Jacana Media New and Forthcoming Titles 2026

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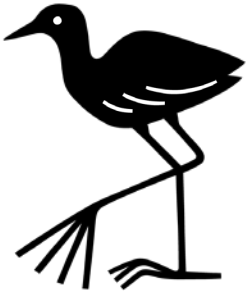
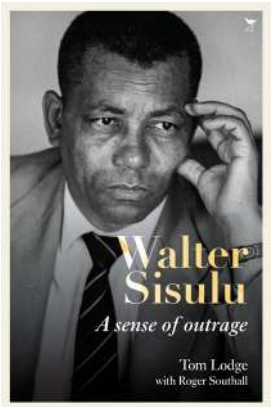


New and Forthcoming Titles 2026



Walter Sisulu

A sense of outrage

Tom Lodge with Roger Southall

Walter Sisulu is often lauded alongside Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo and yet the struggle stalwart was so self-effacing that previous biographies fall short of explaining the magnitude of his contributions. This essential and digestible book makes it clear just how integral Sisulu was to the anti-apartheid movement. Sisulu was the architect of the Congress Alliance and was, for at least a decade, the ANC's chief strategist. He and his wife Albertina helped the ANC maintain its moral authority, establishing a moral compass for the party that today's activists continue to consult.

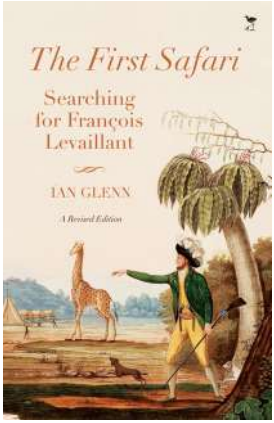
978-1-4314-3430-5| History | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 228pp | Southern African Rights | January 2026

The Sad Boy's Starter Pack And Other Poems

Zubayr Charles

In this intimate and modern poetry collection, Zubayr Charles seeks healing amidst the shocks of personal and social rejection, navigating the paradoxes of identity and love. Vivid, brave and witty, *The Sad Boy's Starter Pack* is a reclamation of the self and a homecoming for the lonely and estranged. Invoking a strong sense of place, Charles' Cape Town shapes what it means to be queer and coloured. With a deft hand, the poet shapes his world. Charles' poems explore the tension between desire and detachment, longing and all-consuming love. This volume takes familiar, timeless themes by storm, forging them anew with luminous self-possession.

978-1-4314-3639-2 | Poetry | Paperback | 198x125,5mm | 92pp | World Rights | January 2026



The First Safari

Searching for François Levaillant
A Revised Edition

Ian Glenn

François Levaillant was the first and greatest South African birder, the first major figure of modern ornithology, the creator of the first safari, the first anthropologist of the Cape and the first investigative reporter criticising colonial brutality at the Cape. He predicted the rebellion of the frontier Boers and portrayed the dilemmas of coloured identity. He created the most beautiful illustrated bird books of his time and inspired a map for King Louis XVI that has become the most valuable African map ever produced. His *Travels into the Interior of Africa* was a best-seller across Europe and the most widely translated text on South Africa until Nelson Mandela's autobiography two centuries later.

The revised second edition reflects new information and research on Levaillant's descendants; the provenance of the Paris bloubok; Levaillant's use of illustrations as a re-viewing of his experiences and his collaboration with Colonel Robert Gordon as a crucial part of his development as an ornithologist.

978-1-4314-2829-8 | Natural History/Travel Writing | Paperback | 212x136mm | 240pp
World Rights | January 2026

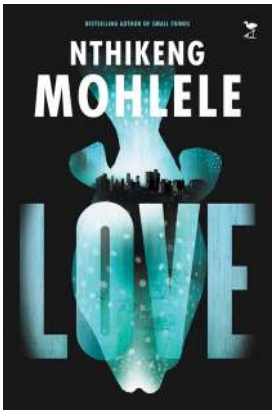
Umlungu Omnyama

Kopano Matlwa

Translated by Celimpilo Dladla

Coconut, the debut, award-winning novel that put Kopano Matlwa on the map is expanding the literary landscape and appealing to an entirely new audience. *Coconut* is now available in isiZulu as *Umlungu Omnyama*. Coconut is a story that deals with growing up as a black child in a white world, where fitting in comes at the cost of one's blackness – too white for black, and too black for white.

978-1-4314-3689-7 (isiZulu); 978-1770009-336-2 (English) | isiZulu | Paperback | 212x136mm | 272pp
World Rights | February 2026

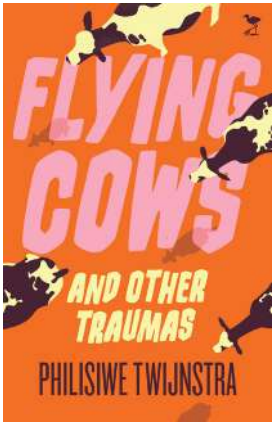


Love

Nthikeng Mohlele

Nthikeng Mohlele, prize-winning author, returns with *Love*, a thrilling and provocative new novel that dares readers to confront love as a force capable of both healing and undoing us. *Love* follows the enigmatic protagonist Melvin Ramone, also known as Sebastian Salt, hired as a chef in a shadowy private prison. Salt is an undecided atheist – four times married; four times divorced; four times widowed; four times prostituted, and twice arrested. He is quickly pulled into a much darker contract by his faceless employers, one that he cannot easily escape.

