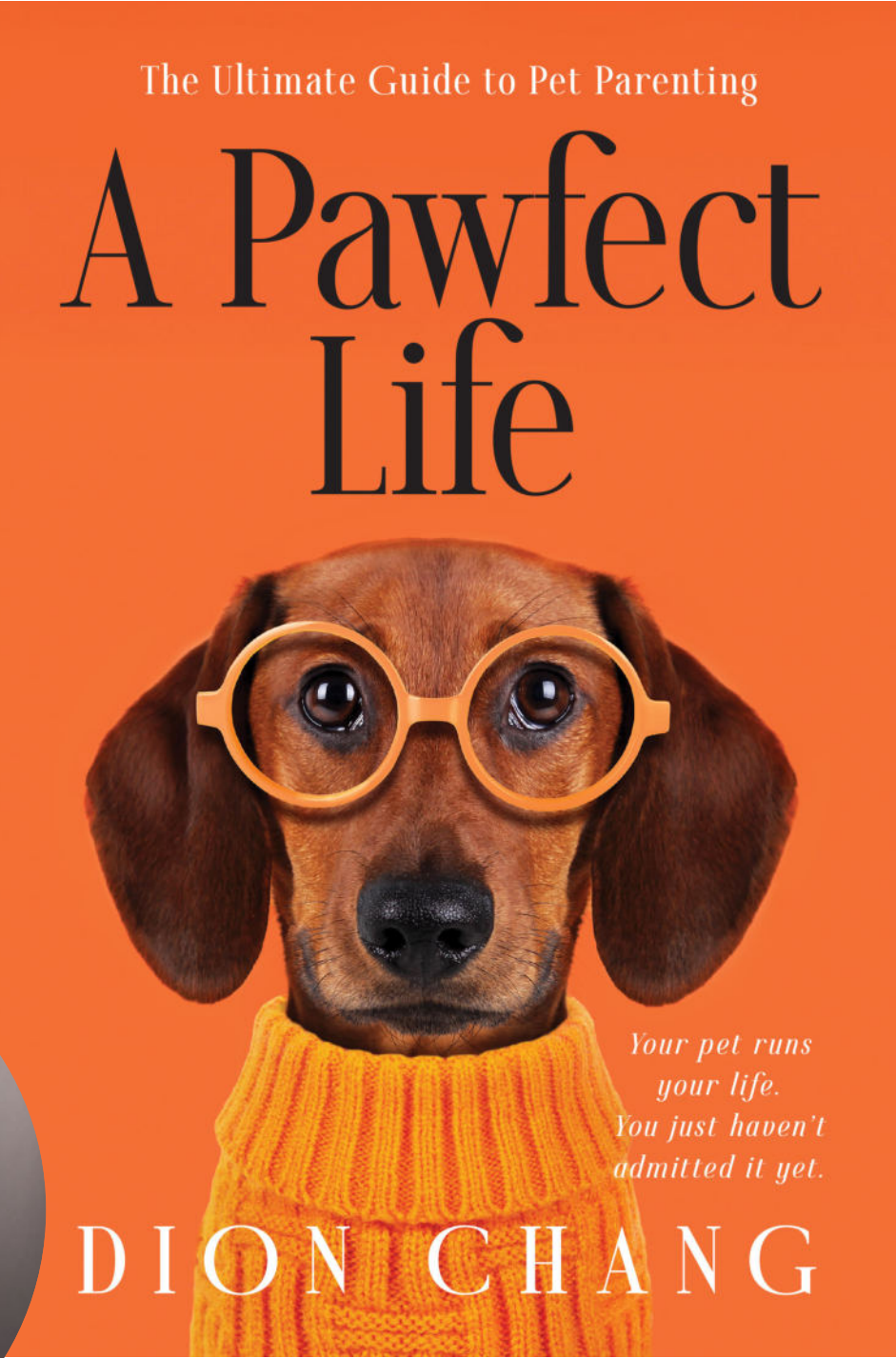
A PAWFECT LIFE

Your pet runs your life. You just haven't admitted it yet.

From booking a seat on Bark Air to planning a pet-friendly holiday, A PAWFECT LIFE is packed with practical advice for modern pet parents – along with a hilarious deep dive into just how far we’ve gone to pamper our furry overlords. Dion Chang unpacks the latest trends, from CBD treats for anxious dachshunds to birthday pawties as well as pawternity leave for new pet owners, while also tackling the trickier side of pet parenting. Speaking to animal behaviour expert Leigh Schenker, Chang explores why we spend small fortunes on our pets – and whether treating them like tiny humans is actually a good idea. As a trained pet doula, he also delves into the complexities of pet loss, grief and saying goodbye. Equal parts insightful and delightful, this book will make you laugh, rethink your pet’s power over you, and finally figure out how to navigate an airport pet relief zone like a pro.

Dion Chang a trend analyst, futurist and founder of Flux Trends. Chang has a media industry background as an editor, columnist and spokesperson, and as a consultant and speaker, provides strategic insights to help major brands navigate change. He has authored four trend-focused books, including THE FUTURE: MORE THAN 80 KEY TRENDS FOR SOUTH AFRICA (2024). Beyond trends, he is trained as an end-of-life companion doula, specialising in pet bereavement. Chang is a loyal and dedicated cat butler.

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RAISING A YOUNG ACTOR

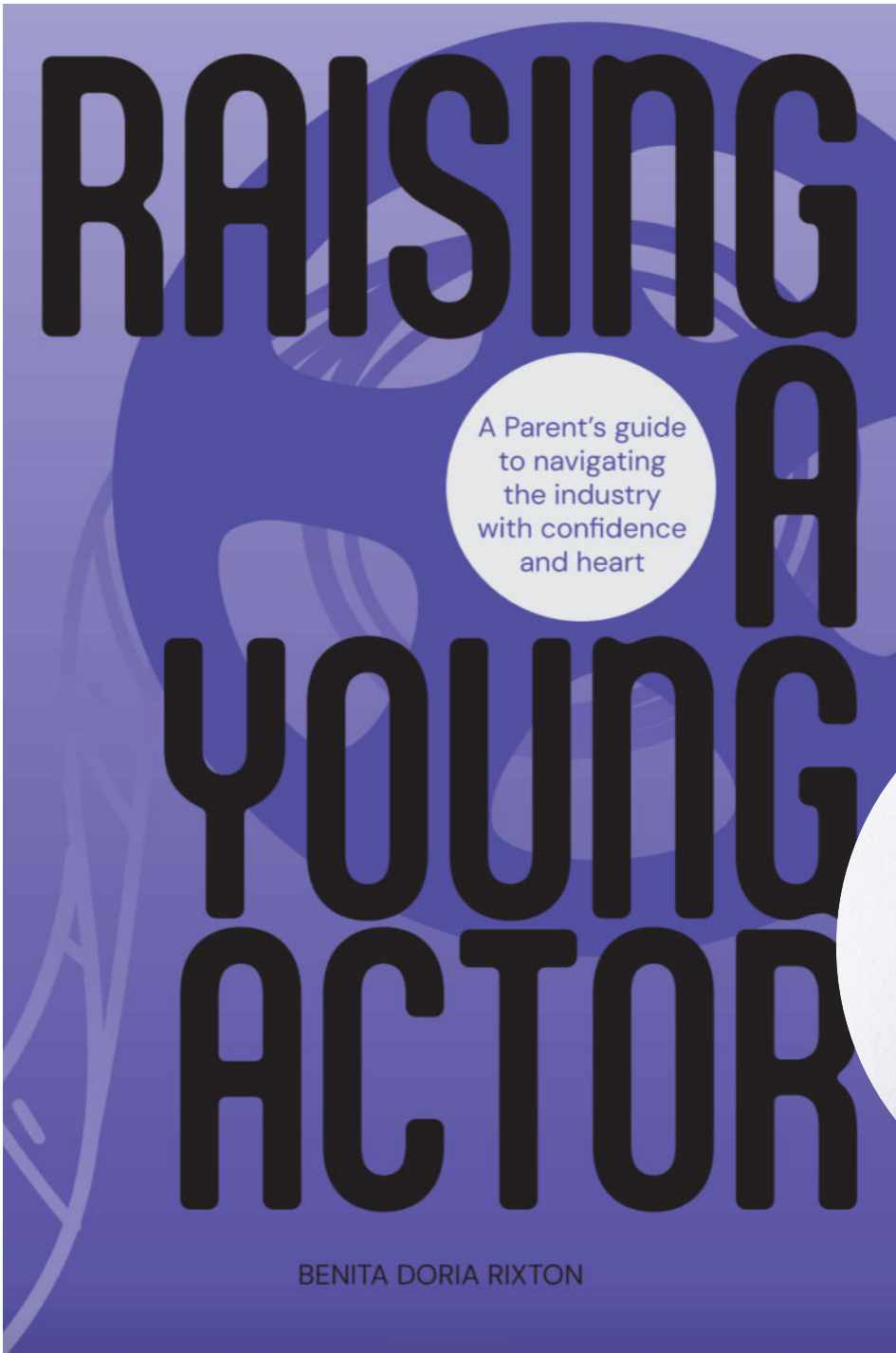
A Parent's guide to navigating the industry with confidence and heart

So your kid wants to act professionally? Congratulations on entering the chaotic, unpredictable, and magical world of showbiz. Here's your survival guide - with a dash of humour and a sprinke of reality - to keep you grounded while your mini superstar chases their dreams.

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the professional film and television indsutry, with practical tips on how to navigate through this space gracefully and successfully. With chapters on securing an agent, navigating auditions, understanding a casting brief, an actor's contract and payment, any parent considering entering this world will know their child's rights on set, and how best to support them and their career.

Benita Rixton has spent more than two decades in the industry, both in front of and behind the camera. First as a theatre graduate navigating film and televsion sets and then as a parent cheering her own young performers through auditions. Rixton is the co-founder and owner of the Young Actors Studio, and of the Young Actors Studio Management where she ably represents and advocates for young talent in South Africa and around the world. As Rixton says, 'Each role in my twenty-year career has given me a different vantage point, but all of them have shown me the same gap: parents are expected to make smart, time-sensitive decisions with no reliable road-map.' As her inbox overflowed with the same heartfelt questions, she decided to craft this comprehensive guide, rooted in real industry practice, organised with an intuitive flow, and written in plain English.

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SHIFT HAPPENS

12 Tools to Calm, Strengthen and Transform Your Life

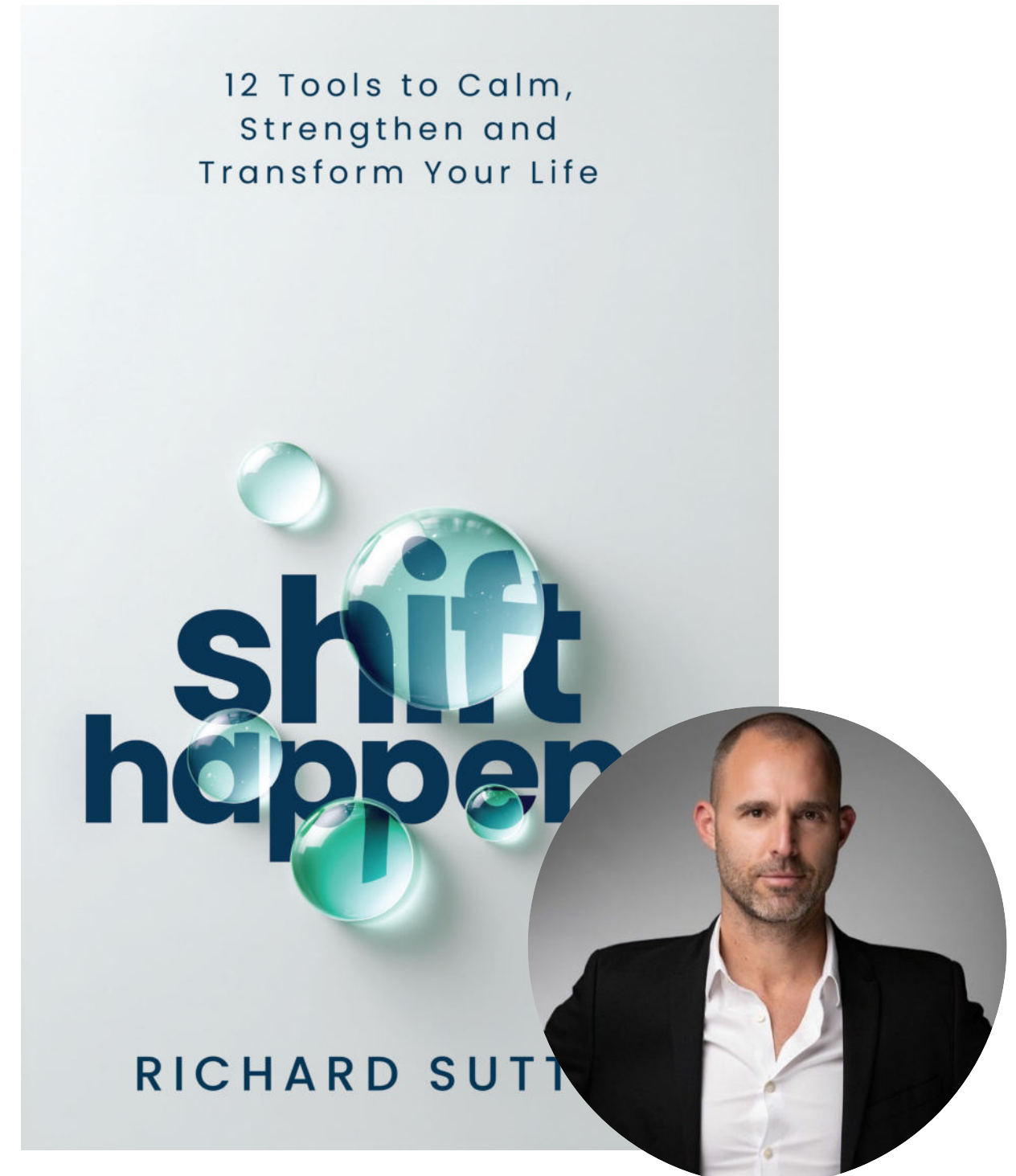
Stress, burnout and self-doubt aren't signs of failure. They're signals – your mind and body telling you it's time for a new strategy. Richard Sutton knows this because he's lived through it – growing up in chaos, written off by teachers, knocked down by stress, fear and failure. But he found a way to reset, rebuild and rise by implementing a handful of small, science-backed shifts. In Shift Happens, Sutton shares twelve proven tools that helped him – and thousands of others – to reclaim control, clarity and confidence.

