



THE LENNON-RITCHIE AGENCY

SUMMER LIST 2026

Representing Authors, Publishers, and Animation Studios



Penguin
Random House
South Africa



CRIME & THRILLER

DIPLOMATIC TIES	Mpho Boshego	Political/Legal Thriller
HELL OF A COUNTRY	David Cornwell	Literary Crime/Historical Fiction
DEAD IN THE WATER	Irna Van Zyl	Police Procedural

COMMERCIAL FICTION

A LOVE THAT HEALS	Cathrine Phiri	Commercial Fiction / Romance
WISANI AND THE BAFOKENG BROTHERS	Thandi Moagi	Women's Commercial Fiction
PILLOW TALK	Nivashni Nair Sukhdev	Commercial Fiction / Romance
IT'S COMPLICATED	Nivashni Nair Sukhdev	Commercial Fiction / Romance
THE THING WITH ZOLA	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Fiction
I DO... DON'T I?	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Fiction
LOVE, ZOLA	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Fiction
STIRRING THE POT	Quraisha Dawood	General Fiction

LITERARY FICTION

THE GOOD DEATH	Claire Robertson	Literary Historical Fiction
THE IMMORTALITES	Claire Robertson	Literary Historical Fiction
A STRAY SUMMER'S DAY	Janneke Siebelink	Literary Fiction
THE DOGS OF VIVO	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism/Uplit
BURIED TREASURE	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism/Uplit
GOD'S POCKET	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism/Uplit
THE NICOTINE GOSPEL	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism/Uplit
BLOOD'S INNER RHYME	Antjie Krog	Autofiction
THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE	Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu	African Gothic/Magical Realism

SPECULATIVE/HORROR/SCIFI

THE REVELATION OF BUSHY HILL	Imran Garda	Speculative Fiction
DRAW YOU IN	Jasper Bark	Historical Horror
POLTERGEIST PASSWORD	Nick Roberts	Horror Novella
HUMBUG	Luciano Marano	Christmas - themed Horror Novella
THE TRAVELERS	David M. Salkin	Scifi Thriller
LITTLE THINGS BIG	David M. Salkin	Scifi Horror
THE HAUNTING OF ASHLEY HALL	Jim D'Andrea	Coming - of - Age / Supernatural Horror
THE NIGHT CREW SERIES	Brad Ricks	Vampire Horror
A BLACKENED HEART, A BLACKENED SOUL	John Ward	Horror

SPECULATIVE/HORROR/SCIFI

DEMON DRINK	Kris Ashton	Comedy Horror
SOUL MIRROR	Edmund Stone	Psychological Horror
BAYOU WHISPERS	RB Wood	Supernatural Horror
THE EXORCIST'S HOUSE	Nick Roberts	Occult Horror
THE HEADLESS BOY	Kelli Owen	Horror

NON - FICTION

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU	Joy Watson	Narrative/Relationships/Memoir
THE THREE COMMA CLUB	Gus Silber and Jonathan Ancer	Business/Current Affairs
UNLEASHED	Caitlin Venniker	Memoir
A PAWFECT LIFE	Dion Chang	Pet - Parent Handbook/How - To
BOSS YOUR MONEY	Nokuhle Kumalo	Personal Finance
DAMN GOOD FOOD	Fehmida "Fehmz" Jordaan	Cookery
PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS	Justin Fox	Narrative Non - Fiction
LADY ANNE: A CHRONICLE IN VERSE	Antjie Krog	Political Poetry
SHIFT HAPPENS	Richard Sutton	Self - Help/Personal Development/Practical Advice
DEEP BLUE: WHY WE LOVE THE SEA	Veruska de Vita	Nature & Wellness
RAISING A YOUNG ACTOR	Benita Rixton	Parenting/Guide Book/How - To
THE SHADOW STATE	Jeff Wicks	True Crime
THE PROFILER DIARIES 1&2	G�rard Labuschagne	True Crime
OUT OF THIS WORLD AND INTO THE NEXT	Adriana Marais	Narrative Non - fiction
PATIENT 12A	Lesedi Molefi	Memoir/Mental Health



KIDLIT

A QUIET PLACE	Ashleigh Heyns	Picture Book
I CAN BE... SERIES	Ashleigh Heyns	Board Book
THANDO GOES TO THE SEA	Thandi Xaba; Vian Oelofsen	Picture Book
THANDO AND THE MAGIC WINDOW	Thandi Xaba; Vian Oelofsen	Picture Book
WHEN I'M READY	Kat Cameron	Picture Book
INTERVILLE	Etienne Fourie	Middle Grade Fantasy
THE FERAL	Greg Grabianski	YA Graphic Novel
A YEAR IN MY LIFE	Louis Pretorius	LGBTQ /Coming of Age YA
THE NEW GIRL CODE	Niki Smit	Contemporary Middle Grade
SHOW AND TELL	Marleen Lammers; Bronwyn Webb	Picture Book
PUMPKIN FINDS HER QUEEN	Bianca Flanders; Zinelda McDonald	Picture Book
PUMPKIN FINDS HER KINDNESS	Bianca Flanders; Zinelda McDonald	Picture Book
PUMPKIN FINDS HER BEAT	Bianca Flanders; Zinelda McDonald	Picture Book
THE WITCHES' WAY	Jenna Bass; Chinelo Onwualo	Middle Grade Graphic Novel

FICTION



DIPLOMATIC TIES

A gripping story of power, ambition, and the price of desire.
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2026)

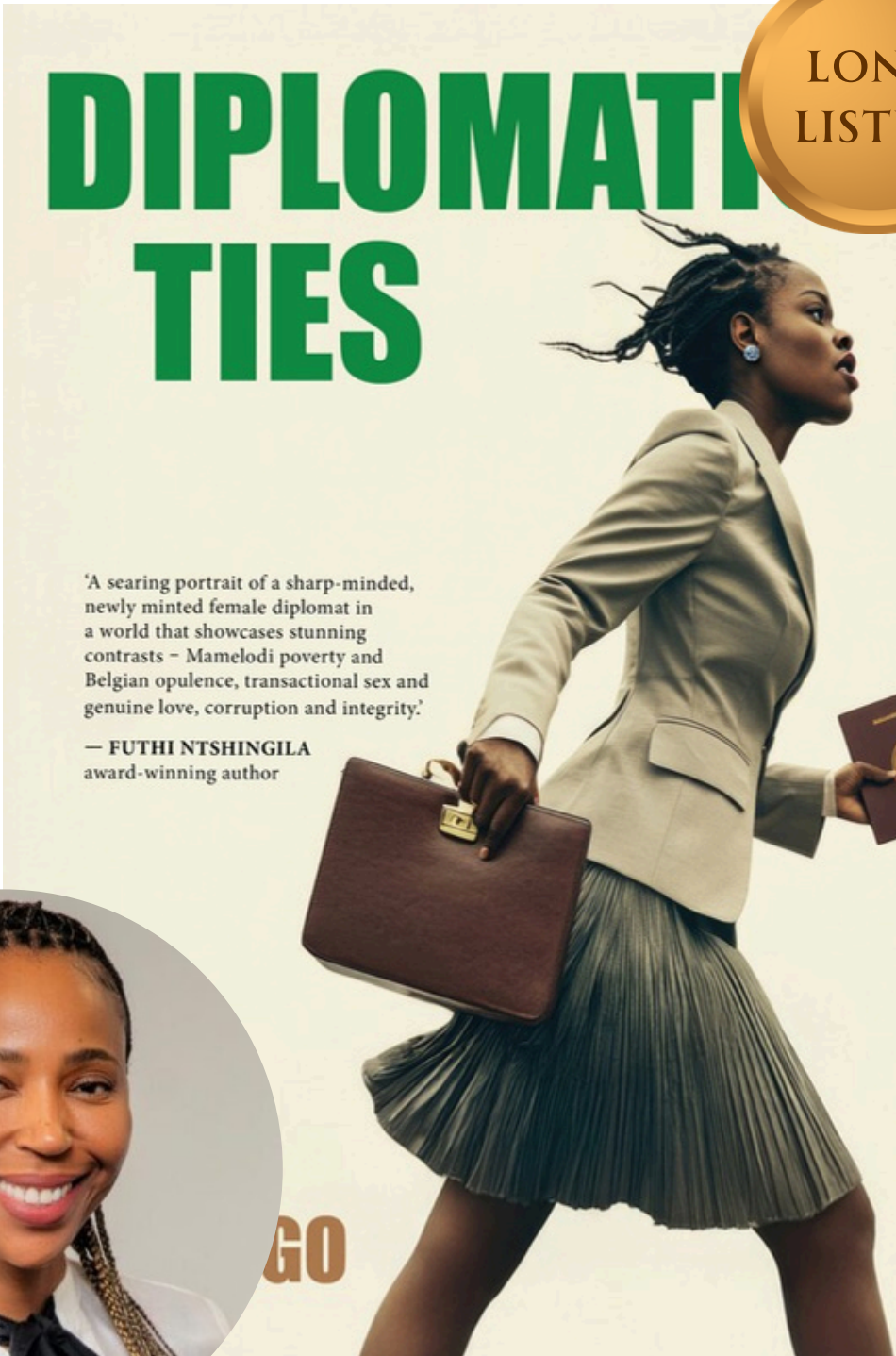
From the bustling township of Mamelodi to the heart of European diplomacy in Brussels, Mbali Langa has fought for every opportunity – and sacrificed more than she cares to admit. As a rising diplomat with a sharp mind and an unwavering ambition, she is no stranger to the delicate balance of power and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

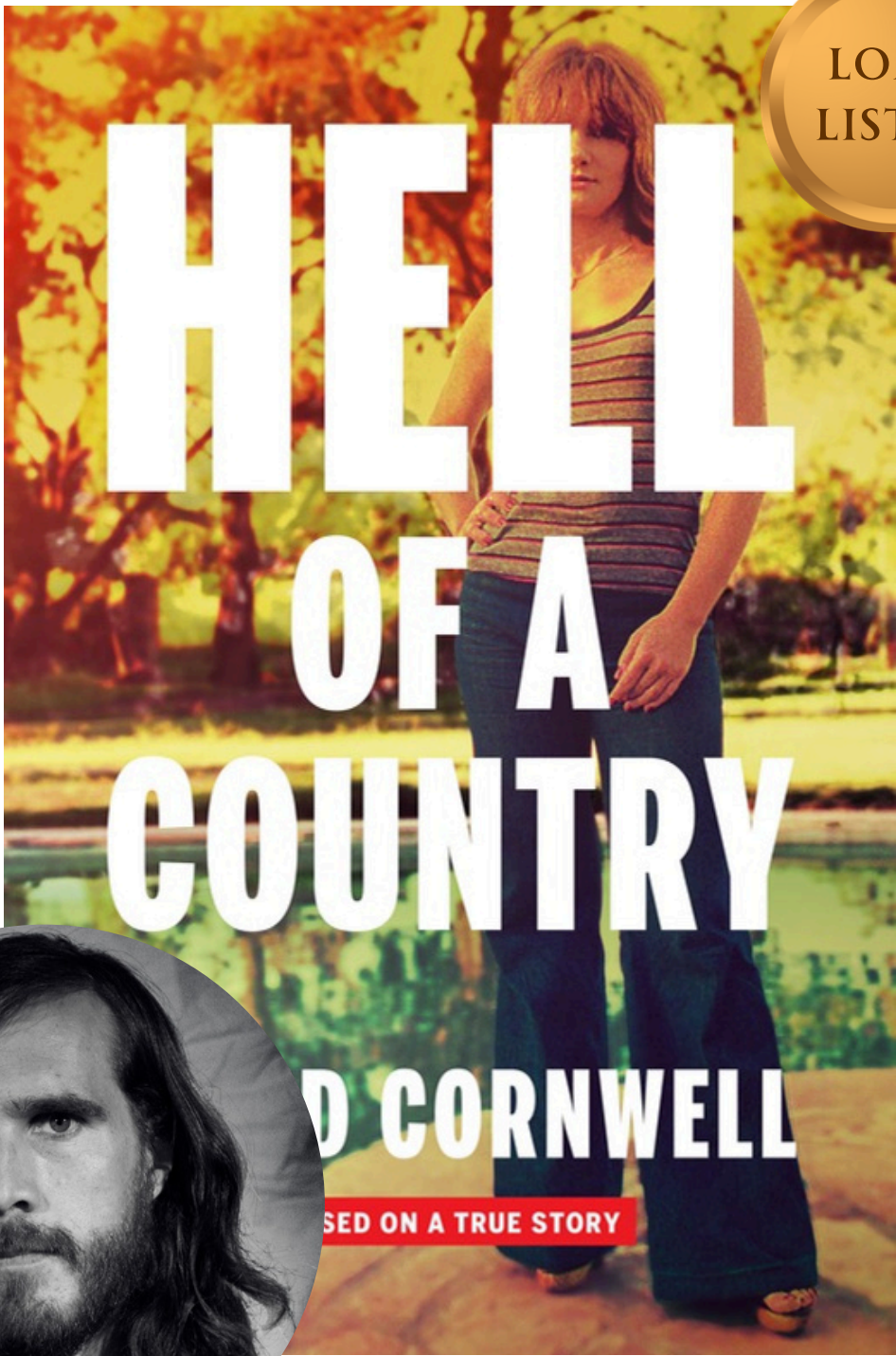
In 1970s South Africa, desire and desperation have bloody consequences.
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2026)

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 prothesis 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



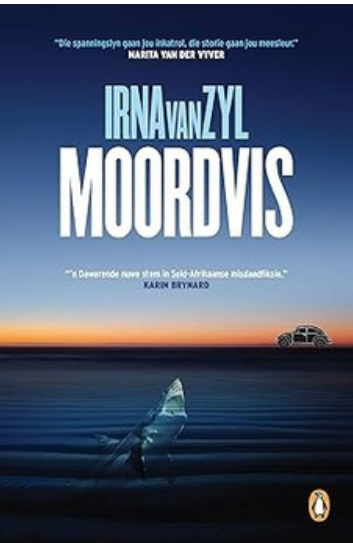
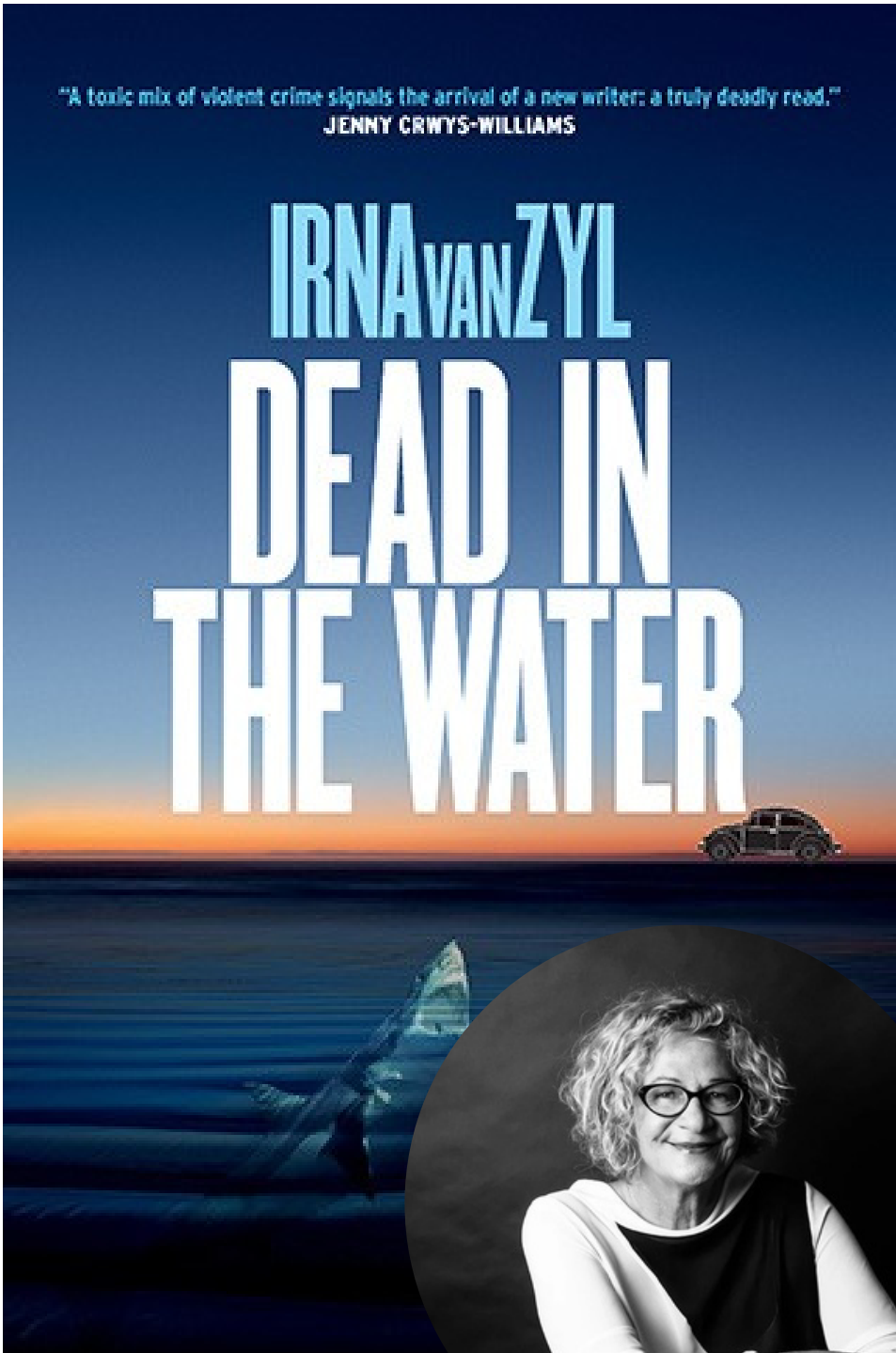
DEAD IN THE WATER

A police procedural set in the world of shark-cage diving

Detective Storm van der Merwe is walking her dog on the beach when she makes a gruesome discovery: the body of a young journalist – missing a limb. For the residents of Grootbaai, corpses are bad for business: thousands of tourists from all over the world flock to this coastal town to shark-cage dive with its famous great whites. Storm is desperate to investigate the matter, but she’s been banished from the field to a dreary back office. She’s also carless after a tow-truck driver – an attractive one at that – crashed his truck into her Beetle. Meanwhile, in Cape Town, Storm’s former colleague Andreas Moerdyk is having problems of his own while investigating the death of a famous Springbok rugby player whose car was also hit by a tow truck. Is Storm’s car accident in some way related to the sports star’s fatal collision? And is there a link between the journalist’s death and stories of abalone poaching in Grootbaai? As Storm searches for answers, she realises that everyone’s a suspect and the stakes are deadly.

Irna van Zyl is the author of the popular thrillers DEAD IN THE WATER, DEATH CUP and 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 Cape Town and Hermanus.

Rights available: All except SA (PRH); Film/TV (Multichoice, Afrikaans language only); Bulgarian (Aviana Publishing)



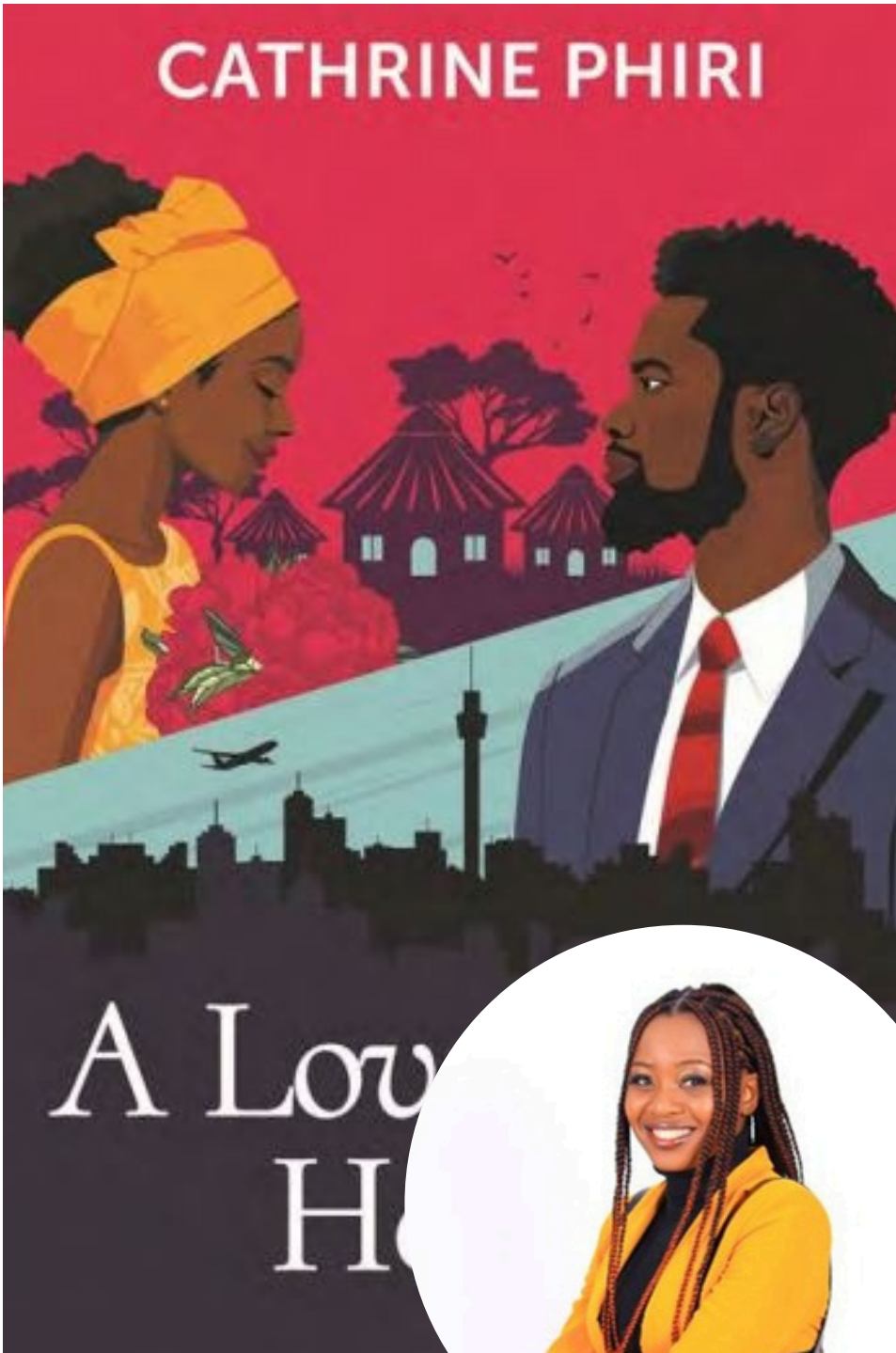
A LOVE THAT HEALS

In the City of Gold, destiny awaits.

Thandaza Nyathi was abandoned as a baby in Mamaolo, south of Polokwane, and raised by a woman she calls her grandmother. Life has never been easy for them and Thandaza’s dream is to build a better life and take care of her gogo. So she decides to move to Johannesburg, where new opportunities await. When Thandaza arrives in the restless City of Gold, she is confronted by rejection and empty promises. But then fate intervenes. One morning in Yeoville she meets Steven, a successful restaurateur and businessman, who seems to epitomise everything she’s ever prayed for. Set between Joburg and Polokwane, this deeply moving novel is a story about love that heals, faith that endures and two hearts destined to find each other.

Cathrine Phiri is the author of several captivating novels, including HIS DESTROYER, MARRIED AT 16, BESTOWED BY THE GODS, and ZENDAYA. She was born in Bulawayo and lives in Gauteng. A passionate storyteller, she crafts tales that transport readers to new worlds and unforgettable adventures.

