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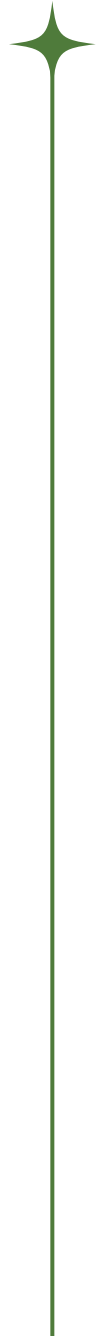


DUCK CREEK PRESS

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## CRIME

<u>FALLS THE SHADOW</u>	Mike Nicol	Detective Thriller
<u>NOW YOU SUFFER</u>	Gareth Crocker	Commercial Detective Thriller
<u>THE OTHER SISTER</u>	Karen Jeynes	Commercial Thriller
<u>THE FINISH LINE</u>	Gail Schimmel	Domestic Suspense
<u>A SHORT LIFE</u>	Nicky Greenwall	Psychological Thriller; Domestic Supsense
<u>ANGRY WATER</u>	Irna Van Zyl	Thriller; Police Procedural
<u>WHISPER OF DEATH, WHISPER OF LOVE</u>	David Lambkin	Action Adventure; Espionage
<u>DEADLY BENEFITS</u>	Kurt Ellis	Crime; Police Thriller
<u>THE HIDDEN</u>	Fiona Snyckers	Commercial Thriller; Domestic Noir
<u>THE SLIDES OF MARCH</u>	Matthew MacDevette	Commercial Thriller
<u>HELL OF A COUNTRY</u>	David Cornwell	Crime; Historical

## LITERARY & COMMERCIAL FICTION

<u>MA / MOTHER</u>	Antjie Krog	Autofiction
<u>THE GOOD DEATH</u>	Claire Robertson	Autofiction
<u>THE IMMORTALITES</u>	Claire Robertson	Historical Fiction; Fiction
<u>THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE</u>	Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu	Drama; Gothic; Magical Realism
<u>DECIMA</u>	Eben Venter	Literary Fiction; Autofiction; Environmental Fiction
<u>THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL</u>	Imran Garda	Science Fiction
<u>GOD'S POCKET</u>	Sven Axelrad	Magical Realism
<u>SLUITSTUK</u>	Johann Rossouw	Literary Fiction
<u>A GAP IN THE HEDGE</u>	Johan Vlok Louw	Literary Fiction
<u>EACH MORTAL THING</u>	Michiel Heyns	Literary Fiction
<u>NOTES ON FALLING</u>	Bronwyn Law - Viljoen	Literary Fiction
<u>THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER</u>	Craig Higginson	Literary Fiction
<u>GLASS HOUSE</u>	Chinenye Emezie	Family Drama

## LITERARY & COMMERCIAL FICTION

<u>AN ANGEL'S DEMISE</u>	Sue Nyathi	General Fiction
<u>THE SPARTACUS HALLELUJAH LOSERS CLUB</u>	John Hunt	Adventure; Ecofiction; Coming Of Age
<u>ORPHAN DATA</u>	David Cornwell	Dystopian Science Fiction Novella
<u>GINGER GOES SOUTH</u>	Zoe Laband	Commercial Women's Fiction
<u>I DO ... DON'T I?</u>	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
<u>THE THING WITH ZOLA</u>	Zibu Sithole	Commercial Women's Fiction
<u>THE REED DANCE STALKER</u>	Angela Makholwa	Commercial Thriller
<u>HELL RUN TOBRUK</u>	Justin Fox	WWII Naval Thriller

## NON-FICTION

<u>BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER</u>	Heidi Chapman	Narrative Non-fiction
<u>THE DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH &amp; POWERFUL</u>	James-Brent Styan	Narrative Non-fiction; History & Politics; Business
<u>INTIMATE KRUGER</u>	Don Pinnock & Helena Kriel	Nature; Illustrated Non-fiction; Photography
<u>PRESCRIPTION ICE CREAM</u>	Alastair McAlpine	Memoir; Pop Science
<u>HIGH TIMES</u>	Roy Isacowitz & Jeremy Gordin	Narrative Non-fiction
<u>BOUNCE</u>	Naomi Holdt	Parenting; Psychology; Lifestyle; Wellness
<u>MY LAND OBSESSION</u>	Bulelwa Mabasa	History & Politics; Memoir
<u>THE NEW YORK BOOK OF HAPPINESS</u>	Barbara J. Zitwer	Narrative Non-fiction
<u>THE END OF EDEN</u>	Adam Welz	Popular Science
<u>THE TEST KITCHEN</u>	Luke Dale Roberts	Cookery
<u>PLACE</u>	Justin Fox	Narrative Non-fiction
<u>LUPUS LOVE STORY</u>	Kathryn White	Memoir; Illness Narrative; Colonial Non-fiction

CHILDREN’S YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS

BEARENT	Greg Grabianski	Illustrated Early Middle Grade
TARZON OF THE EEPS	Mike de Seve	Graphic Novel
THE ROYAL WITCH	Emily Kaye	Graphic Novel
IN MY HOOD	Ridwan Moshood	Graphic Novel
FUR FORCE 5	Joe Vitale; Susan Kim & Mike de Seve	Illustrated Reader
SHREDDY BEARS	Mike de Seve; Lloyd Goldfine & Rob David	Illustrated Reader
A BOY AND HIS DUDE	Mike de Seve & Russell Marcus	Illustrated Reader
FATHOM FORCE	Mike de Seve; Karen de Seve & Joe Vitale	Illustrated Reader
WEIRDER THAN YOU	Mike de Seve; Jeff Hylton; Joe Vitale & John Reynolds	Non-fiction Picture Book
WINNIE-THE-POOH	Mike de Seve	Illustrated Reader
THE WATER BEAR	Clea Mallinson	Picture Book
TONKO AND THE SIZA MASK	Terence Maluleke	Children's
AFRONAUGHTS	Tafadzwa Hove & Lesego Vorster	Comedy Sci-fi Adventure
THE WITCHES' WAY	Jenna Bass & Chinelo Onwualo	Children's
TRIBE	Tendayi Nyeke	Young Adult
THE FERAL	Greg Grabianski	Graphic Novel; Young Adult
VETPLANT FAIRIES	Antjie Krog; Ingrid de Kok & Fiona Moodie	Picture Book

HORROR

DEAD MEAT	Maya Fowler   Psychological Horror; YA/Adult Crossover	Psychological Horror; YA/Adult Crossover
NIGHTWOOD	Elana Gomel   Horror	Horror
THE HEADLESS BOY	Kelli Owen   Horror	Horror
LIVE WIRE	Kyle Toucher   Horror	Horror
BUNNY	Emma Olsen & Vere Tindale   Psychological Horror	Psychological Horror



# FICTION





# FALLS THE SHADOW

*An edgy new detective series from master of noir Mike Nicol.*

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

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

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

**'Some of the best crime fiction you could read' — THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**'Superlative talent' — MAXIM JABUKOWSKI**



# NOW YOU SUFFER

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

Detective and former South African Special Forces Brigade Operative Ruben Ellis wants to die. The only reason he hasn't killed himself yet is that first he has to hunt down the man who kidnapped and murdered his daughter, Kayla. Ruben's self-deprecating partner, Zander, and his peculiar though brilliant therapist, Melissa, are very much aware of his death wish and are subtly doing all they can to keep him alive. While hunting for Kayla's killer, Ruben is persuaded to help a distraught mother get to the bottom of what happened to her own child who was abducted years earlier. Added to this is the mysterious case of a third young woman being held captive in a twisted fairytale-style utopia deep underground. What Ruben doesn't know is that not only are all these victims tied together, but he is the one holding the rope. A rope, at the very end of which hangs an impossible truth. Twisty and pacy, this shouldn't be a funny read, and yet the banter between Ellis and his partner and therapist pierce what would otherwise be a wholly dark and chilling narrative. With this magic combination, Crocker weaves together a multi-decade-long twist that ties this propulsive novel into an explosive and satisfying ending. This standalone commercial detective thriller is the first in a planned series. Book II in the Detective Ruben Ellis Series, NOW YOU BLEED, is coming soon.

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

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





# THE OTHER SISTER

*Because school reunions are for laughs and murderous revelations.*

Single mom Deirdre returns to her hometown for her high school reunion, the first time she's been back since she left town after prom. It was in their final year that Sarah, her bestie Liza's twin sister, committed suicide. Being in town stirs up many memories for Deirdre, some of which she deliberately chases after, like a reunion with her high school sweetheart, Stefan, now the chief detective in the town. She also sparks a romance with Ryan, who she overlooked in school but is now very taken with. Deirdre makes contact with her mother who still lives in the town, they had become estranged in large part because her mother would never tell her who her father was. She's a little confused that everyone else seems to remember Liza as a bully and honestly a bit of a bitch, when she's been a loyal friend through and through to Deirdre. Throughout the day Deirdre texts with her daughters, one of whom is trying to do a family history project and is demanding to know who Deirdre's dad is for her tree. She goes to visit her mother and is surprised to find Liza already there and to see that they have a relationship. At the big reunion party on the Saturday night, Deirdre flirts with Ryan, people dance together, things get heated, people get drunk, and Liza hits her group of friends with a bombshell: she's actually Sarah, and she killed Liza and has been assuming her identity all these years.

**Karen Jeynes** is a screenwriter, director and producer who has worked extensively as a writer for stage and screen. She is best known for her work with Both Worlds as the head writer for ZANEWS: PUPPET NATION. She was head writer and director on RECIPES FOR LOVE AND MURDER, starring Maria Doyle Kennedy for MNET/Acorn/AMC which TX in SA on MNet in 2022 with its bow on Acorn internationally in September of the same year. Karen has worked with Pixel Perfect, writing Bioskop movies for Mzansi Magic and served as head writer for 90 PLEIN STREET season 5 for SABC, as well as writing for shows like VAYA MZANSI and MOFEREFERE LENYALONG, THABANG THABONG and SUPA STRIKAS. In theatre, her plays include the multi award-winning EVERYBODY ELSE (IS F\*CKING PERFECT) (Best Comedy 2005), KISS KISS, I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING, and LAYING BLAME (translated into 7 languages), as well as VASLAV, which was nominated for 3 Fleur du Cap Awards. Karen was part of How Now Brown Cow's inaugural Writer's Collective for 2021 and her satirical self-help book, THE KAREN BOOK OF RULES, co-authored with Karin Schimke, was published in 2020 by Tafelberg. Her co-authored book FLOW: THE BOOK ABOUT MENSTRUATION was published in August 2021 with Kwela. She is completing her MA in Writing for the Screen through Falmouth University while developing a handful of film and television projects with Both Worlds.

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# THE FINISH LINE

*Another nail-biter from the queen of domestic suspense.*

Brenda is a woman who has always worked hard to fit in. From her childhood, where her athletic talent gave her an "in", to a different, richer world and her marriage that kept her in that world. Despite her own discomfort, she tries and she tries and she tries to fit in. It's hard to know how much this comes down to the presence of Denver in her life. Following her like a bad shadow – from the early years when Brenda displaced Denver's own place on the running track, to early marriage, parenthood and schools – Denver is always there, offering friendship with one hand, and poison with the other. Until Denver goes too far and Brenda finally realises that the poison will always be there. But now, years later, more at peace than she has been, Brenda's world is rocked by her son's announcement that he is engaged. To a childhood friend. And almost before he says it, Brenda knows. It can only be Imogen, Denver's daughter. Imogen has always liked Brenda. And Brenda is still as lovely as Imogen remembers – welcoming her into the family with open arms; treating her like a daughter; advising her; helping her. But Brenda will not let Denver back into her life. She will stop at nothing: poisoning Imogen against her mother, lying and tricking Denver. And when it seems that Denver might have the last say, Brenda plays her final, fatal card. But did Brenda really get the last say at all?

**Gail Schimmel** is an admitted attorney in South Africa, with four degrees to her name. She is currently the CEO of the Advertising Regulatory Board. *THE FINISH LINE* is her eighth page-turning domestic thriller, following *LITTLE SECRETS* (2023) and *NEVER TELL A LIE* (2021). She has published in South Africa, the United States, Estonia and Italy. She lives in Johannesburg with her husband and two children.