978-1-4314-3646-0 | Literary Fiction | Trade Paperback | 235x135mm | 196pp | Africa Rights | March 2026



Flying Cows and Other Traumas

Philisiwe Twijnstra

This collection of short stories explores the breadth of magical realism, speculative fiction and fantasy. Twijnstra portrays women succeeding in the face of brutality. The protagonists – black women – are thrust into magical, terrifying, spellbinding worlds, with stories set in the past, present and future.

Flying Cows and Other Traumas explores themes of family dysfunction and resilience through a black feminist lens.

978-1-4314-3598-2 | Short Stories/Fiction | Paperback | 212x136mm | 244pp | World Rights | March 2026

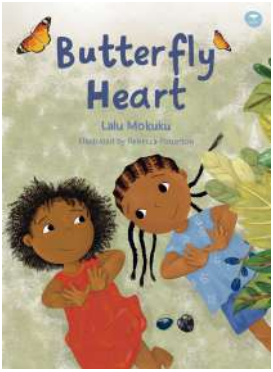
Milani's Gift

Lebo Mazibuko
Illustrated by Monique Mortimer

Milani loves to sing, especially in the mornings when the rooster crows. The birds in her father's chicken coop greet the day with their songs. But Milani is a shy girl and she only feels free to sing when no one is watching. One day, her father discovers her hidden talent and encourages her to sing at school – but when the big moment comes, Milani freezes. Overcome with fear and embarrassment she runs away, vowing to never sing again.

Can her teacher, Mrs Jiya, help Milani find the courage to share her beautiful voice with the world?

ISBN 978-1-4314-3649-1 (English); 978-1-4314-3676-7 (Afrikaans); 978-1-4314-3677-4 (isiZulu)
978-1-4314-3678-1 (isiXhosa); 978-1-4314-3679-8 (Setswana); 978-1-4314-3680-4 (Sepedi)
978-1-4314-3681-1 (Sesotho); 978-1-4314-3683-5 (Siswati); 978-1-4314-3682-8 (Xitsonga)
Children's, ages 5 to 8 | Picture Flat | 290x210mm | 32pp | World Rights | March 2026

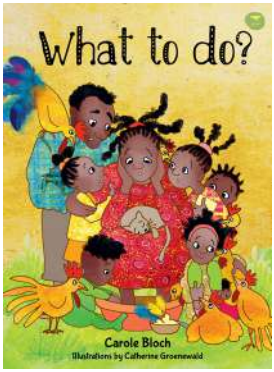


Butterfly Heart

Lalu Mokuku
Illustrated by Rebecca Potterton

Butterfly Heart follows the close friendship between two young girls. Neo and Mosa are best friends who share everything and have heart-shaped stones to remind them of their special connection. But when Mosa's heart begins to slow, Neo must face the pain of watching her best friend struggle with an illness. As Mosa's heart grows weaker, Neo learns about the fragility of life, the power of memories and the comfort of knowing that love never truly stops.

978-1-4314-3648-4 (English); 978-1-4314-3669-9 (Afrikaans); 978-1-4314-3670-5 (isiZulu)
978-1-4314-3671-2 (isiXhosa); 978-1-4314-3672-9 (Setswana); 978-1-4314-3673-6 (Sepedi)
978-1-4314-3674-3 (Sesotho); 978-1-4314-3684-2 (Siswati); 978-1-4314-3675-0 (Xitsonga)
| Children's, ages 5 to 8 | Picture Flat | 290x210mm | 32pp | World Rights | March 2026



What to do?

Carole Bloch

Illustrated by Catherine Groenewald

Papa and Mama live with their five children in a crowded, little house. When Gogo and Mkhulu come to stay, the house begins to feel cramped and chaotic. Desperate for peace, Papa visits Wise Wazini, hoping she'll know how to solve the problem. But Wise Wazini's advice only makes things noisier, wilder and smelly!

What will they do to bring calm back to the family? A funny, heartwarming retelling of a well known folktale about family, patience and a very wise woman.

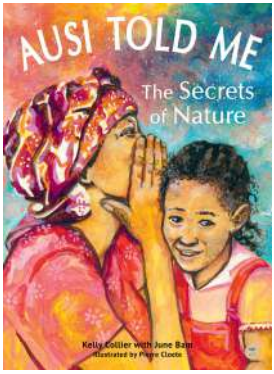
This story shows the benefits of sometimes listening to advice, even if it seems illogical at first. Following the wise woman's suggestions, the family goes through increasing cycles of chaos, until they come to realize how peaceful their home actually is. They learn acceptance and appreciation of what they have.