These are the same tools he's used with Olympic athletes, business leaders, artists, performers and everyday people facing extraordinary pressures:

- Use three minutes of cold to release emotional trauma
- Turn six minutes of movement into a creative breakthrough
- Rewire your nervous system with breathwork, botanicals and a new mediation technique
- And harness stress to become up to 30% more focused, resilient and effective.

Richard Sutton is a global and performance expert/ His previous bestsellers - THE STRESS CODE, STRESSPROOF and THRIVE - have transformed the lives of thousands of readers. SHIFT HAPPENS is his most powerful, personal and practical book yet.

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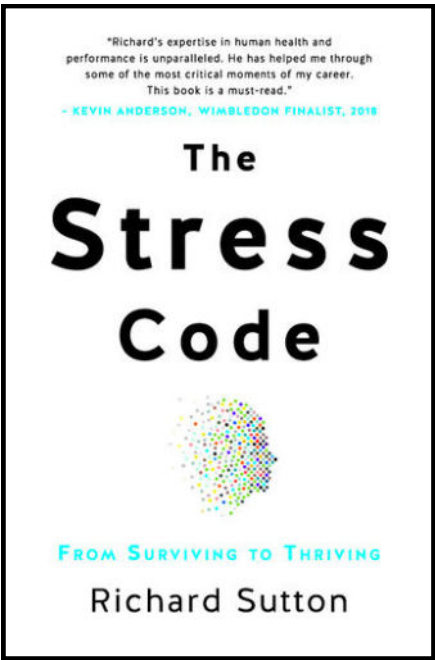


THE STRESS CODE

From surviving to thriving.

Stress impacts all facets of our lives and has devastating effects on the global economy, including reduced productivity and the burden it places on healthcare systems. Decades of research show that chronic stress severely compromises our physical and mental health. More recently, it has been revealed that stress can destabilise our DNA and affect our genetic integrity. This promotes many of the diseases that societies are currently grappling with and could potentially impact future generations. Yet stress has two faces: ongoing stress is one of the biggest challenges faced globally, but short intervals of stress can actually offer tremendous potential to grow, break personal barriers, and excel. Turning the traditional stress paradigm on its head,

THE STRESS CODE does not advocate stress avoidance, but rather aims to create an adaptable management strategy to manage stress. Supported by extensive scientific research, the book offers readers tools and skills to help buffer the adverse effects of chronic stress, enhance functionality and health, and help us to thrive in situations of adversity.



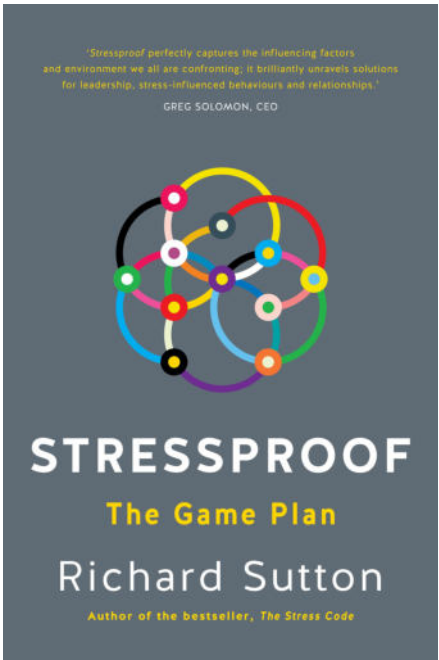
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STRESSPROOF

The game plan.

The world faces a 'giant storm' of stress and burnout that is exacerbated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Learning how to navigate the world going forward is something that everyone has to do. How can leaders help themselves, their employees and their businesses to thrive in the face of these and other challenges? Stressproof speaks to the crisis currently facing the professional landscape. It outlines the conundrum of stress and its performance advantage versus its destructiveness; and it focuses on the stress-related challenges facing decision makers in the world of business today. Practical, insightful and based on case studies and real-world examples, Stressproof provides a game-changing action plan to help managers, leaders and those who are making decisions.

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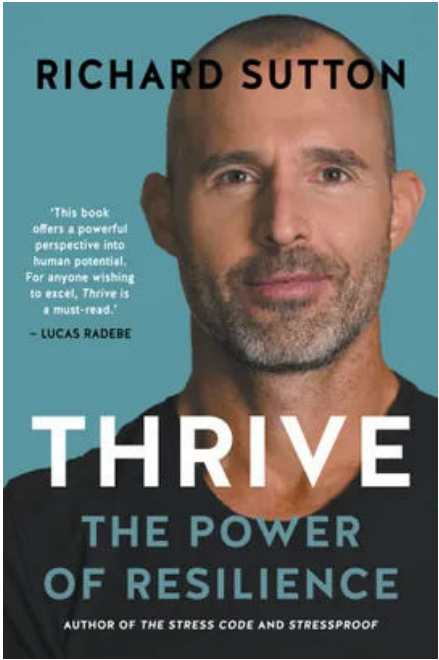
THRIVE

The power of resilience.

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.

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.

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MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK

Learn the Wealth Creation Formula

MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK is a no-fluff guide to building wealth, and making it work for you rather than the other way around.

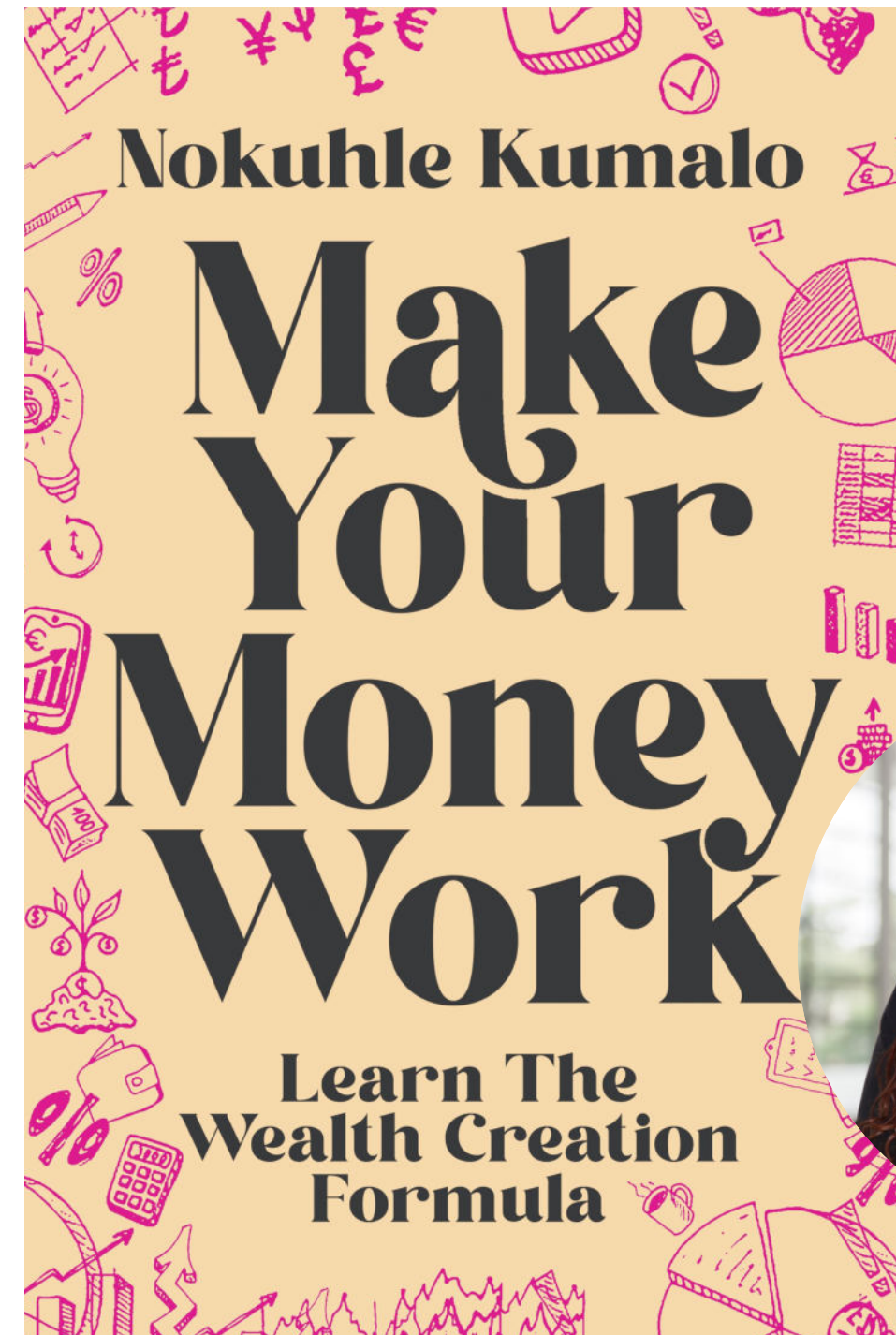
Written by someone who has asked all the same questions you have about work, salary negotiation, saving and investing, buying your first car or home, and more. With honesty, humour and hard-won insights, Nokuhle Kumalo unpacks the money habits we inherit from our parents, the mistakes we make and the steps we can take to break the cycle.

This isn't about quick tips or flashy flexes: MAKE YOUR MONEY WORKS helps readers understand money and finally take control of how they earn, spend, save and build wealth.

If financial freedom is the dream, MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK is the starting point to mastering the wealth creation formula.

Nokuhle Kumalo is a chartered accountant, personal finance content creator and author of GRWM: WORK EDITION. Nokuhle's personal finance channel is on YouTube @nokuhlekumalo.

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THE SHADOW STATE

"Why Babita Deokaran had to die"

On 23 August 2021, Babita Deokaran – a hardworking single mother and chief accountant at the Gauteng Department of Health – was shot down in a hail of bullets outside her home in Mondeor, Johannesburg. The izinkabi paid to kill her were caught, but the question remained: Who ordered her murder, and why?

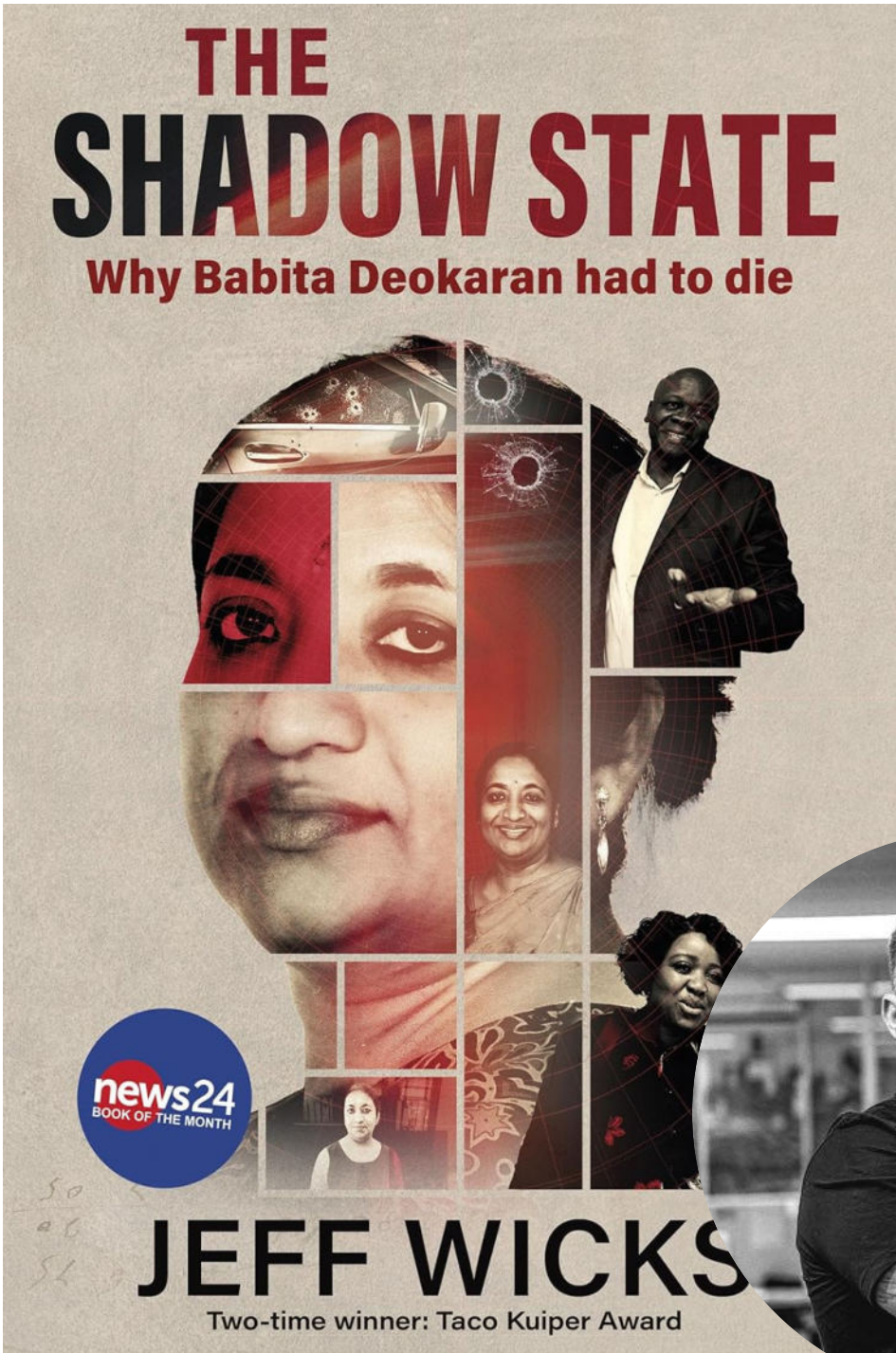
Investigative journalist Jeff Wicks set out to find the answer. This quest would profoundly change – even endanger – his life, as he bravely followed the leads Babita had left behind. Leads that the Hawks, who were officially investigating her assassination, had failed to act on.