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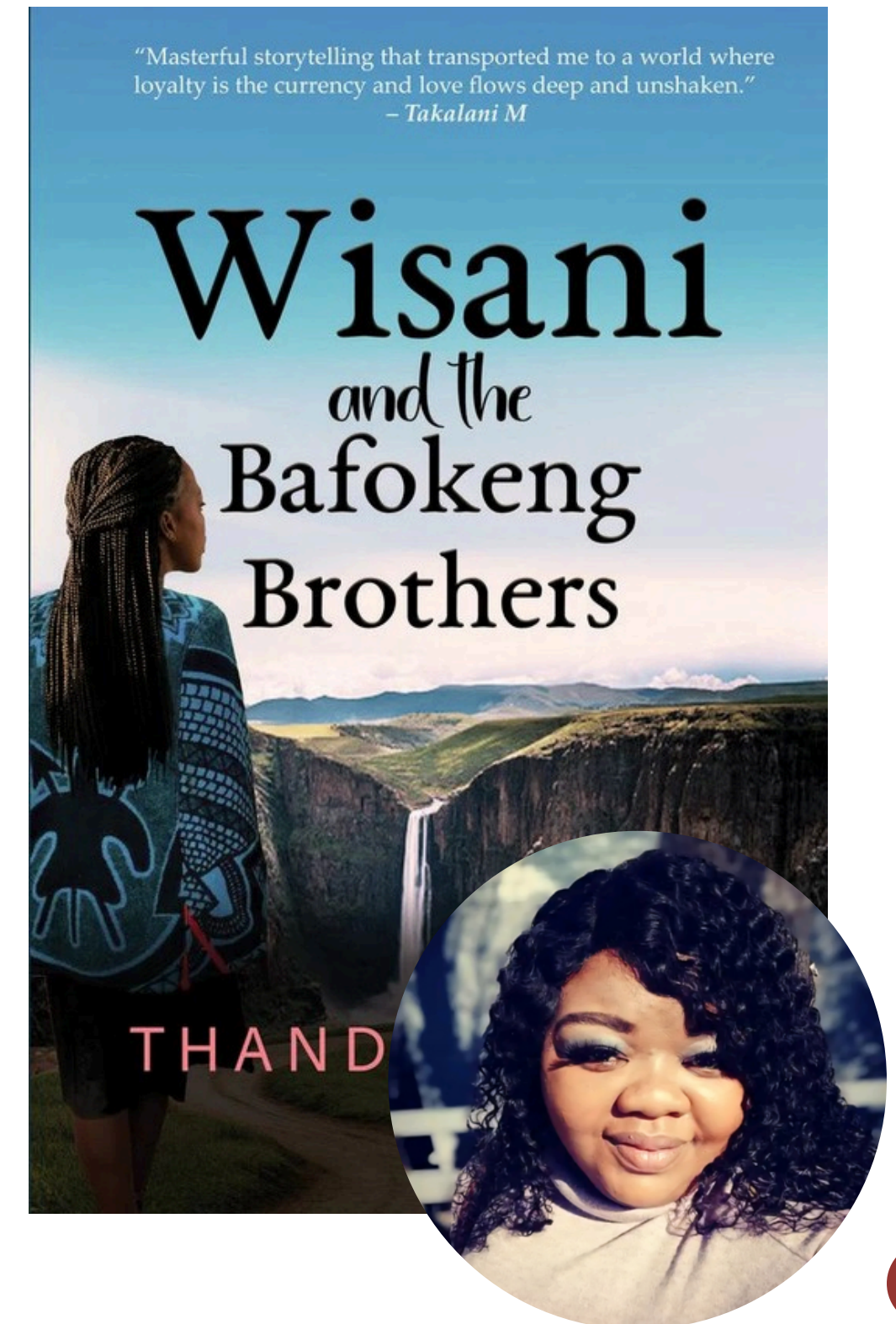
WISANI AND THE BAFOKENG BROTHERS

An irresistible connection. An impossible choice.

Wisani Maluleke is studying Sociology at Wits, juggling three jobs while caring for her bedridden mother and her younger, allergy-prone brother. Life in Soweto has made her tough, but she's stretched to breaking point, until her university thesis leads her into the path of the Bafokeng brothers, heirs to the feared and legendary Marashea underworld. At the heart of this brotherhood is Mohapi Mofokeng: sullen, commanding, and dangerous. When Wisani crosses his path, what begins as a desperate attempt at research pulls her into a world of secrets, blood loyalty, and shadows that never die. Between survival, love, and the weight of her family's struggles, Wisani must decide whether to walk away, or stand with the brothers who could destroy her or save her. A story of resilience, and the clash between survival and desire. Set in Soweto and Lesotho.

Thandi Moagi was born and raised in Soweto, where she spent much of her childhood with her grandmother before moving to Lawley. She matriculated from Ennerdale Secondary School and worked in retail for many years. Thandi has built a loyal Facebook following thanks to her emotionally rich stories that blend love, suspense, and South African culture.

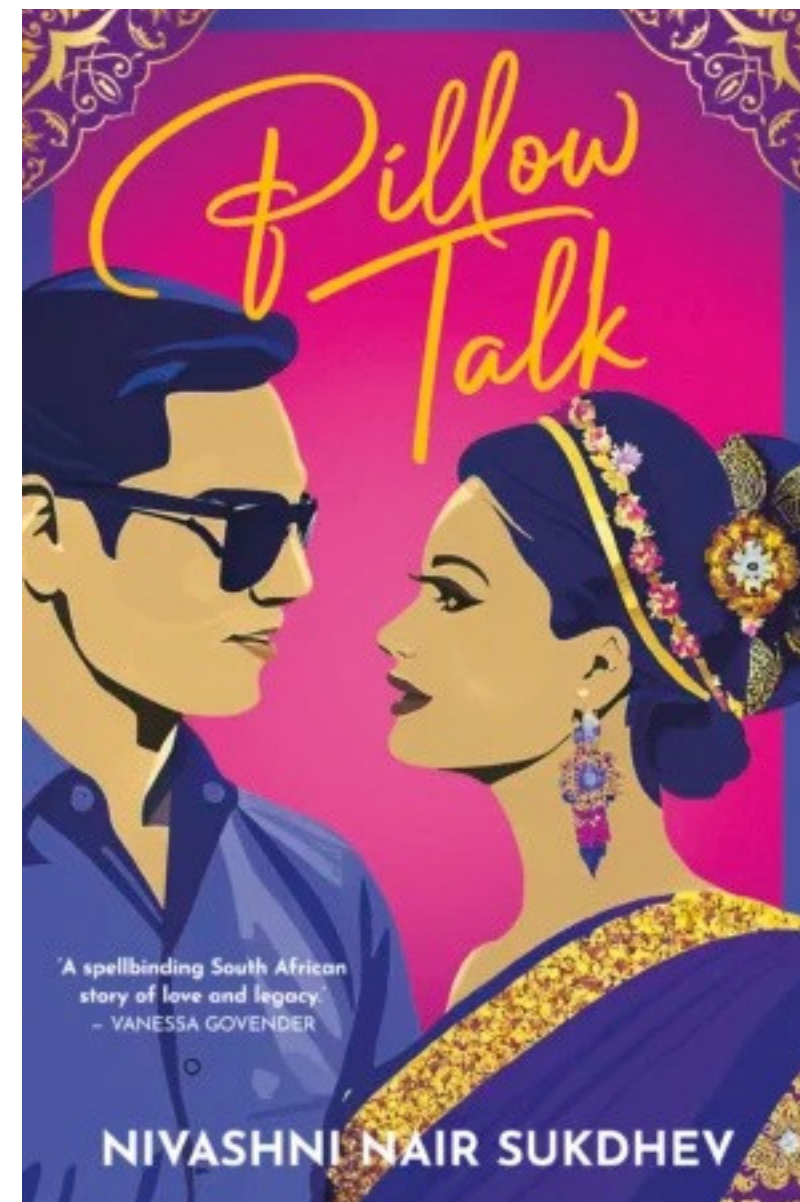
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PILLOW TALK

It's casual... right?

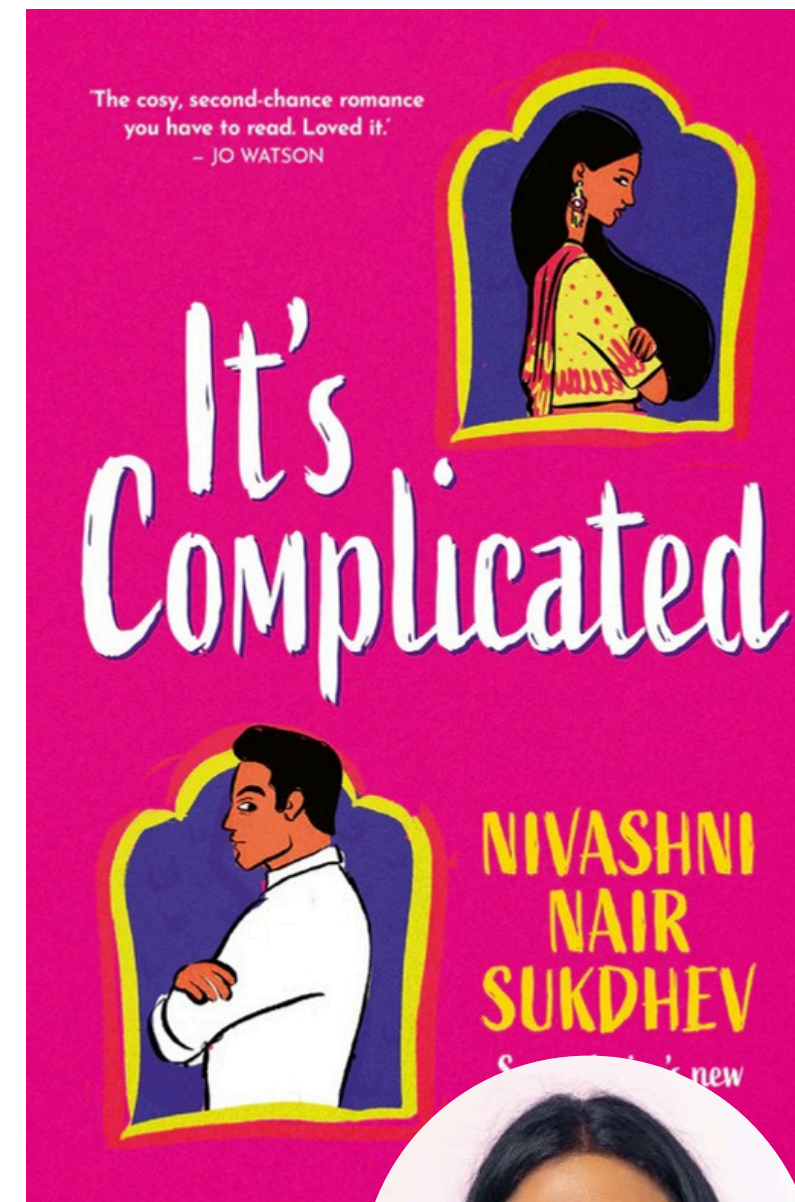
Shona Shah's life is chaotic. She is shackled to a family obligation, has a casual relationship with childhood friend Senthil Aiyer, unfulfilled dreams and a heap of clothes at the bottom of her cupboard that she doesn't have time to hang up. In a bold move, Shona walks out of her family's tailoring business to forge her own path. But the beautiful bridal designer soon realises that, to move forward, she has to look at her family's past. Shona's journey of self-discovery is a whirlwind of humour and heartache as she learns to accept that her 'no pillow talk' rule with Senthil can be broken. Sen discovers that sometimes the greatest love stories can unfold right in the middle of the 'chaos' he has always tried to avoid. This is a modern story about love and friendship and embracing the unpredictable journey of life. PILLOW TALK is the first of a series set in the fictional town of Rally in the exotic, subtropical province of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.



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IT'S COMPLICATED

Love. Secrets. Second Chances.



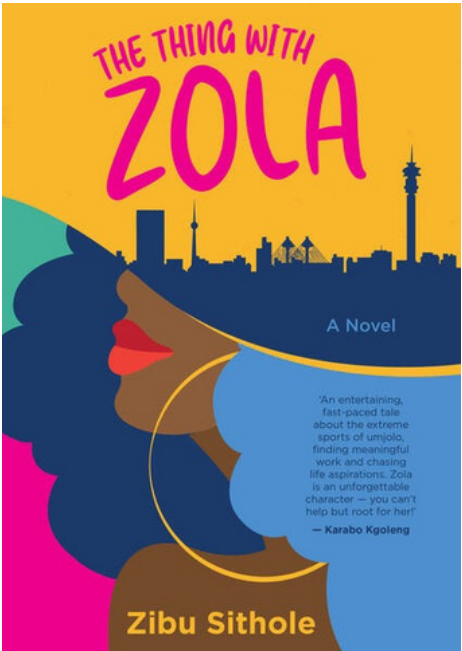
Nivashni Nair Sukdhev is back with another enchanting story set in the little town of Rally in KwaZulu-Natal. After walking away from the big city and an international modelling career, Kaavi Archary is beginning to find an inner peace. She is making friends, volunteering in a programme for troubled teenage girls and relishing a fresh start in life. But she has a secret: her estranged husband, Neel. So when Neel shows up in Rally with divorce papers, Kaavi's life is thrown into chaos. He says he's here to end things – but what he really wants is to win her back. Beneath the heartbreak lies a chemistry that neither of them can resist. As Kaavi faces the truth about her past and her family, she and Neel must decide if they can trust each other again. IT'S COMPLICATED is a heartwarming tale about finding your way home – and discovering the quiet miracle of true love. This is the second book in the Rally romance series and can be read as a standalone story.



THE THING WITH ZOLA — I DO... DON'T I? — LOVE, ZOLA

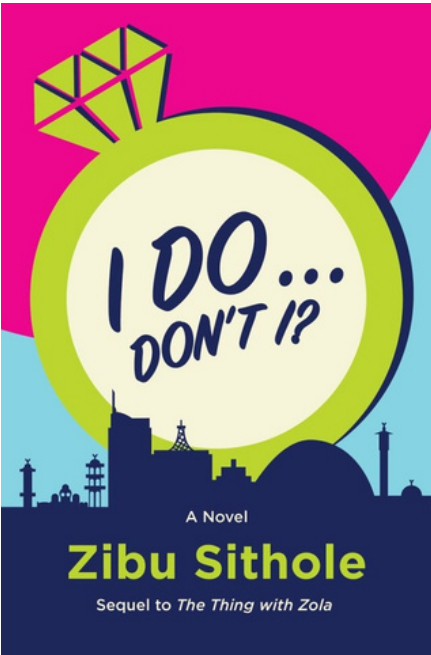
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2024)
Longlisted for the SALA Award for Best Novel (2024)

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.



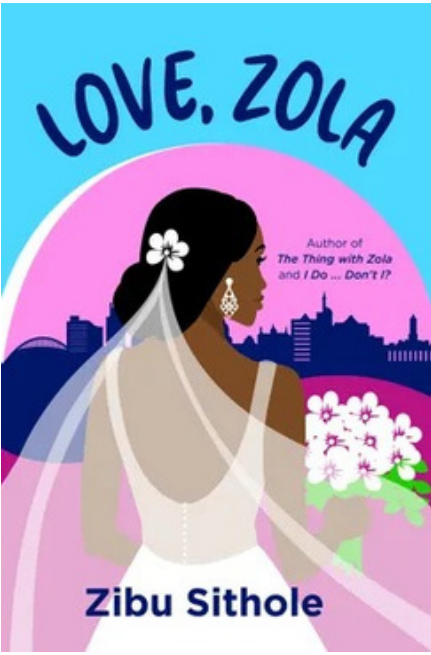
Zola is hurtling towards marriage. It's what she wants. Right?

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.



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?



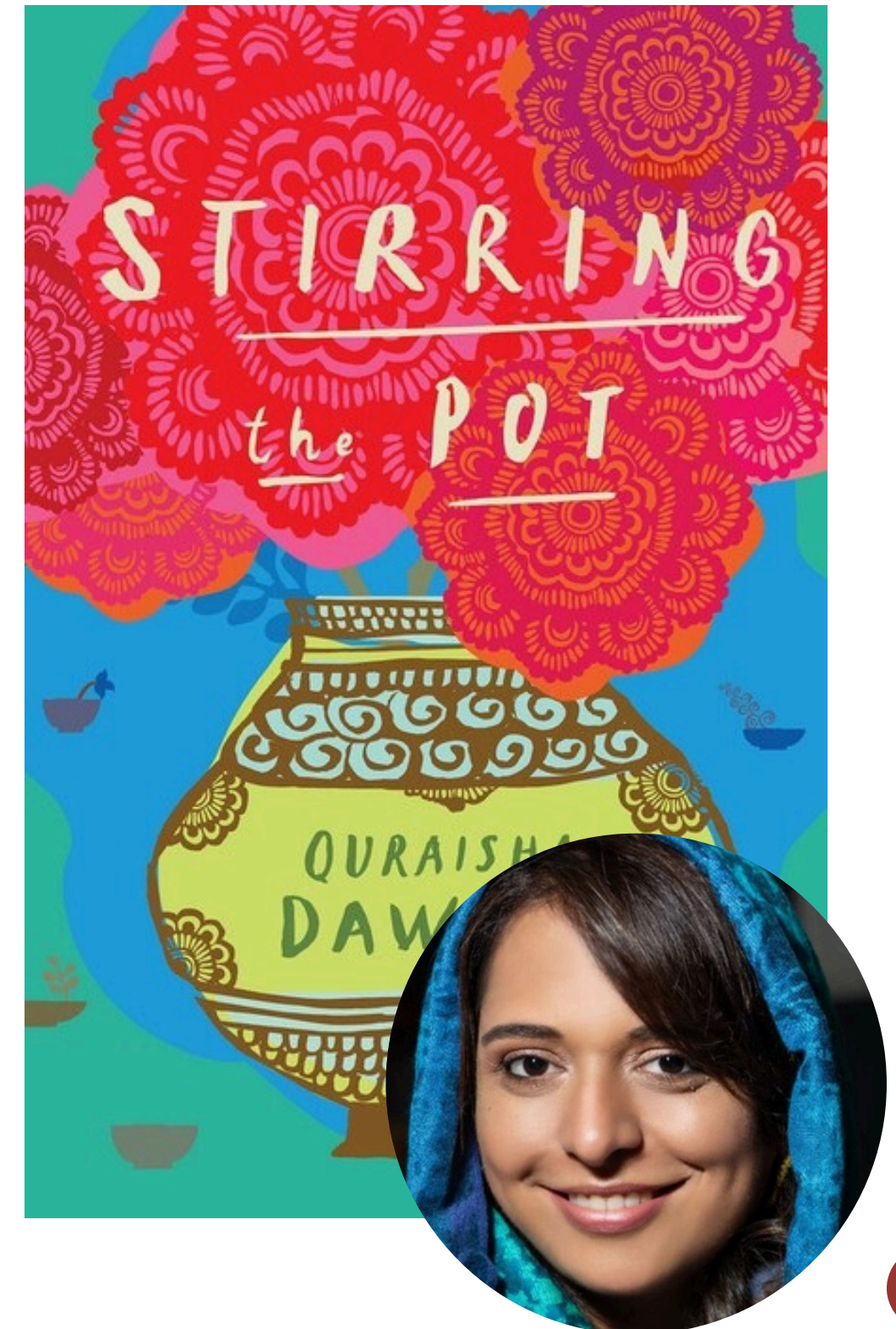
STIRRING THE POT

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2023)

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

Quraisha Dawood is a South African sociologist and writer. In 2002, she published an anthology of poems entitled *Jewels of Faith: Poems for Muslim Youth*. She has since been published in *Reader's Digest*, *Irtiqa* magazine, *Al-Qalam*, *Al-Ummah*, the *Sunday Tribune*, *Riding the Samosa Express* and *Saffron*, as well as academic journals. In 2020, she published *Almost Me*, an autobiographical account of her journey through miscarriage, postpartum depression and motherhood. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is currently the research manager of a private higher education institution. *Stirring the Pot* is her first novel.

Rights available: All except SA (PRH); Arabic (Dar Al-Hallaj Publishing)



THE GOOD DEATH

A medieval murder mystery.

In the spring of 1237 in Lowland Flanders, the beguine Mechtild is called to the bishop's palace. She travels with no-nonsense Wintha because they must always be in pairs. As they near the palace they pass a road accident: an ox has trampled and killed a carter. The ox is arrested for murder. At the palace, waiting for an audience, are a dealer in mummified remains and a woman bringing her son to join the choir. The bishop tells Mechtild he wants her to help him die well. Helping people die well is what she does at her beguinage. She finds the bishop immensely appealing and readily agrees. But the very next morning the bishop is found dead. He has been stabbed, twice, in the back.

Claire Robertson For 30 years, award-winning journalist Claire Robertson has reported from South Africa, the US and the USSR. She 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, as well as 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 Sydney.

All rights available except Southern African (Painted Dog Press)

'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*

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THE IMMORTALITES

*In frontier country, travelling in a van containing a mysterious diva, a young woman must find her feet.
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2026)*

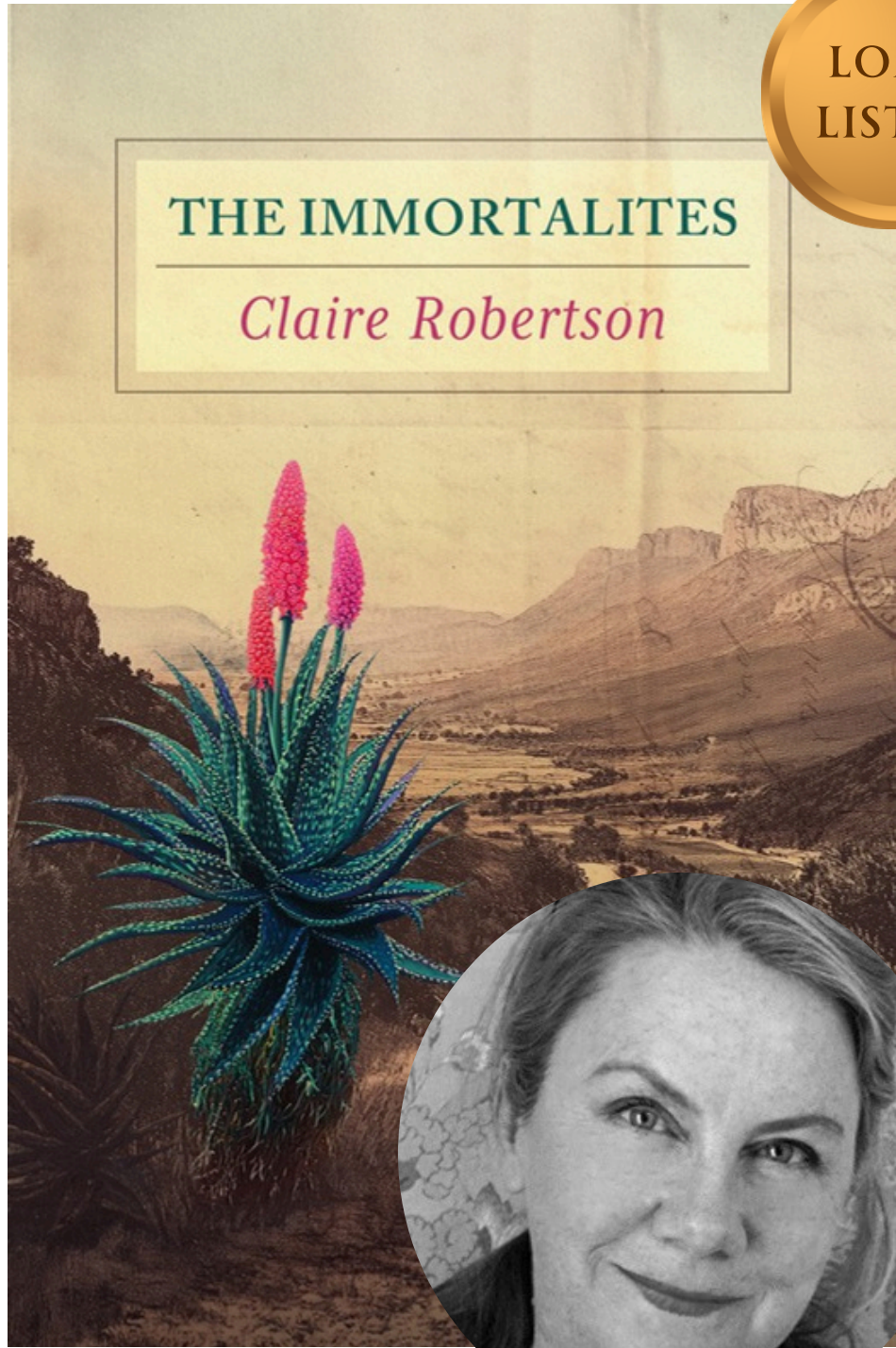
The new novel from the winner of the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize.