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**'THE ACCIDENT' is a well-constructed, lively read with just enough bite to keep the reader engaged throughout.' — Margaret von Klemperer**



# A SHORT LIFE

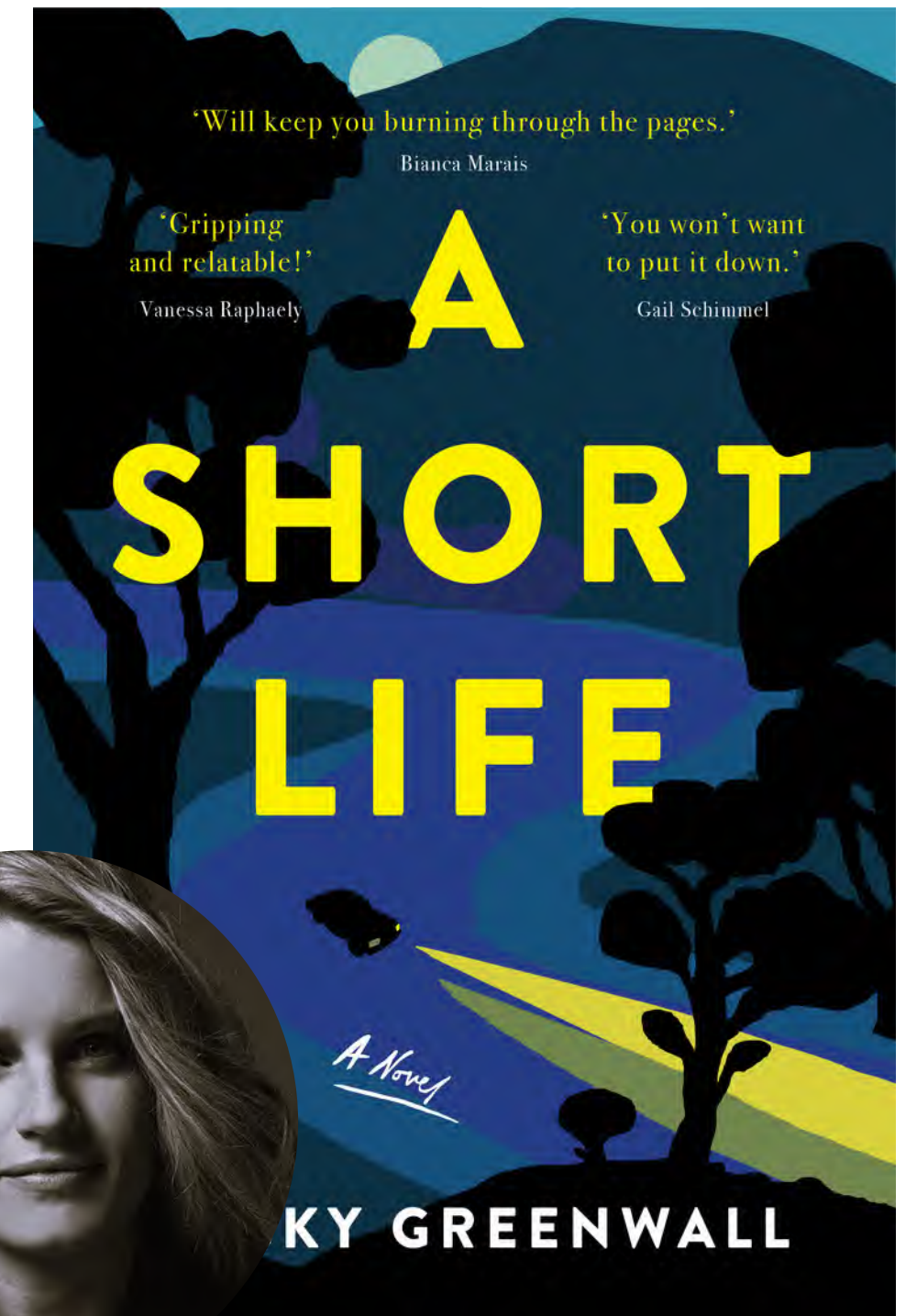
*Two seemingly unrelated car accidents. The same night. The same stretch of twisting valley road.*

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

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

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**'Razor-sharp and artfully rendered, A Short Life positively crackles with tension.'** Bianca Marais, Bestselling author of THE WITCHES OF MOONSHYNE MANOR





# ANGRY WATER

*When a book fair turns bloody.*

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

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

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**'Fast and pitch perfect' – Mike Nicol, on BLOOD STONE**

**'One fine read! A pacy, thrilling page-turner' – Paige Nick, on ONE FINE DAY**



# WHISPER OF DEATH, WHISPER OF LOVE \_\_\_\_\_ ✦

## *007, African style.*

Paul Morgan is a washed-up novelist in Zanzibar, where he's writing an article on dhows for a travel magazine. Here he meets two intriguing characters: the elderly ex-spy Amadeo Sandollar and his charge Angelika, a striking young girl with white-blonde hair and tribal incisions on her cheeks, whose lion conservationist parents were murdered by poachers. Paul is hooked by their story and gets entwined into their lives, ultimately acting as a surrogate father to Angelika. The narrative shifts between Sandollar's glamorous, dangerous days as an upper-crust MI5 operative posing as an elephant hunter in Mozambique during the run-up to World War II, and the present day as Paul becomes involved in avenging the deaths of Angelika's parents. He ends up attempting to crack a 60-year-old plot, in which Sandollar's past and the dark motives of the thugs trying to kill Angelika converge. In the present day, the plot revolves around environmentalism, a weaponized Ebola virus used as a tool by terrorists, and vaccine development. A thread of romance and poignant loss runs throughout. Paul Morgan's former lover died of cancer, and he's been unmoored since then. He's a man looking for love, and, in 007 style, having plenty of sex with powerful, intelligent, bombshell women along the way. A rollicking African adventure and the perfect escapism.

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

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**'An exquisite and disturbing novel' – Bryce Courtney, on *THE HANGING TREE***





# DEADLY BENEFITS

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

Fast paced blackly comic thriller about a group of four friends who attempt to commit insurance fraud worth millions. Unfortunately, the friends make one mistake and poor decision after another putting them on a collision course with a relentless Ukrainian fraud investigator, a psychopathic American hitman, a ruthless local drug lord, and an Eastern European mobster. Gabriel, passed over for promotion, decides to set up his own business. The business is a spectacular failure and he loses everything. Desperate and furious, he enlists his best friend Skellie, a conman, drug addict and drug dealer, to help him strike back at the institution that he feels has wronged him. Forced to enlist help on the inside, the mistakes come thick and fast and as the bodies pile up, Gabriel and Skellie do their best to make it out of their scheme alive. Gabriel Laucus is a desperate man. He grew up in the poor community of Eldorado Park, then climbed out of poverty through his work in insurance sales. He's on top of the world, until he loses everything – his job, his car, his home – and has to move back in with his parents in Eldorado Park. He contemplates suicide, until he comes up with another plan for revenge. He will defraud his old company for millions. With the help of his former best friend Skellie, a well-known conman, schemer and drug dealer, Gabriel puts his plan into action. Unfortunately, through a series of unlucky blunders, they attract the attention of the Ukrainian mafia, an American Assassin and the local drug lord.

**Kurt Ellis** is the author of the thrillers BY ANY MEANS and IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES. He is a past winner of the Harry Oppenheimer Creative Writing Award, and holds a creative writing master's degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. He lives in Johannesburg with his wife, daughter and son.

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



# THE HIDDEN

*Terror has found a home.*

White separatists have set off bombs in a park, killing civilians. In a post-Trump world, the new administration won't sweep this under the rug. As Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's new domestic terrorism unit, Aalia Nair is under pressure to deliver suspects to her boss and to the media. Becca Abrahamson and her husband grew up in the secretive community responsible for the massacre. They broke away long ago to live a normal life in suburban Monterey. Now the past is back to haunt them as the FBI believes they know more about the shooting than they're willing to admit. Meshach the son of Abraham is a young boy growing up in the Patriot Fathers community. His life falls apart when his baby sister disappears – stolen away and disposed of like unwanted livestock. Meshach dedicates his life to reuniting his mother with her lost daughter. Past and present collide as long-buried secrets threaten to destabilize American domestic security. Part domestic noir, part FBI thriller, THE HIDDEN keeps the reader guessing. This standalone novel is the first in a series featuring SAC Aalia Nair and her elite team of investigators.

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

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**'A seriously well-written page-turner' – CAPE TIMES,  
on NOW FOLLOWING YOU**





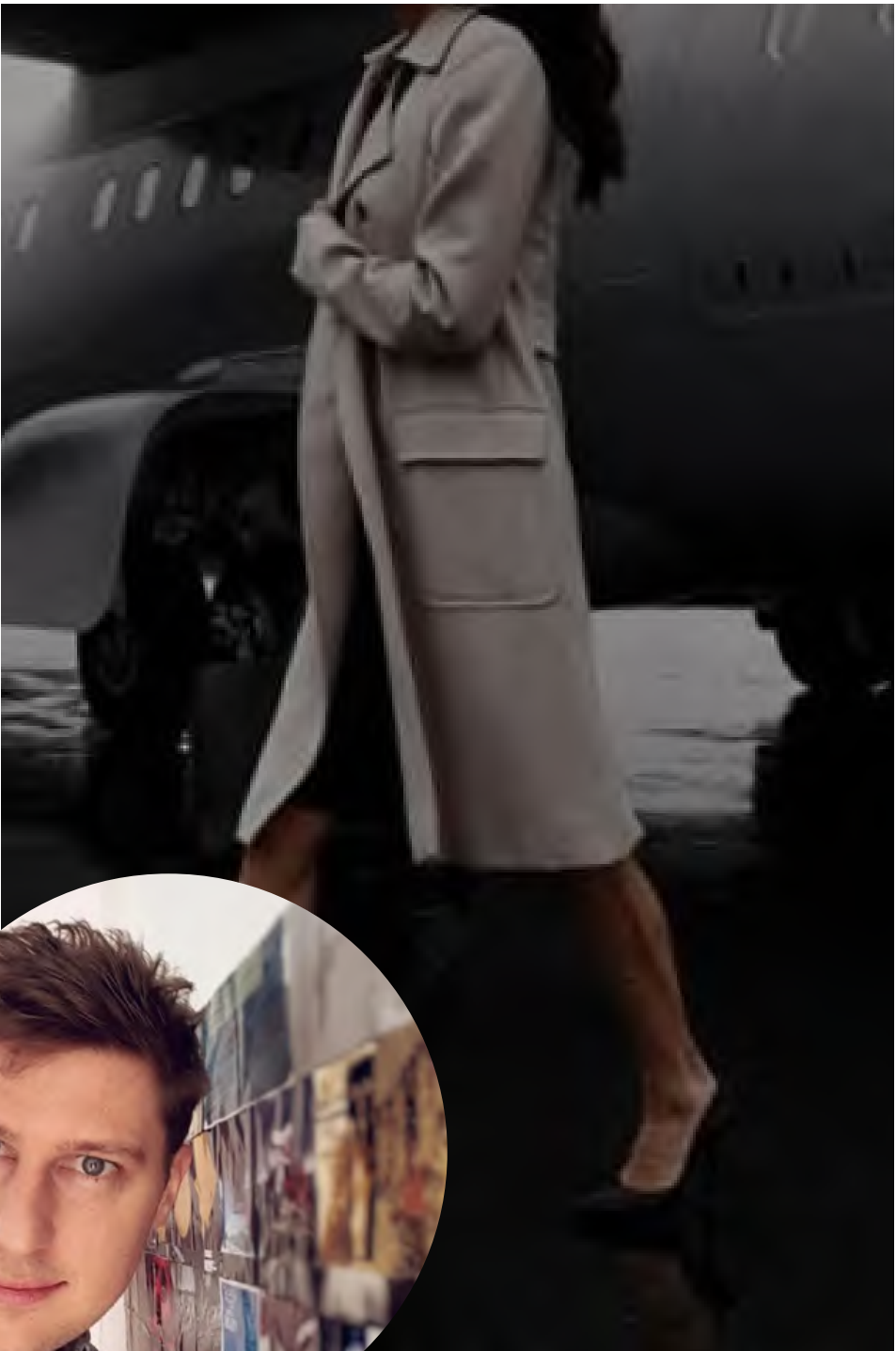
# THE SLIDES OF MARCH

*Just business? Over my dead body.*

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

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

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# HELL OF A COUNTRY

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

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

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

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





# MA / MOTHER

*Of writer mothers and daughters, land ownership, and race, by a world-renowned poet.*

Currently titled MA / MOTHER and conceived of as a novel, a first for Antjie Krog, this is a work of autofiction, as is Krog's usual approach. MA chronicles the complex intergenerational relationship between character Antjie and her writer mother, Dot Serfontein. It picks apart issues of land ownership and race and focusses its lens on interracial romantic relationships. There is also historical material about the Anglo-Boer War. To say that it is a deeply personal project that resonates with national and international issues makes little sense when one looks at Antjie Krog's work is stating the obvious, but because so much of the manuscript deals with the primary relationship between mother and daughter, the book cuts deeply and universally.