In THE SHADOW STATE Wicks uncovers an audacious web of crooked officials, ANC politicians, and extraction syndicates – including that of the notorious 'Cat' Matlala – siphoning away billions meant for patients in Gauteng's public hospitals.

An explosive, fast-paced investigation into greed and state capture, this book is also a moving tribute to the courage of one woman who refused to keep quiet.

Jeff Wicks works for News24's investigations team in Johannesburg. He won the Nat Nakasa Award for courageous journalism and two Taco Kuiper Awards for Investigative Journalism. His work on the murder of Babita Deokaran was shortlisted for the Global Shining Light Award, recognising watchdog journalism in developing countries done under threat.

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DEEP BLUE

'... there is a quiet here that doesn't exist on land, a fluid suspension that reminds me that humans were never meant to be so rigid, so fixed in place. In the sea, we are both vulnerable and free ...'

DEEP BLUE is a love letter to the sea, exploring humans' deep connection with it and the bliss of swimming, diving, dipping and simply being in salt water.

Join Veruska De Vita, a learner free diver and open-water swimmer, as she delves into why the ocean calls to us. Along the way she talks to those who find healing and wellness in swimming groups and cold-water immersion, scientists who study complex marine environments, elite athletes who swim super-human distances along our coasts and free divers who plumb the depths with one breath. Water is primordial. It gives life. It represents hope and renewal. This book is not only for sea worshippers. It promises to inspire everyone to jump with joy into the waves – and offers reflections on our intimate relationship with the sea, which supports life on earth and requests that we respect it.

Veruska de Vita has worked in public relations and communications for 26 years and is a founding partner of Twiga Communications. She is a seasoned journalist with numerous pieces published in the Sunday Times, Fairlady, Inflight and The Sunday Independent. In 2012 she graduated with an MA in creative writing from Wits University. Her obsession with the sea began at early age and she has always felt at home in the deep blue.

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PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS

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

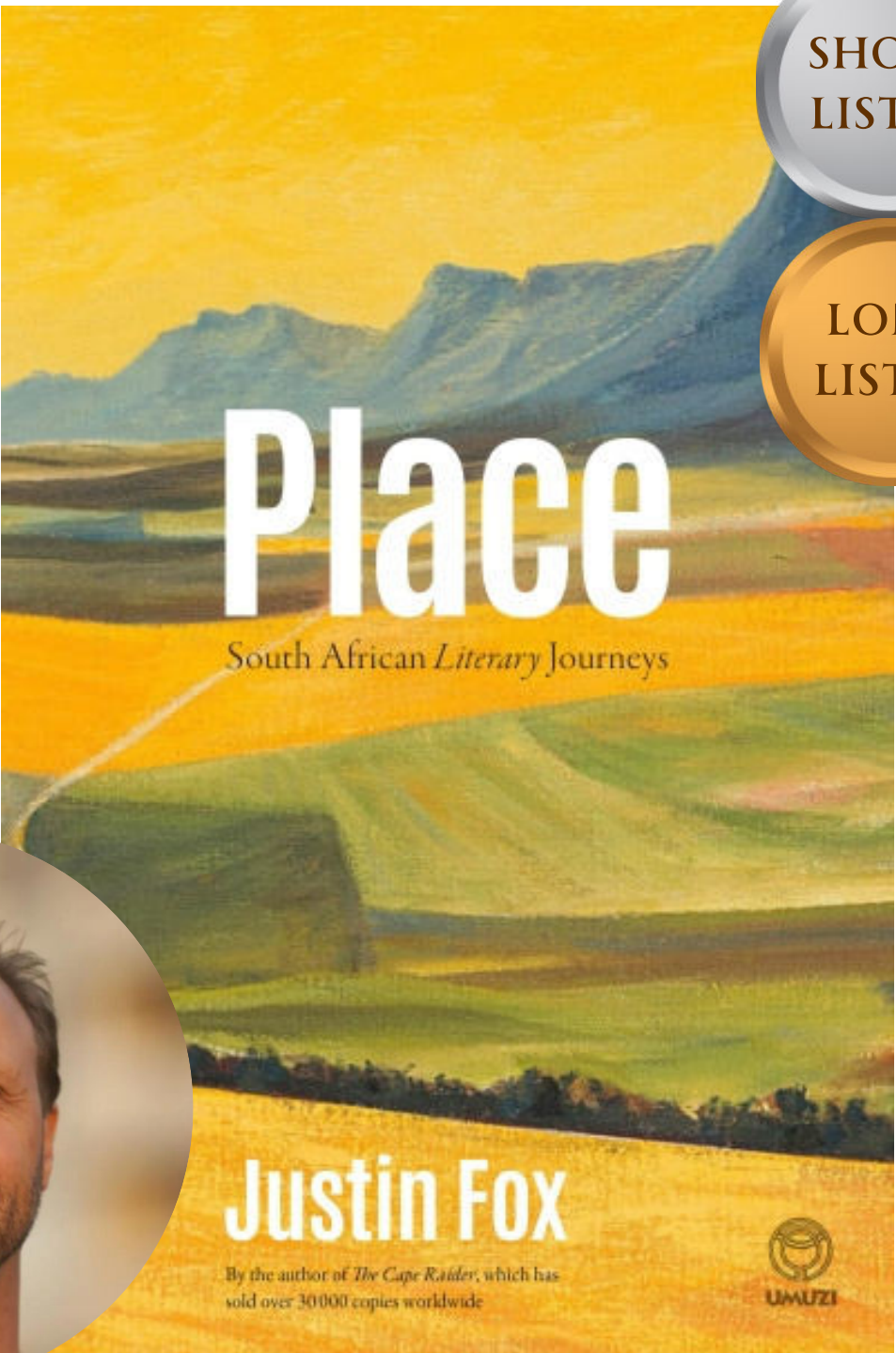
Longlisted for the SALA Creative Non-Fiction Award (2024)

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 EIGHTH print run.

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



OUT OF THIS WORLD AND INTO THE NEXT

Living on more than one planet is an essential aspect of becoming a more advanced society, and our expansion beyond Earth is imminent.

Theoretical physicist Adriana Marais prepares for life beyond Earth by living in the most extreme environments on our own planet. She describes how, through technological advancement and an enhanced perspective of reality and our place in it, living on Mars will enable us to become better stewards of Earth and equip us for the beginning of our journey to the stars. Adriana has given hundreds of talks to audiences on seven continents, in settings from TEDx to corporates to ashrams, has been featured in media interviews and panel discussions around the world, as well as in documentaries including AOL's CITIZEN MARS, and CNN's AFRICA'S SPACE RACE. This book is an accessible collation of her thoughts on life on Mars, and a map of how to get there. It is based on research, personal convictions, and extensive interactions with audiences and teams in dozens of countries around the world.

Dr Adriana Marais is an award-winning theoretical physicist and internationally renowned advocate for off-world exploration. Her PhD and postdoctoral work in quantum biology on photosynthesis and the origins of the building blocks of life in space was published in top physics journals including PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS, and she has been honoured by programmes such as the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women In Science, and the Royal Society of South Africa. She was Head of Innovation at SAP Africa between 2017 and 2019, and is currently a director at the Foundation for Space Development Africa. In 2020, she was among five global finalists for Women in Tech's The Most Disruptive Woman in Tech Award.

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BLACK SUNDAY

Winner of the Sunday Times Non-fiction Prize 2022

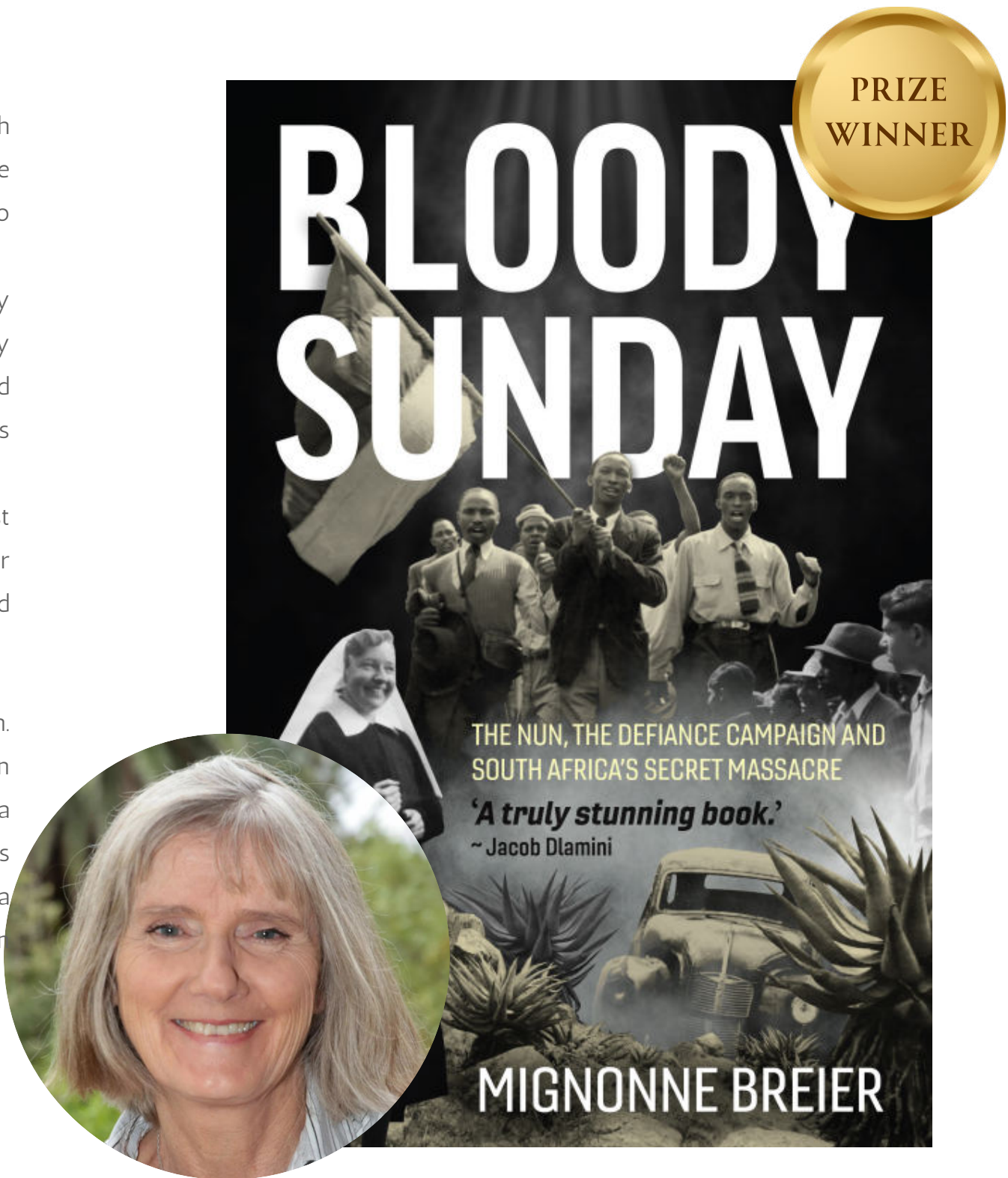
Sunday, 9 November 1952 should be remembered as a day of infamy but few know of the brutal massacre that happened when South African police opened fire at an ANC Youth League event in Duncan Village, South Africa. In the cover-up that followed, the facts were almost lost to history. Black Sunday follows the trail of the remarkable Irish nun, Sister Elsie Aidan, who worked in the township, to piece together one of the most tragic days of the apartheid era.

The Remembrance Day service was well over, and the meeting in the location too. At the Cenotaph, council staff were clearing away the chairs and litter, mindful of the gathering clouds. In Duncan Village, the police were on their way back to their station, satisfied they had dispersed an illegal meeting. On Bantu Square the people of the locations were collecting their dead and wounded – bludgeoned with batons, stabbed with bayonets, shot through with military-grade sub-machine guns. At least eight had been killed and scores injured.

That is how the day might have come to a close. Then the nun in the black car drove by, past the Cenotaph, into Connaught Road, past the Panmure station, into Frederick Street and then Bantu Street. Those who saw her pass wondered why she was going that way, for she was a white woman, and that was a road that few white people dared or cared to take. Little did Sr. Aidan know a massacre had just occurred.