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



A STRAY SUMMER'S DAY

Does the past define you, or do you define the past?

Cape Town, South Africa, 1989. 31-year-old Camille makes her yearly visit to the grave of her mother, the famous poet Astrid Viljoen. Camille is now the same age her mother was when she walked into the sea one winter morning and disappeared from her life. As the moment approaches that she will have lived longer than her mother did, she feels her presence more strongly than ever. Who was Astrid, and who has Camille become in her absence? Douglas, South Africa, 1933. Astrid is born in a small village on the Orange River. She grows up in a world of rules and rituals. As her life and the country change and tensions rise, Astrid seeks solace in language. She becomes a writer, marries, and has children, but she is increasingly entangled in loss, a longing for freedom, and the unrest of a divided country.

A Stray Summer Day is a gripping and inventive portrait of Ingrid Jonker, the iconic South African poet whose life was marked by brilliance, rebellion, and tragedy. Quoted by Nelson Mandela in 1994, Jonker became a symbol of resistance. This novel reinvents her legacy in a voice that is both urgent and unforgettable.

Janneke Siebelink (b. 1974) made her debut with her novel *SOMETIMES IT SNOWS IN APRIL* in 2022. A year later, she published *WE'LL SKIP DECEMBER*, in which she told of her touching and instructive encounters in a hospice where she cooks once a week.

Rights Available: All excl. Dutch (Ambo Anthos) and Southern African (Dryad Press)

‘This is impressive, a story about birth, death, war and smouldering questions, told in a restrained, precise and, yes, even calm way. Janneke Siebelink can do it.’ – ARJAN PETERS

‘Ingrid Jonker is rightly regarded as “the South African Sylvia Plath”: beautiful poetry, intense romances, a life cut too short, and a self-chosen death... For Jonker, all of this was intensified by the Apartheid against which she fought with both words and actions, not sparing herself. Inspired by that fateful struggle, Janneke Siebelink wrote a moving and captivating book.’ – TOM LANOYE



THE DOGS OF VIVO

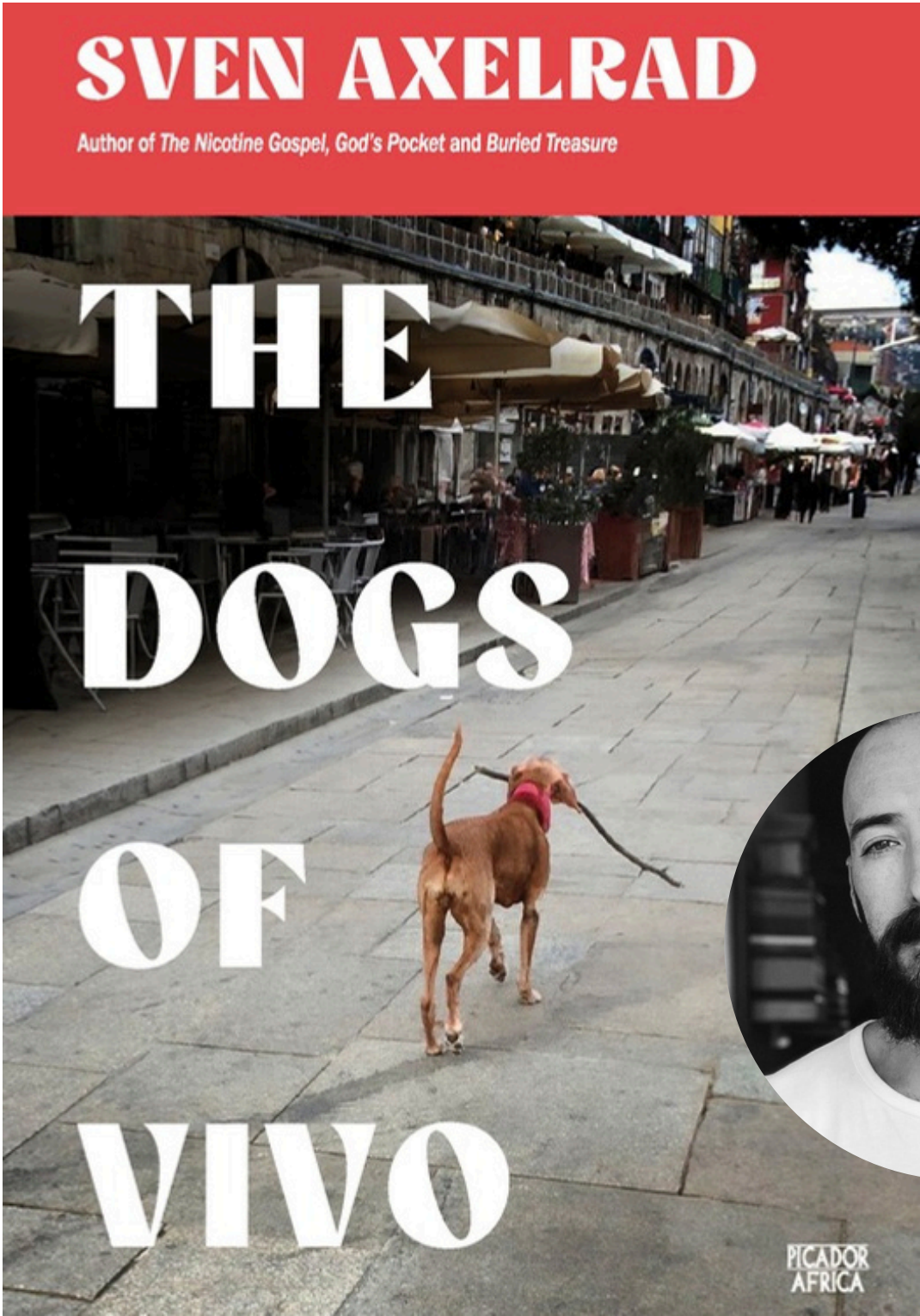
Everything happens for a reason.

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

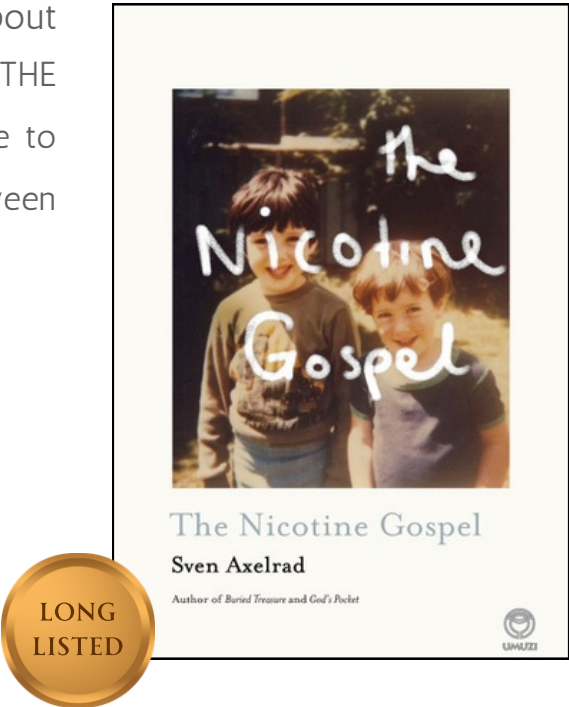


THE NICOTINE GOSPEL — BURIED TREASURE

"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."

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2026)

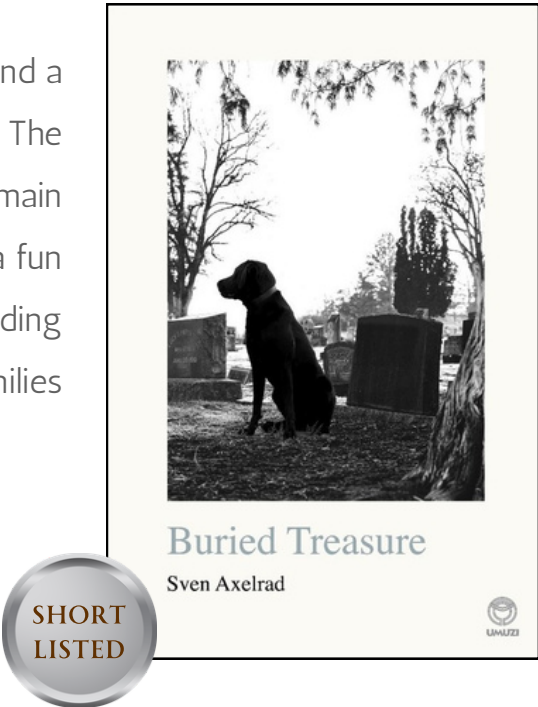
In 1987, two young brothers, Nate and Danny, must find a way to break through to their distant father, Esben, after a lightning strike kills their mother. To deal with the loss of his wife and make sense of a world seemingly governed by chance, Esben creates the Nicotine Gospel – an eccentric framework 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.



BURIED TREASURE — GOD'S POCKET

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

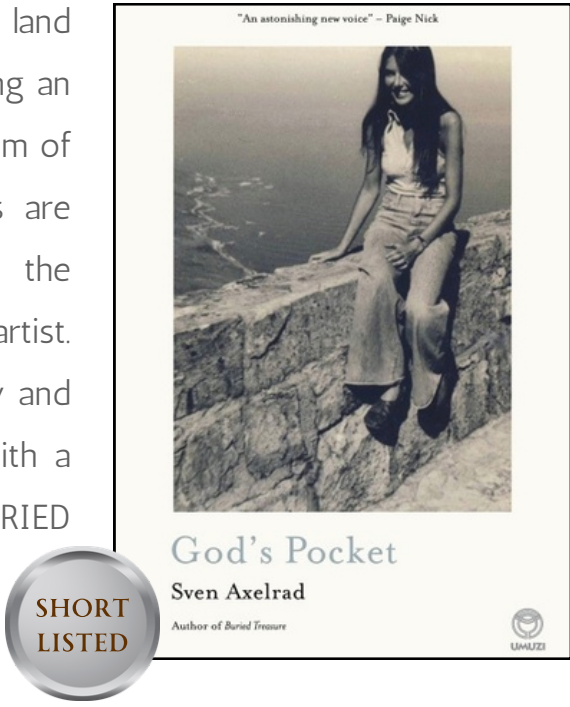
In the town of Vivo, the only cemetery is run by old Mateus and his dog, God. Mateus's eyes aren't so good any more, which is why he has been burying bodies in the wrong graves and is also why he accidentally trips on a young homeless girl while he is out walking one day with God. On a whim, Mateus decides to appoint the girl as his apprentice. Novo is determined to reorganise the Treasury, but she will have to hurry: buried in the wrong graves, divorced from their names, the ghosts of Vivo are accumulating, unable to proceed to the afterlife without knowing who they are. Also, someone, or something, dangerous seems to be on the streets looking for Novo. BURIED TREASURE is an Up Lit themed exploration of identity, an adventure which explores what our names mean to us and who we are without them - defined and obscured as we are by love, sexual orientation, gender expectation, and hope. The story is erudite but full of fun and a heady dose of Magical Realism. The strong female protagonist is the main focus of the narrative but there is a fun cast of supporting characters, including disgruntled ghosts, pigeons, families and even the town of Vivo itself.



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

Shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize (2025)

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.



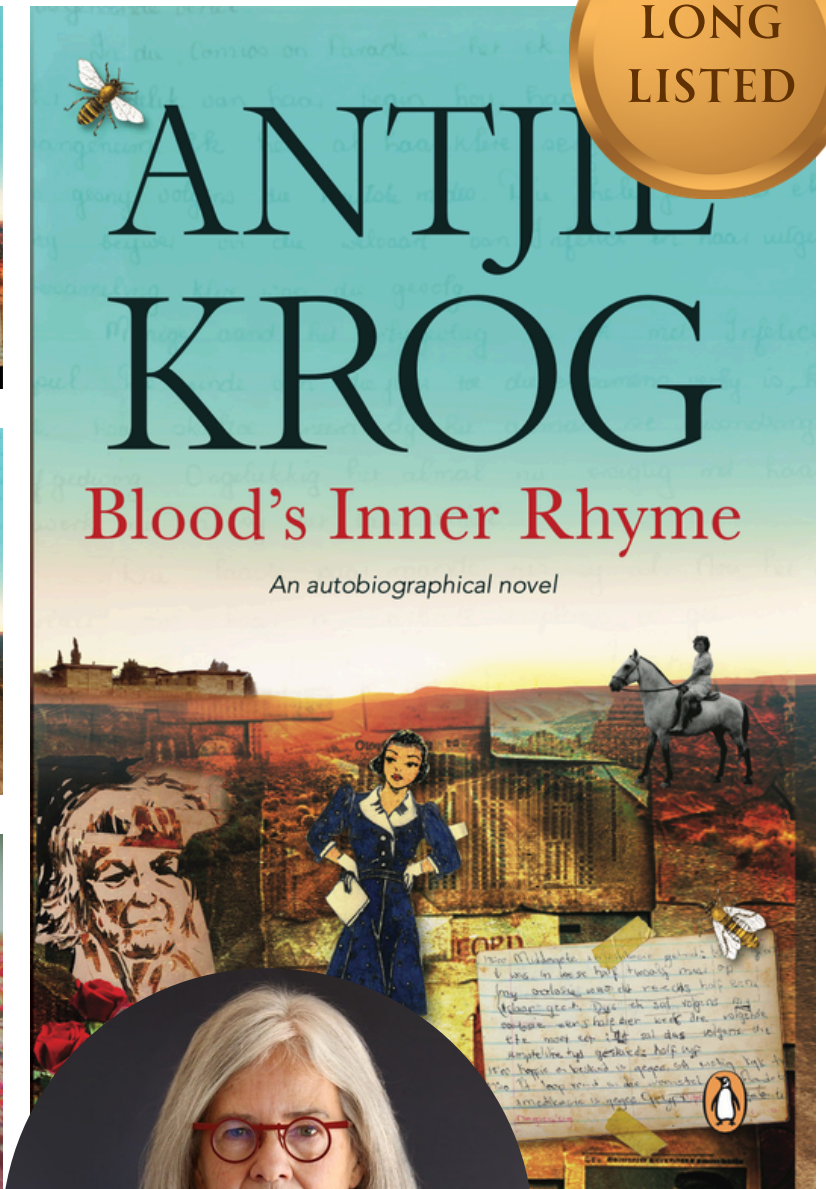
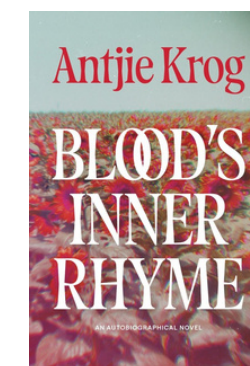
BLOOD'S INNER RHYME

A moving meditation on Mother/Daughter relationships by world renowned poet, Antjie Krog.
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non-Fiction Prize (2026)

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



THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE

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

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

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

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

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

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



SPECULATIVE / HORROR / SCI-FI



THE REVELATION OF BUSHY HILL

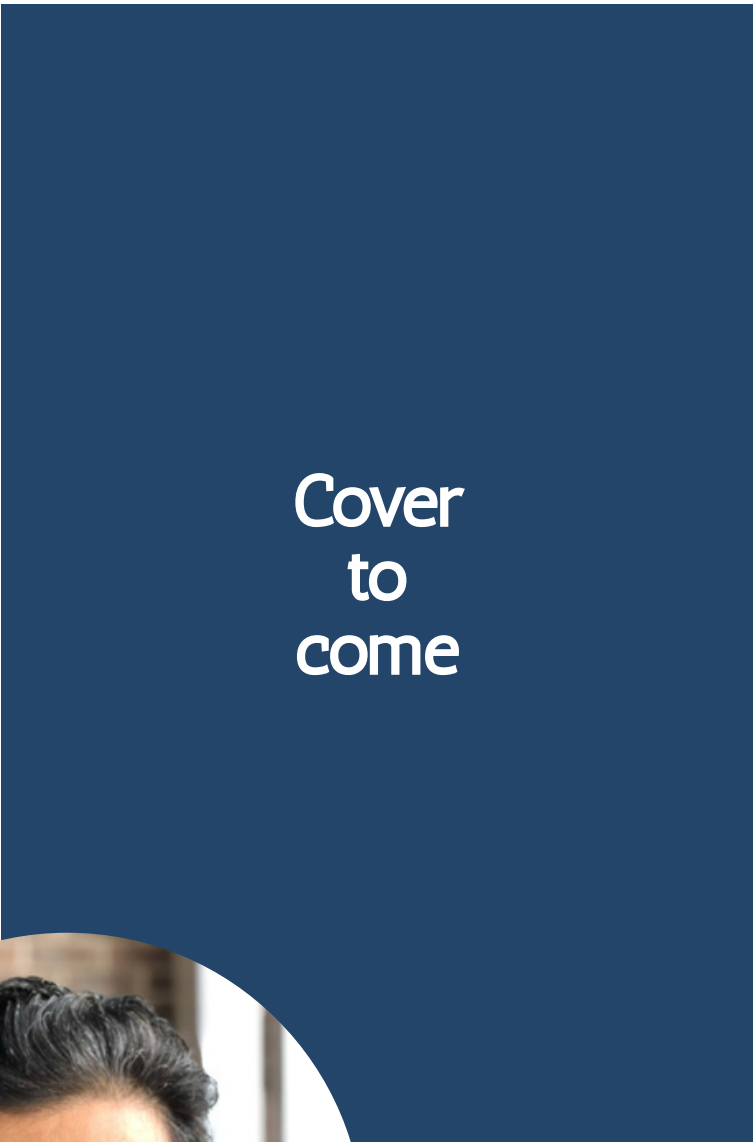
In an AI world cut off from itself, fighting for a cause is the most human thing.

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.

All rights available

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



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.

LRA handling translation rights and Film/TV for Crystal Lake Publishing



POLTERGEIST PASSWORD

One last episode. Three people missing.

A reporter presents the unedited transcript of the final episode of the Broadcasts from the Grave podcast in which three hosts test an urban legend known as "Poltergeist Password." Whether it's real or an elaborate hoax, three people remain missing. You be the judge.

DARK TIDE 20 takes you on a terrifying journey through some of the most unsettling myths and folklore, where terror lurks in the shadows and urban legends come alive in the most horrific ways. Prepare for twists, fear, and truths you may not want to know.

A lifelong storyteller, **Nick Roberts** began writing and illustrating children's books in elementary school, grew into screenplay writing in high school, and then transitioned into short stories and novels. He is currently an English teacher by day and author by night. His debut horror novel, ANATHEMA, was published by J Ellington Ashton Press in 2020 and won the 2020-2021 Horror Authors Guild Award for Debut Novel of the Year. Nick now resides in South Carolina with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Keagan and Cora. He enjoys spending time with his family, weightlifting, and advocating for people in recovery from substance abuse after having graduated from Recovery Point West Virginia in 2012.

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HUMBUG

A terrifying new take on the most famous ghost story of all time.

Sometimes, the ghosts of Christmas past don't come to save you...they come to collect.

From award-winning author Luciano Marano comes HUMBUG—a gruesome, noir-infused reimagining of A Christmas Carol that blends supernatural horror, crime thriller, and psychological suspense into one unforgettable holiday nightmare.

In modern-day Seattle, Detective Stuart (Scrooge) Caine is a jaded homicide cop on the edge of burnout. Every Christmas brings another murder, but this year's case is different. A brilliant psychopath—dubbed "Humbug" by the press—has made a tradition of killing an entire family every December 25th. With the investigation going cold and his career slipping away, Scrooge receives a visitation on Christmas Eve that shatters his skepticism: the ghost of his former partner, Marley, and three monstrous spirits—manifestations of history's most notorious unsolved killers: Jack the Ripper, Zodiac, and The Cleveland Torso Murderer.

As the line between nightmare and reality blurs, Scrooge is forced to confront his past, his sins, and the darkness waiting for him on Christmas morning. HUMBUG is a chilling holiday horror novella—a macabre fusion of ghost story, police procedural, and psychological redemption tale—perfect for fans of A Christmas Ghost Story, Candy Cain Kills, and Hark! The Herald Angels Scream.

Luciano Marano is an award-winning writer, journalist, and photographer. He is the author of HUMBUG, GARGOYLE SAFARI, the werewolf novella trilogy THE AMBUSH MOON CYCLE, and numerous works of short fiction appearing in anthologies such as Year's Best Hardcore Horror and The Best New Weird Horror, among others, as well as Nightscript, PseudoPod, Chthonic Matter Quarterly, and Chilling Tales for Dark Nights. His written and photographic reporting has earned a number of industry accolades, and he was twice named a Feature Writer of the Year by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association. A U.S. Navy veteran originally from rural western Pennsylvania, he now resides near Seattle.

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THE TRAVELERS

In deep space, the human mind is easily tempted.

At a classified DARPA facility buried deep beneath the Utah desert, a breakthrough experiment quietly succeeds where every deep-space program has failed.