**Antjie Krog** was born and grew up in the Free State. She became editor of the Afrikaans current-affairs magazine Die Suid-Afrikaan and later worked as 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 three non-fiction books, COUNTRY OF MY SKULL. She has won major awards in almost all the genres and media in which she has worked: poetry, non-fiction and translation. But, mainly, she has lived as a poet. Krog's first volume of poetry was published when she was seventeen years old and she has since released thirteen volumes of poetry and received among others the Eugène Marais Prize, the Hertzog Prize, the FNB Prize, the Protea Prize, and, for non-fiction, the Alan Paton Prize and the Olive Schreiner Award. She has also been a recipient of the Stockholm Award from the Hiroshima Foundation for Peace and Culture and the Open Society Prize. She is married to architect John Samuel.

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



# THE GOOD DEATH

*A medieval murder mystery, and a stylistic marvel.*

Mecthild is not like other medieval holy women. For a start, she is a beguine, a member of the group of 13th Century Flemish women who managed to escape both holy orders and marriage to live (almost) as they chose. She is also a gifted illuminator, artist and death nurse. It is for her skills with the dying that she is summoned to the lavish palace of Bishop Godfrey de Leeuw in the spring of 1237, but in the event it is not a good death she can offer him so much as the capture of his murderer. In the tradition of Ellis Peters' Cadfael Chronicles, this intelligent and entertaining medieval whodunnit is conceived as the first in a series.

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.

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**'Claire Robertson has lifted the bar of South African literature in one stroke. An unsettling, unforgettable work.'** — Michele Magwood, on *THE SPIRAL HOUSE*

**'Claire Robertson is a rare master ... *THE SPIRAL HOUSE* is understatedly beautiful and a real pleasure to read.'** — Kate Sidley





# THE IMMORTALITES

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

By the winner of the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize. Ellen Kent has been called several things in her short life: orphan, governess, harlot. None is accurate, but here she is, a problem to be solved by her party of English settlers on an African shore in the year 1834. She is placed in the care of a retired cavalryman, and together they become the custodians of a van, a white horse and a silent, abundant woman – a grubby goddess and a thorough mystery. They travel through the war-struck frontier lands; Ellen is protector and handmaiden as the questions grow in her: how to find accommodation with this uncanny place of enchantment and death. How to find a way to stay.

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.

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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**



# THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE

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

Like most heroines, our heroine leads a good – even extraordinary – life. She works for the Good Foundation, which belongs to the Good family, and oversees the running of the Good Museum and the Good Library. The Good family members are the direct descendants of Captain John Good, yes that Captain John Good of King Solomon's Mines fame. By the time we meet our heroine, whose name was taken from her by her father, gone are her childhood visions of various women who haunted her days and nights. Her adult life is blessedly normal. For the past five years she has been in a rather public relationship with the latest John Good, a world-renowned photojournalist.

Like most heroines, our heroine's life is upturned by an event. One day she comes across a group of people protesting outside the Good Museum. The Good Museum is filled with artefacts from the family's various expeditions, explorations and stays in Africa. Instigating the protesters is an ancient woman, whom our heroine knows is a vision. The secrets of her past have returned. Soon after this encounter, our heroine finds herself living first in an attic and then in a haunted castle, her life anything but normal. THE CREATION OF HALF-BROKEN PEOPLE explores how the continent's past continues to haunt its present and examines the collusion of colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism in creating and then normalising a certain kind of womanhood. The novel has moments of intertextuality with Charlotte Bronte's JANE EYRE, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," Daphne du Maurier's REBECCA, Jean Rhys's WIDE SARGASSO SEA and Toni Morrison's BELOVED and acts as a critique of H Rider Haggard's KING SOLOMON'S MINES. As Okwiri Oduor's debut novel, THINGS THEY LOST, has recently shown, the African Gothic novel, as a genre, has many possibilities.

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

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**'Siphiwe 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**





# DECIMA

*Of mothers and matriarchs.*

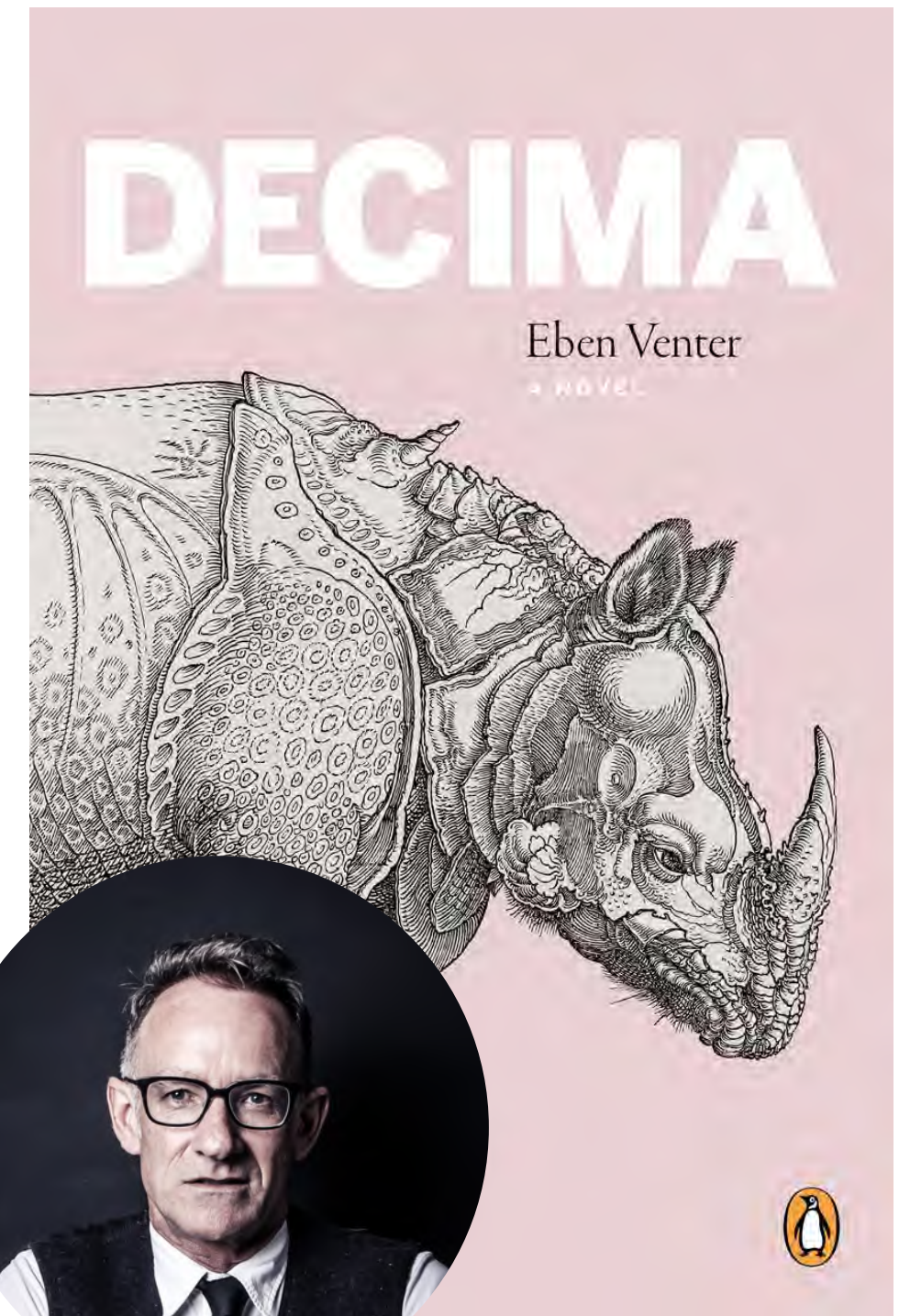
**“A mountain of flesh she is, this Decima, as she lies. She summons her strength to rise, all four feet on sand and shale. Puffs twirl and settle as her toes find their place. Three on each foot. Decima stands.”**

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

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

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



# THE REVELATIONS OF BUSHY HILL

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

Elijah, a troubled young Englishman has recently been imprisoned for murder. Humanity is readjusting to an incident in which terrorists had cut the undersea internet cables. After each world power assumed the other's involvement, a volley of mutual attacks led them all to wipe out the remainder of each other's connectivity, plunging the world into chaos. The UK, now The Revived Union, is run by a post-war techno-democratic government, a civilian-led democracy that defers the most important decisions to The System, a ring-fenced local artificial intelligence network built from scratch that promises to reduce human error in running the affairs of the country and plans to bring the nation back online within a short while. While in Bushy Hill prison, finding his way among rival gangs and merciless guards, Elijah is taken in by a messianic fellow inmate who unites many of these lost and condemned men to question and oppose The System. But the inexplicable suicides of young prisoners as well as a sociopathic killer among the inmates, lead Elijah into a labyrinth of inner and outer entanglements. A dystopian novel about masculinity, family, individual and collective mental health struggles related to the internet's role in our lives (and withdrawal from it), technology and human error, attempts at utopia, competing -isms, modernity vs human nature - and our human need for faith and quest for meaning and collectiveness, especially in times of crises.