978-1-4314-3650-7 (English); 978-1-4314-3658-3 (Afrikaans); 978-1-4314-3659-0 (isiZulu)

978-1-4314-3660-6 (isiXhosa); 978-1-4314-3661-3 (Setswana); 978-1-4314-3662-0 (Sesotho)

978-1-4314-3663-7 (Sepedi); 978-1-4314-3664-4 (Siswati); 978-1-4314-3665-1 (Xitsonga)

| Children's, ages 5 to 8 | Picture Flat | 290x210mm | 32pp | World Rights | March 2026



Ausi Told Me

The Secrets of Nature

Kelly Collier and June Bam

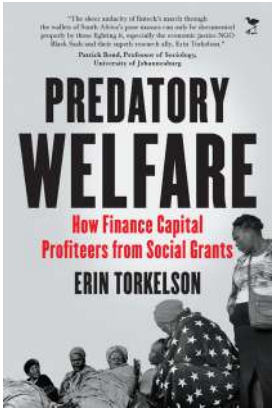
Illustrated by Pierre Cloete

In this beautifully illustrated children's picture book, we embark on a magical journey with Ausi, an ancient matriarch and ancestor, who shares the timeless secrets of nature with a group of little children. Wise Ausi guides the children and teaches them the connections between earth, water, fire, wind and the celestial bodies. They discover how these elements are not only vital for survival but also for nurturing a deep respect for the land. From understanding the sacredness of Mother Earth to learning how to read animal tracks and dance for rain, we learn the wisdom of living in harmony with nature. With Ausi's guidance, the child narrator becomes a 'magical scientist', learning to listen to the earth's whispers and honour her gifts.

978-1-4314-3641-5 (English); 978-1-4314-3692-7 (Afrikaans); 978-1-4314-3695-8 (Sepedi)

978-1-4314-3693-4 (isiXhosa); 978-1-4314-3694-1 (isiZulu); 978-1-4314-3691-0 (Khoekhoegowab)

Children's, ages 5 to 8 | Picture flat | 290x210mm | 32pp | World Rights | April 2026



Predatory Welfare

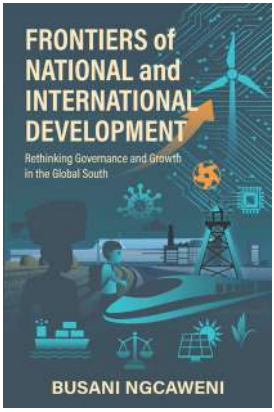
How Finance Capital Profiteers from Social Grants

Erin Torkelson

Predatory Welfare: How Finance Capital Profiteers from Social Grants is a powerful, eye-opening account of how social welfare, distributed in the form of cash transfers, shapes inequality in contemporary South Africa. Erin Torkelson challenges the widely held belief that simply giving money to the poor can solve poverty. Cash transfers are often presented as a straightforward, humane solution embraced across the political spectrum, from global development agencies to progressive academics, to alleviate poverty. But this book reveals a far more complicated and troubling reality.

Drawing on seven years of immersive fieldwork in South Africa – from grant payment queues and grocery stores to Parliament and the Constitutional Court – Torkelson shows how a flagship anti-poverty programme became entangled with predatory finance. Instead of offering relief, cash transfers are often leveraged by lenders as collateral, pulling recipients, especially Black women, into cycles of debt.

978-1-4314-3688-0 | Current Affairs | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 328pp | Southern African | April 2026



Frontiers of National and International Development

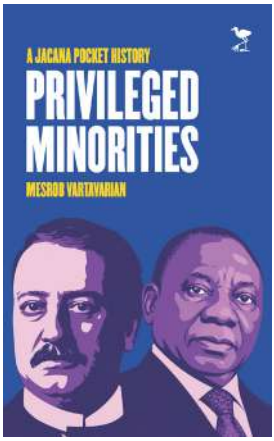
Rethinking Governance and Growth in the Global South

Busani Ngcaweni

Frontiers of National and International Development is an incisive interrogation of statecraft and governance in the Global South. Drawing on theory, policy experience and case studies, particularly from South Africa and China, Ngcaweni explores how capable, ethical leadership is central to transforming national and global development trajectories.

This book critiques dominant western models and offers grounded specific pathways for structure change.

978-1-77634-597-7 | Politics | Trade Paperback | 235x135mm | 280pp | World Rights | April 2026



Privileged Minorities

A History of Wealth Concentration in South Africa
A Jacana Pocket History

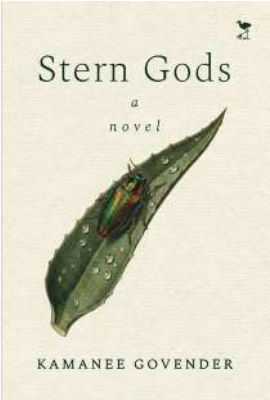
Mesrob Vartavarian

How does a country shaped by anticolonial struggle become fertile ground for wealth concentration alongside enduring inequality? This is the paradox Mesrob Vartavarian dissects in *Privileged Minorities*.

How does South Africa, which should be striving to shake free of colonial and apartheid inequalities, enrich only select groups within the political and corporate spheres, leaving the majority working class behind?

Vartavarian argues that the rise of privileged minorities – small, exclusive groups that dominate political and economic life – parallels the development of successful anticolonial movements. These minorities have secured exclusive advantages, benefits and protections which have enabled material accumulation. This includes land seizures, racialized labour systems, access to coercive institutions, favourable regulatory environments and targeted state expenditures. These mechanisms disproportionately benefit select oligarchies and middle classes.