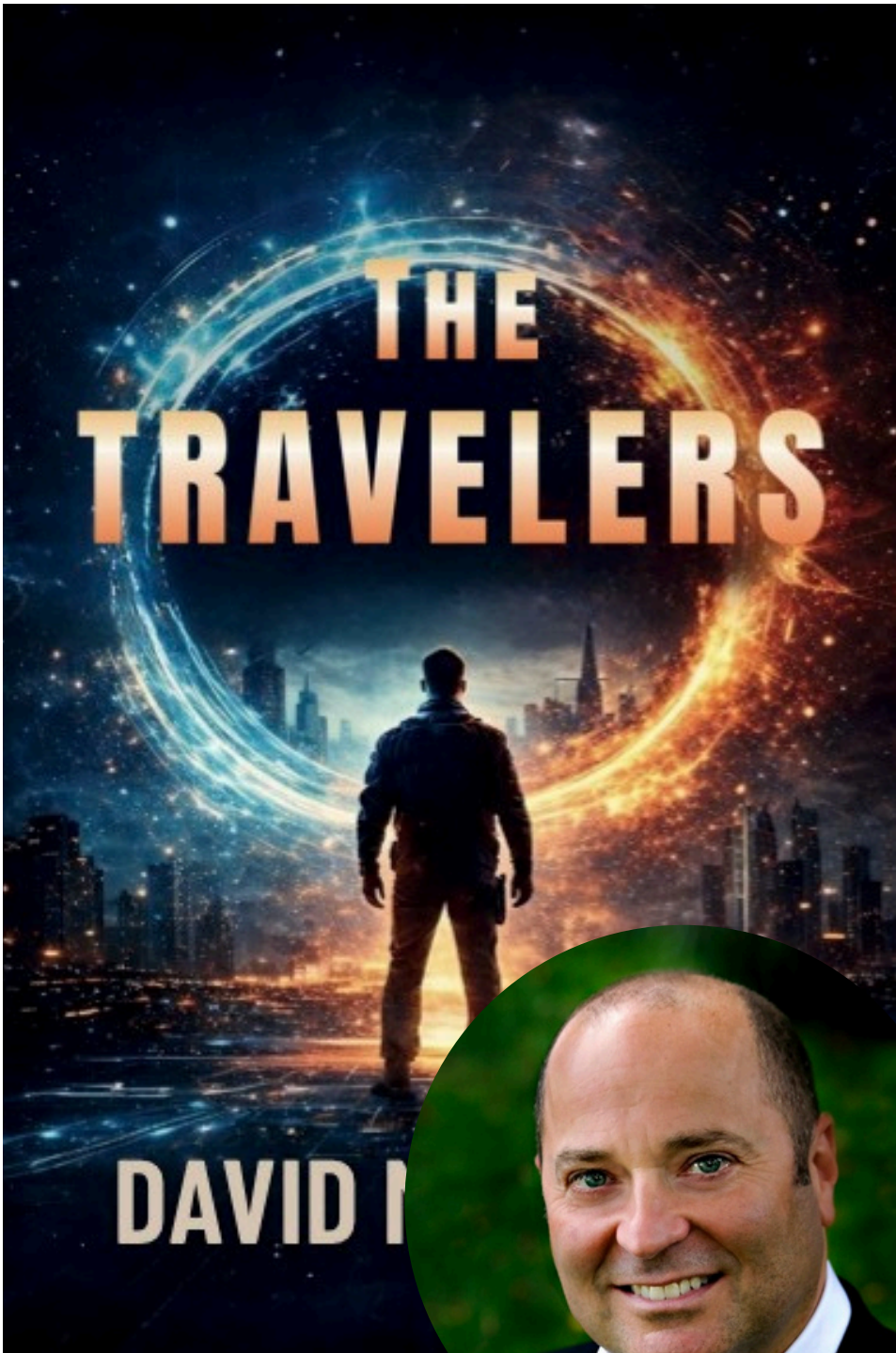
The human body cannot travel the distances required for deep-space exploration. But what if humans didn't need their bodies? Under The Viator Project, elite military pilots and scientists are recruited as Travelers—men and women trained to leave their physical bodies behind and cross the universe as pure awareness. Their missions are simple: observe distant worlds, return home, report what they find. At least, that's the plan.

As the first Travelers push deeper into space—and farther through time—the program begins to fracture. Travelers return changed forever. Some don't want to return at all. And some discover that once the mind is freed from the limits of the body, time itself becomes a temptation no human can resist. When one mission goes catastrophically wrong, the team behind Viator is forced to confront a terrifying question: What happens when explorers stop following orders—and start rewriting reality?

Blending cutting-edge science with psychological suspense, THE TRAVELERS is a high-stakes science-fiction thriller about consciousness, control, and the dangerous cost of reaching for the stars.

Award-winning, international author **David M. Salkin** has thrilled audiences for over a decade, with 16 novels spanning the genres of military-espionage, action-adventure, crime, mystery, science fiction and horror.

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LITTLE THINGS BIG

When a lab leak unleashes genetically engineered skin mites, survival becomes a nightmare.

Global Tech believes it has solved world hunger. Using revolutionary genetic engineering, the powerful Big Ag corporation has created livestock the size of elephants—cattle, pigs, and sheep engineered to feed the planet and make billions in the process. To secure political support, Global Tech hosts an exclusive showcase at its rural Pennsylvania headquarters, inviting senators, congressmen, and investors to witness the future of agriculture. But not everyone believes Global Tech should control the food supply. When eco-terrorists attack the facility, their sabotage triggers a catastrophic accident inside the research labs. What they release isn't just dangerous—it's monstrous. From the earliest days of Global Tech's experiments come the forgotten failures: genetically altered skin mites that grow, multiply, and swarm with horrifying speed. Within minutes, the party becomes a battlefield. Scientists, Secret Service agents, and trapped guests must fight their way through a nightmare of crawling flesh-eating parasites—but the deeper they push into the facility, the more terrifying the truth becomes. The lab leak was only the beginning.

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THE HAUNTING OF ASHLEY HALL SCHOOL

When Emily's mother sends her to Ashley Hall School—a prestigious boarding school for girls—she expects strict teachers, new friends, and the usual struggles of fitting in. What she doesn't expect is Gia: a witchy classmate obsessed with Voodoo, Ouija boards, and the thrill of the unknown.

On a reckless dare, Emily and Gia break into a condemned building hidden on campus. Among the dust and shadows, they discover a video cassette stuffed inside an old heating vent. The footage reveals a shocking truth: forty years earlier, a group of students deliberately cursed Ashley Hall...and invited something dark to linger.

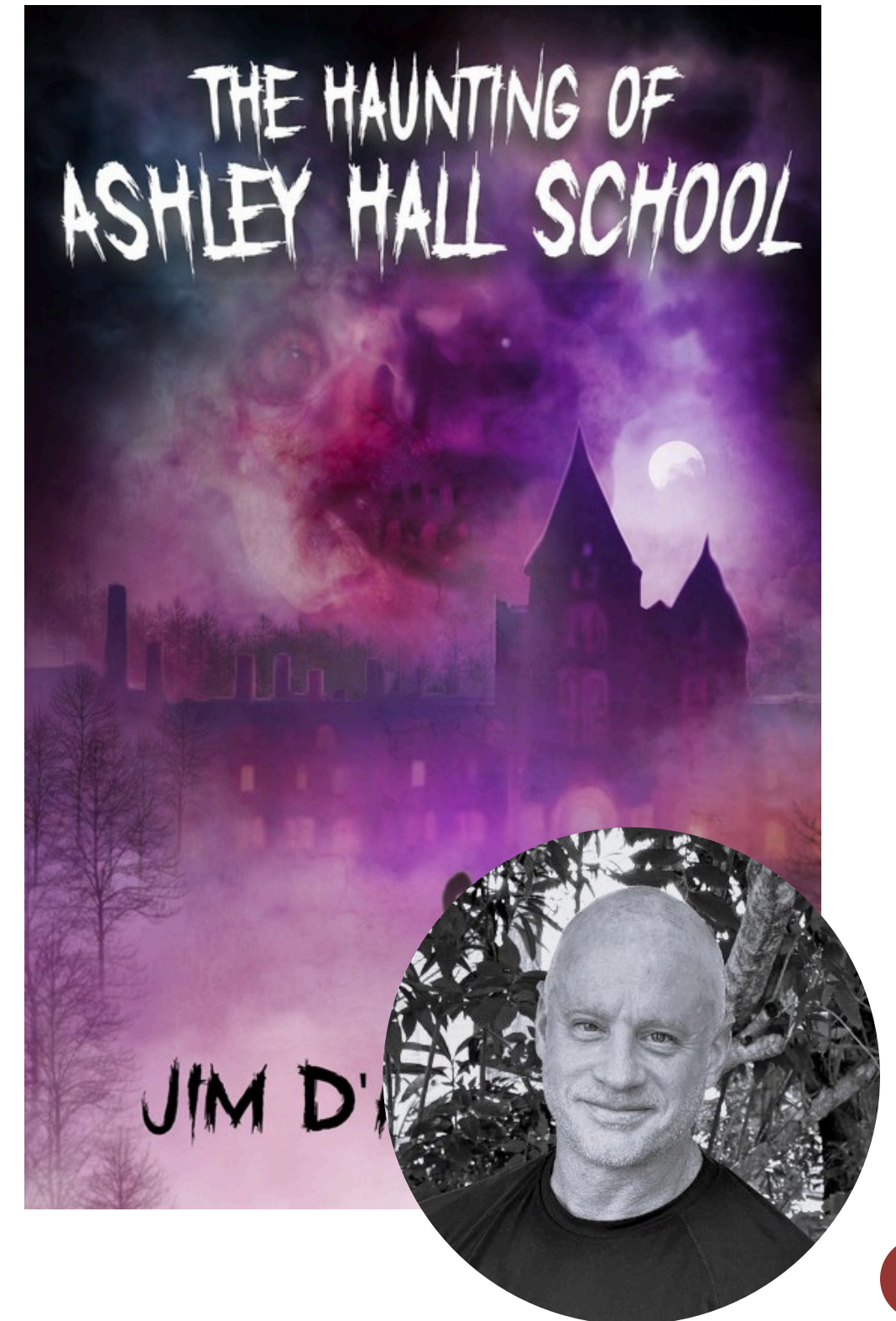
What begins as a game soon awakens a spirit tied to Emily's own buried past. A séance meant for fun spirals into terror as the girls confront a force that refuses to stay forgotten.

Blending the atmosphere of gothic ghost stories with a chilling reimagining of Frankenstein, *The Haunting of Ashley Hall School* is a coming-of-age horror tale about secrets, memory, and the price of playing with the supernatural.

Perfect for fans of haunted school settings, dark academia, and anyone who loves being deliciously scared.

Jim D'Andrea is an author of screenplays, novels, and short stories. His genres trend toward horror, supernatural, comedy and erotica. *The Haunting of Ashley Hall School* is his debut novel. Jim worked as a member of a film crew for several years. He developed and wrote multiple screenplays—mostly comedy—under the mentorship of Hollywood producer Daniel M. Rosenberg. He earned representation from WME and Paradigm on separate projects. He eventually chose to focus on writing prose, specifically in the genre of gothic horror.

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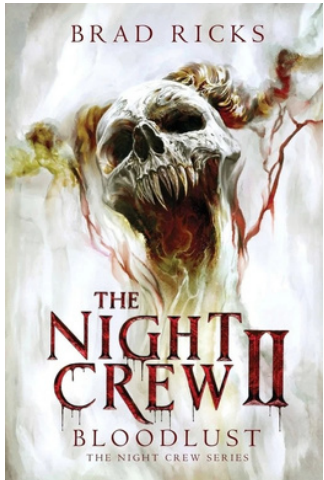
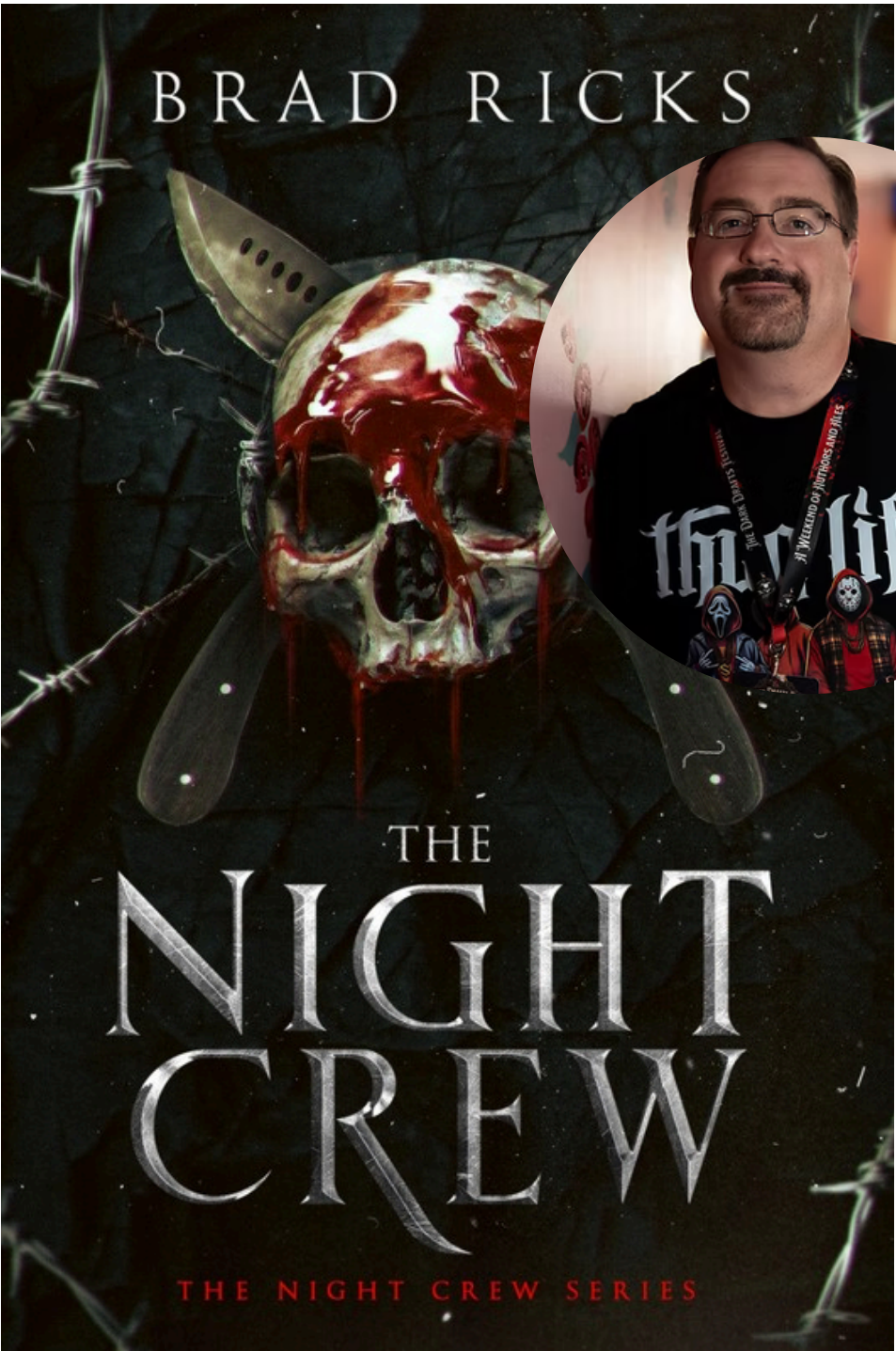
THE NIGHT CREW

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—the monster who tore apart his life is 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. 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.

LRA handling translation rights and Film/TV for Crystal Lake Publishing



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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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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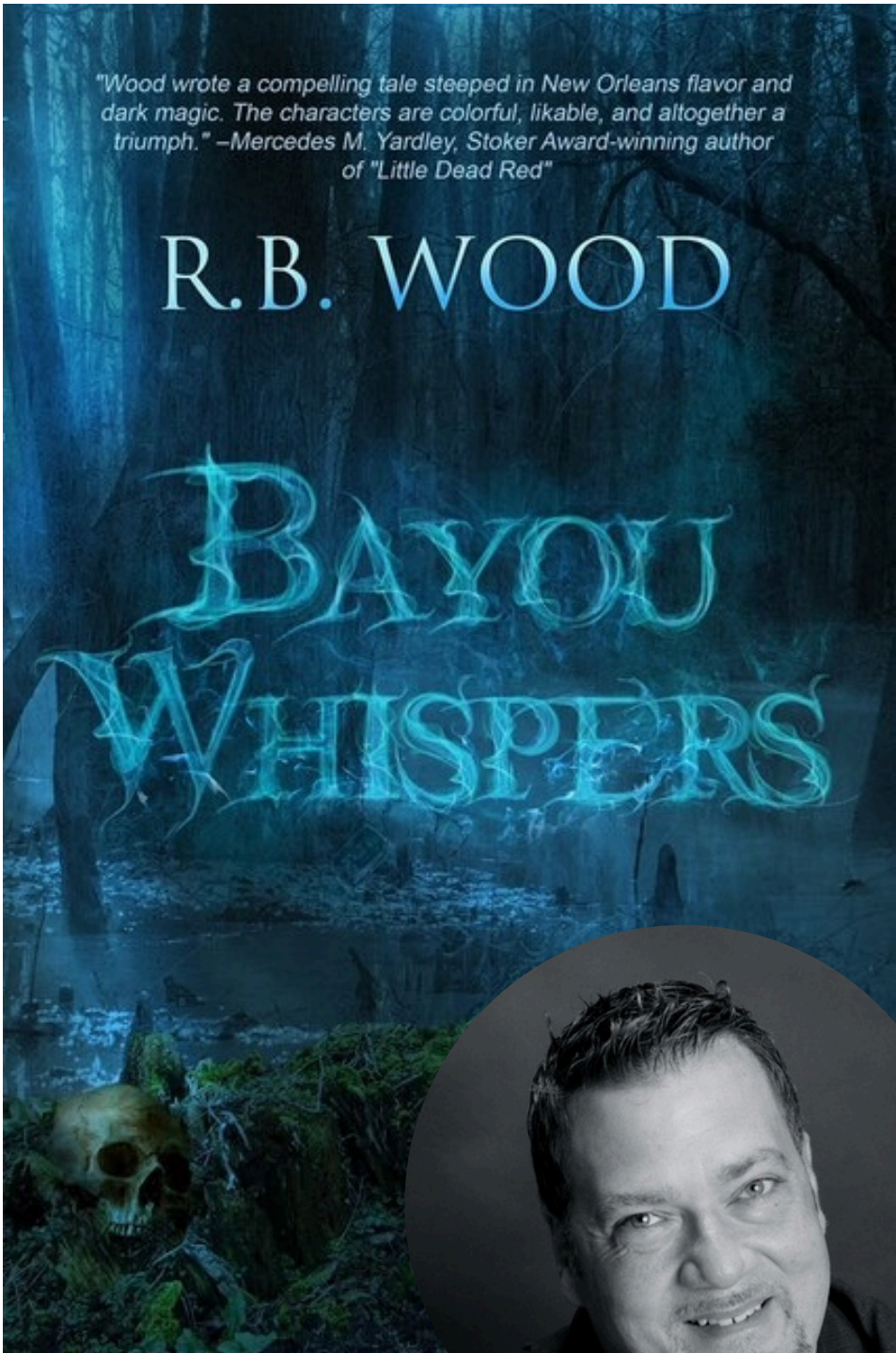
BAYOU WHISPERS

Get ready for proper New Orleans voodoo.

BAYOU WHISPERS, the latest thriller from horror writer RB Wood is the story of no-nonsense New Orleans native Jeannine LaRue, the sole survivor of her family after the devastation brought on by Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of the storm, she believed she'd been saved, but soon found herself held hostage and sexually exploited, rescued months later by sheriff's deputy Curtis Jones. Twelve years after Katrina, Jeannine is a new attorney who returns to New Orleans to save her old friend, Curtis Jones—now a local thief and trafficker of stolen goods—after he is arrested for the murder of Jeannine's captors, whose bodies have recently been found. But Jeannine discovers more than she bargained for when she uncovers a family history of dark voodoo magic and an unholy alliance with an ancient evil Haitian god.

RB Wood is a recent MFA graduate of Emerson College and a writer of speculative and dark thrillers. He has appeared in Crystal Lake Publishing's SHALLOW WATERS anthology, as well as online via SickLit. Magazine & HorrorAddicts.net, and in the award-winning anthology OFFBEAT: NINE SPINS ON SONG from Wicked Ink Books. Along with his writing passion, RB is the host of THE WORLD COUNT podcast - a show of original flash fiction. He currently lives in Boston with his partner, Tina, a multitude of cats, and various other critters that visit from time to time.

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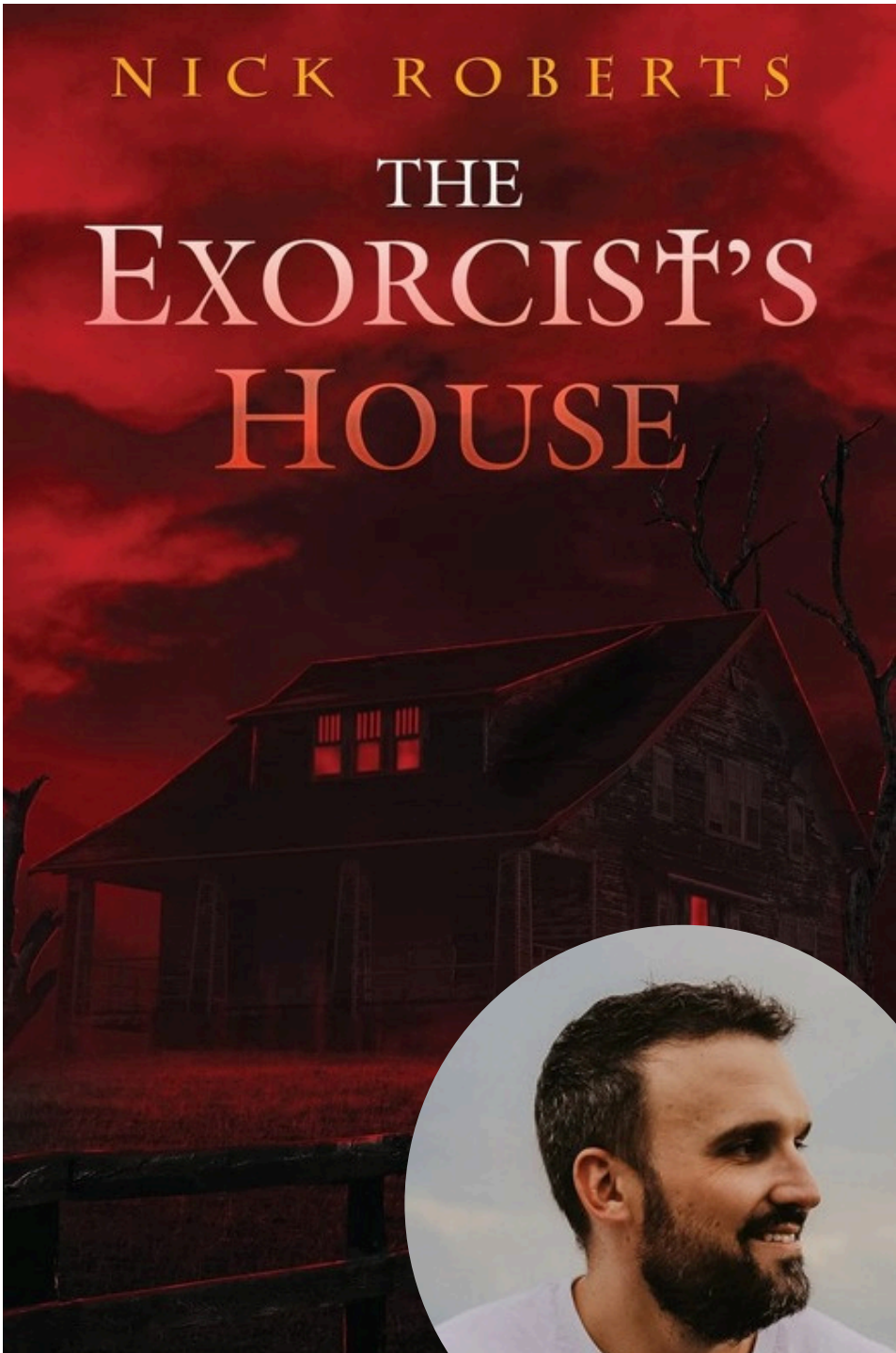
THE EXORCIST’S HOUSE

Buy a country house, they said.

In the summer of 1994, psychologist Daniel Hill buys a rustic farmhouse nestled in the rolling hills of West Virginia. Daniel, his wife and teenage daughter uproot their lives in Ohio and move south. They are initially seduced by the natural beauty of the country setting. That soon changes when they discover a hidden room in the basement with a well, boarded shut and adorned with crucifixes. Local legends about the previous owner being an exorcist come to light, but by then, all Hell has broken loose. This 1990s horror novel is perfect for fans of family thriller books, stories of demonic possession, exorcism fiction, the occult, or thrillers like THE EXORCIST, A HEAD FULL OF GHOSTS and THE ARMITYVILLE HORROR.

A lifelong storyteller, **Nick Roberts** began writing and illustrating children's books in elementary school, grew into screenplay writing in high school, and then transitioned into short stories and novels. He is currently an English teacher by day and author by night. His debut horror novel, ANATHEMA, was published by J Ellington Ashton Press in 2020 and won the 2020-2021 Horror Authors Guild Award for Debut Novel of the Year. Nick now resides in South Carolina with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Keagan and Cora. He enjoys spending time with his family, weightlifting, and advocating for people in recovery from substance abuse after having graduated from Recovery Point West Virginia in 2012.