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

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





# GOD’S POCKET

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

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


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

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



“Temporibus autem quibusdam et aut.” – Officis Debitis



God’s Pocket  
Sven Axelrad





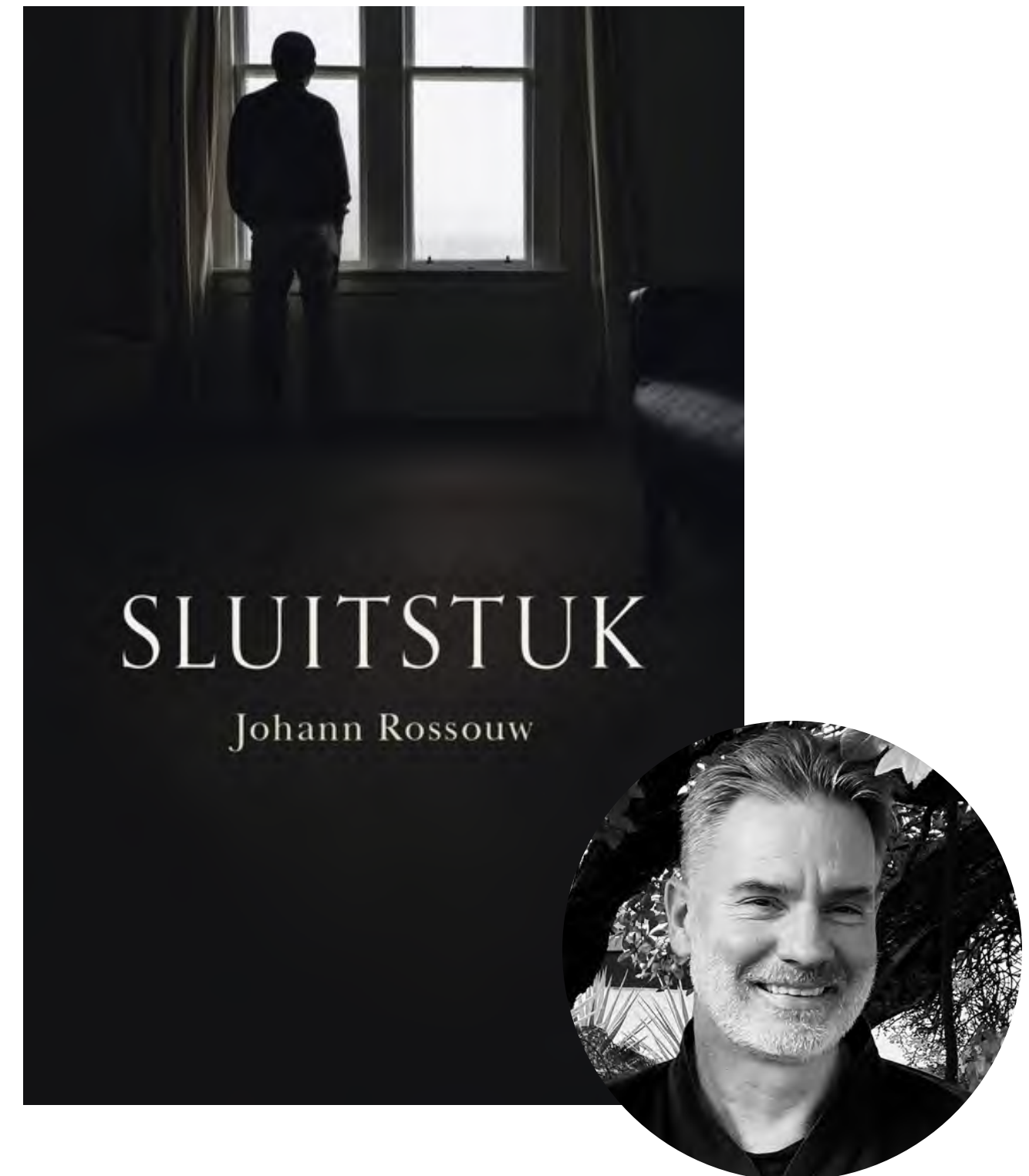
# SLUITSTUK

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

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

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

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# A GAP IN THE HEDGE

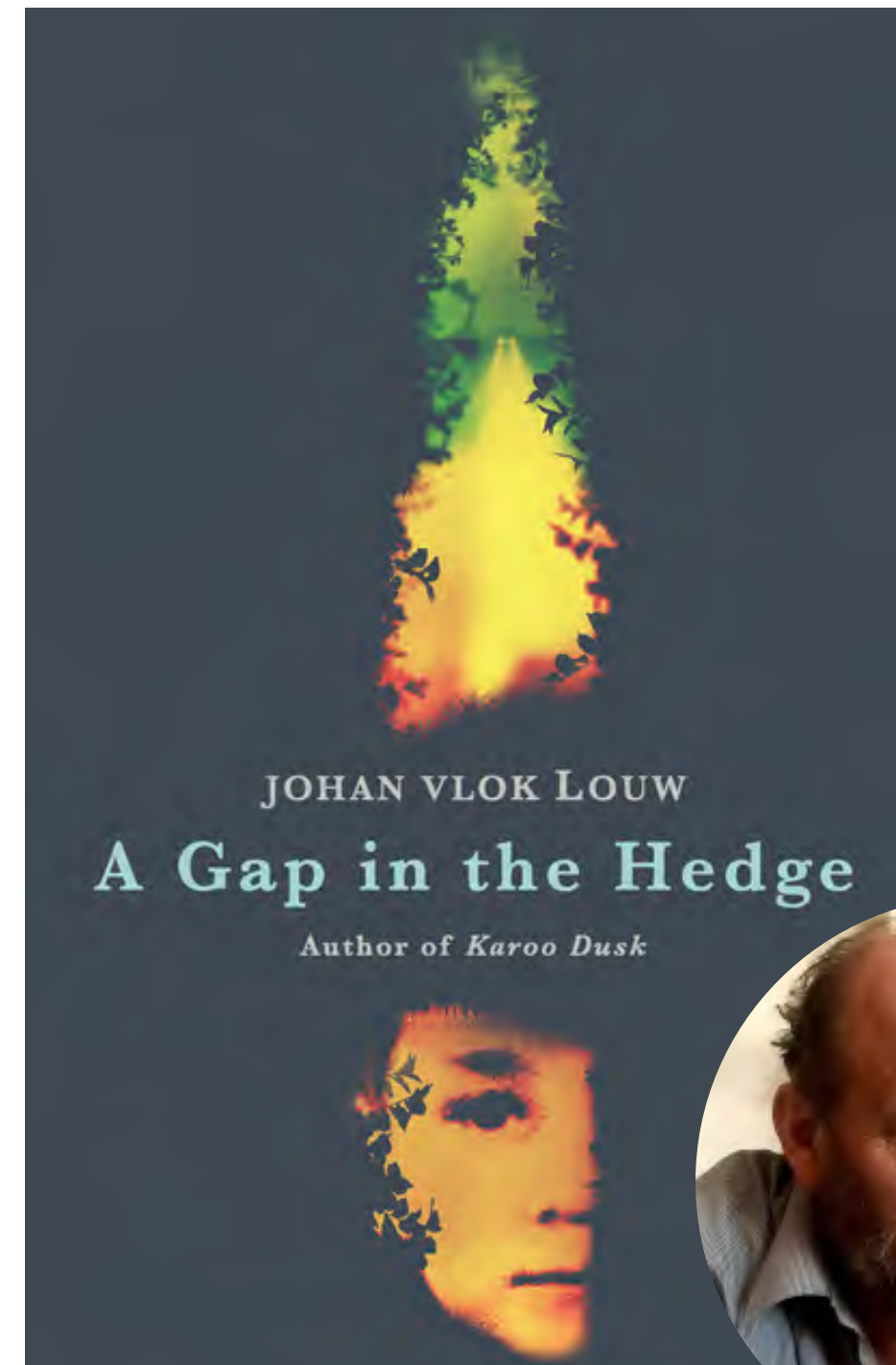
*Who might you find on the other side?*

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

**Johan Vlok Louw** is the author of the novels ERIC THE BRAVE, A GAP IN THE HEDGE, KAROO DUSK, which was shortlisted for the University of Johannesburg Prize for Creative Writing and translated into Afrikaans, and SONS OF MUD. Born in Cape Town, he studied Fine Art and Design after his military service. He has worked as an art lecturer and held various managerial positions in the corporate world. Today he writes, paints and teaches these disciplines privately and online. [www.johanvloklouw.com](http://www.johanvloklouw.com)

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**'The prose is unapologetically masculine, staccato-short, bleak ... a powerful novel, an excellent work of literature' – LITNET**



# EACH MORTAL THING

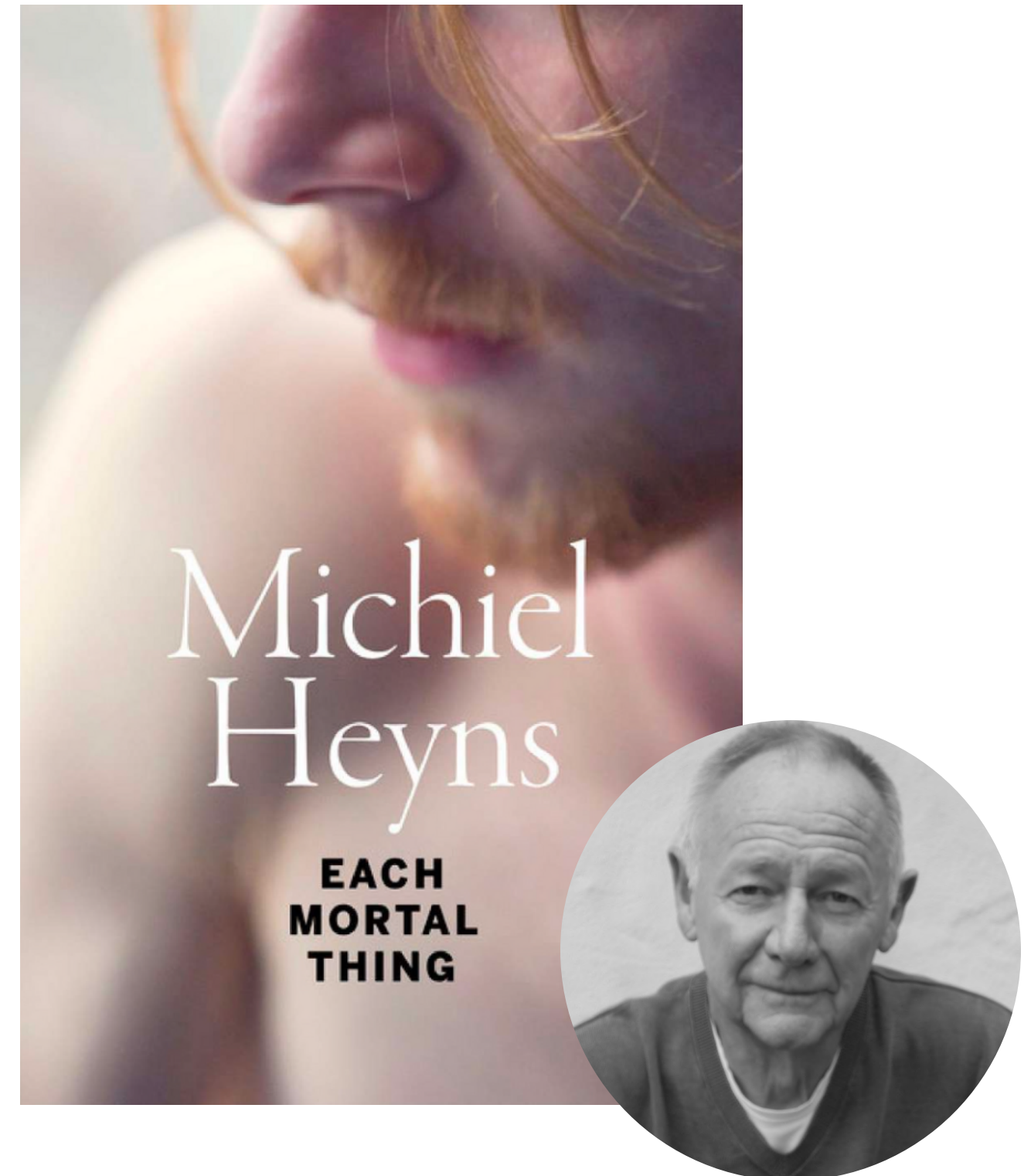
*A masterwork on human connections, friendships, and the cost of kindness.*

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

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

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**'Part magician, part juggler and fine linguist' – MAIL & GUARDIAN**