978-1-4314-3706-1 |History | Paperback | 180x110mm | 194pp | Southern African | April 2026



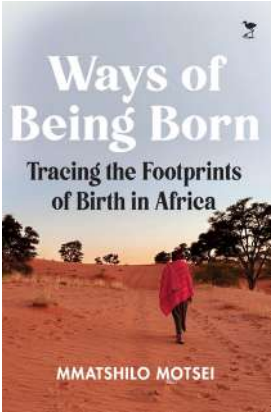
Stern Gods

Kamanee Govender

Stern Gods is a powerful coming-of-age novel set in 1980s apartheid South Africa, during a turbulent State of Emergency. Kaathi Reddy lives in a cramped council house in the Indian township of Bombayville, navigating the harsh realities of poverty, patriarchy and systemic violence. Clever and spirited, Kaathi finds joy in school and her friendships with Zaynub and Losh, but her world is also shaped by silence and suffering: an abusive uncle, a volatile home and the rigid expectations of her Hindu upbringing.

When Losh is raped and silenced by her family, Kaathi's attempt to seek justice sparks a chain of events that leads to devastating consequences. Despite the sorrow, this quietly devastating novel captures a girl's resilience as she begins to piece herself back together. Unflinching, lyrical and deeply empathetic, Stern Gods offers a haunting portrait of girlhood and survival in a fractured world.

978-1-4314-3644-6 | Fiction | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 224pp | World Rights | May 2026



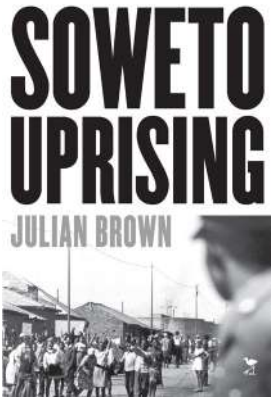
Ways of Being Born

Tracing the Footprints of Birth in Africa

Mmatshilo Motsei

Ways of Being Born is a tribute to indigenous midwives who continue to uphold traditional birthing wisdom in the face of institutional neglect. Mmatshilo Motsei draws upon ancestral guidance, academic inquiry and her lived experience as a trained midwife and spiritual healer to contribute to the growing body of work that seeks to decolonise maternal health in South Africa. *Ways of Being Born* is both a searing indictment of obstetric violence in the nation's hospitals and a platform for the voices actively countering cultural erasure and humanising a sacred life-giving ritual.

978-1-4314-3715-3 | African Studies/Women's Studies/ Decolonisation | Paperback | 212x136mm | 216pp
World Rights | June 2026



Soweto Uprising

A Documentary History

Julian Brown

Soweto Uprising: A Documentary History presents a vital and comprehensive history of the Soweto Uprising and its aftermath. Julian Brown takes readers through a thorough account of June 16, 1976 and the events that surrounded and followed it, meticulously tracing a history through archives, stories and hitherto untapped sources.

Soweto Uprising: A Documentary History presents primary sources that tell the story of the Soweto Uprising of 1976 from the contemporaneous perspectives of those involved. It places the raw material of history in the hands of a broad audience, enabling a wide variety of readers to interpret and understand a key moment in South Africa's anti-apartheid activism from the records of the time itself.

978-1-4314-3700-9 |History | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 444pp | World Rights | June 2026

The Soweto Uprising

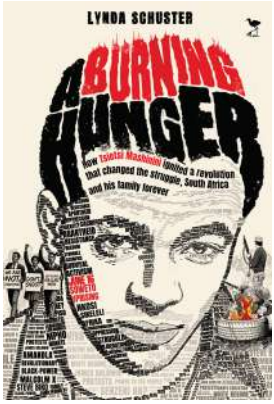
A Jacana Pocket History

Revised Edition

Noor Nieftagodien

What began as a peaceful and coordinated demonstration in Soweto rapidly turned into a violent protest when police opened fire on students. Orlando West, the epicentre of that day's events, was transformed into a charged space of political contestation as students claimed the streets and their schools as arenas of defiance and self-determination. The uprising also foregrounded the central political role of youth, whose activism would reverberate through the township revolts of the 1980s, while exposing generational tensions within Soweto communities and prompting renewed efforts to forge unity between students and parents. Drawing on a rich body of oral histories, this revised edition brings to life the sequence of events and reflects on the uprising's profound significance for South African politics and collective memory.

978-1-4314-0879-5 | History | Paperback | 180x110mm | 208pp | Southern Africa | June 2026



A Burning Hunger

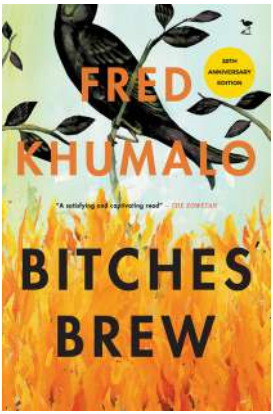
How Tsietsi Mashinini ignited a revolution that changed the struggle, South Africa and his family forever

Lynda Schuster

If the Mandelas were the generals in the fight for black liberation, the Mashininis were the foot soldiers. Theirs is a story of exile, imprisonment, torture and loss, but also of dignity, courage and strength in the face of appalling adversity. Originally published in the UK and USA to critical acclaim, *A Burning Hunger* tells a deeply moving human story and stands as one of the seminal books about the struggle against apartheid.

This is an extraordinary story of a family that became a symbol of resistance; a tale of unimaginable adversity met with dignity and defiance and an example of what ordinary people are capable of when injustice becomes intolerable. Basing her narrative on extensive research and interviews, Lynda Schuster richly portrays the Mashininis and in so doing reveals black South Africa during a time of momentous change.