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THE HEADLESS BOY

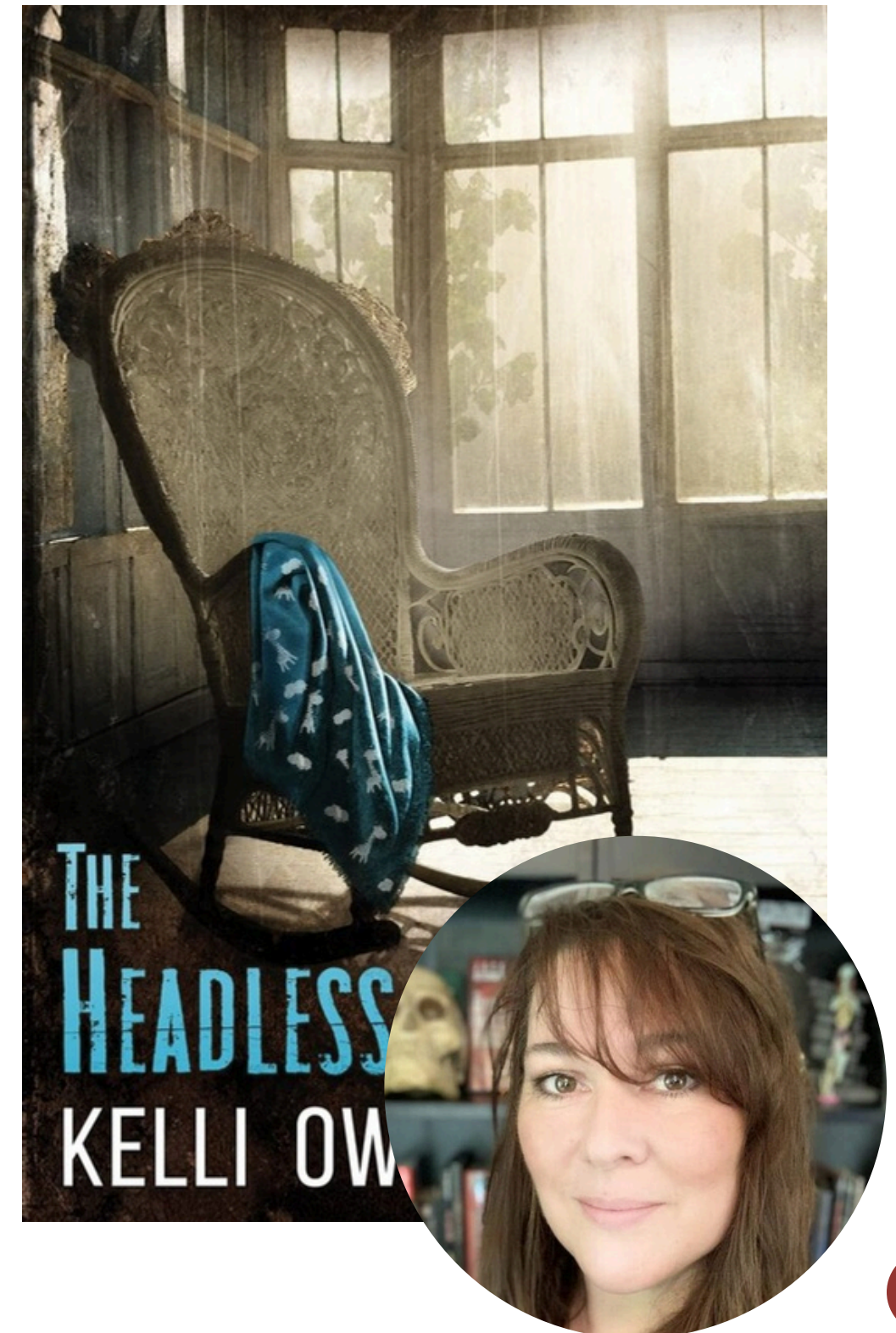
The horror of grief.

Reeling from the loss of a child, Maggie finds her job at the local daycare unbearable and errands around town impossible. She knows every child, every single parent, and they're all reminders of what she's lost. Unable to heal, she sinks further into the grip of grief and depression. Jake is a good guy, a great husband, and wants only the best for his broken wife. Therapy and medications aren't helping, and a change of scenery makes perfect sense. A new home. A fresh start. He is nothing but patient, giving Maggie the space and emotional support needed to move on. But once they've settled in, Maggie offers him an alternative. And though Jake doesn't believe in ghosts, he plays along with the charade in the name of helping his wife. Until he discovers it's not a game. They are not alone. As the subtle activity grows violent, Jake realizes the thing in their house has chosen Maggie as a surrogate mother, and it does not want a father figure. Jake and Maggie's fresh start has become a battlefield, and he's no longer sure which side his wife is on. Does Jake have the strength to save them both?

A member of both the Horror Writers Association and the International Thriller Writers, **Kelli Owen** has published over twenty books, including *THE HEADLESS BOY*, *TEETH*, and the *WILTED LILY* young adult series. Her short fiction has appeared in Bram Stoker Award-nominated anthologies alongside Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, Robert McCammon, F. Paul Wilson, and Josh Malerman, among others. Although primarily known for her fiction, Kelli's credits also include editor, webmaster, podcaster, reviewer, and indie horror film producer, and has spoken at the CIA headquarters in Langley, VA regarding her work and the field in general. Born and raised in Wisconsin, she now lives in the dark woods of Pennsylvania.

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'THE CONJURING meets POLTERGEIST'; 'Now ranks among some of my favourites in [grief horror], alongside PET SEMATARY and REMAINS'; 'Perhaps Kelli Owen's best work to date'; 'An almost suffocating level of realism'



NON-FICTION



BECAUSE I LOVE YOU

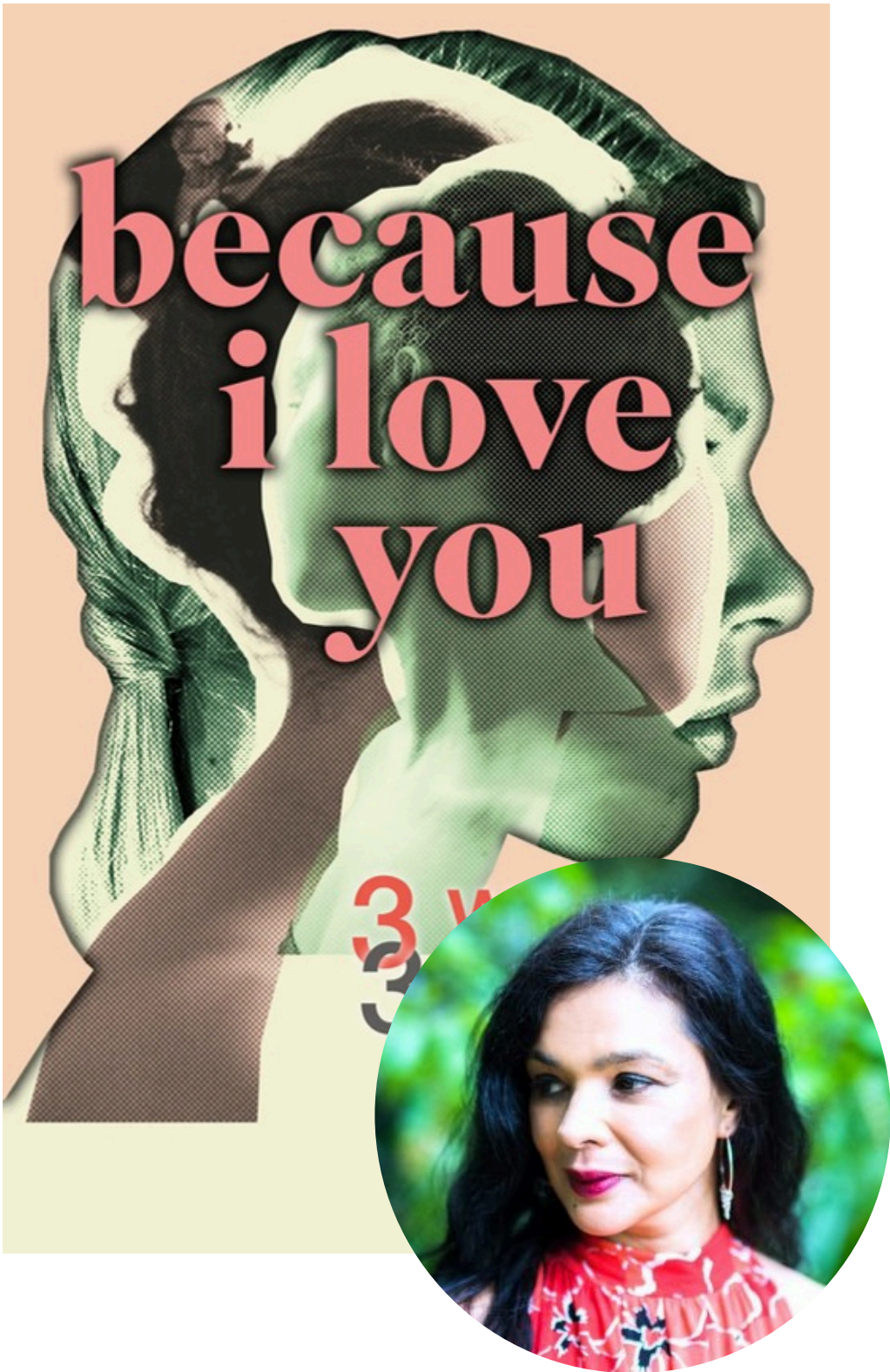
Three women. Three relationships. Three true stories.

'I was here. This happened. It mattered. And now, I am ready to carry on.'

This is not a book about breakups. It's about erasure. About the quiet harm that can live inside love, the kind that doesn't leave bruises on the skin but rewrites the architecture of your mind. It's for anyone who's wondered whether they were overreacting, too sensitive, too much, too little. For anyone who has asked, 'Am I the problem?' Joy Watson's exquisite excavation of the female psyche traces the inner lives of three women: Zara, Mira and Thuli. Their stories unfold in fragments, with beginnings, middles and endings that are not always clean, and are interwoven with reflections from the author's own experience. These are real stories, lightly fictionalised to protect those who lived them. If you have ever felt lonelier in a relationship than you were on your own, this book is for you. And as you begin again, you are not alone.

Joy Watson is a researcher and writer based in Cape Town, South Africa, whose work brings together feminist research, storytelling and analysis to explore gender, power and violence against women. She collaborates with organisations including the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and Rape Crisis. Watson is the author of the novel THE OTHER ME.

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THE THREE COMMA CLUB

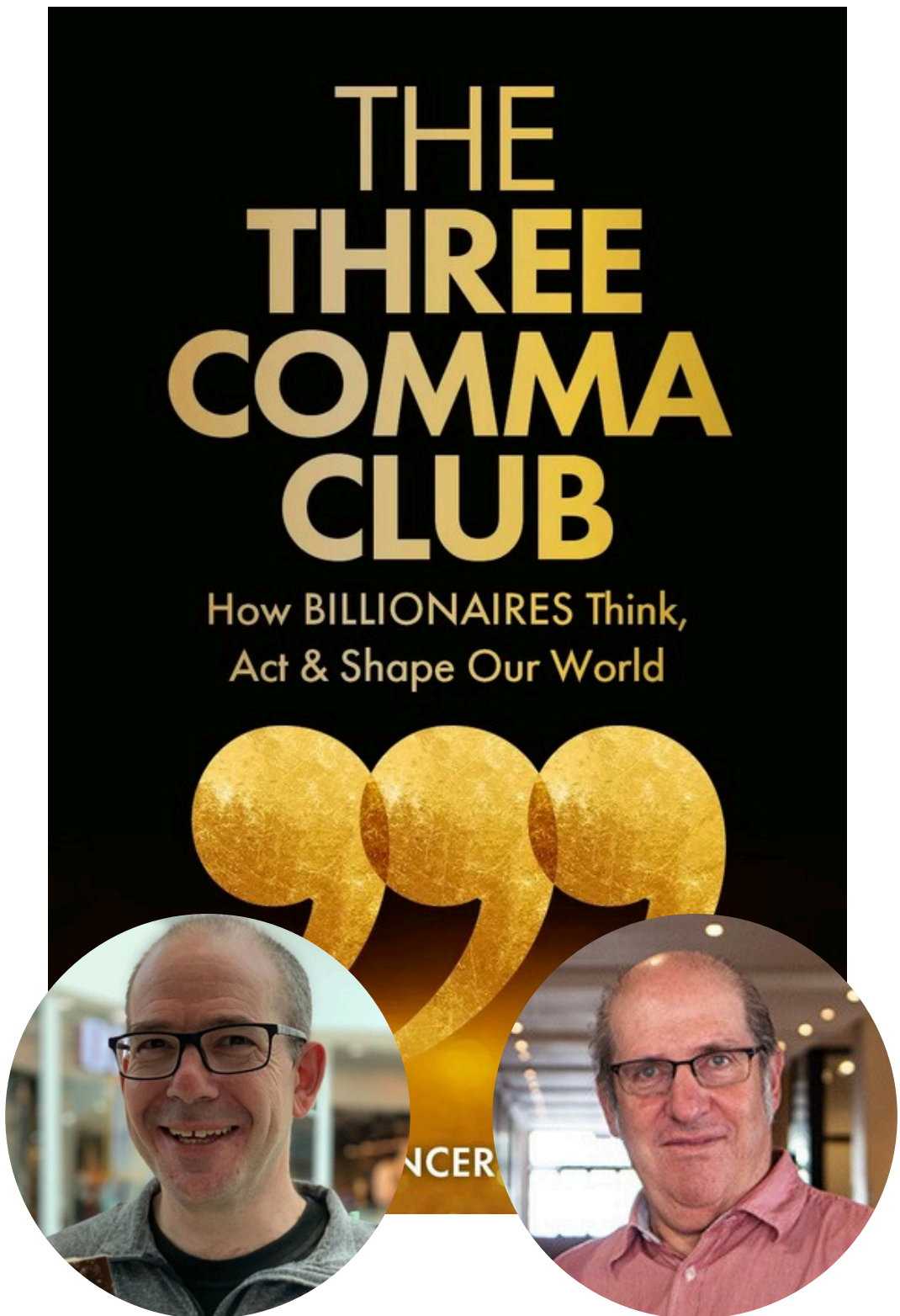
How Billionaires Think, Act & Shape Our World

It was a TV series based in Silicon Valley that gave rise to the term 'The Three Comma Club' which describes that small group of individuals whose net worth is one billion dollars or more. According to Forbes' World's Billionaires List for 2025, there are around 3,000 'dollar billionaires' in the world. Billionaires make up approximately 0.000034% of the world's population—but the wealth, power, and influence wielded by these moneymakers—and money spenders—is gargantuan.

What does it take to become a billionaire, and what does it mean to live in a world increasingly dominated by them? This book takes a deep dive into the world of billionaires, blending humor, insight, and a touch of 'eat the rich' irreverence to examine the rise and occasional downfall of the mega-mega-rich. From historic figures like Rockefeller to modern tech moguls and oligarchs, the authors explore how billionaires emerge, how they maintain their fortunes, and what happens when they fall from grace.

Gus Silber is a South African writer who has written several books, including the best-selling satirical guide to the New South Africa, *It Takes Two to Toyi-Toyi*. His books cover a wide range of themes and subjects, from digital technology to entrepreneurship to travel and innovation. He holds an MA in Journalism & Media. **Jonathan Ancer** is a journalist and author who has won awards for breaking news, feature writing and creative writing. He has written six books, including the biographies *Spy Uncovering Craig Williamson* and *Joining the Dots: The Unauthorised Biography of Pravin Gordhan*. His latest book, *Bullsh!t: 50 fibs that made South Africa*, was published in 2024.

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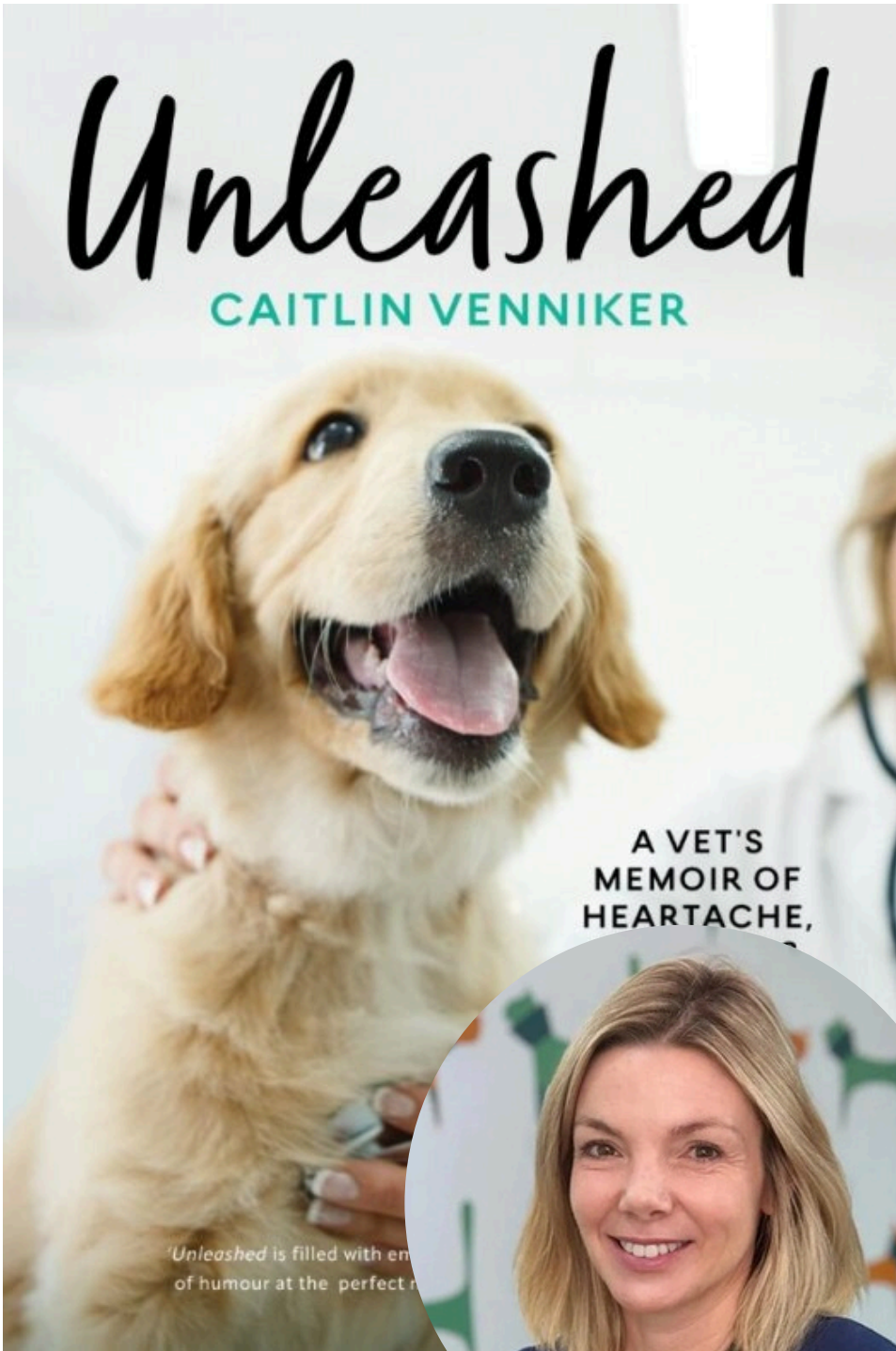
UNLEASHED

A Vet's Memoir of Heartache, Hairballs and Hope

UNLEASHED is the hilarious, intensely honest memoir of Caitlin Venniker's journey from Onderstepoort, the only veterinary training institution in South Africa, into the heart of private practice, with a few stops in the United Kingdom and Middle East along the way. It's a story of growing up, juggling owners with high expectations and animals with big opinions, bluffing confidence, quirky colleagues, cows with anger issues and midnight emergencies. It's about navigating the challenges of dating, using coffee as a crutch, finding humour in dark moments, and the immense joy and grief that come with loving animals.

Caitlin Venniker is a South African vet and an award-winning writer. She spends her time between South Africa and the Middle East, and she has a collection of rescue animals, including a scruffy desert dog and a one-eared cat. UNLEASHED is her first book.

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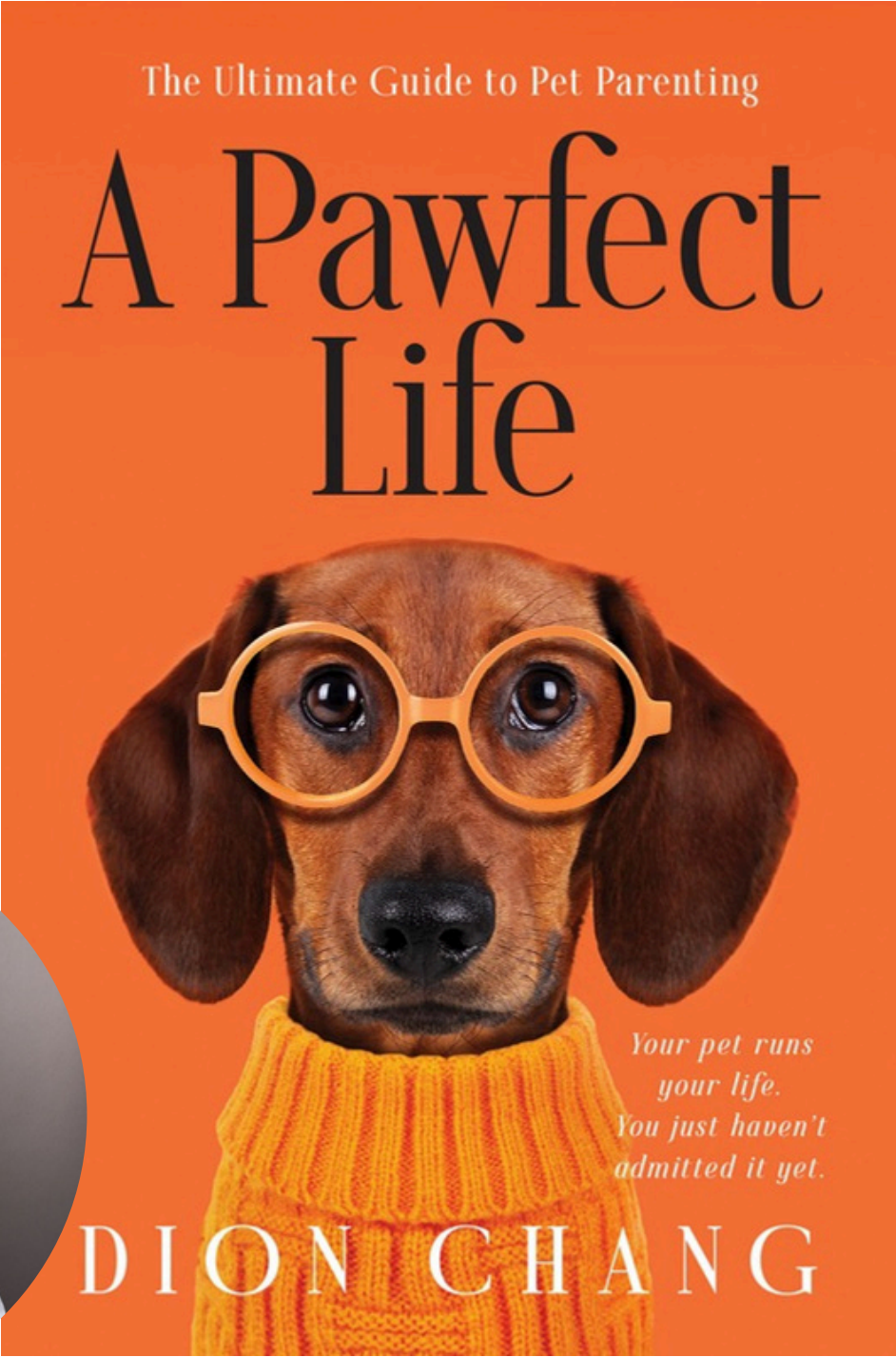
A PAWFECT LIFE

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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BOSS YOUR MONEY

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.