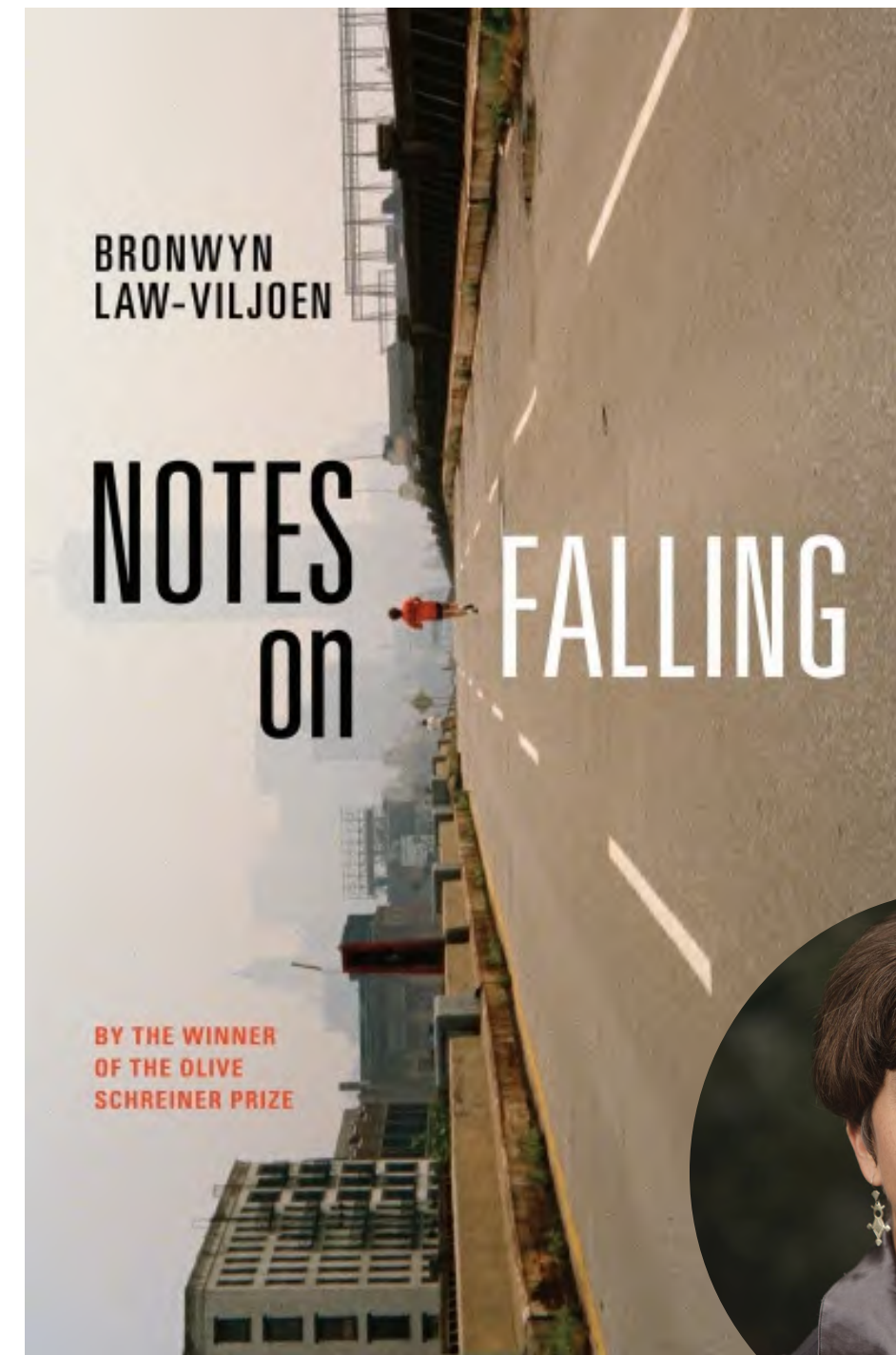
# NOTES ON FALLING

*Of photography, experimental dance, and a missing parent.*

Thalia, adrift in a small university town in South Africa in the nineties, heads to New York to study photography and to pick up the faint trail left for her by someone she has never known. The city helps her to find her way as an artist, but it never quite provides the answers she is seeking. Only years later in Johannesburg is she able to make sense of who she is and what her work might mean. Robert is a photographer in New York in the 1970s, desperate to make memorable images in a time of spectacular experimentation in dance, music and theatre. He intuits the importance of what he is photographing, but finds it almost impossible to transcend the troubles of his own life and achieve something great through his work. Paige leaves South Africa in the seventies to pursue her dream of being a ballet dancer. She does not anticipate the ways in which this pursuit will challenge her understanding of the art that she has known and practised all her life, and she is ill prepared for the catastrophic moment that will undo everything she has worked for. Unbeknownst to them, Thalia, Robert and Paige share a story that links them to one another, to the turbulent worlds of New York in the 1970s and South Africa in the 1990s and, finally, to the photographs that hold the secrets of their lives. NOTES ON FALLING is about the hope that art will challenge perceptions and orthodoxy so that the world can be reinvented through new forms. It is also about trying to reconcile the large pictures of history with the small snapshots of our individual lives.

**Bronwyn Law-Viljoen** is a writer, editor, publisher and teacher. She has a doctorate in Literature from New York University, where she was a Fulbright Scholar, and a doctorate in Creative Writing from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where she was Head of the Department of Creative Writing for twelve years. She is now a senior lecturer in the Department of English, Creative Writing and Film at the University of Adelaide. She is co-founder and editor of the award-winning, independent art publishing house, Fourthwall Books. Prior to that, she was managing editor at David Krut Publishing where she edited, wrote for and published titles on Kentridge, the Handspring Puppet Company, Paul Stopforth, the Constitutional Court of South Africa and others. She is a former editor of South Africa's longest-running art journal, ART SOUTH AFRICA. Her first novel, THE PRINTMAKER, was published in 2016 and shortlisted for the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize and won the country's coveted 2018 Olive Schreiner Prize. It was published in French and German. Her second novel, NOTES ON FALLING, was published by Penguin Random House in 2022 and has been longlisted for the SUNDAY TIMES Fiction Prize.

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# THE GHOST OF SAM WEBSTER

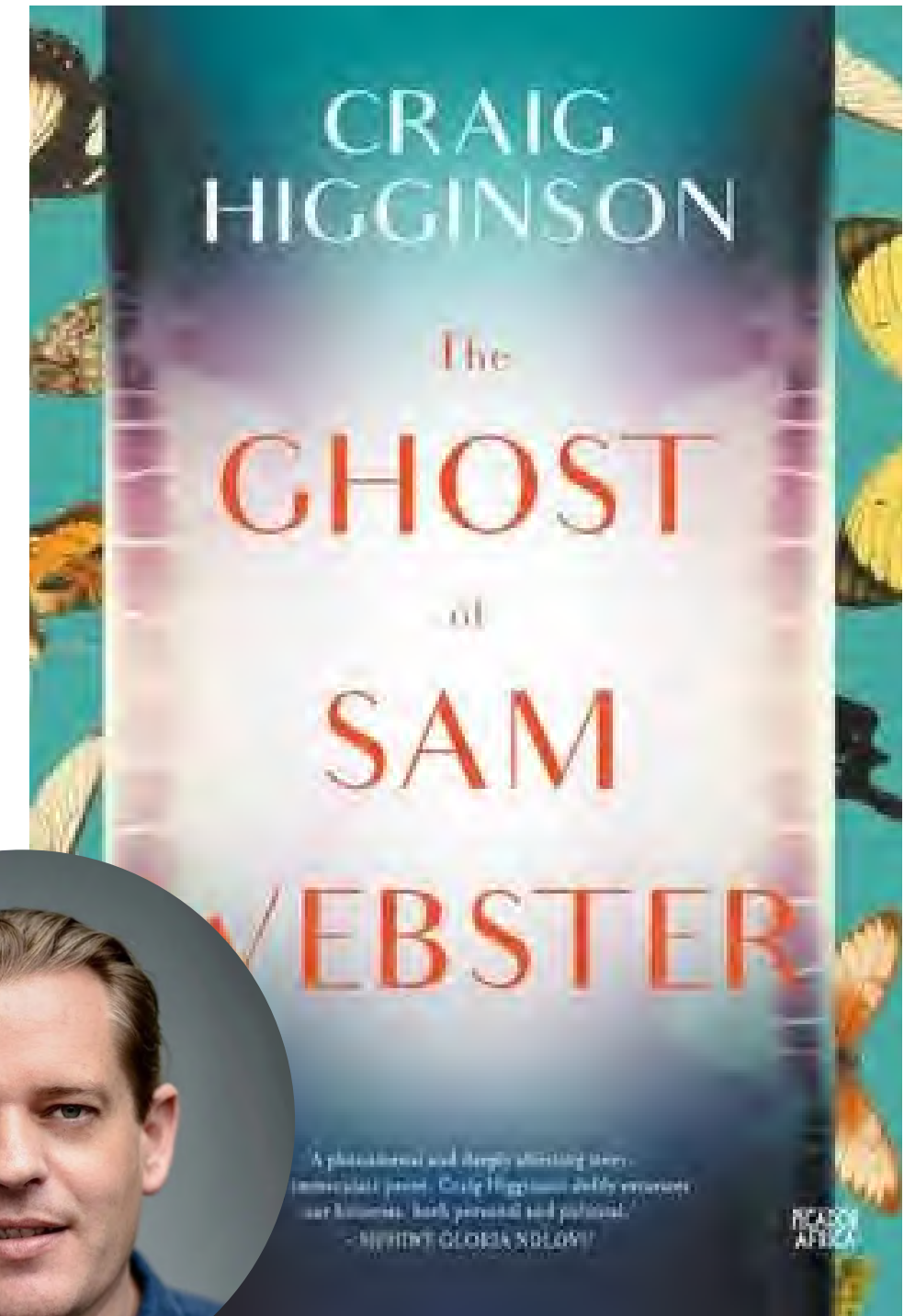
*'Last summer, Daniel learnt the names of all the butterflies.'*

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

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

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





# GLASS HOUSE

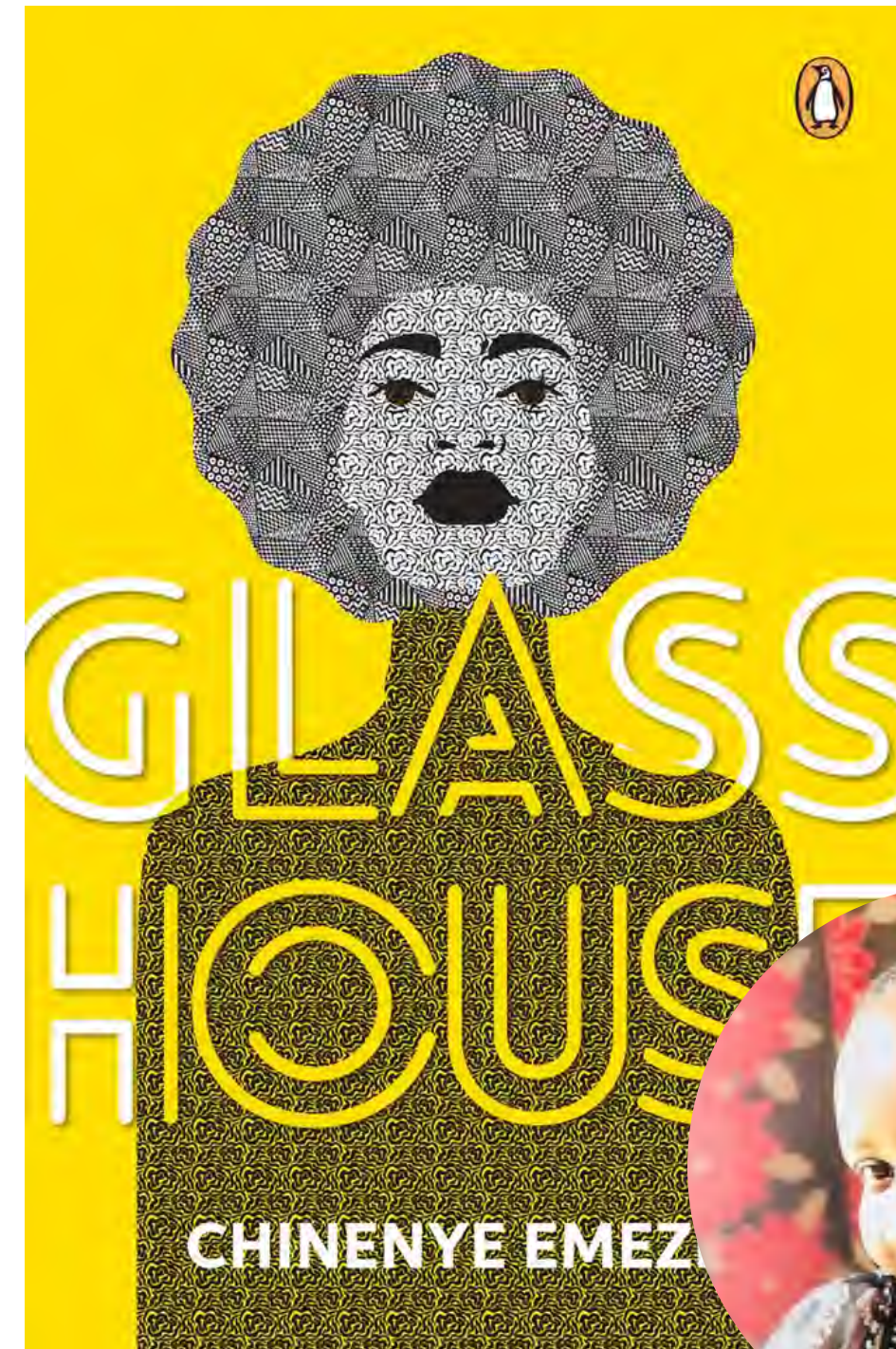
*She was her pastor-father's favourite; his secret tore her apart.*

*Let me tell you a story. It's about a war. This war is not the type fought with guns and machetes. It is a family type. A silent war. The type fought in the heart. It began long before I was formed.*

Udonwa's family is at war – a war of relationships, played out under the tyranny of a monster dad. Age twelve, Udonwa has a peculiar love of her father, Reverend Leonard Ilechukwu, who favours her but beats his wife and his other children. She sees his good side: after all, he pays the school fees in advance, and tells her that she, named 'the peaceful child', is the one most likely to become a doctor in the family. But luck doesn't last forever. When her newly married eldest sister suddenly takes her from their family compound in Iruama, Nigeria, to live with her in Awka, Udonwa experiences violence first-hand. Later, pieces of a sinister picture emerge that shake her life to the core. No longer the person she thought she was, Udonwa launches into a period of extreme change, and parts of her life spiral into chaos as she finds herself torn between her love for her father and an underlying need to free herself. This vivid family saga is engrossing, deeply unsettling and finally uplifting.