978-1-4314-3708-5 | Biography/South Africa/History/Politics | Trade Paperback | 235x135mm | 464pp
Southern African Rights | June 2026



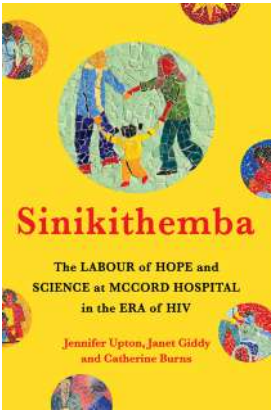
Bitches' Brew

Fred Khumalo

Bitches' Brew is a South African love story set in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. It focuses on the epic love affair between Bra Zakes, a former amateur musician, bootlegger, mercenary and killer of great repute and Lettie, a shebeen queen.

Bitches' Brew traces the couple's lives and loves through the interweaving of history and memory in the tradition of village storytellers. As he lies dying, and facing the prospect of his assets being confiscated by the Assets Forfeiture Unit, Bra Zakes is surrounded by his trusted lieutenants who wait for their last instructions from their 'mafia' boss. Also at his bedside is Lettie, whom he has not seen for twenty years, and whom he hopes to make a beneficiary of his empire.

978-1-77009-190-0 | Fiction | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 328pp | World Rights | July 2026



Sinikithemba

The Labour of Hope and Science at McCord Hospital in the Era of HIV

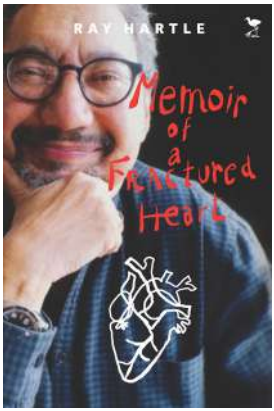
Jennifer Upton, Janet Giddy and Catherine Burns

Written by two historians and a medical doctor, *Sinikithemba*, which means 'we give hope' in isiZulu, is a rich and detailed history of medicine-in-society and society-in-medicine, and the relationship between faith, hope, health services, politics and biomedical science during the late-apartheid and post-apartheid era.

Sinikithemba provides a perspective on South Africa's health history seen through the lens of McCord Hospital in Durban and how the hospital community responded to the crisis of HIV.

The chapters build from the 1970s, through the 1980s, and into the time of the HIV pandemic, telling the story of HIV through the experiences and voices of the people in KwaZulu-Natal, which was the epicentre of the AIDS epidemic regionally.

978-1-4314-3599-9 |History | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 320pp | Southern African
July 2026



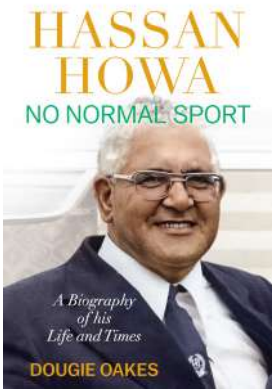
Memoir of a Fractured Heart

Ray Hartle

Almost fifty years after Dr Chris Barnard performed the first human heart transplant, the journalist Ray Hartle received a donor heart in the Cape Town hospital named after the pioneering surgeon.

Hartle's details the life experiences which made his heart pound and those that eased its rhythm. He explores the interplay, familiar to anyone with a chronic illness, between the physical challenges of being unwell and the emotional upheaval those challenges cause.

978-1-4314-3596-8 | Biography/Memoir | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 296pp | World Rights
September 2026



Hassan Howa: No Normal Sport

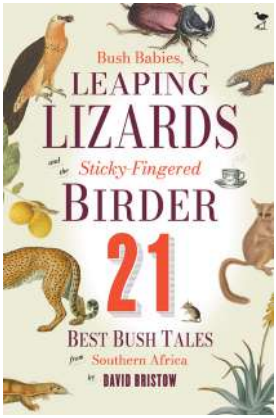
A Biography of his Life and Times

Dougie Oakes

Hassan Howa, cricketer and anti-apartheid sports activist, refused to separate sport from political struggle. There could be no normal sport in abnormal times.

Written by journalist Dougie Oakes with the support of Nazeem Howa, this bold biography chronicles Howa's journey into resistance, showing how apartheid turned sport into an ideological battlefield. Howa refused to compromise. He fought state power, apartheid's overseas supporters and sometimes even his own allies to demand non-racial sport.

978-1-0672353-1-4 | Sports/Biography | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 516pp | World Rights
September 2026



Bush Babies, Leaping Lizards and the Sticky-Fingered Birder

21 Best Bush Tales from Southern Africa

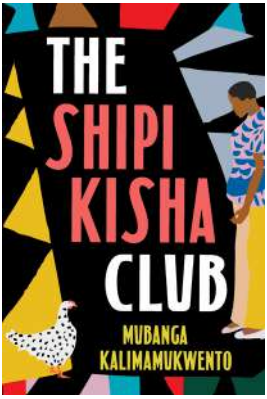
David Bristow

Bestselling author and intrepid traveller David Bristow is back with another collection of thrilling bush tales. Bristow's stories have excited, educated and entertained readers for over fifty years and the nostalgia and comfort they bring still rings true for readers of all types.