Mignonne Breier lives in Cape Town but she grew up in the Eastern Cape and research on the history of that province is her passion. Her day jobs have included journalism, academic lecturing and research and researcher support and development. She has a BJournal degree from Rhodes University and a MPhil and PhD in Education from the University of Cape Town. She started her career as a journalist, working as a reporter on newspapers in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria and as a freelancer for national women's magazines. After a spell of teaching in the Professional Communication Unit at UCT, she embarked on a research career, working as a researcher in adult and higher education at the University of the Western Cape and the Human Sciences Research Council for fifteen years and running Researcher Development Programmes for early career academics at UCT for ten years.

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KILLER STORIES

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

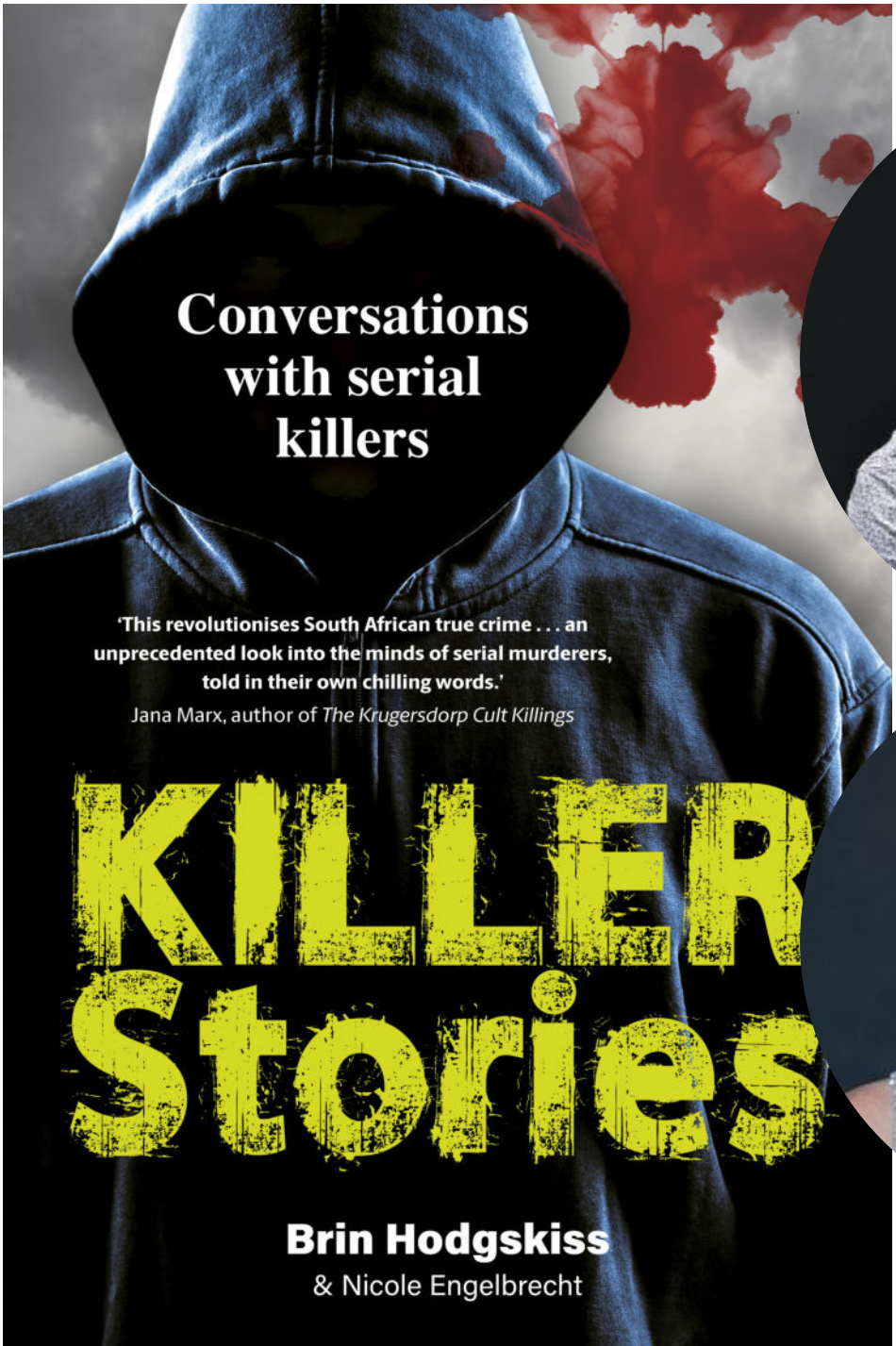
Most true-crime books end when the prison doors slam shut on the convicted. KILLER STORIES takes you behind the bars into the bowels of some of South Africa's most secure prisons. Here, the country's most terrifying serial offenders share their truths – or at least their versions of the truth – in their 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 unprected look into the minds of serial murderers, told in their own chilling words' – JANA MARX, author of THE KRUGERSDORP CULT KILLINGS



PATIENT 12A

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

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non-fiction Prize. (2025)

Winner of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Best Emerging Author prize. (2025)

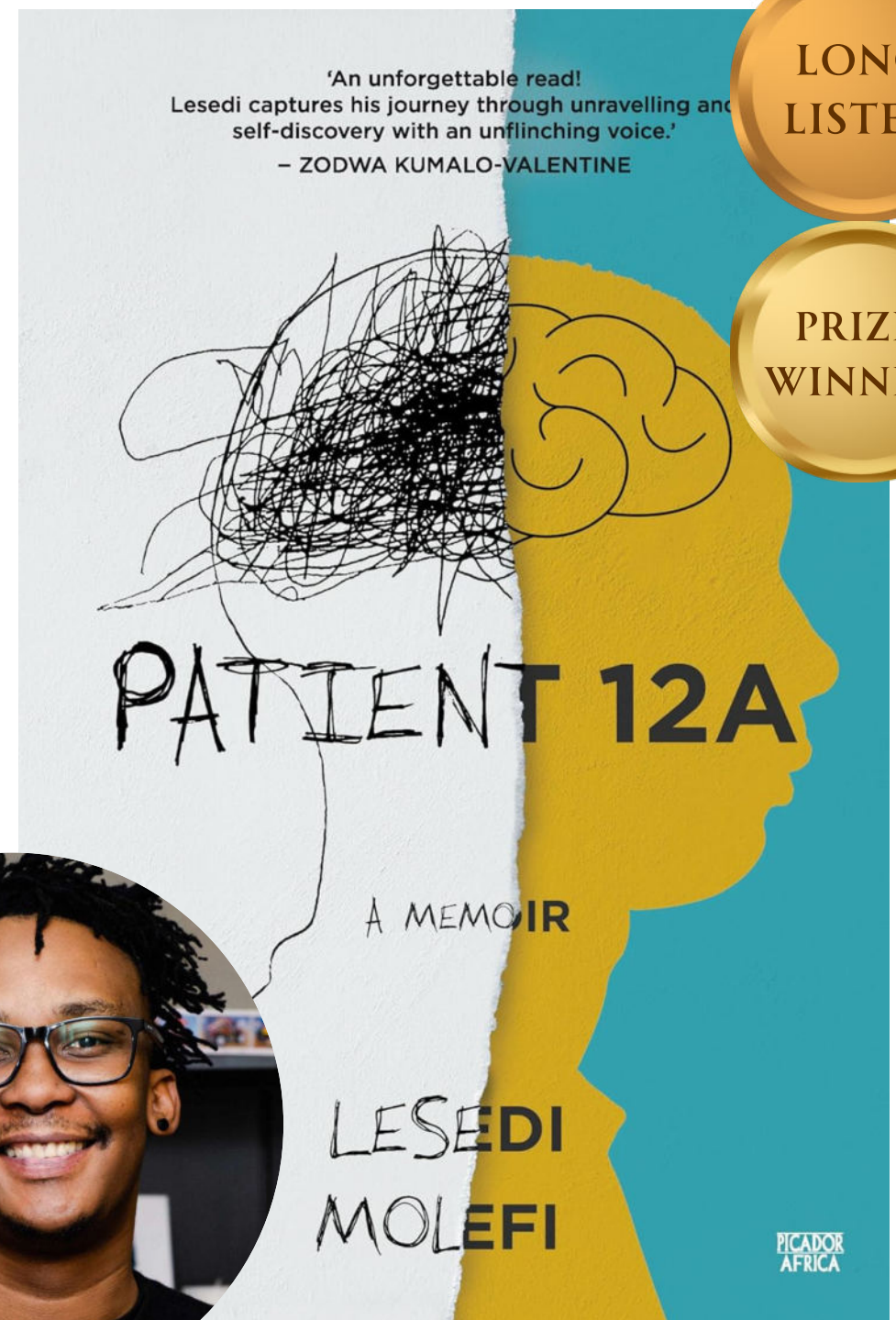
So here I am, at a psychiatric hospital, looking for myself in a building I've never been to before. A few nights ago, I was ready to rid myself of myself. I still am, only, in a different way.

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.

All rights available except Southern African (Pan Macmillan)