**Chinenye Emezie**'s debut novel was published in South Africa and is to be published in North America and in French translation. She studied Creative Writing at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and has a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. Her short stories and essays have appeared in anthologies and literary journals including AFRICA BOOK CLUB, KALAHARI REVIEW, BOOKLOVERS HANGOUT and OPINION NIGERIA. Chinenye is a 2013 winner of the Africa Book Club Short Story Competition and an alumna of the Hedgebrook/Vortex Women Writers' Workshop, Whidbey Island, USA. Her award-winning short story, on which her novel GLASS HOUSE is based, is recurring study material at the Centre for Theatre and Performance, department of Dramatic Arts, University of the Witwatersrand.

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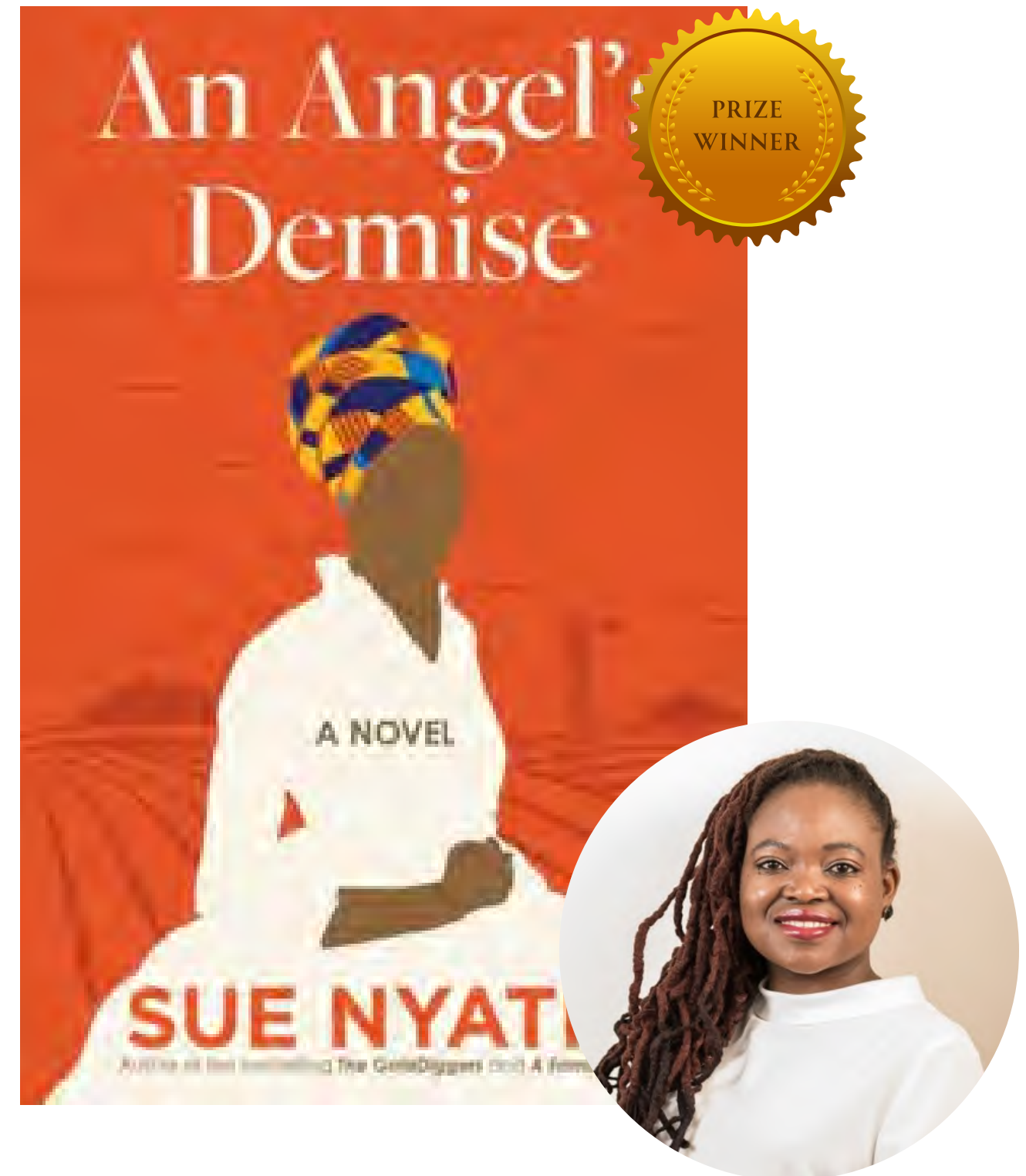
# AN ANGEL'S DEMISE

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

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

**Sue Nyathi** was born and raised in Bulawayo and lives in Johannesburg. She has previously published three bestselling novels to much reader and critical acclaim: THE POLYGAMIST (2012), THE GOLD DIGGERS (2018) and THE FAMILY AFFAIR (2020).

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# THE SPARTACUS HALLELUJAH LOSERS CLUB

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

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

**John Hunt** is the author of the novels THE SPACE BETWEEN THE SPACE BETWEEN, THE BOY WHO COULD KEEP A SWAN IN HIS HEAD, a book shortlisted for the Sunday Times Fiction Prize and translated into Arabic, and YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW, all published by Penguin Random House. His book THE ART OF THE IDEA, which celebrates the power of ideas to move the world forward, has been translated into several languages. A legendary ad man, he is currently Worldwide Creative Chair of the global advertising agency network TBWA, having previously co-founded TBWA\Hunt Lascaris. He grew up in Hillbrow and still lives and works in Johannesburg.

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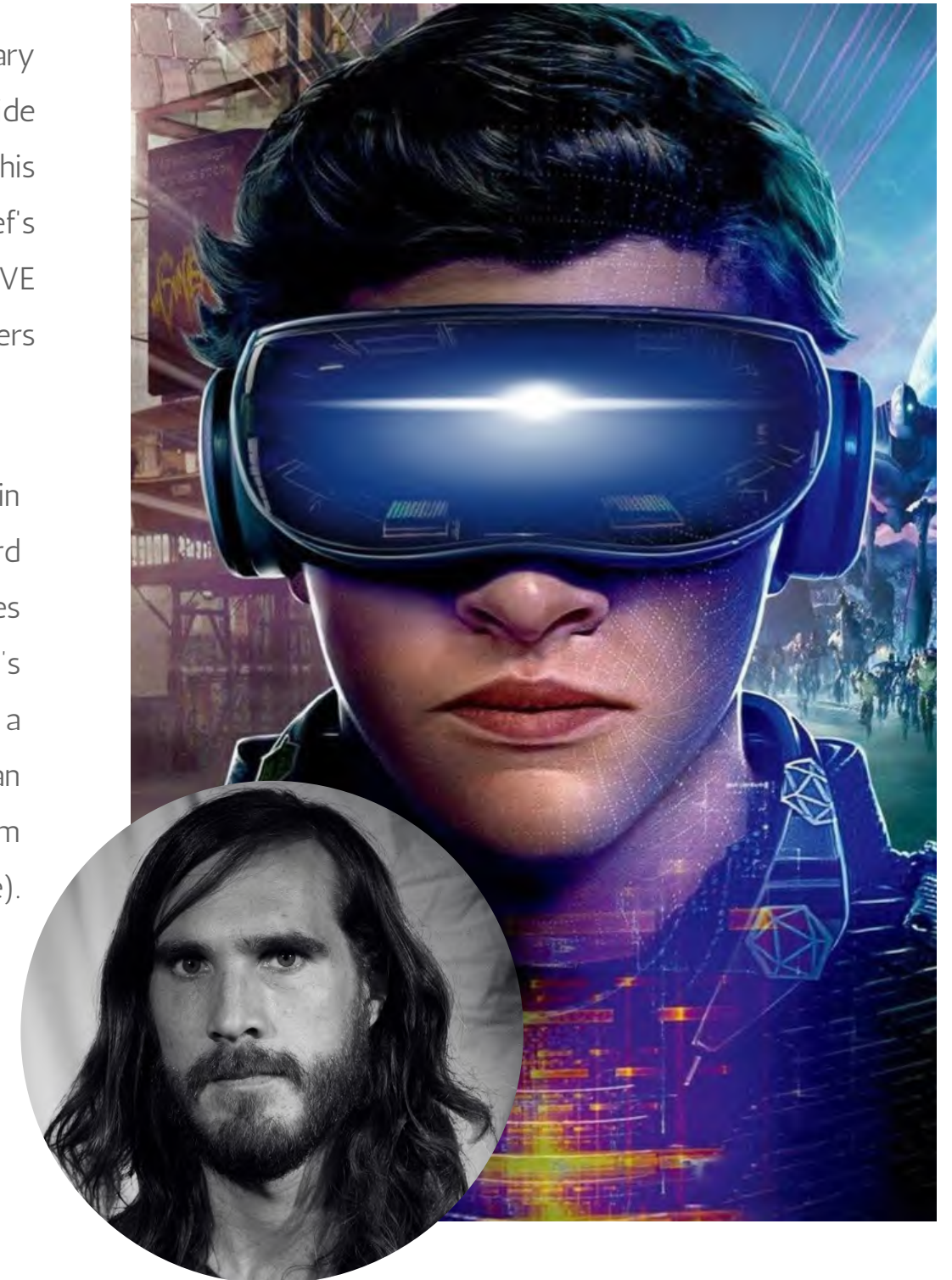
# ORPHAN DATA

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

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

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

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# GINGER GOES SOUTH

*An amusing, raunchy, modern female quarter-life-crisis/Coming-of-age story.*

Ginger's life seems to be on hold. Getting her Screenwriting MFA in Toronto was meant to lead to big things but instead she's in her 30s, shackled up with a man she despises, in a dead-end job she hates, too scared to try to be the famous filmmaker she thinks she ought to be. She has a long list of disappointments, and at the top of it is herself. When her best-frenemy, Kit – a spoilt, wealthy (and let's face it, aging) model – announces that Ginger is to be her maid-of-honour at her large high-society wedding, Ginger reluctantly flies home to Cape Town to get her failures rubbed in her face. But coming home after so many years overseas makes Ginger feel like her slate has been wiped clean. She's at a crossroads and must decide which version of herself she wants to be, the downtrodden victim of circumstance, or a woman bold enough to finally take her own desires in hand. Ginger ventures down a road she's not encountered before: her shadow side. And for a while, Ginger enjoys dancing in the dark. But when Ginger crosses an irreversible boundary of loyalty and trust by sleeping with Kit's hot lawyer dad, she thinks she's hit rock bottom. But who knew rock bottom had a basement? Yup, the downward spiral doesn't end there... GINGER GOES SOUTH is an amusing, raunchy story of self-discovery, friendship, and having the courage to stake your claim in your own life.