Discover the peculiar tale of the avian artist who committed a daring museum heist, find out what happened when a married Huguenot woman took a slave as her lover (spoiler: it doesn't end well) and pause to appreciate the final act of the native soldiers aboard the sinking SS *Mendi*.

Expect musings on the greed threatening our natural world and the small steps ordinary folks can take to try and stem the tide – all conveyed with the author's trademark panache.

978-1-4314-3724-5 | Natural History | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 232pp | World Rights
September 2026



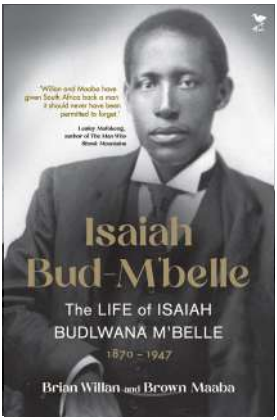
The Shipikisha Club

Mubanga Kalimamukwento

Sali, a working mother of three, stands trial for the murder of her husband, Kasunga. The prosecutor claims Sali shot him after a heated fight in their bedroom. There are no witnesses. Sali pleads not guilty. But her story does not begin with a gun. It begins fourteen years earlier – with her rebellion against the pressure to find a husband, her affair with a wealthy married man called Doc and her discovery that she's pregnant on the same day of Doc's unexpected death.

To avoid the shame of being an unwed mother, Sali accepts Kasunga's proposal and finds herself suddenly thrust into the Shipikisha club: her society's expectations that it is a wife's duty to endure. Over the years, Sali navigates her husband's infidelities and alcohol-filled nights, their money troubles and her postpartum depression in silence. Until the day she speaks her mind and Kasunga puts a gun in her face.

978-1-4314-3716-0 | Fiction | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 236pp | Southern Africa Rights
September 2026



Isaiah Bud-M'belle

The Life of Isaiah Budlwana M'belle, 1870–1947

Brian Willan and Brown Maabe

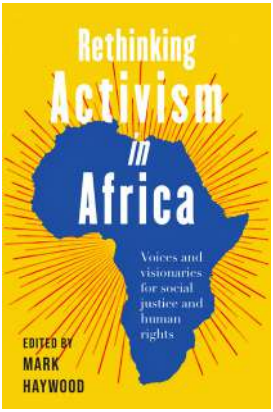
Isaiah Budlwana ('Bud') M'belle (1870–1947) was one of the most talented Black South Africans of his generation, although today his achievements have been largely forgotten. If he is remembered at all, it is as the brother-in-law of Solomon Plaatje. This biography tells his story for the first time.

Born in the Cape Colony in 1870 and of Mfengu origin, M'belle was the first African to pass the Cape civil service entry examinations. He was a highly regarded High Court Interpreter and became a senior official in the Native Affairs Department.

Brian Willan and Brown Maabe trace M'belle's life from his origins in the Lenge mountains in KwaZulu-Natal, through his education, his rise through the civil service, the books he wrote and sponsored, his trip to England in 1908 and his years in both Kimberley and Pretoria.

Through M'belle, readers encounter the broader landscape of Black intellectual and political culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

978-1-4314-3712-2 | History / Political Biography | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 232pp | World Rights
September 2026



Rethinking Activism in Africa

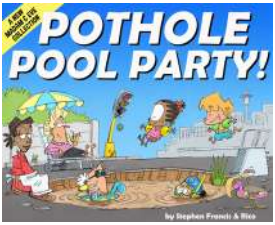
Voices and visionaries for social justice and human rights

Edited by Mark Heywood

Activists are at the forefront of struggles for racial equality, dignity and freedom across Africa and the world. *Rethinking Activism in Africa* documents some of the latest issues activists are facing in a rapidly changing world – drawing on stories and campaigns from the contemporary frontlines of social justice activism across the continent.

Fourteen essays from eight different countries tell inspiring and thought-provoking stories that help readers think through and strengthen their own activism. Framed by an introduction and conclusion that situate the essays in the pressing political, economic and social questions of the 2020s, the collection moves across a wide range of terrain: youth participation in democratic processes, civil society in war zones, internet freedoms, campaigns for equality and non-discrimination, alliances and the use of law. But it also digs deeper into forms of resistance – looking at compassion and care, music, theatre, food sovereignty and even rest.

978-1-997448-08-2 | Current Affairs / Politics | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 296pp | World Rights
September 2026



Pothole Pool Party

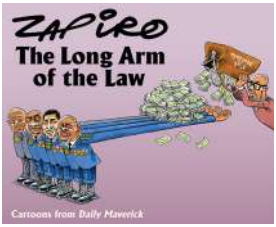
Madam & Eve Annual 2026

Stephen Francis & Rico

Pothole tours, never-ending commissions and poor politicians forced to take showers in hotels. This year's *Madam & Eve* collection has it all!

Join Madam, Eve, Mother Anderson, Thandi and the rest of the beloved cast of characters for a laughter-filled ride on the rollercoaster that is yet another crazy year in South Africa.

978-1-4314-3730-6 | Humor | Paperback | 195x240mm | 136pp | World Rights | October 2026



The Long Arm of the Law

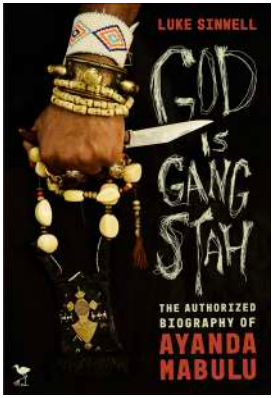
Zapiro 2026 Annual

Zapiro

The Long Arm of the Law is the 31st annual collection of Zapiro's legendary cartoons. Nobody captures the zeitgeist with humour and bite like the award-winning Zapiro.