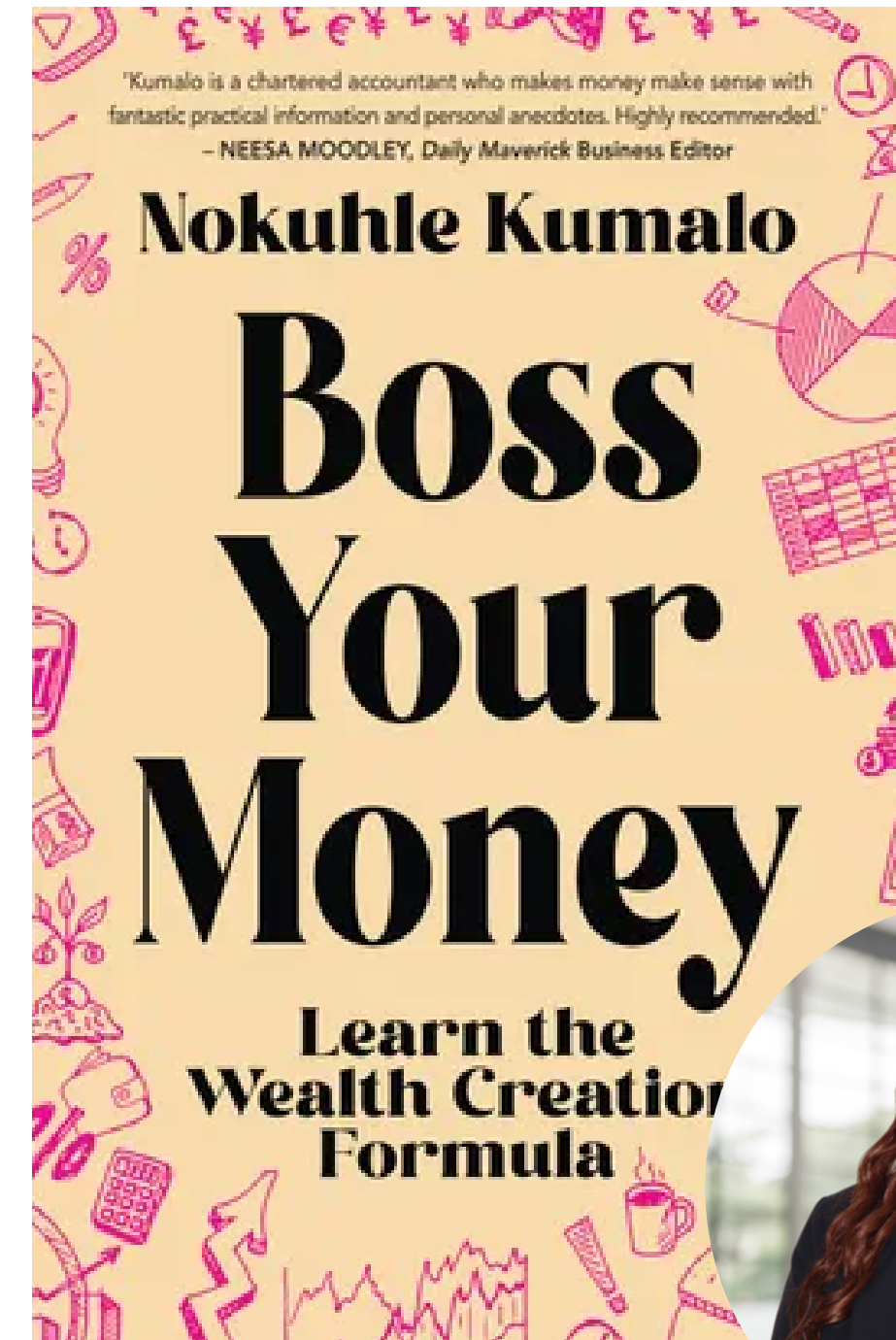
Written by someone who has asked all the same questions you have about work, salary negotiation, saving and investing, buying your first car or home, and more. With honesty, humour and hard-won insights, Nokuhle Kumalo unpacks the money habits we inherit from our parents, the mistakes we make and the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

No fuss. No pretence. Just damn good food.

Social media sensation Fehmz explodes onto the cookbook scene with recipes as bold and unapologetic as she is. Whether you're a kitchen newbie or seasoned chef, her flop-proof instructions guarantee results. Her infectious energy jumps off every page, turning cooking into an adventure. Her debut cookbook *Damn Good Food* brings flavour-packed meals she's famous for from screen to page in 80+ recipes. Bring Fehmz's magic - loved by hundreds of thousands across Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and Facebook - to your kitchen. *DAMN GOOD FOOD* offers her family's tried-and-tested classics - mutton akhni, mince curry, coconut pudding - plus fun twists like chilli bite waffles, karak ice cream, kataifi millefeuille, and quick meals like sticky jam chops, lemon chicken, peri-peri prawns. You'll find enticing recipes, easy swaps, conversion guide, flavour essentials, and much more. This is more than a collection of recipes - it's an invitation to have fun in the kitchen and fall in love with cooking.

Fehmz, a Johannesburg city girl, pursues her passion as a food, lifestyle and travel influencer. Authentic and real, her vibrant personality brings energy, colour and bold flavours to recipes, influenced by her Muslim heritage. Energetic, colourful, and bubbly, Fehmz loves tea and sharing the simple things in life. She is married with two children. Her platform boasts 341K followers on Facebook, 212K on TikTok, 171K on Facebook, and 10.7K on YouTube.

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PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS

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

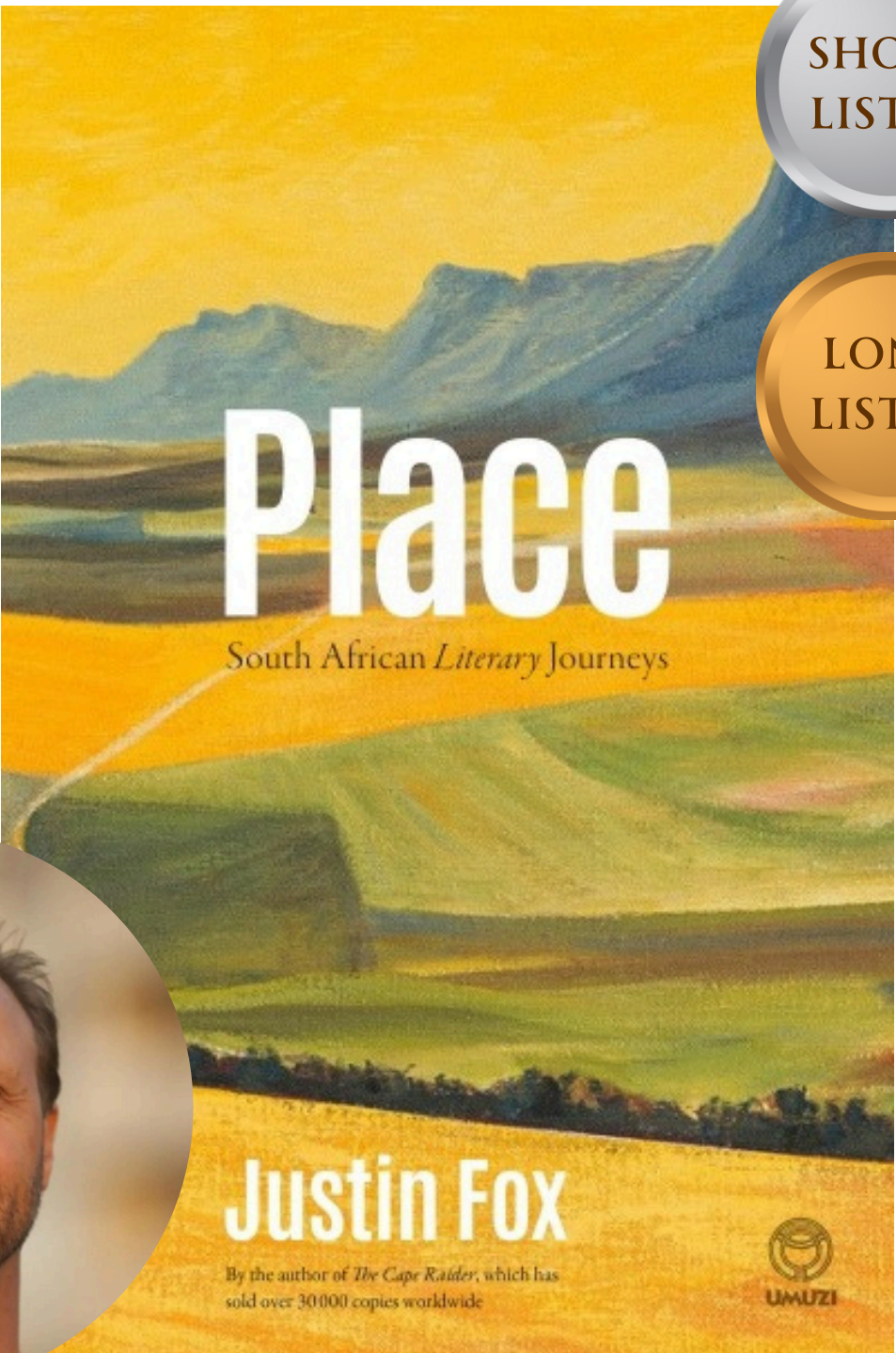
Longlisted for the SALA Creative Non-Fiction Award (2024)

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.

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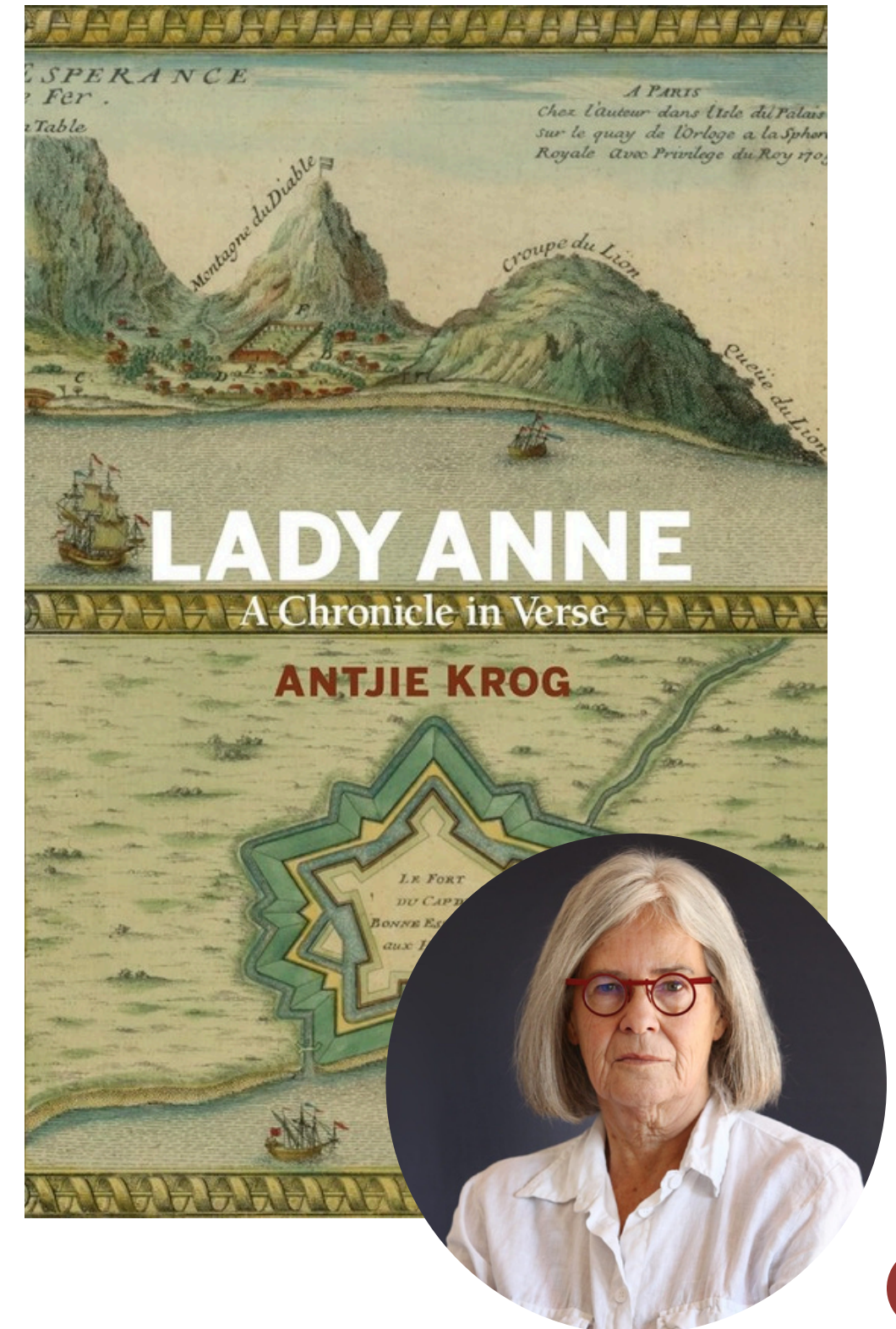


LADY ANNE: A CHRONICLE IN VERSE

Lady Anne: A Chronicle in Verse is the first English translation of an award winning book published in Afrikaans in 1989. It engages critically and creatively with a key moment of colonial history—the time Lady Anne Barnard spent at the Cape of Good Hope, from 1797 to 1802. Usually mentioned merely as a witty hostess of fabulous parties, Anne Lindsay Barnard, the daughter of a Scottish Earl and the wife of a colonial administrator, was an independent thinker and a painter and writer of genius. She left diaries, correspondence and watercolors documenting her experiences in this exotic land, the contact zone of colonizers and indigenous peoples. Antjie Krog acts as bard and chronicles an epic about this remarkable heroine's life in South Africa, and intertwines it with life two hundred years later in the same country but now in the throes of anti-apartheid anger and vicious states of emergency. Krog's powerful and eloquent bringing together of the past and the present, and the historical and the poetic embodies an experience that is as pertinent and compelling today in a democratic but still turbulent South Africa, as it is in the USA and other places where the intersections of race, identity, power, and language lie at the center of civic life.

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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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 are 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.

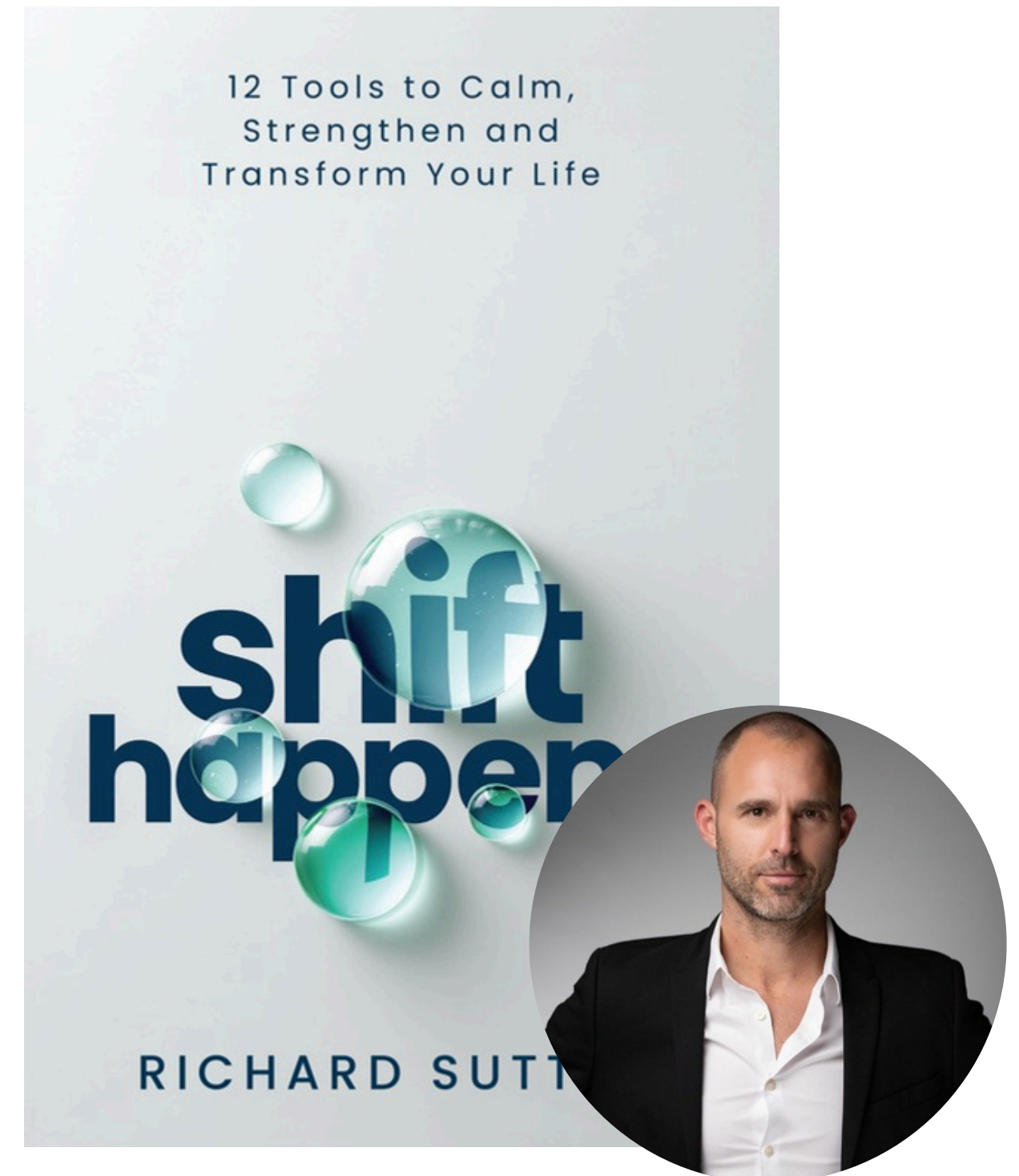
In Shift Happens, Sutton shares twelve proven tools that helped him – and thousands of others – to reclaim control, clarity and confidence.

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

- 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 meditation 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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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 ...'

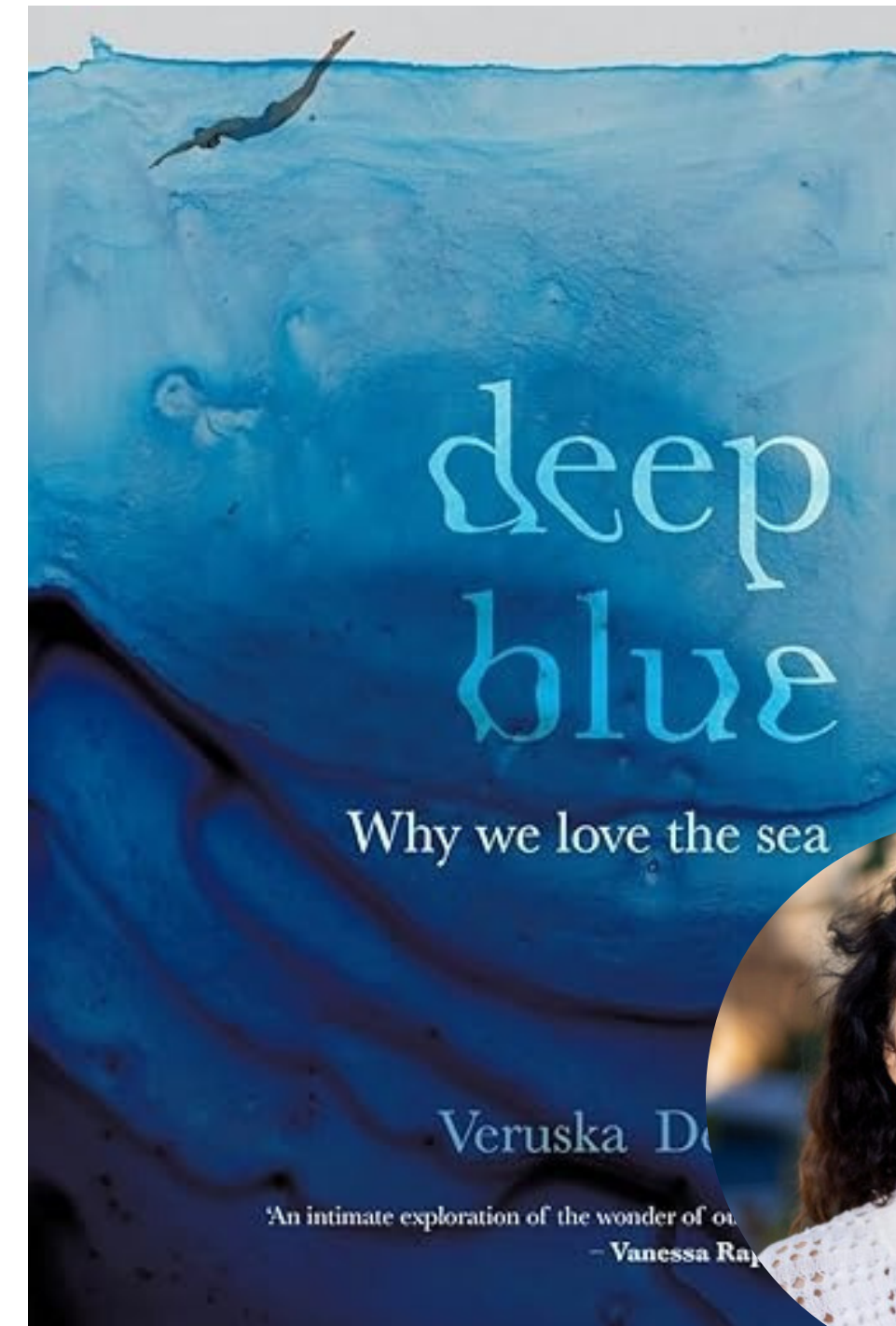
DEEP BLUE is a love letter to the sea, exploring humans' deep connection with it and the bliss of swimming, diving, dipping and simply being in salt water.