**Zoë Laband** is an award-winning South African writer and screenwriter. At 16 she won the prestigious National Alan Paton poetry competition and at 17 she read her poetry at the international poetry TIME OF THE WRITER festival alongside poet and activist LKJ. After winning scholarships to UCT, where she majored in Theory of Literature and History, and then AFDA film school where her graduation film PINKY PINKY won best film and best director, she went on to win a Graduate Fellowship for Academic Distinction at York University, Toronto, Canada, where she obtained her Masters in Screenwriting, Cum Laude. For the past decade Zoë has been writing for the screen. With more than 20 screen credits, most notably two romantic-comedy features for Netflix, a romantic-comedy feature and a medical procedural series for Showmax, she has been in the story-room trenches for years, honing the art of storytelling. Zoë has a passion for comedic female-led stories; GINGER GOES SOUTH is her first novel. This standalone is the first in a planned trilogy.

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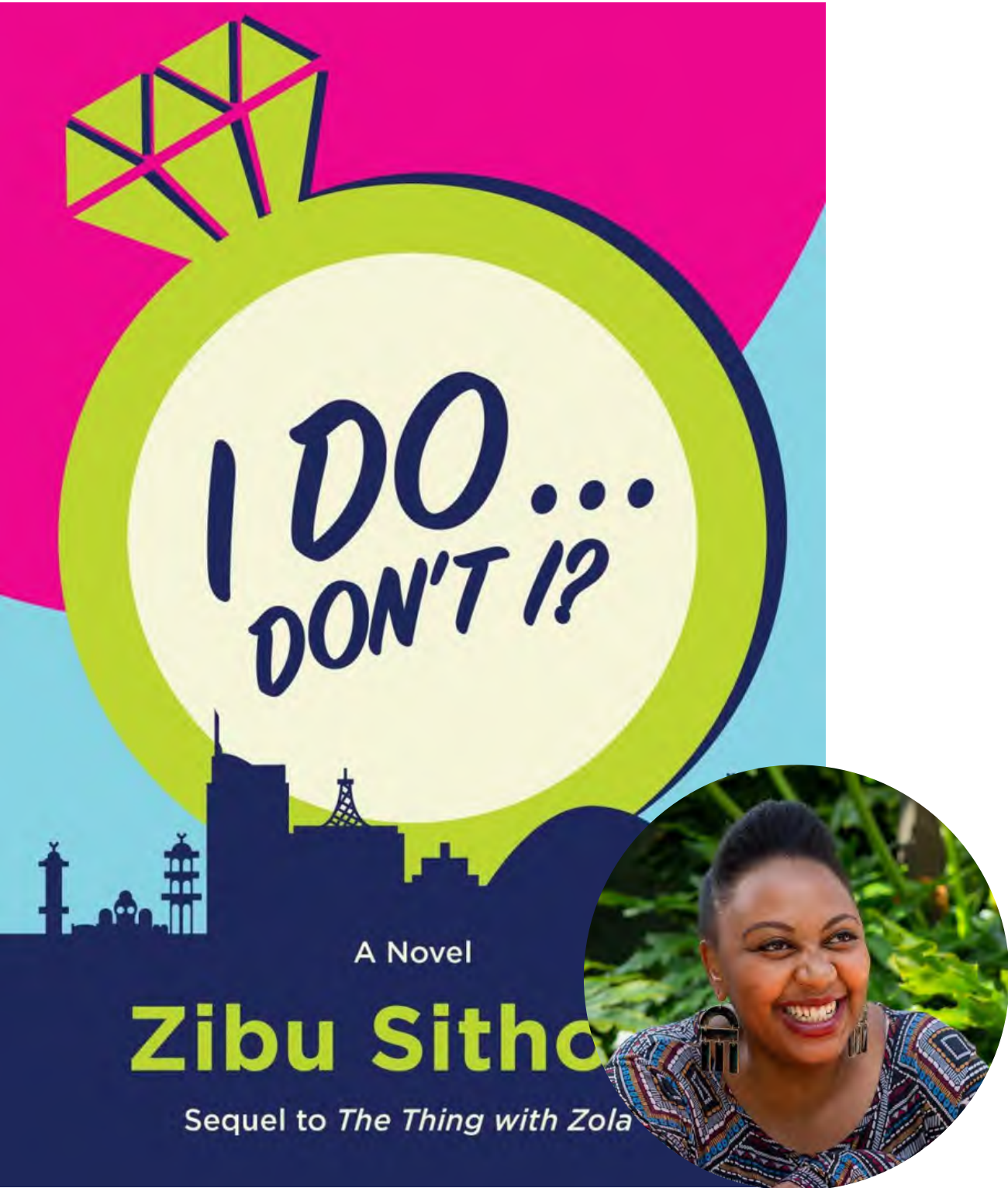
# I DO ... DON'T I?

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

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

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

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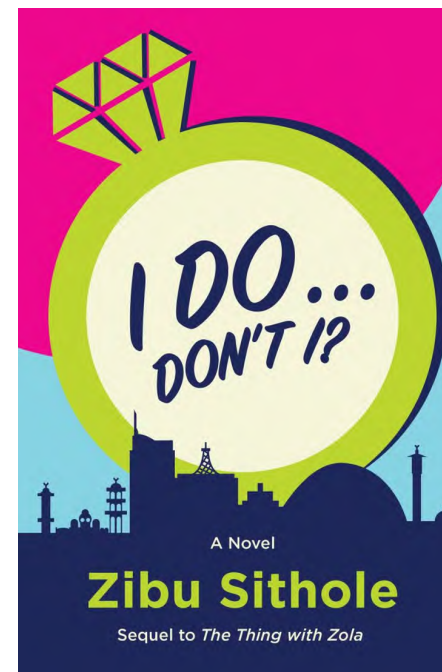
# THE THING WITH ZOLA

*The perfect beach read.*

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

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

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# THE REED DANCE STALKER

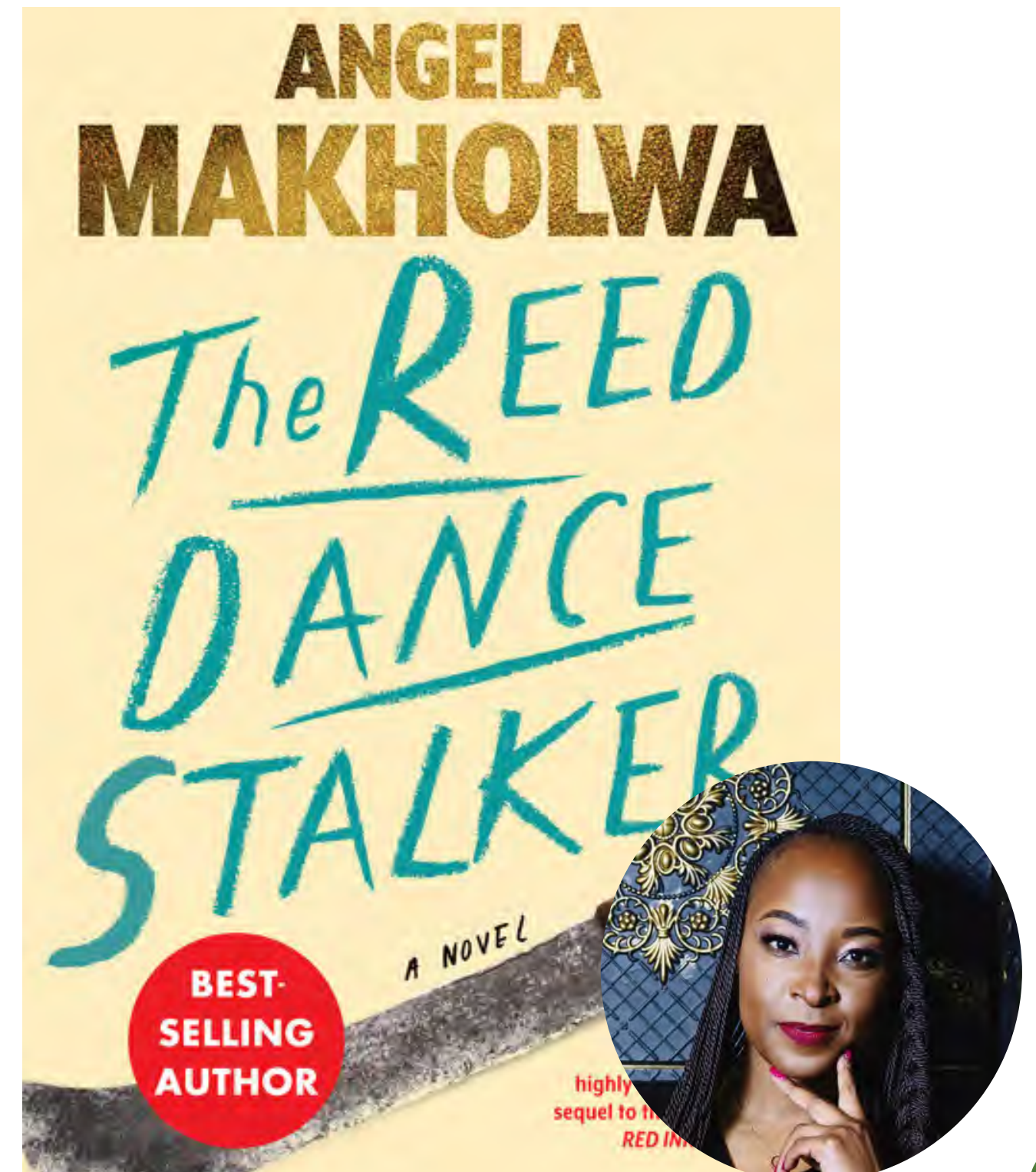
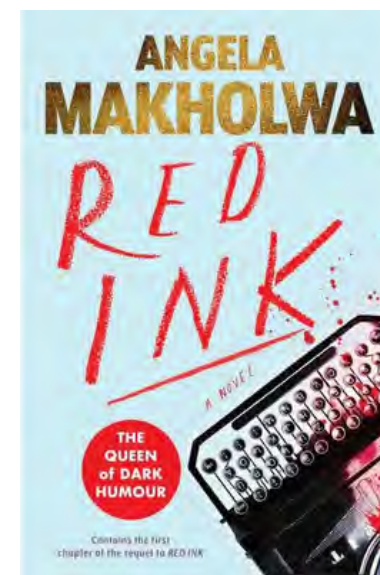
*A monster from her past is dead; an online stalker has taken his place.*

And in breaking news, convicted serial killer and rapist, Napoleon Dingiswayo, escaped from Pretoria's C-Max Prison at twelve-fifteen this afternoon ...' Fortunately for journalist and PR maven Lucy Khambule, the alarming news, in January 2006, that her nemesis might once more be on the loose has proved to be false. Charred remains in a prison pipe-shaft, along with a suicide note, are confirmation that convicted serial killer Dingiswayo is dead. Once Detective Justice Morapedi brings her a copy of the note to compare with the letters the killer wrote to her, Lucy tries to put her unease aside. A year on, Lucy is flying high in her life and career. Her book on Dingiswayo is a bestseller, she is in demand for talks and interviews, and her company has been chosen as part of the team organising glamorous events around the Preliminary Draw to take place at the Durban International Convention Centre ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. But who is the person stalking her on Facebook? And what should be made of the gruesome 'copycat' murders of two young women at the Reed Dance in the neighboring kingdom of Swaziland? Is this the work of an ex-convict on a deadly mission or are there other dangers lurking? When events in Durban take an unexpected and terrifying turn, Lucy finds herself completely alone and in the fight of her life. The highly anticipated sequel to Makholwa's debut novel, RED INK.