The Madlanga Commission has showcased the marvellously named Vusimusi 'Cat' Matlala as chief villain and a crony cast of crooked cops whose skulduggery is wilder than even lifelong sceptics thought possible. Sisisi Tolashe (the one with the Chinese SUVs) is fired and replaced by someone fired from the cabinet 13 years ago for equally dodgy dealings. Trump got caught in the Straitjacket of Hormuz. Panyaza Lesufi suffers the Joburg water crisis in a hotel bath. Helen Zille snorkels in potholes, petrol costs more than caviar, the Phala Phala couch haunts Cyril and the government's AI policy is full of hallucinations after being generated by … AI! Once again, Zapiro never lacks for inspiration.

978-1-4314-3729-0 | Humor | Paperback | 195x240mm | 120pp | World Rights | October 2026



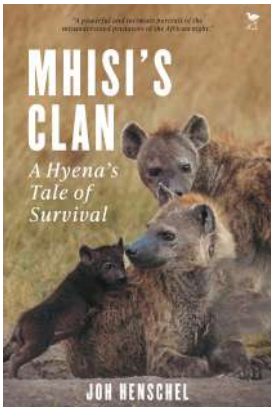
God is Gangstah

The Authorised Biography of Ayanda Mabulu

Luke Sinwell

Ayanda Mabulu is one of the most polarizing artists in South Africa; a man whose brazen paintings have been met by death threats, a man unafraid to lay bare the failures of leaders such as Jacob Zuma. Raised in a shebeen and surrounded by thugs, Mabulu's background makes plain the source of his courage and charisma. That Mabulu has entrusted his life story to a white man, the sociologist Luke Sinwell, is proof of the respect the two thinkers have for one another. Sinwell draws on numerous original interviews and intimate journals to reveal a sensitive father, a loyal husband and a man who wields his paintbrush to transmit ancestral knowledge.

978-1-4314-3562-3 | Biography/Art | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 326pp | World Rights | Forthcoming 2026



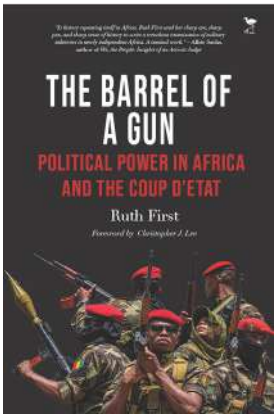
Mhisi's Clan

Joh Henschel

Born into the powerful Mavumbye Clan, a young spotted hyena named Mhisi must learn the complex rules of clan life under the watchful guidance of formidable female leaders. As he grows from vulnerable cub to skilled hunter, Mhisi encounters rival clans, predators, shifting alliances and devastating loss. As the Mavumbye Clan begins to collapse, can Mhisi survive the challenges ahead and build a new home?

Drawing on years of close observation and scientific research of the hyenas in the Kruger National Park, wildlife conservationist Joh Henschel brings the hidden world of spotted hyenas to life.

978-1-4314-3728-3 | Natural History | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 220pp | World Rights
Forthcoming 2026



The Barrel of a Gun

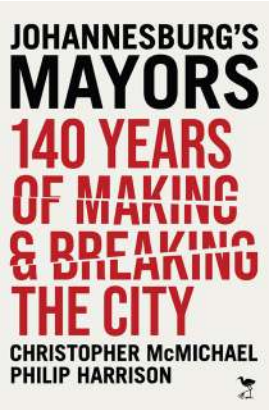
Political Power in Africa and the Coup d'Etat

Ruth First

Ruth First examines army intervention in postcolonial African politics but her focus is on politics more than armies. Her aim is a general theory of power for newly independent states, explaining why they proved so vulnerable to military coups. This is not a study of the mechanics of armies and coups d'état, their logistics and command structures, but of how army interventions reveal the nature of political power, and where it fails, across Africa.

The Barrel of a Gun remains a foundational text on coups and the postcolonial state. Jacana's edition – the first in fifty years – republishes First's classic study with a new critical introduction from Christopher J Lee.

978-1-4314-3746-7 | History/Politics | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 544pp | Southern African Rights
Forthcoming 2026



Johannesburg's Mayors

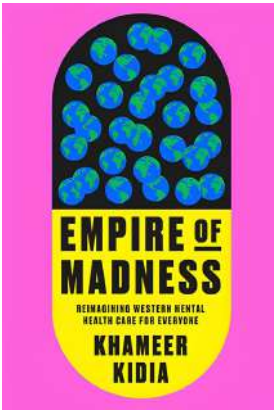
140 years of making and breaking the city

Philip Harrison and Christopher McMichael

Johannesburg's Mayors: 140 Years of Making and Breaking the City offers a sweeping exploration of more than one hundred mayors of Johannesburg, from the city's days as a ruthless mining town under Boer control to its troubled present, using their stories to trace how political power has been wielded across the colonial, apartheid and democratic eras.