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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RAISING A YOUNG ACTOR

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

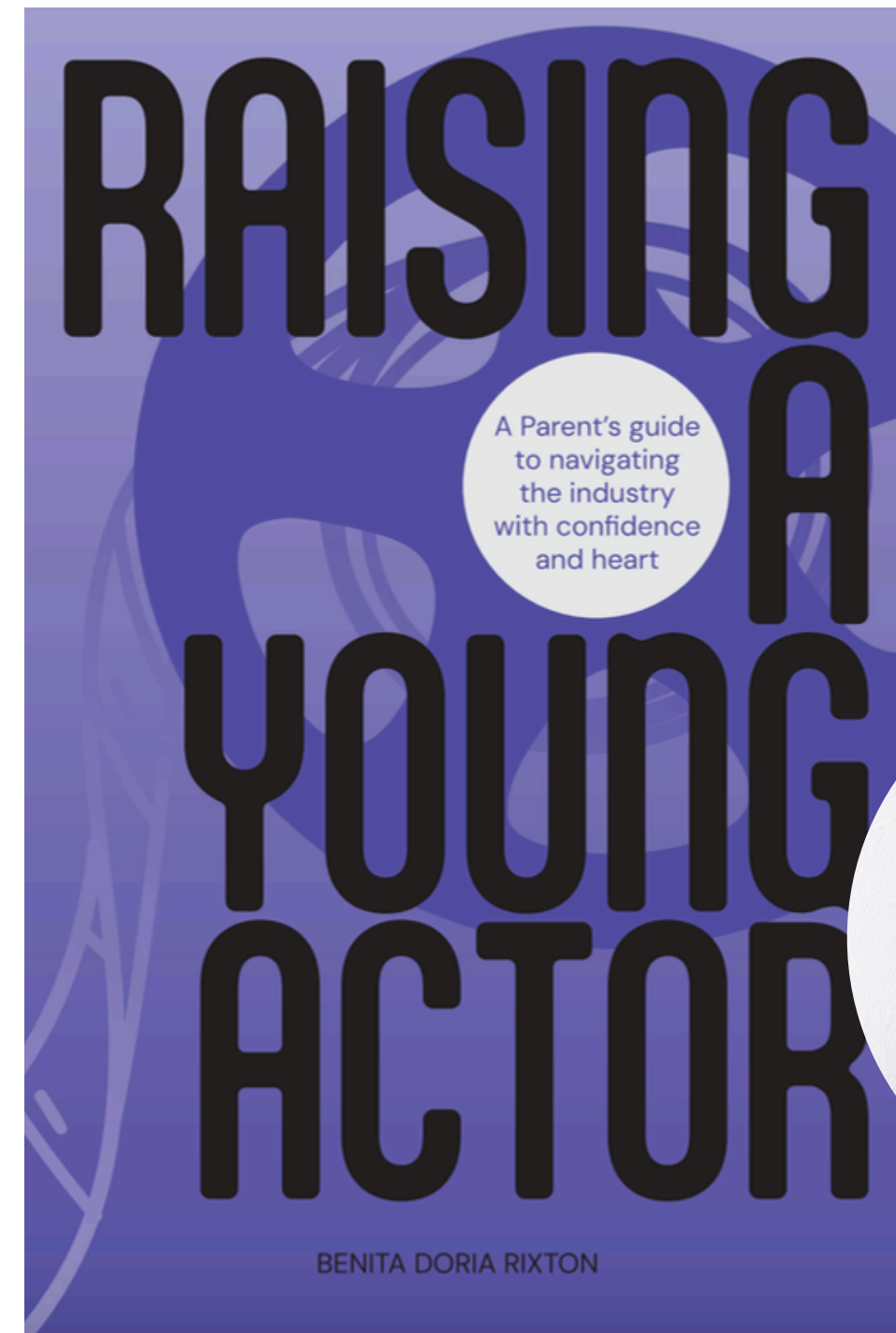
So your kid wants to act professionally? Congratulations on entering the chaotic, unpredictable, and magical world of showbiz. Here's your survival guide - with a dash of humour and a sprinke of reality - to keep you grounded while your mini superstar chases their dreams.

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 television 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 roadmap.' 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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THE SHADOW STATE

"Why Babita Deokaran had to die"

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non- Fiction Prize (2026)

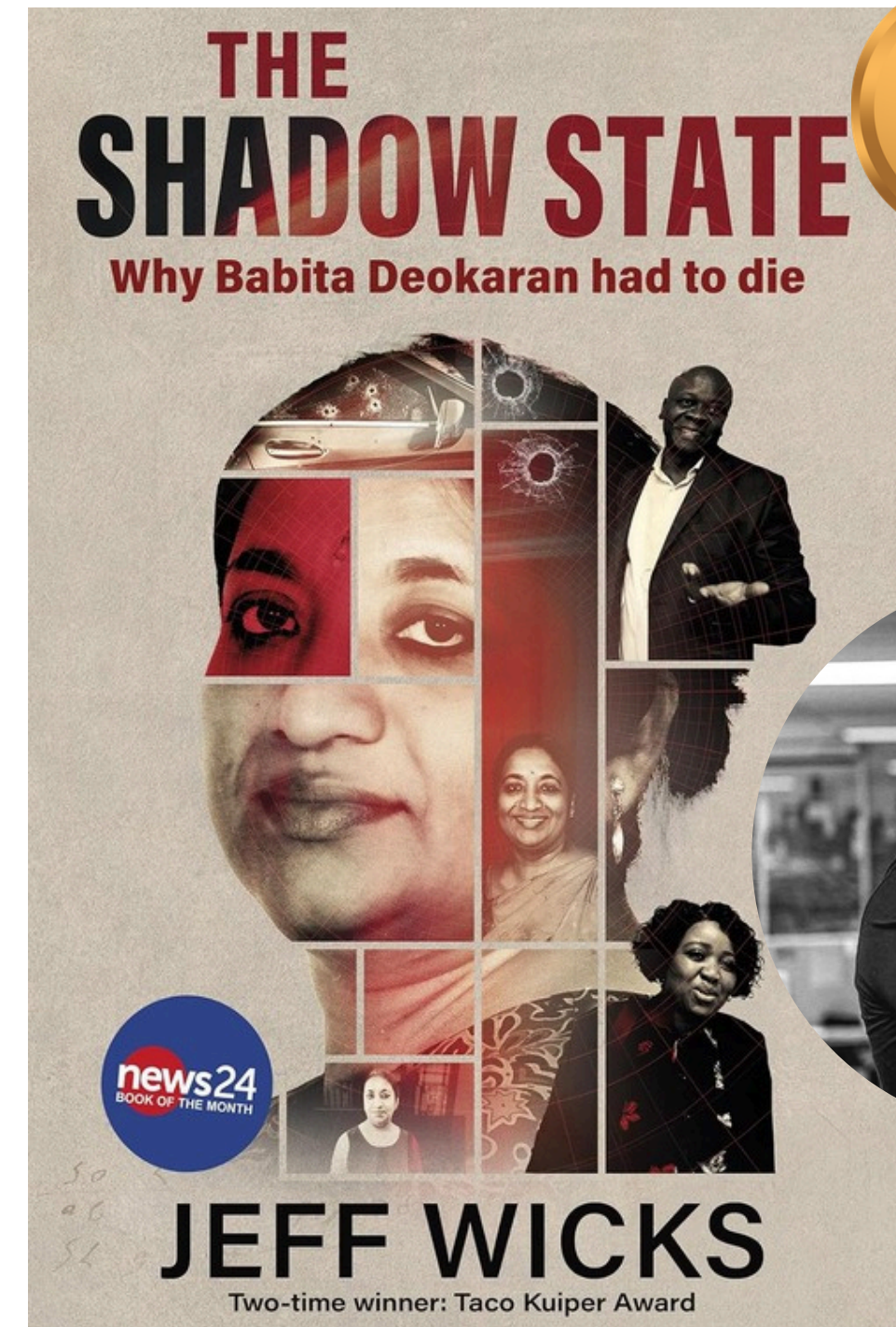
On 23 August 2021, Babita Deokaran – a hardworking single mother and chief accountant at the Gauteng Department of Health – was shot down in a hail of bullets outside her home in Mondeor, Johannesburg. The izinkabi paid to kill her were caught, but the question remained: Who ordered her murder, and why?

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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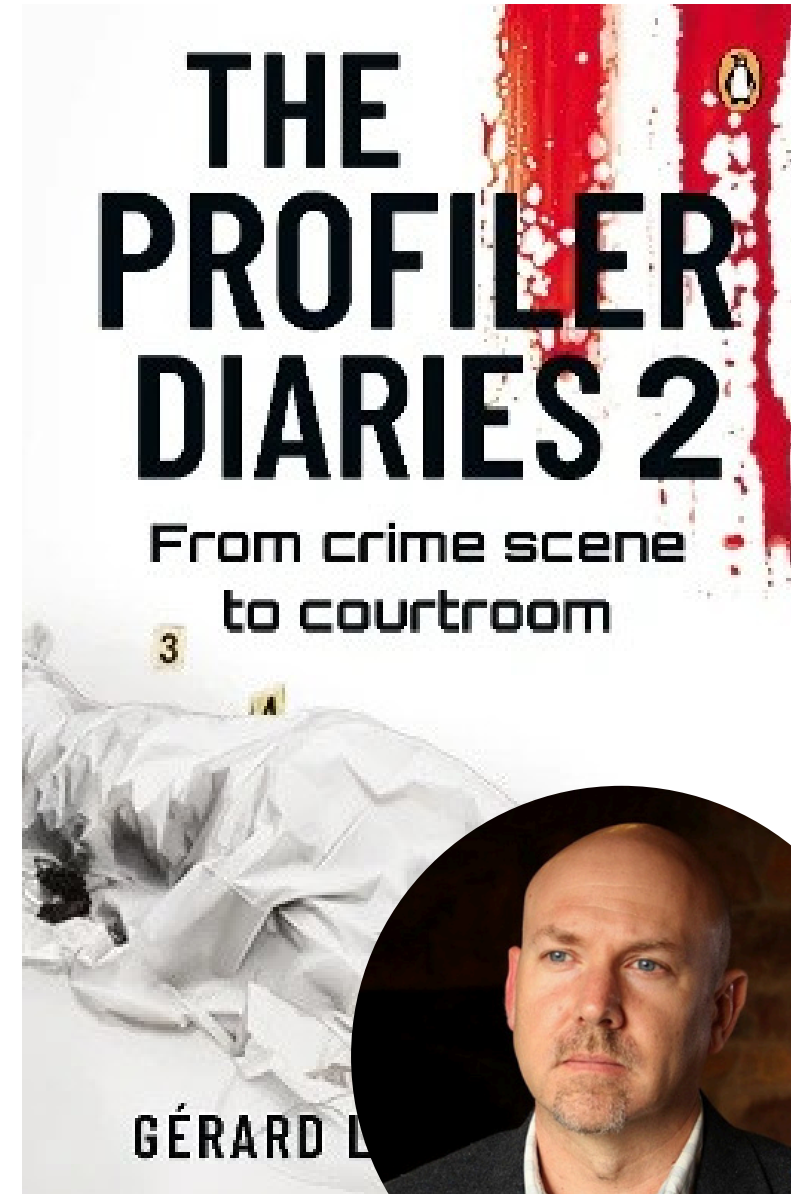
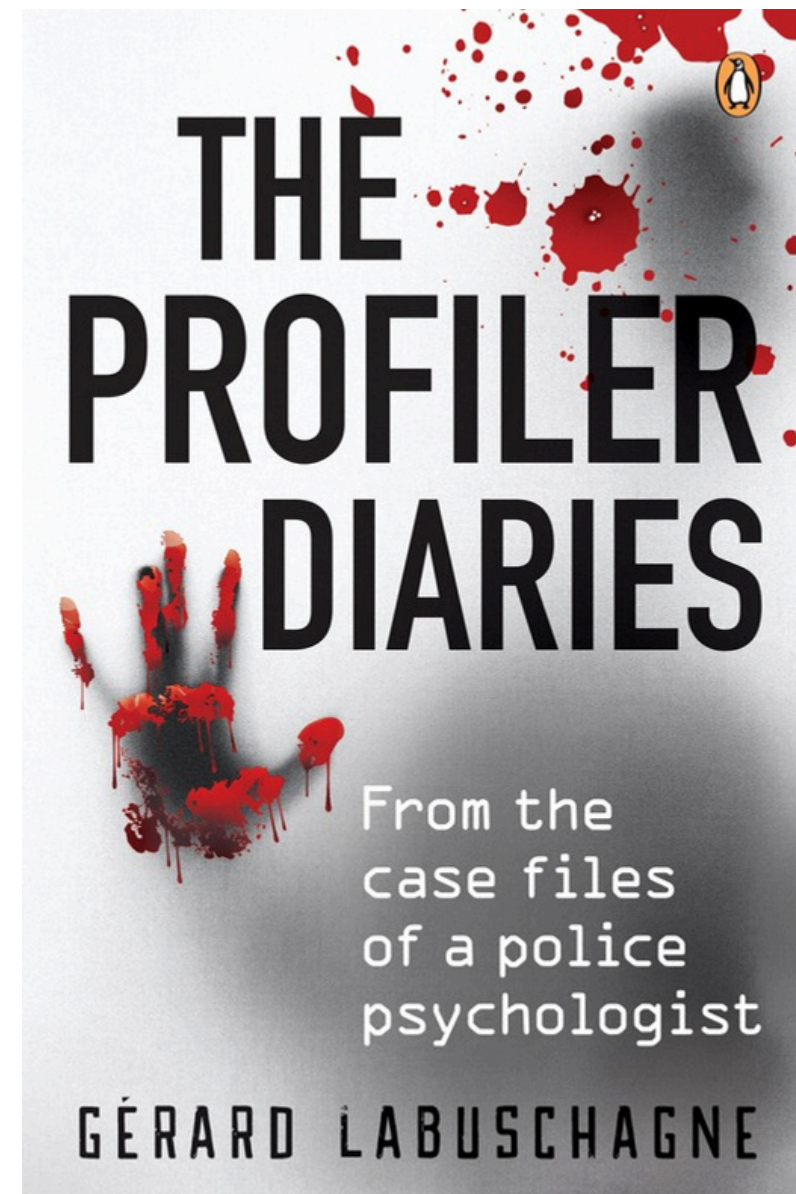
LONG
LISTED



THE PROFILER DIARIES

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for Non-Fiction (2022)

In this gripping – and sometimes terrifying – account, former South African Police Service (SAPS) head profiler Dr Gérard Labuschagne recalls some of the 110 murder series and countless other bizarre crimes he analysed during his career. An expert on serial murder and rape cases, Labuschagne saw it all in his almost fifteen years in the one of the crime capitals of the world. He walks the reader through the first crime scene he ever attended, his arrest of the Muldersdrift serial rapist, his experience as the head of the task team mandated to catch the Quarry serial murderer, his involvement with the Brighton Beach axe murders, and more. Despite often being stymied by a lack of resources, office politics and political interference, Labuschagne and his team were always determined to get their man – or woman, as in the Womb Raider case. THE PROFILER DIARIES is a fascinating – and often hair-raising – glimpse into what it was like to be a profiler in the world's busiest profiling unit.



In this second instalment of The Profiler Diaries, former South African Police Service (SAPS) head profiler Dr Gérard Labuschagne, successor to the legendary Micki Pistorius, recalls more of the 110 murder series and countless other bizarre crimes he analysed during his career. An expert on serial murder and rape cases, Labuschagne saw it all in his fourteen and a half years in the SAPS. Often stymied by a lack of resources, office politics and legal incompetence, Labuschagne and his team were nevertheless determined to obtain justice for the victims whose cases they were tasked with investigating. Tracking down a prolific serial stalker, linking the murders of two young women in Knysna, assessing a suspect threatening to assassinate President Obama and apprehending a serial murderer of sex workers are just a few of the intriguing – and often terrifying – cases he covers in his second book. Labuschagne says, catching a killer is one thing; getting them convicted in a court of law is an entirely different ball game. This book shows how it is done in fascinating detail.

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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.

Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non-Fiction Prize (2026)

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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LONG
LISTED



PATIENT 12A

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

Winner of the k. Sello Duiker Memorial Literary Award (2025)

Winner of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS)

Best Emerging Author prize (2025)

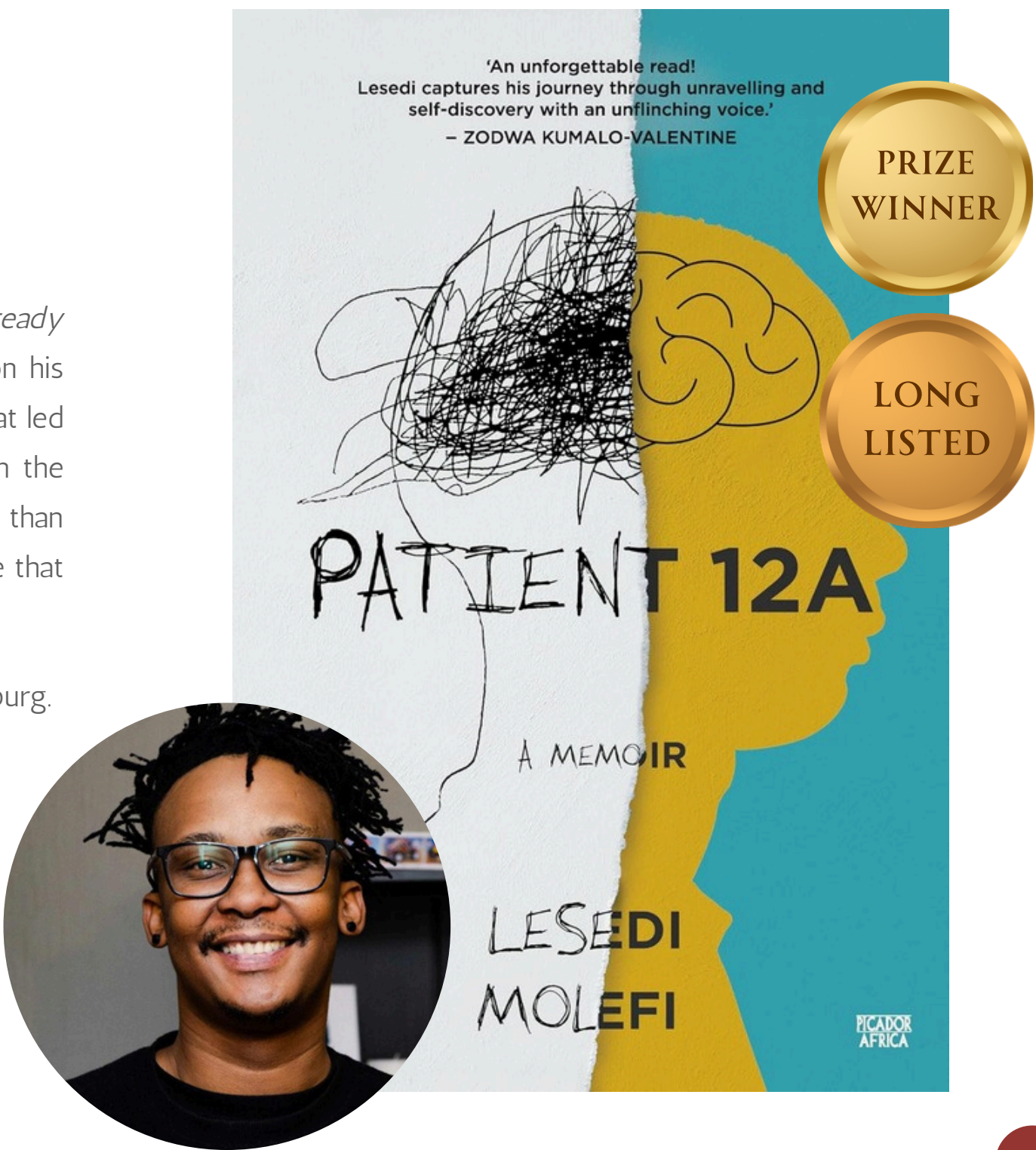
Longlisted for the Sunday Times Non-fiction Prize (2025)

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.

LRA handling translation rights for Pan Macmillan SA

'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



CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS



A QUIET PLACE

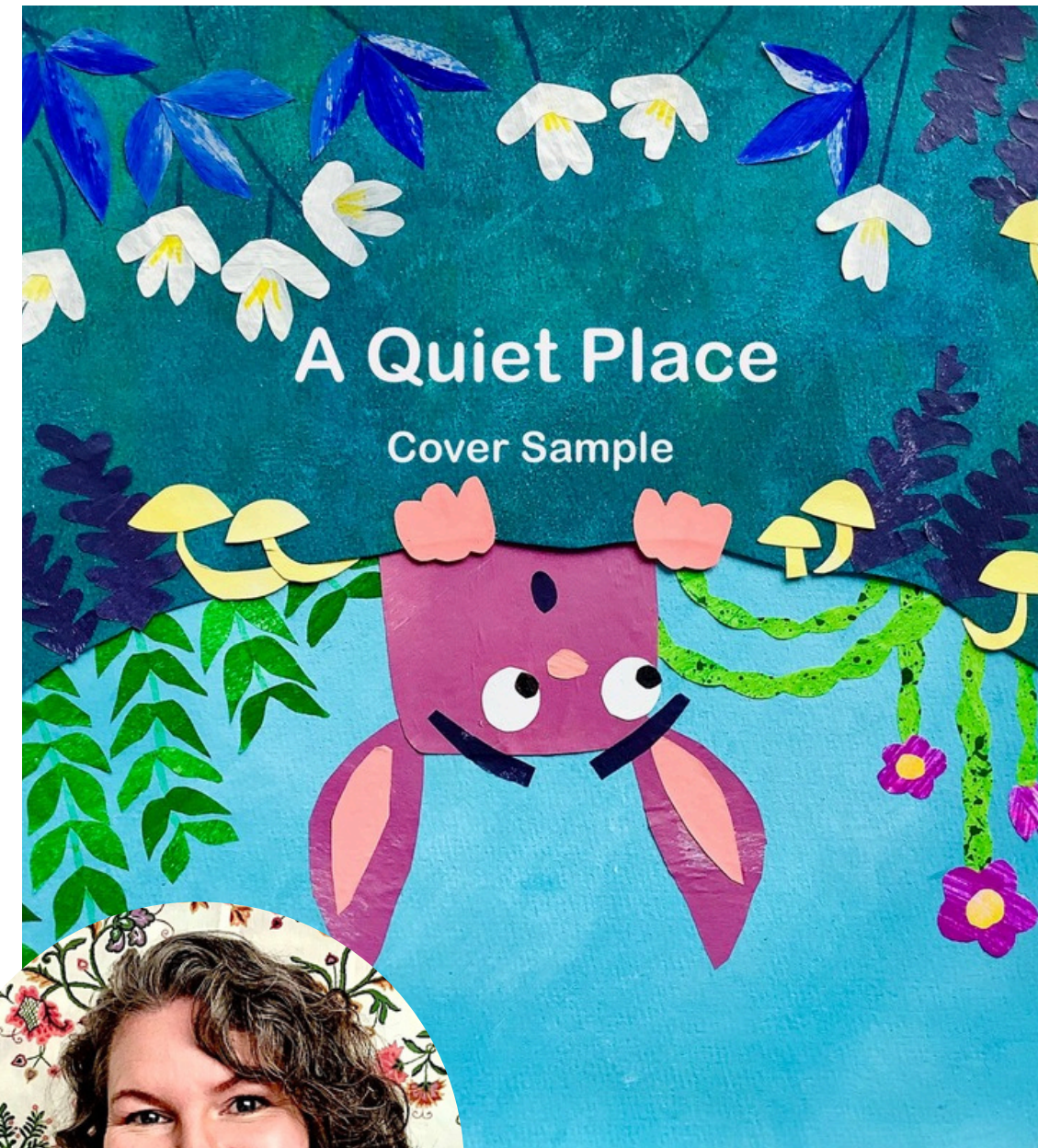
Bat-bat is in a mood but Bat-bat knows just what to do.

Bat-bat must find a quiet place. Seems easy enough doesn't it? But this story wouldn't exist if that were the case. Through the voice of Bat-bat comes a narrative that takes its readers through Bat-bat's search for the perfect place to be quiet, a quest that leads Bat-bat 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, sample illustrations, and scamps available. All rights available.