'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



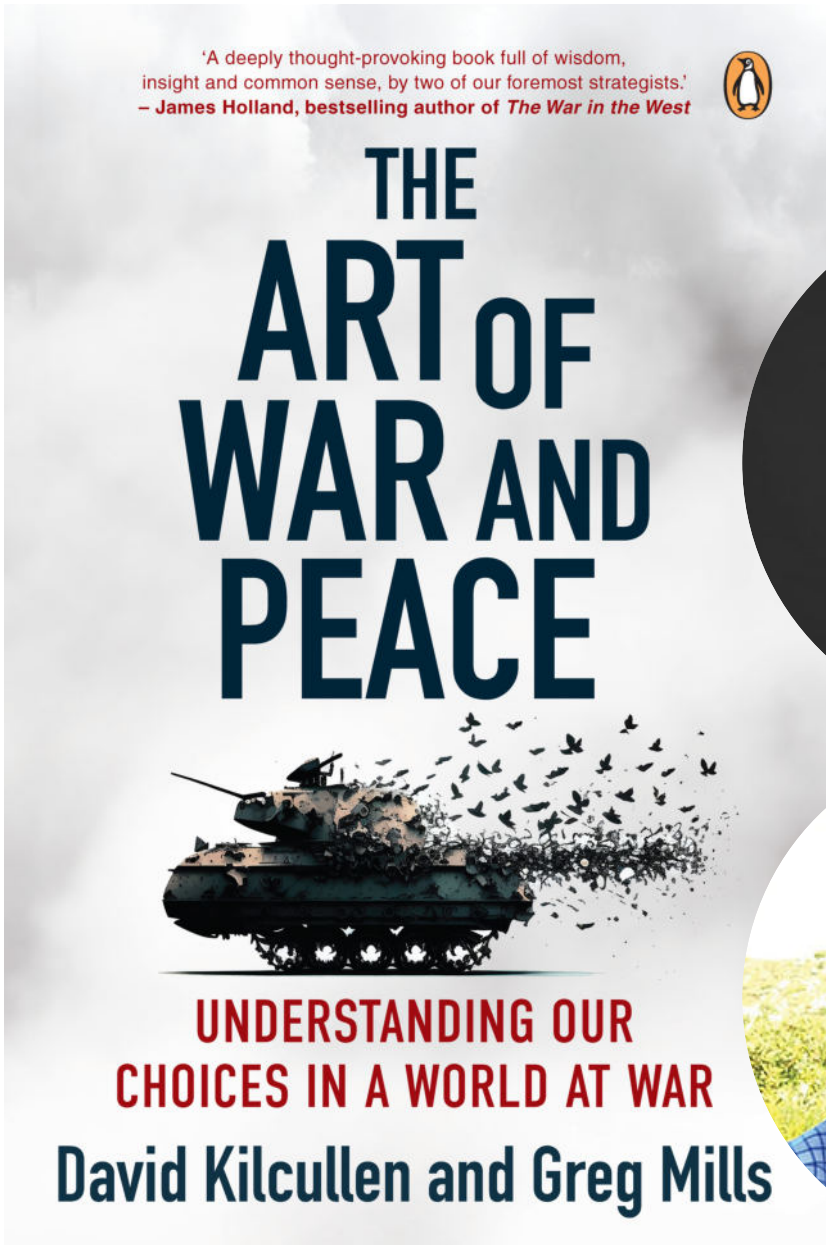
THE ART OF WAR AND PEACE

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



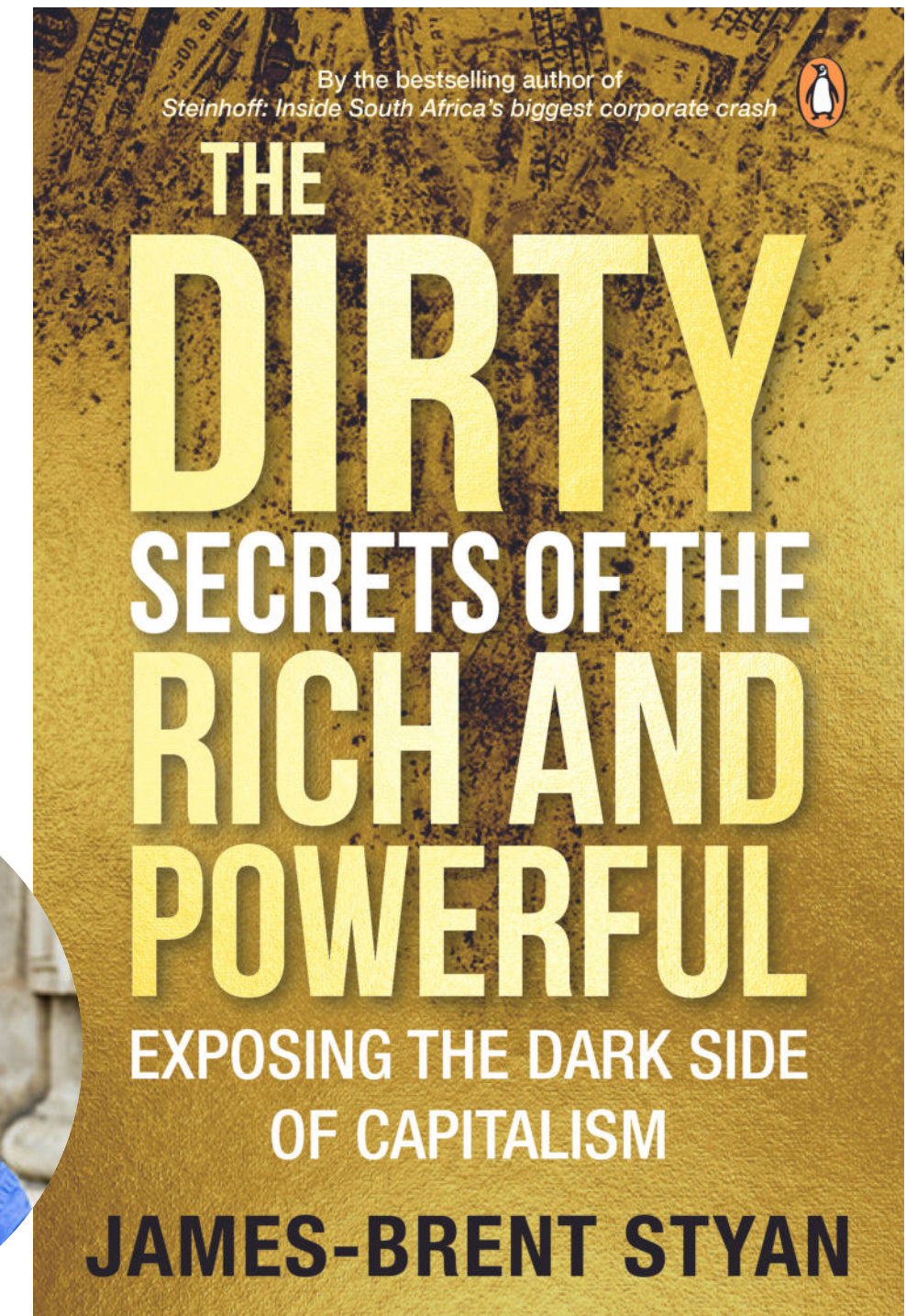
DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL: EXPOSING THE DARK SIDE OF CAPITALISM

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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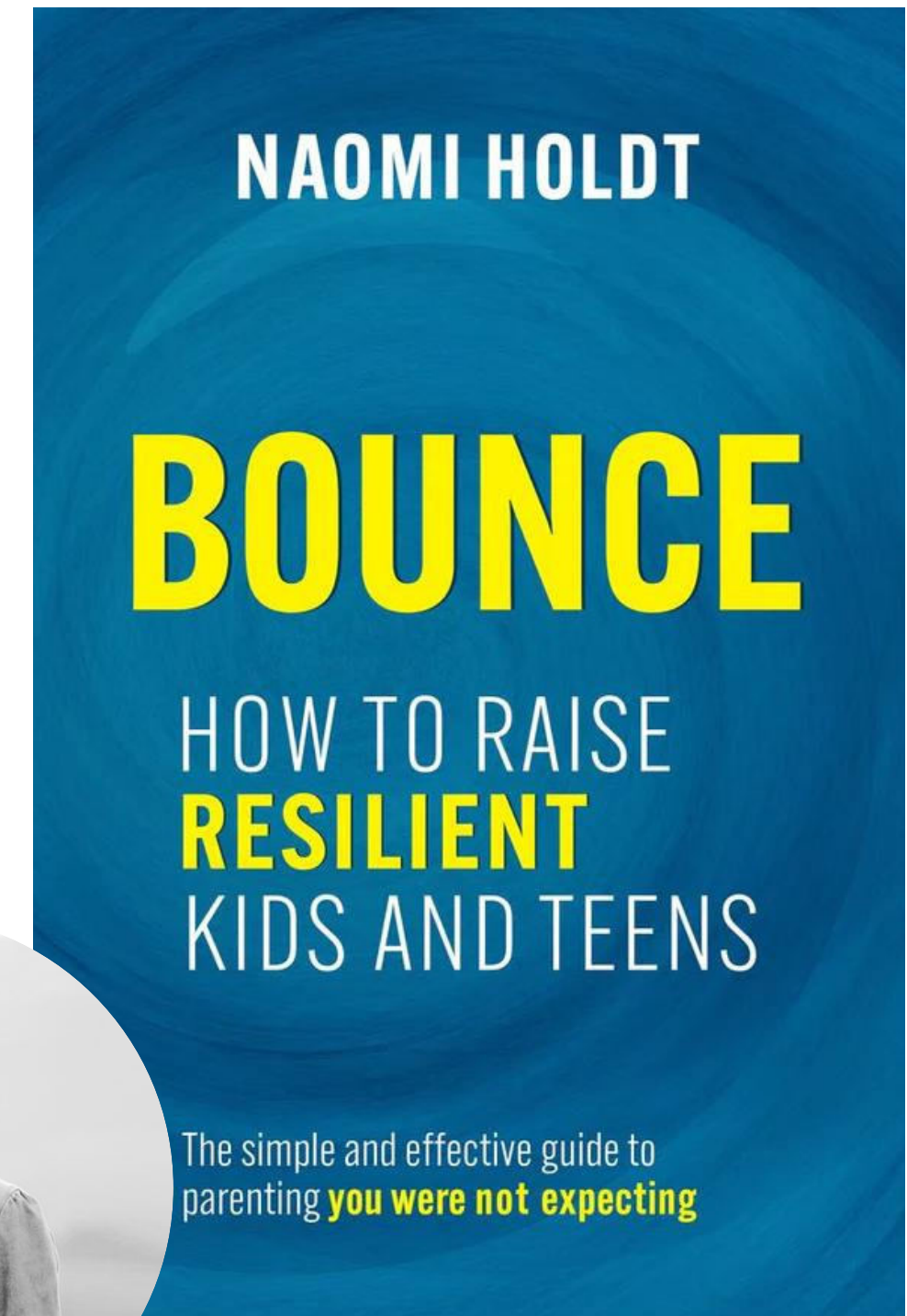
BOUNCE: HOW TO RAISE RESILIENT KIDS AND TEENS

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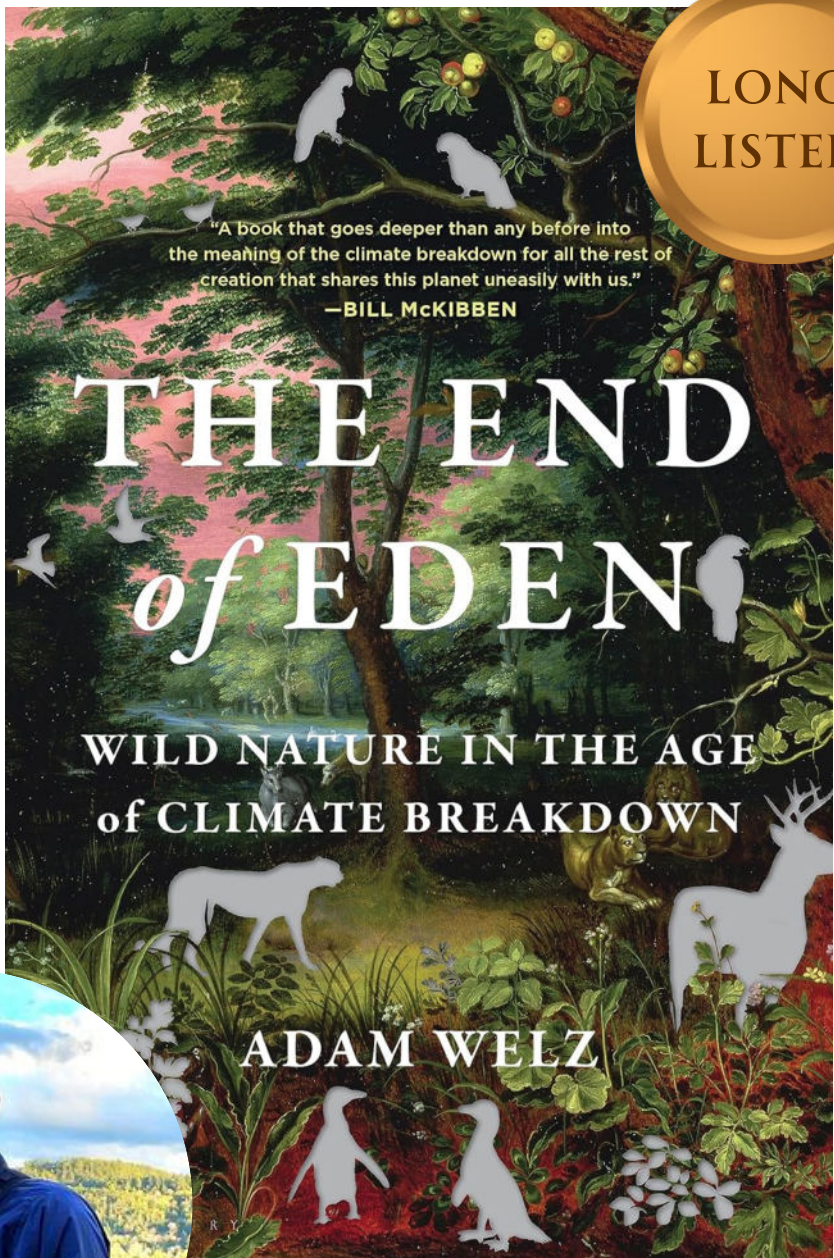
THE END OF EDEN: WILD NATURE IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

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

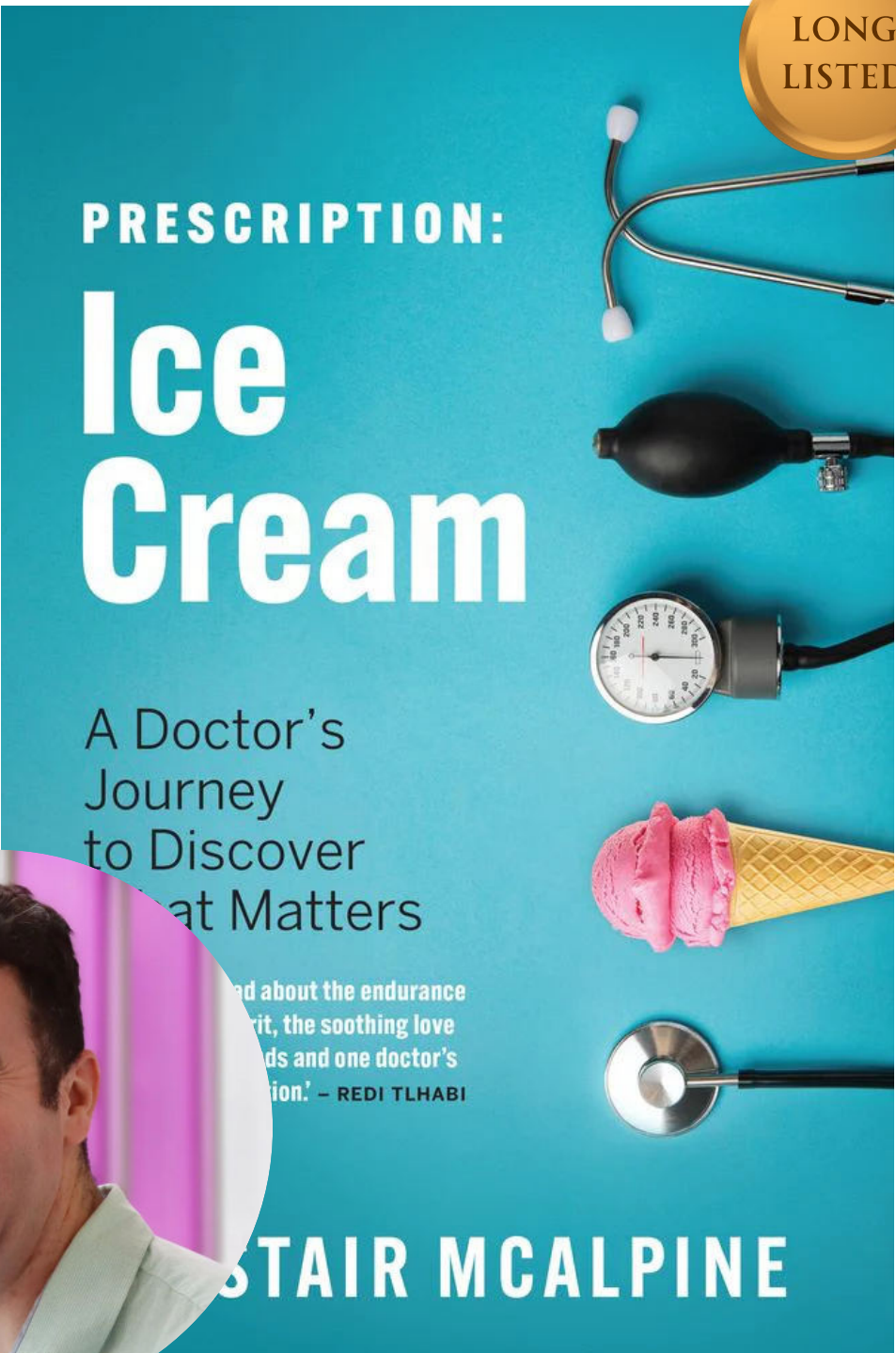
PRESCRIPTION ICE CREAM

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non-Fiction Award 2025

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

Alasitair McAlpine is a paediatric infectious diseases physician who was born and raised in Johannesburg. His passions include infections in kids, listening to noisy bands and encouraging his colleagues to prescribe ice cream more frequently.