Extensively researched yet written in an accessible style, the book captures the epic struggles within and among government agencies, communities and developers. It is full of stories of individuals – heroes and villains, successes and failures, scandals and extraordinary personal quirks and escapades – set within a story shaped by developments at global, national and local levels.

978-1-4314-3732-0 | History/Politics/Economics | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 392pp
Southern African Rights | Forthcoming 2026



Empire of Madness

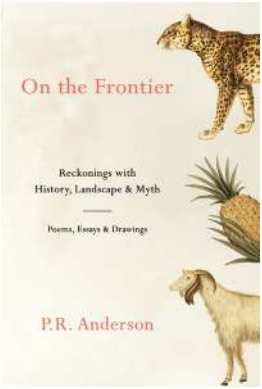
Reimagining Western Mental Health Care for Everyone

Khameer Kidia

An urgent rethinking of the Western approach to mental health, which treats the symptoms rather than the exploitative systems causing our distress – by a Rhodes Scholar and Harvard Medical School physician-anthropologist – offering lessons from the rest of the world.

What if the mainstay of mental health care involved cancelling onerous debt, giving poor people free housing and paying reparations to the descendants of slavery and colonialism? In *Empire of Madness*, Dr. Khameer Kidia re-evaluates the Western approach to mental health, which medicates symptoms instead of changing the structures that harm the human psyche. A physician and researcher whose own family suffers from the psychological effects of colonialism, Kidia highlights the limitations of the Western mental health model, drawing from over a decade of fieldwork on the front lines of mental health crises at home and in the clinics.

978-1-4314-3747-4 | Current Affairs/Social Justice/ Health | Trade Paperback | 235x155mm | 384pp
South African Rights | Forthcoming 2026



On the Frontier

Reckonings with History, Landscape & Myth

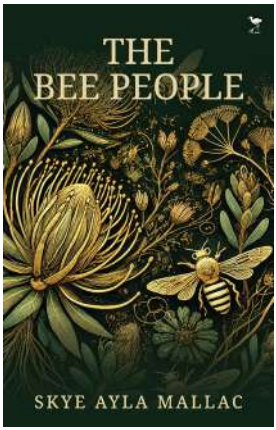
P R Anderson

P R Anderson offers a rich, hybrid exploration of the frontier in South Africa, told through drawings, essays, memoir and poetry.

A timely work poised at the intersection of the literary, the historical and decolonial debate, this book turns to the Cape's so-called eastern frontier – the south-western frontier, as it was for the embattled and resistant Xhosa – a place of dense historical conflict and violence, of contradiction and ambiguity, of interstitial space and of a wide body of historiographical writing.

That historiography has most often been told from the coloniser's point of view. Yet a rich historical archive also allows us to glimpse what the frontier looked like and meant from a Xhosa perspective – an aspect to which this book is highly attuned.

978-1-4314-3713-9 | Memoir/Essays | Paperback | 212x136mm | 328pp | Southern African Rights | Forthcoming 2026



The Bee People

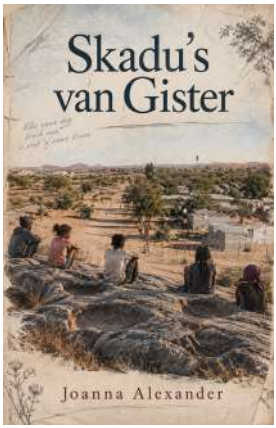
Skye Ayla Mallac

Set in a fictional Southern Africa during the settler era, *The Bee People* is a sweeping historical fantasy that connects two parallel worlds through the lens of their shared botanical inheritance.

Northern botanist Luther Arch is sent to curate an herbarium of the Cape fynbos. Dispatched to the Cederberg mountains with anthropologist Erica Carvalho and their guide, Xai, he inadvertently slips through a doorway into another world. There he finds a land much like our own, tended by the strange, ethereal Bee People, whose task is to move between worlds and care for the fynbos.

But the arrival of the Northerners has put their existence at risk, and they are closing the doorways for good. With a storm breaking and time running out before he is changed beyond recognition, Luther must find his way home past rock giants, portal guardians, fire spirits, sea beasts and Kgosi, the great sentinel of the grasslands. Yet the deeper he ventures into this other world, the more he begins to question whether returning home is what he truly wants.

978-1-7764846-5-2 | Fiction/Fantasy | Paperback | 212x136mm | 244pp | World Rights | Forthcoming 2026



Skadu's van Gister

Joanna Alexander

In a small town somewhere in the Northern Cape in the 1980s, five teenage friends try to survive life. They face the same kinds of problems as many other coloured communities do – socioeconomic problems, social ills and racial concerns. But their interwoven lives and trials are by no means average.

Polla, Lissie, Wikus, Henkie and Meide each have their own struggles. Without the support of the adults in their lives, the friends help each other to cope with their daily troubles, turbulent family lives and the social ills of their little town. After Meide's sudden death, friendship becomes the cornerstone of the group's survival, and they find consolation in their togetherness.

Skadu's van Gister is a moving coming-of-age story about navigating life, remorse, hard choices and the importance of friendship. Told in the dialect of Northern Cape Gariep Afrikaans, this book will connect to Gariep Afrikaans-speaking readers and readers who grew up in the Northern Cape during the 1980s.

978-1-0665974-1-3 | Vela Books | Fiction | Paperback | 212x136mm | 244pp | World Rights | Forthcoming 2026

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