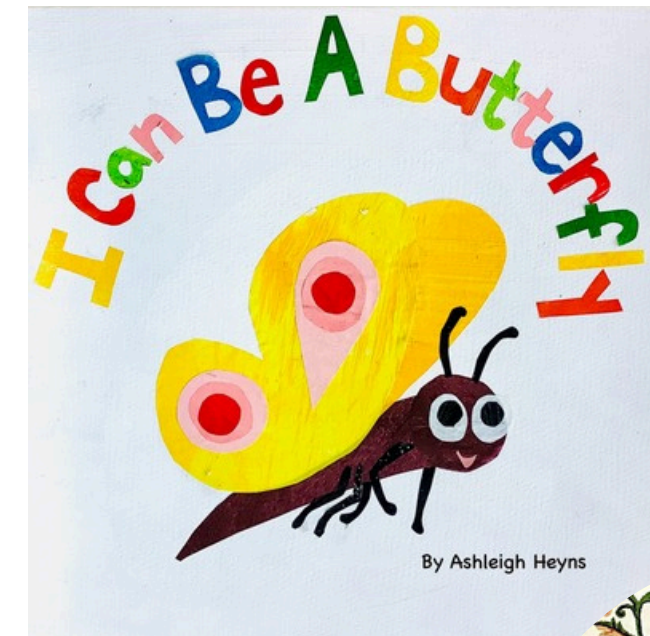
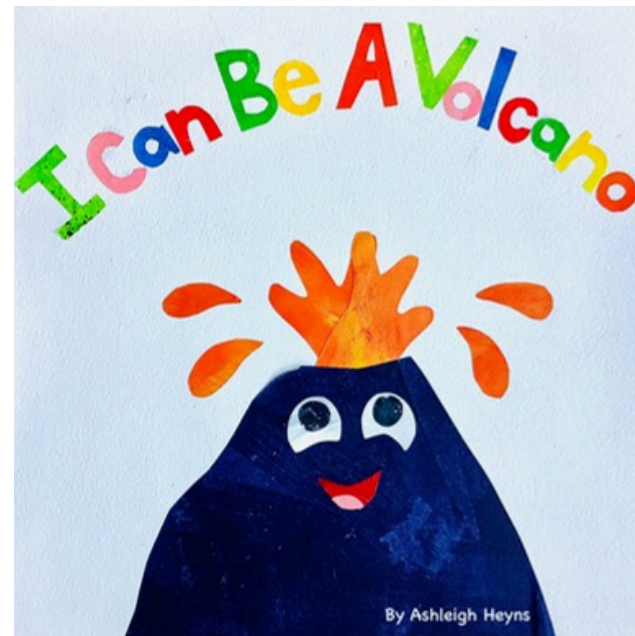
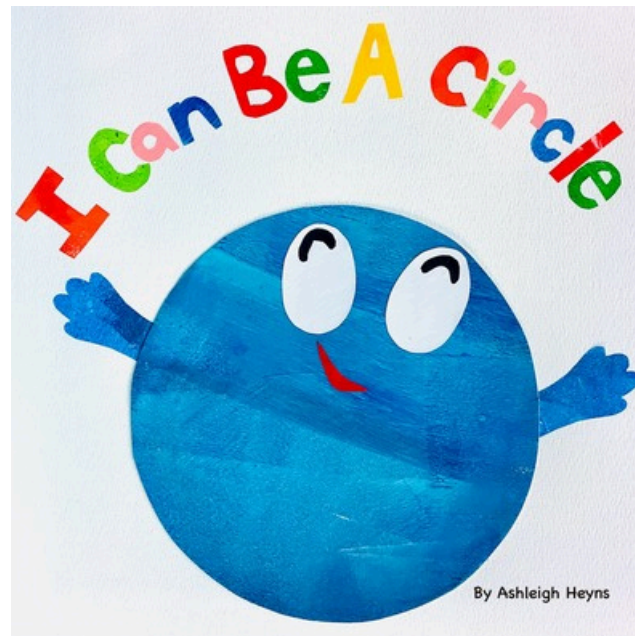


I CAN BE A CIRCLE

I CAN BE A VOLCANO

I CAN BE A BUTTERFLY

Children learn best through play and imagination. The I CAN BE ... book series for small children will take lookers and listeners on a journey of learning as they imagine themselves going through the experiences of the various subjects covered in the series. A child can experience being a butterfly, a circle, a planet, a volcano and so much more and best of all, will learn as they play. What's more, the series can continue to cover many subjects over a variety of topics. Not even the sky's the limit!



Ashleigh Heyns is an author, illustrator and lover of children's books and spends far more time reading these than any other type of book. After trying many styles of art to create her illustrations with, Ashleigh decided paper collage was the medium for her, which, although is 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. Ashleigh left teaching so she could spend more time creating stories and pictures. Ashleigh grew up 'all over the place' and lived in some of South Africa's most beautiful places including a city, a town, a farm and even a forest. Ashleigh now lives in Marondera, a small town in Zimbabwe with her family, four cats and two dogs.

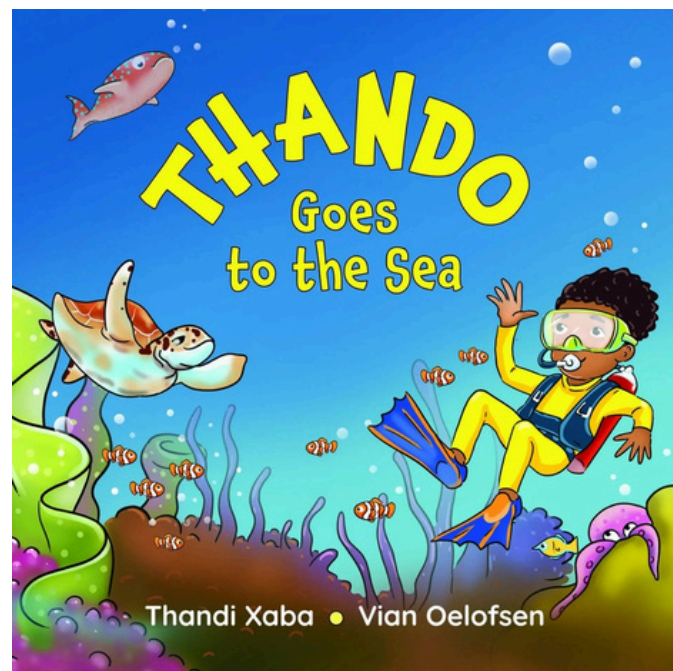
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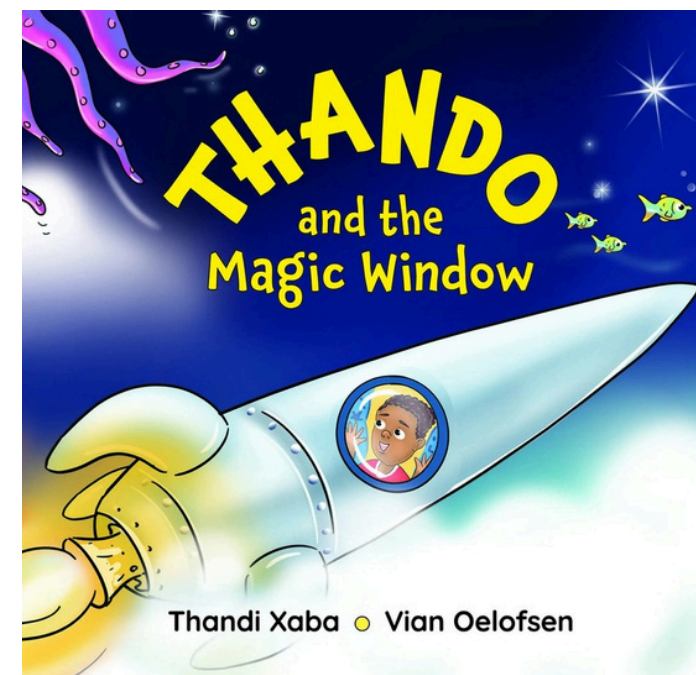
THANDO GOES TO THE SEA ——— THANDO AND THE MAGIC WINDOW

Thando has big eyes and a curious mind.

Today, Thando and his mother go scuba diving in the sea. Through his goggles, Thando sees a colorful cast of sea creatures. Like the friendly starfish, the playful spinner dolphins that leap and twirl through the water, and the shy seahorse. But they have to watch out for Miss Crabby Crab, with her sharp claws that snap, snap, snap! A vibrant ocean adventure that celebrates the magical creatures that call it home.



Through his magic bedroom window, ordinary views become extraordinary adventures. Thando explores bustling city streets, lush forests, starry night skies, and underwater ocean adventures complete with sharks and octopuses – his imagination can take him anywhere! The beautiful illustrations offer lots of details to discover in this perfect bedtime book. A lovely story that celebrates the boundless power of a child's imagination.



Thandi Xaba is a Communications and Research Officer at MIBCO with more than ten years in communications, writing and journalism. She holds a Journalism diploma, BA in Strategic Brand Communication, and is pursuing BA Honours. She runs the nonprofit Pelo ya Modisa, focusing on literacy and community upliftment. **Vian Oelofsen** is a full-time children's book illustrator and author. He works for South African as well as international publishers and has illustrated more than 50 books for children. He is well-known for his illustrations in the popular Liewe Heksie and Tjoppie series.

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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

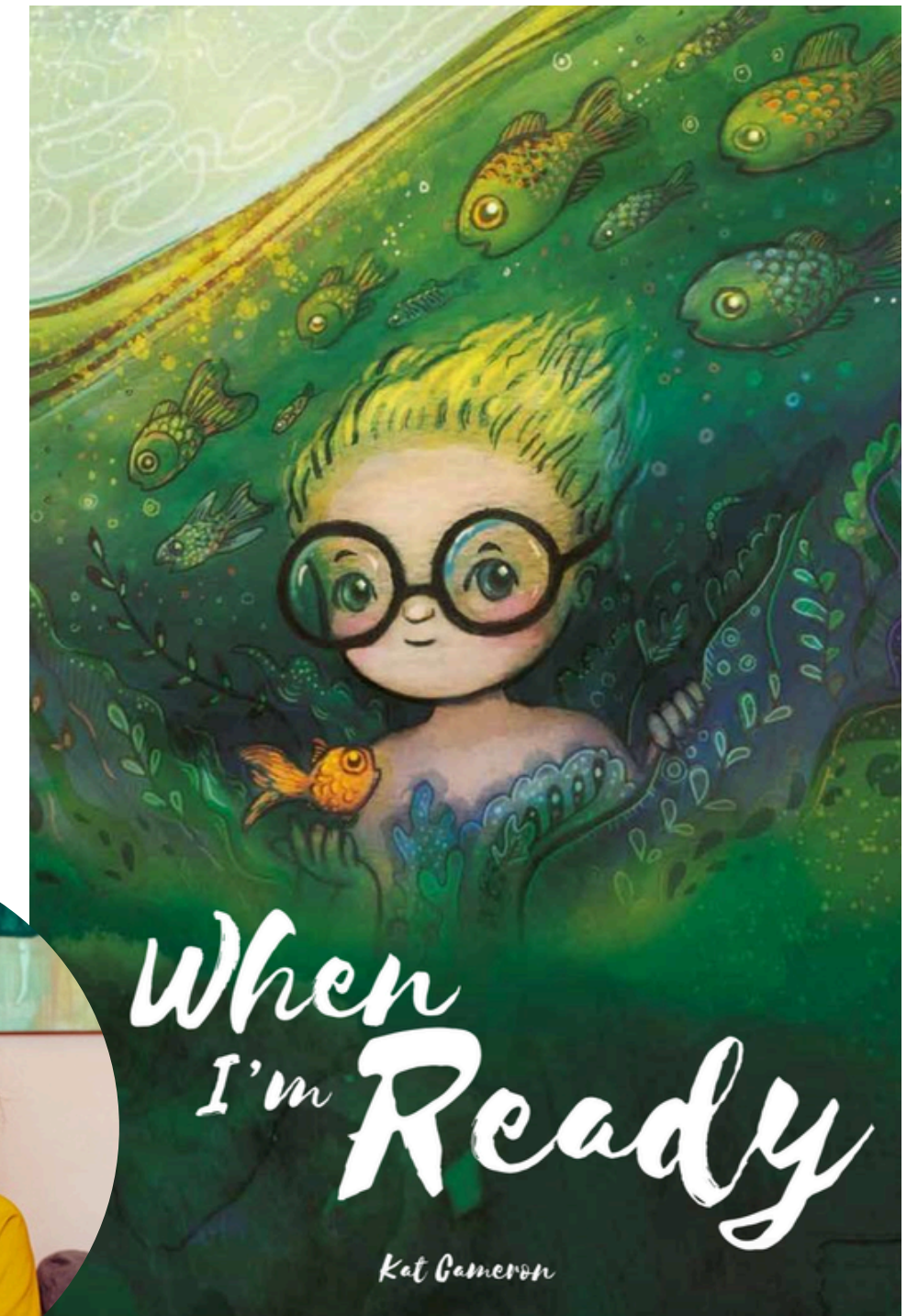
Jump in!

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.

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INTERVILLE

Our story begins on Verdigris Island. Once the undisputed crown jewel of the Lake Korno island chain, Verdigris has fallen into disrepair and become seemingly unoccupied – at least, that’s what its secret inhabitants want you to believe....

Far below the island’s surface, a labyrinth of tunnels and caves hides one of Earth’s best-kept secrets. Here, in a strange and ancient library, an evil Tentacle is imprisoned – and has been for centuries. But when Mouille (“Moo-lee”), a mysterious and ridiculously fluffy creature unlawfully enters from another world through the Gate (a portal to other realms collectively known as “InterVille”), he accidentally trips the power.... This momentary power outage disarms the Tentacle’s shackles, which are made of light itself. Uh-oh! Allistor verdigris, a scientist, naturalist, and keeper of the Gate, along with Wollric, his giant, hairy friend dressed as a gentlemanly scholar, manage to contain the Tentacle again. But their troubles are far from over...

Etienne Fourie is a Cape Town–based, award-winning writer and director known for his work on Trompoppie (“Drummie”), Stiekyt (“Stick Out”), Die Windpomp (“The Windmill”), Dis Koue Kos, Skat (“Just Dessert, Dear”), Tydelik Terminaal (“Temporarily Terminal”), Liewe Kersfeesvader (“Dear Santa”), Klein Karoo, and his critically acclaimed debut novel, Man in die Maan (“Man in the Moon”).

In 2021, he won the SAFTA (South African Film and Television Awards) for Best Achievement in Directing TV Drama for Tydelik Terminaal and was nominated for Best Achievement in Writing TV Drama for Trompoppie at the 2024 SAFTAs. His films have been showcased at numerous prestigious international festivals, including the Rotterdam International Film Festival, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF), and Long Beach International Film Festival.

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THE FERAL

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

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

Greg Grabianski is a novelist, screenwriter, and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several other of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide. A writer on BEAVIS & 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, no-dialog show for Million Volt Studios/Netflix.

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*sample image



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A YEAR IN MY LIFE

For all the lost teenagers in small towns.

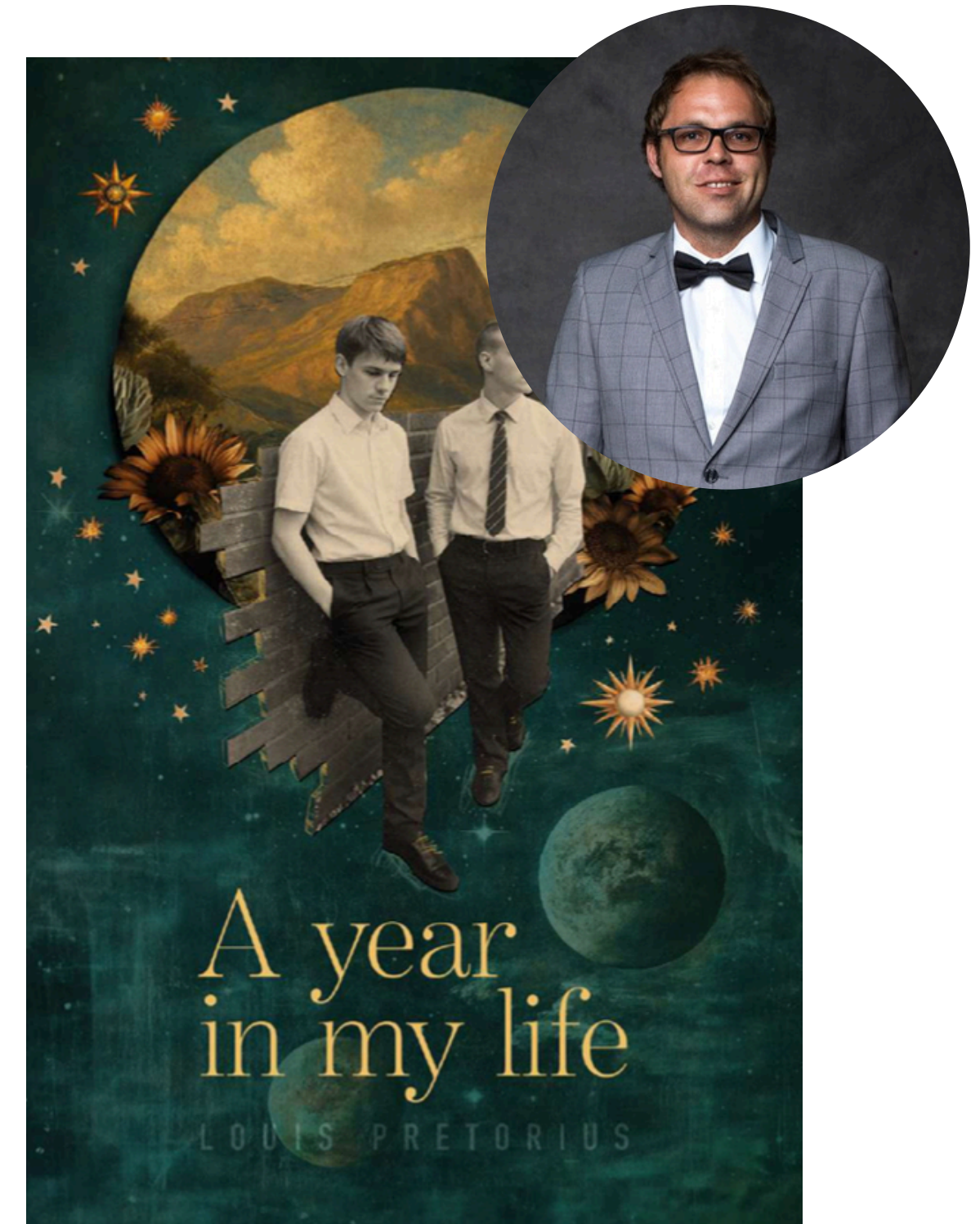
1996. The year of South Africa's new constitution and the Cricket World Cup, of the second Small Karoo National Arts Festival and the debut of *Friends* on local television.

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 NEW GIRL CODE

Tumi Letsatsi is a 13-year old melanin kween living in Rondebosch, Cape Town. Her favourite colour is yellow, she's still trying to figure out how not to dent her afro on the bus, and how one goes about (ahem!) *"french kissing"*. She's a little awkward and a lot uncertain about her future, friendships and how to put together a cool outfit! But then she stumbles across the magic of coding and creates an app called "Project Prep" that goes viral and rockets her and her friends to fame. Then everything starts to fall apart, as she deals with a catfish who befriends her and steals her code, nasty rumours at school and the newfound attention of a crush.

The New Girl Code (by Niki Smit, locally edited by Buhle Ngaba) is about the wonders of working in tech, aimed at girls and young women aged 9 - 15. The project is an initiative of Inspiring Fifty and based on an idea by Janneke Niessen.

Niki Smit is an author and illustrator. In 2014, she won the Prize of the Dutch Children's Jury with her book 100% COCO. The book 100% COCO PARIS was awarded a Pluim by the Dutch Children's Jury 2015. With her debut 100% NINA she won the Niki de Hotze de Roos Prize. The 100%-series are about fashion, big cities, love and friendship. Niki's diary-style is most beloved among teenage girl. In 2011 the first audiobook appeared, 100% MILA is narrated by actress Nicolette van Dam. In 2015, Actress Georgina Verbaan narrated the audio book 100% COCO. Niki lives in Amsterdam and loves fashion, illustration and Paris. She also teaches fashion classes to teenagers, at workshops in libraries and museums.

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SHOW AND TELL

Her family looks a little different. That's what makes them great.

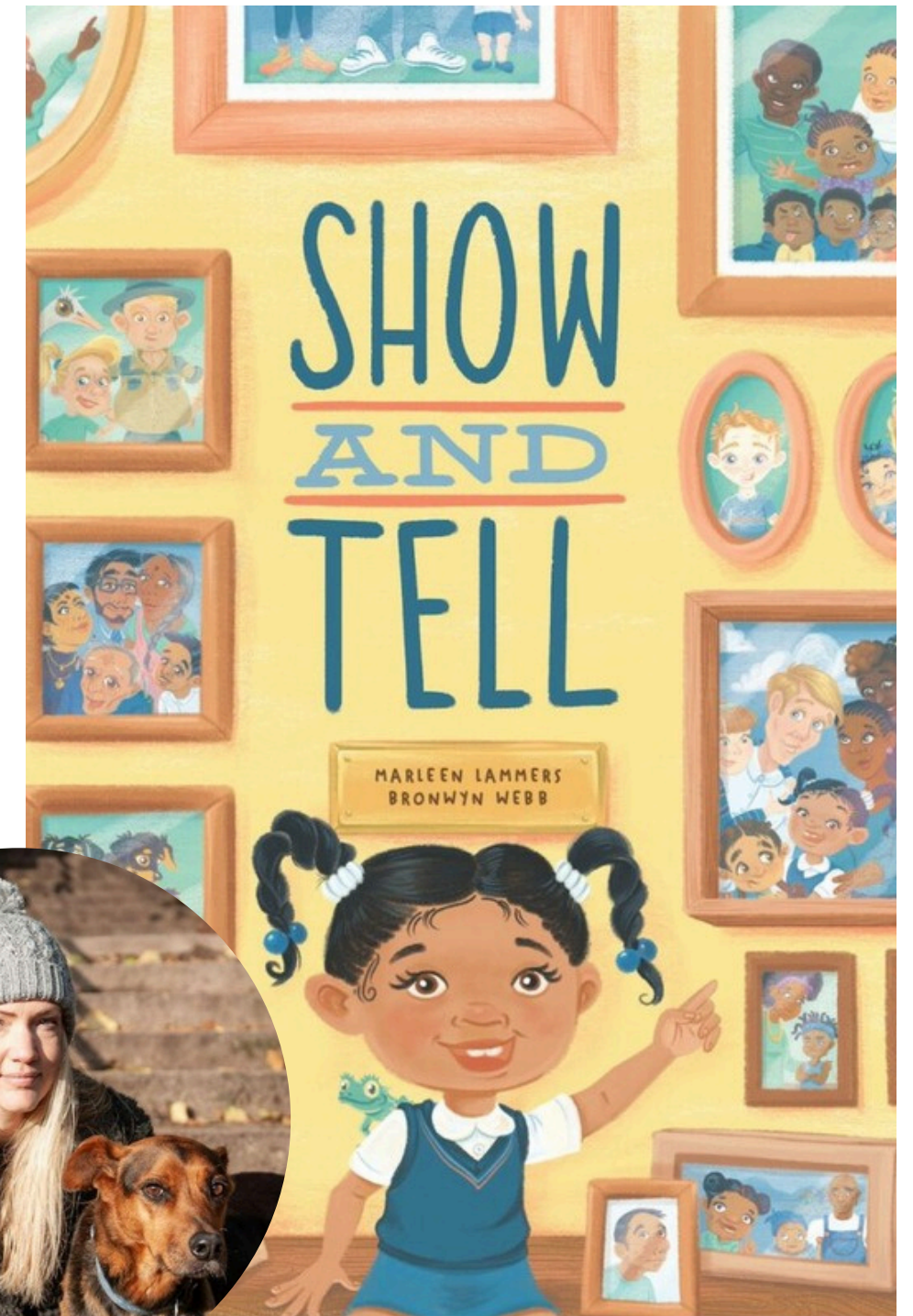
It's show and tell day at school, and one little student is feeling nervous about introducing their unique family. But as each classmate takes a turn, from triplets to step-siblings, from two moms to dance crews, they realize that every family is wonderfully different in their own special way.

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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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 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.



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.



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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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CONTACT US

The Lennon-Ritchie Agency

 aoife@lennonliterary.com



(+27) 61 352 1405

(+27) 21 447 9797



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