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CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS



SHOW AND TELL

A little girl is worried what her friends will think when they find out her family doesn't look like her

It's Show & Tell day at school, and one little student is feeling nervous about introducing their unique family. But as each classmate takes a turn, from triplets to step-siblings, to two moms to dance crews, they realize that every family is wonderfully different in their own special way.

SHOW AND TELL is a heartwarming celebration of diverse families, where love and laughter bring everyone together in delightful chaos. Join the fun and see how our differences make us special!

Marleen Lammers is a freelance writer with a passion for children's stories. Originally from the Netherlands, she's spent most of the past decade living in various countries in Southern Africa, mostly working in the nonprofit sector. She published her first picture book with Penguin Random House in 2019, and caught the children's literature bug. She's hoping to keep engaging kids through fun stories, and making them love books in the progress.

Bronwyn Webb is an illustrator and graphic designer who works across children's books and broadcast and digital design. She is the co-creator of the web cartoon series, Shits and Squiggles.

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ADVENTURE JOURNAL

An activity book that makes anywhere an adventure

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 are lots of around-the-world wonders! It's packed with fun facts about landscapes, different cultures,, incredible 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 Spain-based 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.'

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Full text and illustrations available, complete layout available.
Black and White and Full Colour versions available



ZWELA JOURNAL: SA ADVENTURE

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

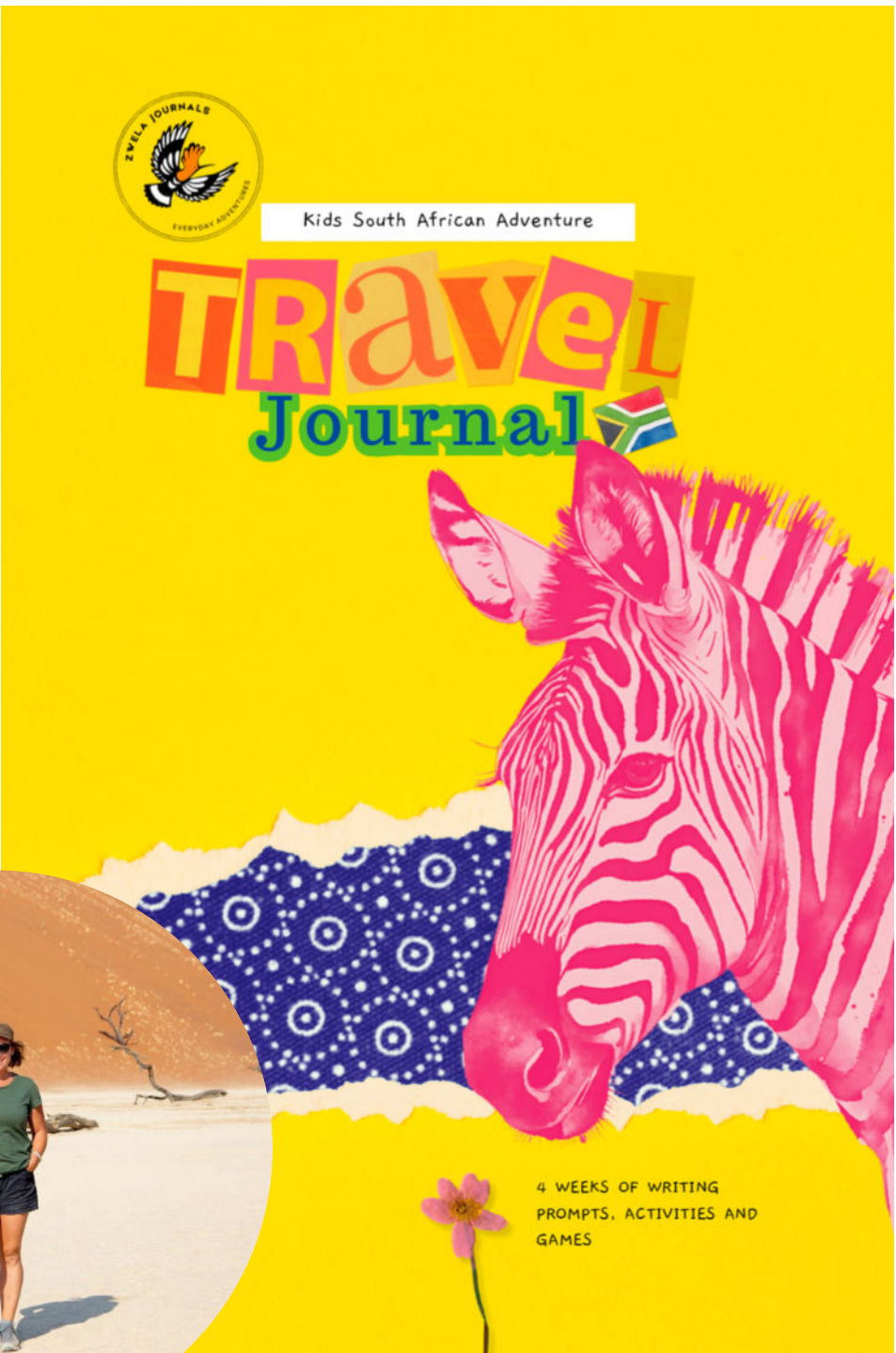
Welcome to your very own Travel Journal, a magical book where you can document all your amazing adventures and discoveries during your trip. This journal is like a treasure chest, ready to be filled with your memories, drawings, and stories from the places you visit.

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!

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Black and White and Full Colour versions available



WHEN I'M READY

Sometimes the world feels too big to dive right in. With a little patience, courage arrives, but only when you're ready

Jump in!

WHEN I'M READY by Kat Cameron is a joyful, reassuring picture book about finding courage at your own pace. A small boy overcomes his fear of swimming and discovers a whole new world beneath the surface.

Perfect for families tackling first-time anxieties, this sweet story celebrates the magic that happens when kids are given the space to grow, one small splash at a time.

Kat Cameron loves to draw, in fact she would be perfectly happy living on pencils and pens and floating on oceans of ink in her paper boat.

A Barcelona-based, South African-born illustrator specialising in fantastical, narrative-driven art, she works in acrylics, pencil, pen, mixed media collage, and digital formats. Her experiences living and traveling across Africa, Asia, and Europe have deeply influenced her artistic vision. Kat has a passion for storytelling through illustrations, and now, based in Spain, balances life with her family while developing children's books, illustrated projects, and kids' travel journals.

All rights available.



A YEAR IN MY LIFE

For all the lost teenagers in small towns.

1996. The year of South Africa's new constitution and the Cricket World Cup, of the second Small Karoo National Arts Festival and the debut of *Friends* on local television.

Liam is a lithe discus thrower. He reminds Martin of an ugly Brad Pitt. Which is still pretty.

Liam thinks Martin looks like Jonty Rhodes with his strawberry-blond hair. And he is annoyingly smart. They both do drama and play tennis. A Valentine's dance and a cloudburst. A computer game and a moment at the movies. A late-night conversation with Eurythmics' *Love is a Stranger* playing. A spark. Martin – the reverend's child – knows who and what he is. He doesn't belong in this town, but he knows he likes Liam. Liam dreams of girls and boys. He doesn't know who he is, but he knows he likes Martin. The question is, can he. In this little town? In this time? Is love strong enough to overcome everything?

Louis Pretorius is a screenwriter, director and novelist. In 2011 he found his niche in scripted content and has since written 201 episodes of TV dramas in genres varying from crime to romance to youth to law. He prefers strong character-driven stories and is forever searching to find the reason for our existence and explore human frailty. He believes that good structure and dialogue are equally important. His first young adult novel was published in 2023.

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THE WITCHES' WAY

Something wondrous this way comes.

THE WITCHES' WAY is the story of 13-year-old Noma who has only just worked up the courage to ask out popular kid, Tazz, when she accidentally turns him into a dog. She has mistakenly inherited the powers of Utibe, a notorious Nigerian witch. Now, if Noma and her newly-canine companion want to reverse the spell, they will have to travel The Witches' Way, a mystical, cross-Africa highway that takes you not where you want, but where you need to go. Not only will these two very different South African children have to get along with each other, but they must stay one step ahead of Utibe who is intent on getting her powers back and exacting her revenge. By the time they reach the Night Market, Africa's witch capital in Nigeria, Noma will have to resist the temptations of her supernatural talents and learn that her true power comes from her own courage and faith in others. She will always be as powerful, and as magical, as she can dream herself to be.

Jenna Cato Bass is a director, writer, and photographer living in Cape Town. She is a graduate of AFDA film school and has worked as a director, writer, cinematographer, photographer and magician. She has directed over ten short films and seven music videos. Her video HOLD THE SORROW was accepted into the 2008 ViMus International Music Video Festival. Her short film THE TUNNEL was selected for the Focus Features Africa First Program. Jenna's award-winning work has run the spectrum of sci-fi (SO LONG TO THE CITY), experimental (JELLYFISH), teenage coming of age (ALREADY GONE) and historical magical realism (THE TUNNEL). Some of her other films include LOVE THE ONE YOU LOVE (2014), winner of Best Feature Film at Jozi Film Festival 2015, and HIGH FANTASY (2017), winner of the Artistic Bravery Prize at Durban International Film Festival 2018. **Chinelo Onwualu** is a Nigerian writer and editor living in Toronto, Canada. She is editor and co-founder of OMENANA, a magazine of African speculative fiction, and a graduate of the 2014 Clarion West Writers Workshop, which she attended as the recipient of the Octavia E Butler Scholarship. Her writing has appeared in UNCANNY, STRANGE HORIZONS, THE KALAHARI REVIEW and NEW SUNS: ORIGINAL SPECULATIVE FICTION BY PEOPLE OF COLOR.

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PUMPKIN FINDS HER QUEEN

Pumpkin feels shame around her big hair and tries to hide it. When she lets it loose her inner queen escapes at the same time. A charming picture book about self-love and how it's our difference that makes us special.



PUMPKIN FINDS HER KINDNESS

Pumpkin is jealous of her classmate Megan. When she finds kindness in her heart, she also finds a new friend.. A story about how kindness can change a bad situation into a magical one.



PUMPKIN FINDS HER BEAT

Pumpkin Pie wakes up one morning with a special song her heart. A moving, grooving beat that bubbles up inside her. This is an interactive picture book that gets readers into the rhythm.



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Bianca Flanders is an actress, voice artist and teacher based in Cape Town. She graduated from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2011 with a degree in Theatre and Performance and then went on to obtain her Postgraduate Certificate of Education in 2012, also at UCT. Bianca taught at Camps Bay High in 2016 and she has also taught at institutions such as Battswood Arts Centre and City Varsity.

Zinelda McDonald is an award-winning South African illustrator who lives in Wellington in the Western Cape of South Africa. She has illustrated numerous children's books and is also a well-known designer and illustrator of children's book covers. Awards for her work include the Alba Bouwer Prize and the Exclusive Books IBBY SA Award.



ME & MOO

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

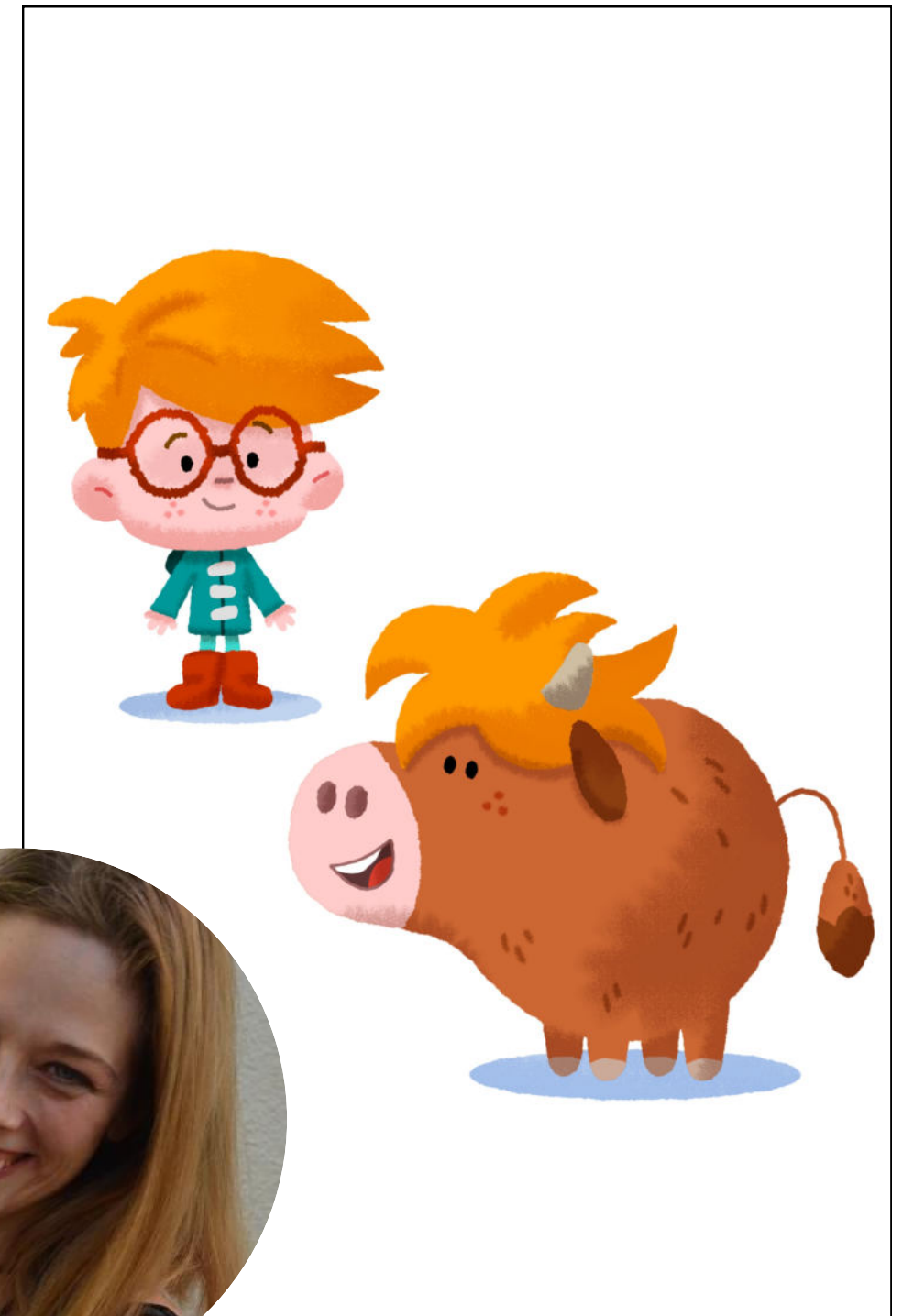
*cover coming soon

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 Bafta and Emmy-winning 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 Animation studios, and wrote the BAFTA- and Emmy-winning BBC One Christmas Day special THE SMEDS AND THE SMOOS. Adapted from the international best-selling Julia Donaldson book, the film has also won the coveted Prix de Jeunesse, The Japan Prize, and several other awards.

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.

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MANLY MEN

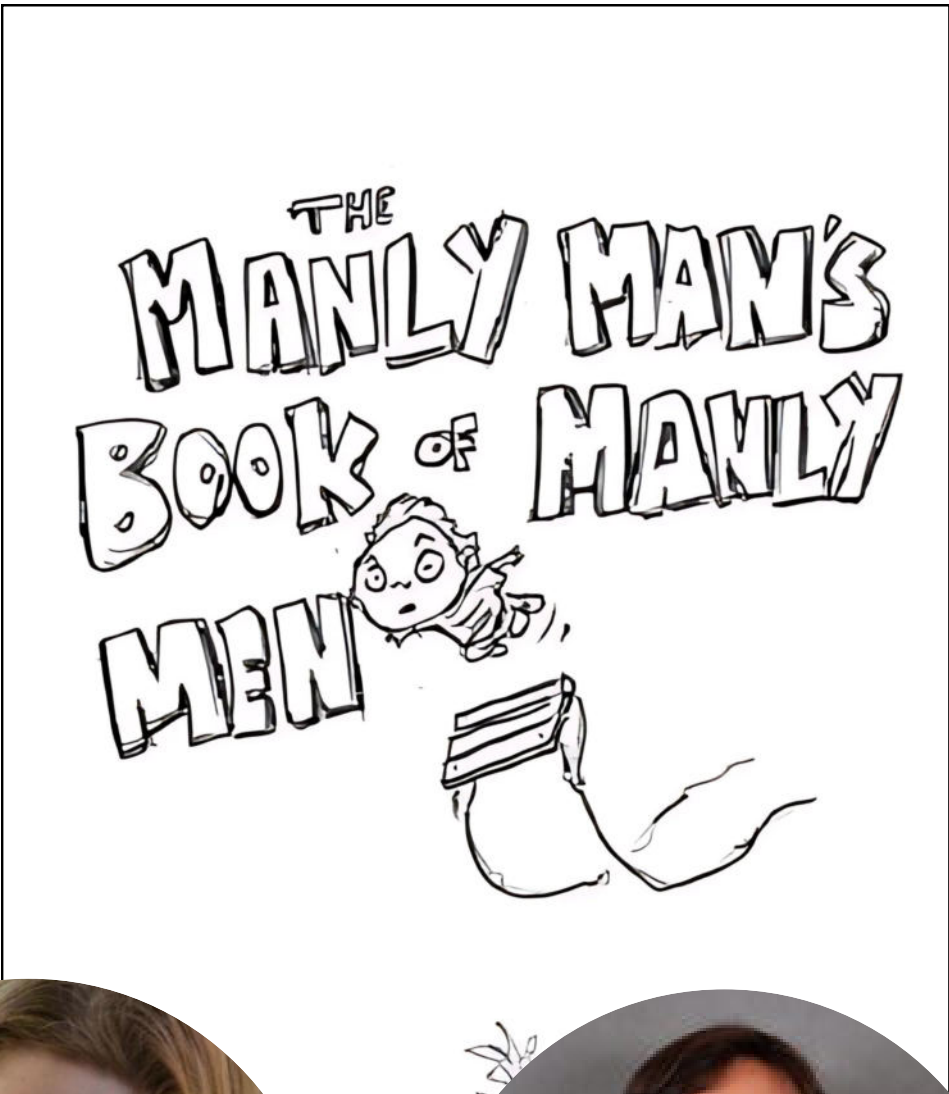
What does it mean to be 'A Man'?

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 sample scamps available. All rights available

*cover coming soon



MINDFUL MONKEY

Monkey is grumpy but Monkey knows what to do.

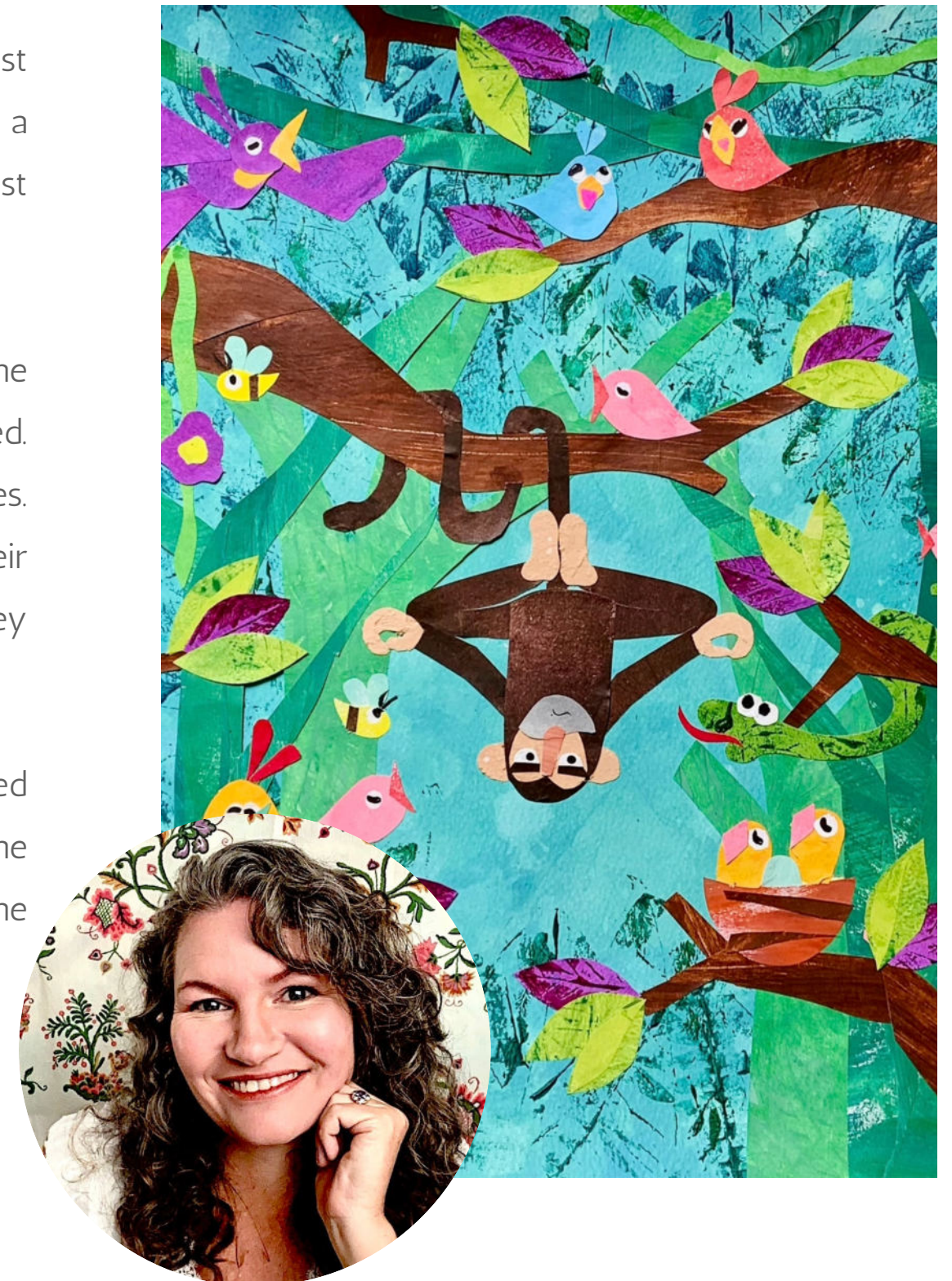
Monkey is in a mood. But Monkey knows what he needs to do - Monkey must meditate. Before he can, Monkey must find a place that is quiet enough and spacious enough to meditate in. MINDFUL MONKEY takes us on a journey with a very grumpy Monkey through the noisy, disruptive jungle as Monkey searches for the perfect place to meditate, a quest that leads him to find peace within himself.

A great story introducing young children to meditation and self-care. As Ashleigh says, 'all too often, we look at the world around us for answers and solutions. Too much of what we don't achieve is based on what we think we need. Imagine all that we could do and all that we could feel if we were better able to find what we need within ourselves. Let's put a stop to the 'monkey see, monkey do' method of finding solutions. Let's give children the power to find their own strengths and regulate their own emotions without the need for external factors. Let's show them how they themselves are responsible for their own outcomes.'

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



BEARENT

Because a bearent is lots more fun than a parent.

In this irreverent, wild and unpredictable illustrated humour book series, ten-year-old Iggy doesn't have a father, so he creates one by shaving a talking bear named Ziggy and dressing him in human clothes. Now Iggy is in control of his own 'adult'! Together with their friend Mika, they help others by going to outrageous lengths to infiltrate the hallowed, mysterious world of grown-ups.

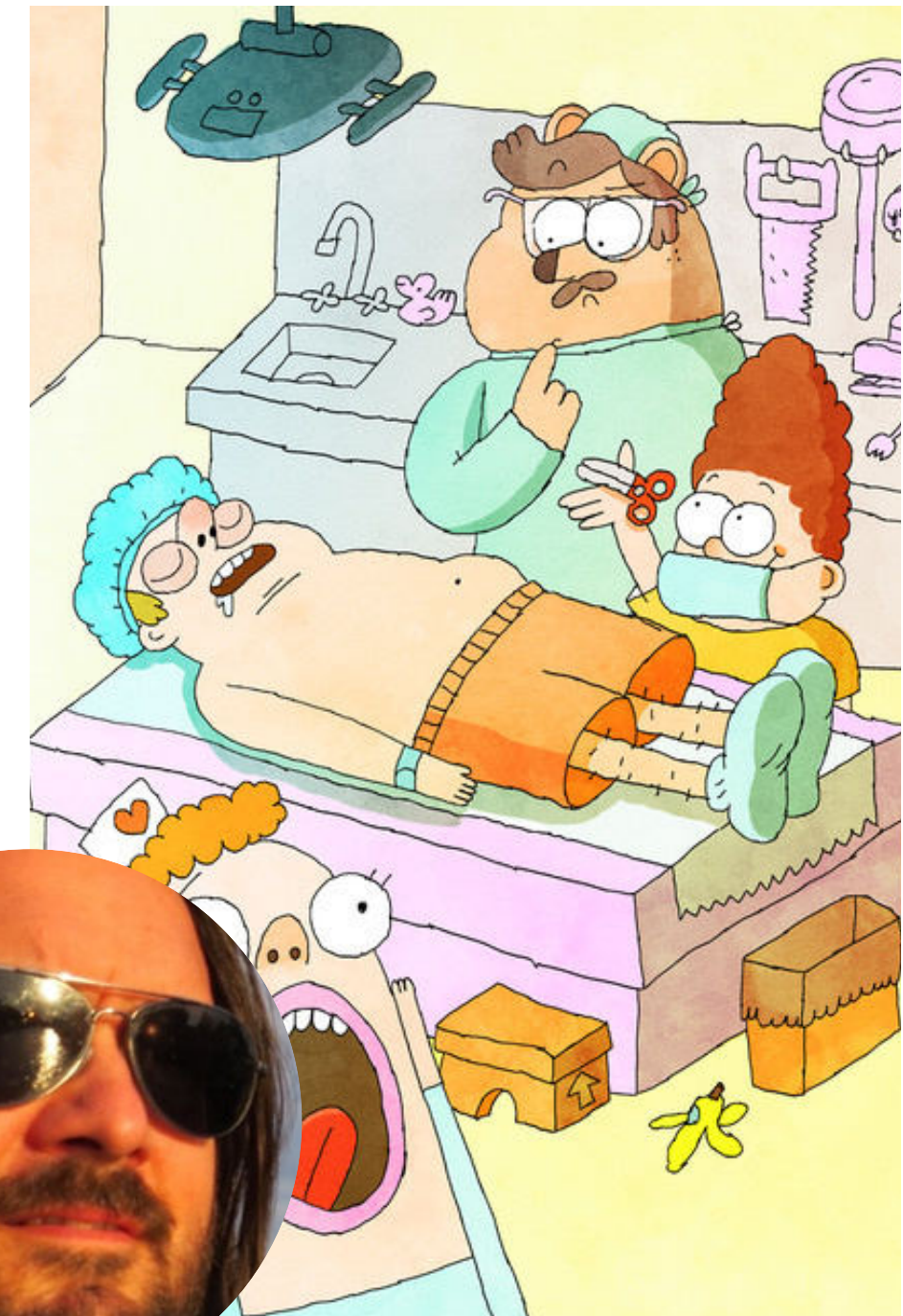
Electric clippers. A dress shirt. Sandals. A tie. Some slacks. A wig. That's all Iggy needed to make his own 'dad'. Oh, and a talking bear named Ziggy. Iggy grew up with Ziggy, who came out of the woods every day to play. They're both ten years old now. But at age ten, a bear is seven feet tall, 400 pounds and fully mature (not that there's anything mature about Ziggy!) When his fur is shaved off and he's dressed up in human clothes, Ziggy passes for a man. An odd-looking man, but a man. With his mom always working, Iggy has endless quality time with Ziggy. Having his own adult gives Iggy incredible power: the ultimate hack to infiltrating the uncharted, mysterious world of grown-ups.

Together, Iggy and Ziggy use that power to right wrongs, help the helpless and do incredibly stupid, irresponsible things together. You know, the fun stuff!

Greg Grabianski is a novelist, screenwriter and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several others of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide. A writer on BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD, 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, nodialog show for Million Volt Studios/Netflix.

All rights 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?

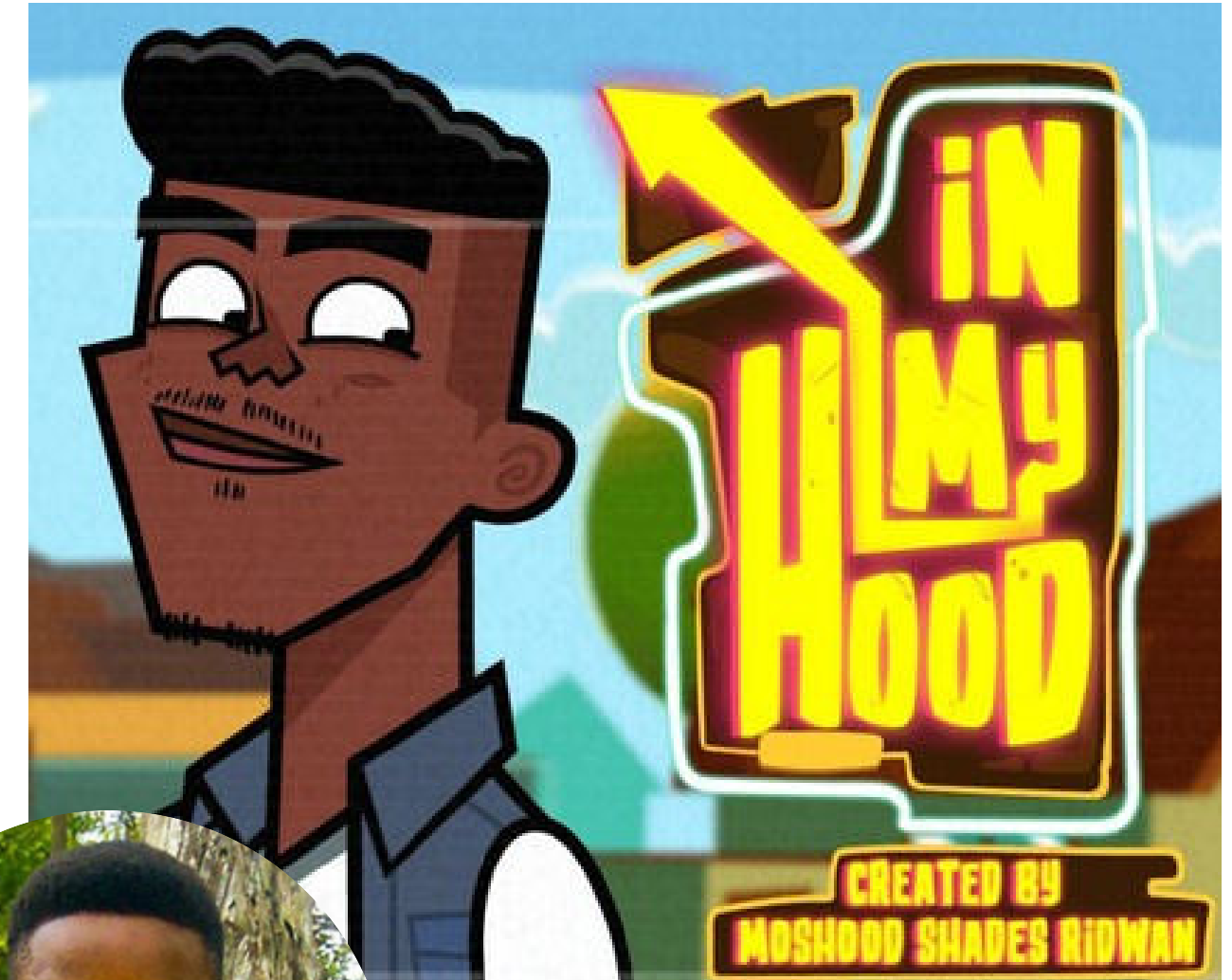
The lovely Yetunde – Science major by day, kung fu fighter by night – has enough courage for both of them. But Shades has an enemy bigger than jerky Desmond.

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.

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A BOY AND HIS DUDE

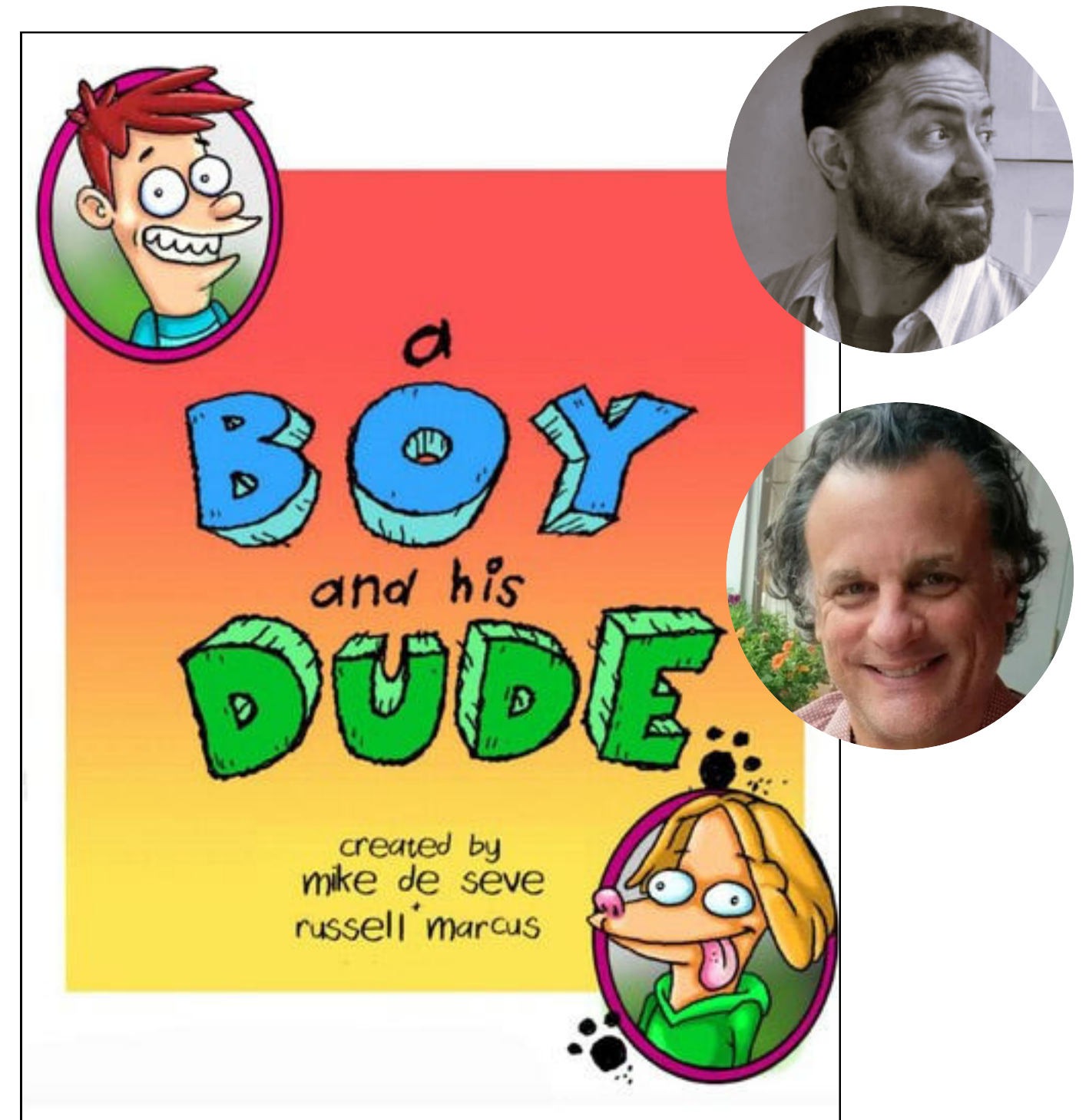
To save him, they had to SHAVE him.

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!

*cover coming soon

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.



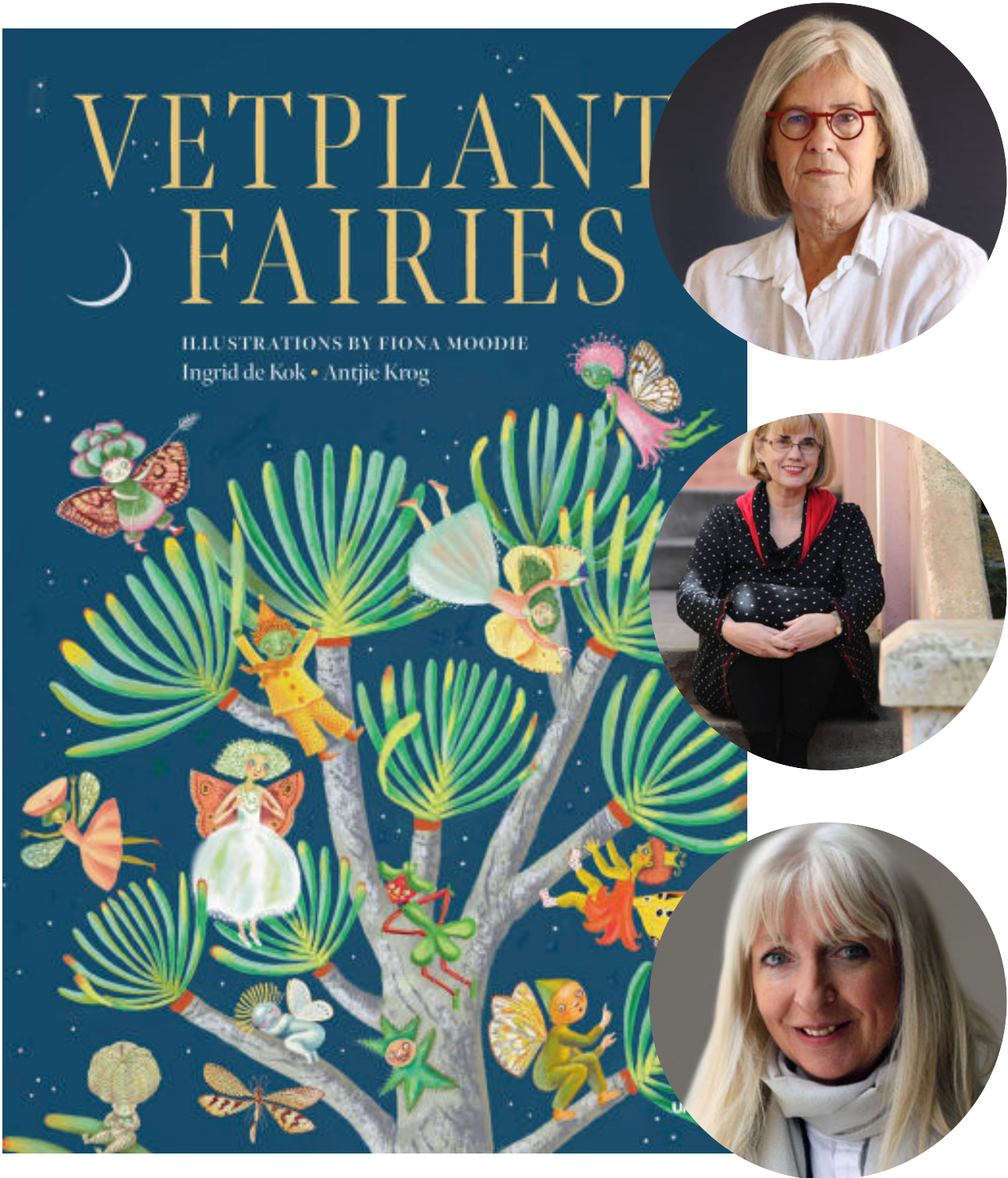
VETPLANT FAIRIES

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.



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