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

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





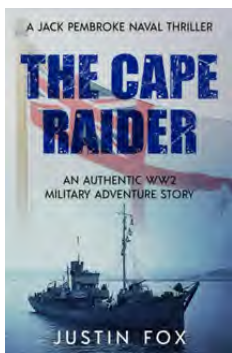
# HELL RUN TOBRUK

*Battles at sea off the North African coast.*

December 1941. Lieutenant Jack Pembroke is ordered to join a convoy and sail his small escort ship, HMSAS Gannet, from the Royal Navy base in Simon's Town, South Africa, to Egypt. With the Mediterranean all but closed to maritime traffic, and Rommel's forces rampaging through North Africa, it seems unlikely that Gannet will survive the coming battle. Jack arrives in the magical city of Alexandria, about to be plunged into war. He finds enchantment and passionate romance with a Spanish beauty, but is soon thrust into the cauldron, escorting ships running supplies to the beleaguered town of Tobruk in Libya. As pressure builds, and the ships around him are sunk by enemy bombers and submarines, he has to deal with his own trauma and the fear of total collapse. It all comes to a head when Tobruk is surrounded and about to fall to Axis forces. Jack decides to rescue as many Allied soldiers as he can from the advancing Afrika Korps, but his ship gets trapped in the harbour just as German tanks roll into Tobruk. Jack must attempt a fighting departure, but his escape route is blocked by a powerful flotilla of enemy ships. After a dramatic battle and retreat to Alexandria, Gannet is immediately ordered back to sea to hold the line in a patch of water off a nondescript railway siding called El Alamein.

Novelist, travel writer, poet and photographer, **Justin Fox** is the former editor of GETAWAY magazine. He received his doctorate in English at Oxford, and was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town, where he has taught part time for two decades. He is the author of twenty books, and his writing and photographs have been published worldwide. Fox has been longlisted for the Alan Paton Award for non-fiction and the Olive Schreiner Prize for Literature. His debut novel, WHOEVER FEARS THE SEA, was in the running for Africa's richest literary award at the time, the Etisalat Prize. Fox's first WWII naval adventure, THE CAPE RAIDER, was published in South Africa and the UK in 2021.

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# NON-FICTION





# BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER

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

Everyone loves the movies, and everyone loves salacious gossip about a washed-up child actor. The public's relationship with successful child stars is a mixture of fascination and jealousy, with the assumption of a high level of privilege and good fortune. Children excel in all sorts of fields, but when it comes to child actors there is a particular kind of fascination. And in particular there's strange communal delight when they publicly fall on hard times. When this happens, in an industry with little regulation and big profits, it's always the mother's fault. All three of Heidi's sons were cast as child actors in big international film and television projects involving well known figures in the industry including Hugh Jackman, Johnny Depp, Cillian Murphy, Steven Spielberg, Tim Burton, Ridley Scott, and Martin Scorsese to name a few. With no actors in their family or connections to the industry and coming from the vastly different worlds of medicine and science, in the beginning she could not have been more ill-equipped to be a parent on a set. BATTLE HYMN OF THE STAGE MOTHER charts Heidi Chapman's journey from suburban Mum to international jet-setting mother of three highly sought-after child actors. This book is BATTLE HYMN OF THE TIGER MOTHER meets OUTLIERS via I'M GLAD MY MOTHER DIED. With anecdotes about the on and off set antics of some of the most famous people on the planet, the book is part memoir, part how-to for parents of aspiring child actors, and for film professionals alike.

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

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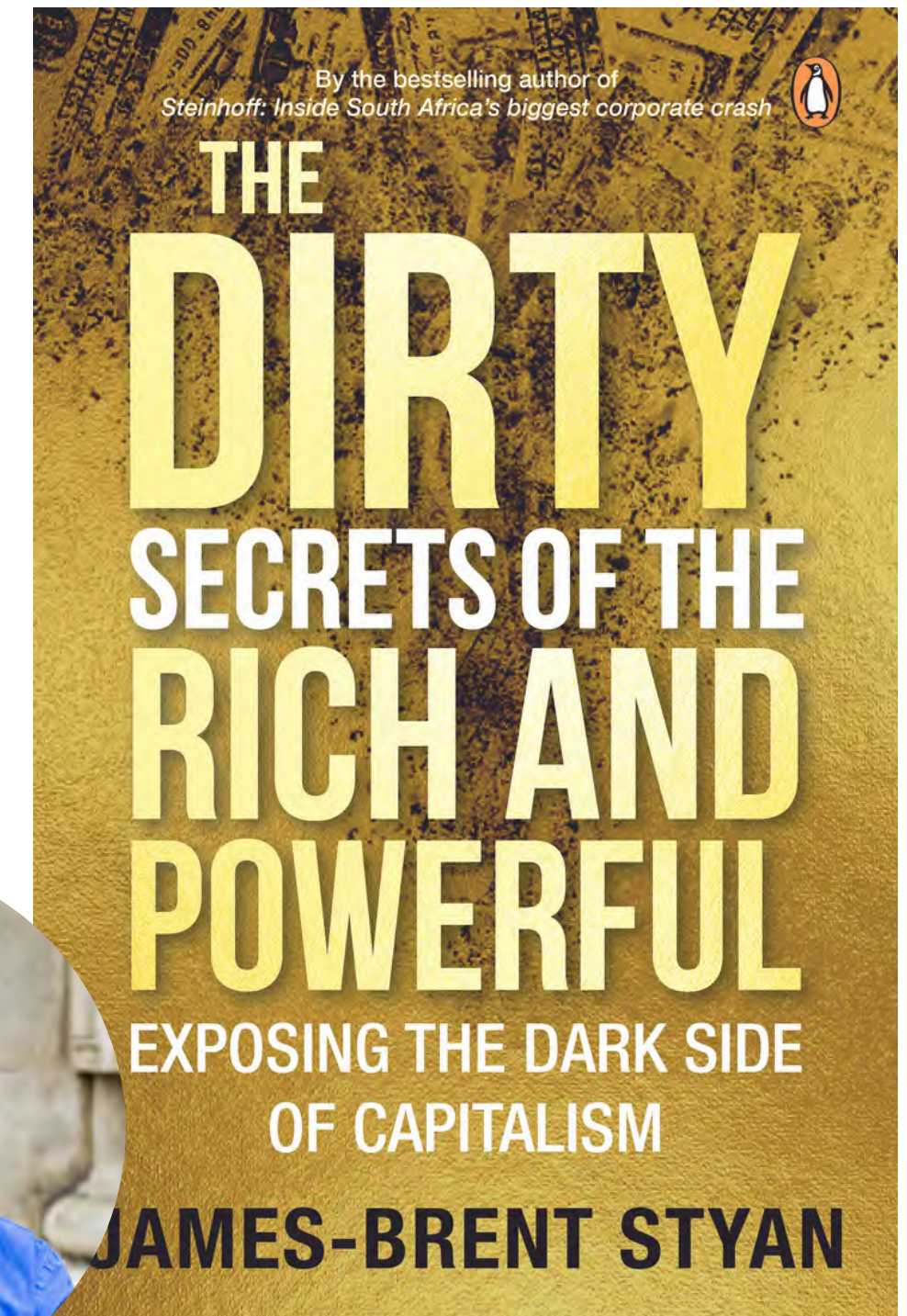
# DIRTY SECRETS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL: EXPOSING THE DARK SIDE OF CAPITALISM

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

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

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

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DON PINNOCK & HELENA KRIEL

NATURE; ILLUSTRATED NON-FICTION; PHOTOGRAPHY + NARRATIVE;  
COFFEE TABLE BOOK

# INTIMATE KRUGER

## THE INSIDE STORY OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST WILDLIFE PARKS

*Kruger up close and personal.*

Kruger Park is one of the wonders of the world. Spanning an area almost the size of Belgium and home to the 'Big Five', it's one of the ten most visited national parks on Earth and one of the three most biodiverse wildlife refuges on the planet. INTIMATE KRUGER is not a guidebook, it's a prestige, essential, beautifully illustrated look behind the scenes of this working national park. Exploring its animals and reptiles, its trees and grasses, and crucially the people who spend their days holding it in trust for the world. This is Kruger up close and personal. It is a book about the enigmatic beauty of the creatures who live there and the passionate people who dedicate their lives to it – who they are, how they live, and the challenges – including the constant threat of poaching – they face daily.

**Don Pinnock** is a South African writer, investigative journalist, and photographer. The author of many books, he is a Research Fellow at the Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town; a former editor of Getaway magazine; and a Daily Maverick journalist. He has been a lecturer in journalism and criminology, consultant to the Mandela government, a professional yachtsman, explorer, travel and environmental writer and photographer. **Helena Kriel** is the founder and director of Baby Rhino Rescue, an international nonprofit dedicated to education and fundraising for rhino conservation. She works across the broad spectrum of the rhino world. A successful and produced scriptwriter based in Los Angeles, she spends half the year in the US and half the year in South Africa.

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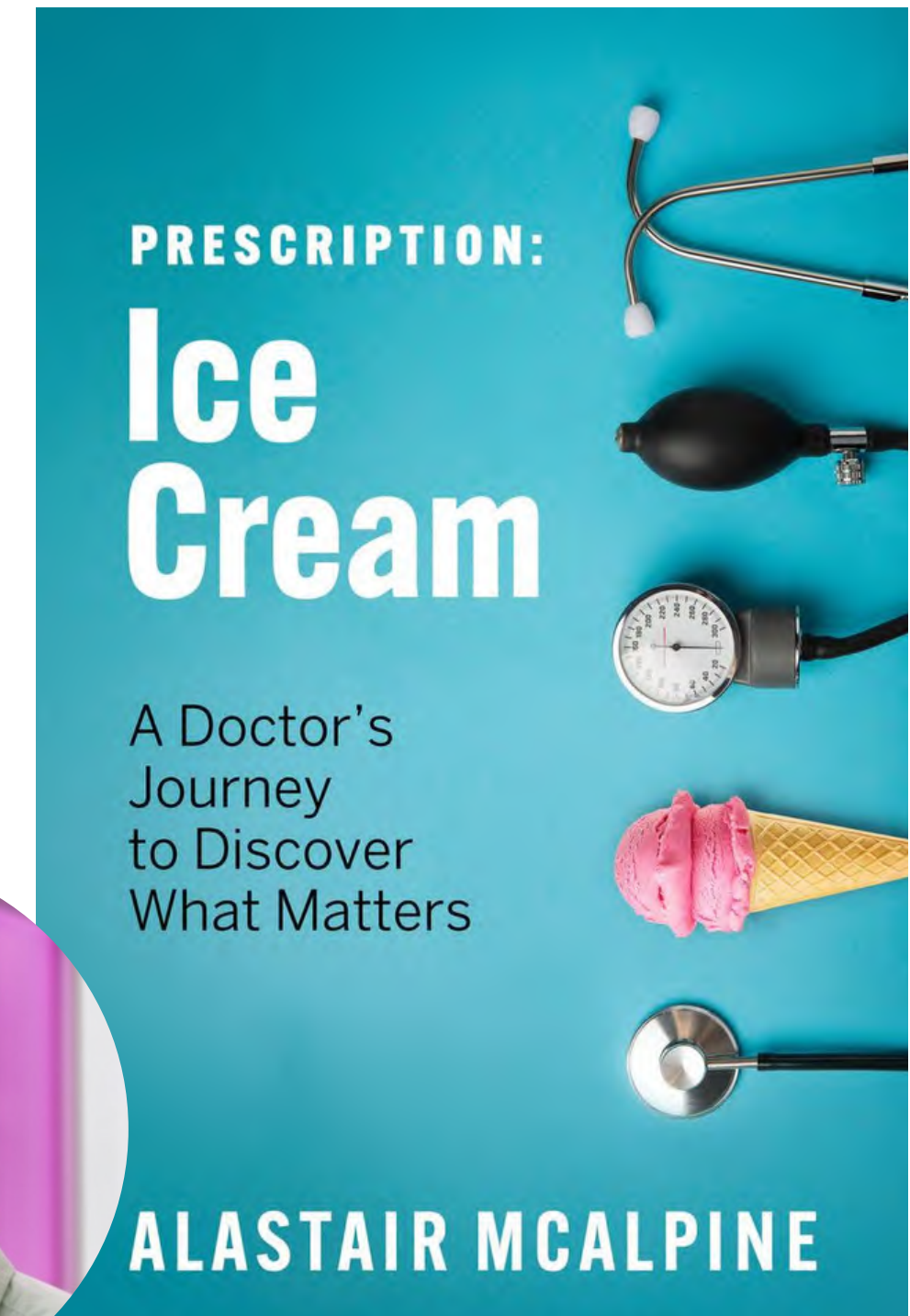
# PRESCRIPTION ICECREAM: A DOCTOR'S JOURNEY TO DISCOVER WHAT MATTERS

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

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

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

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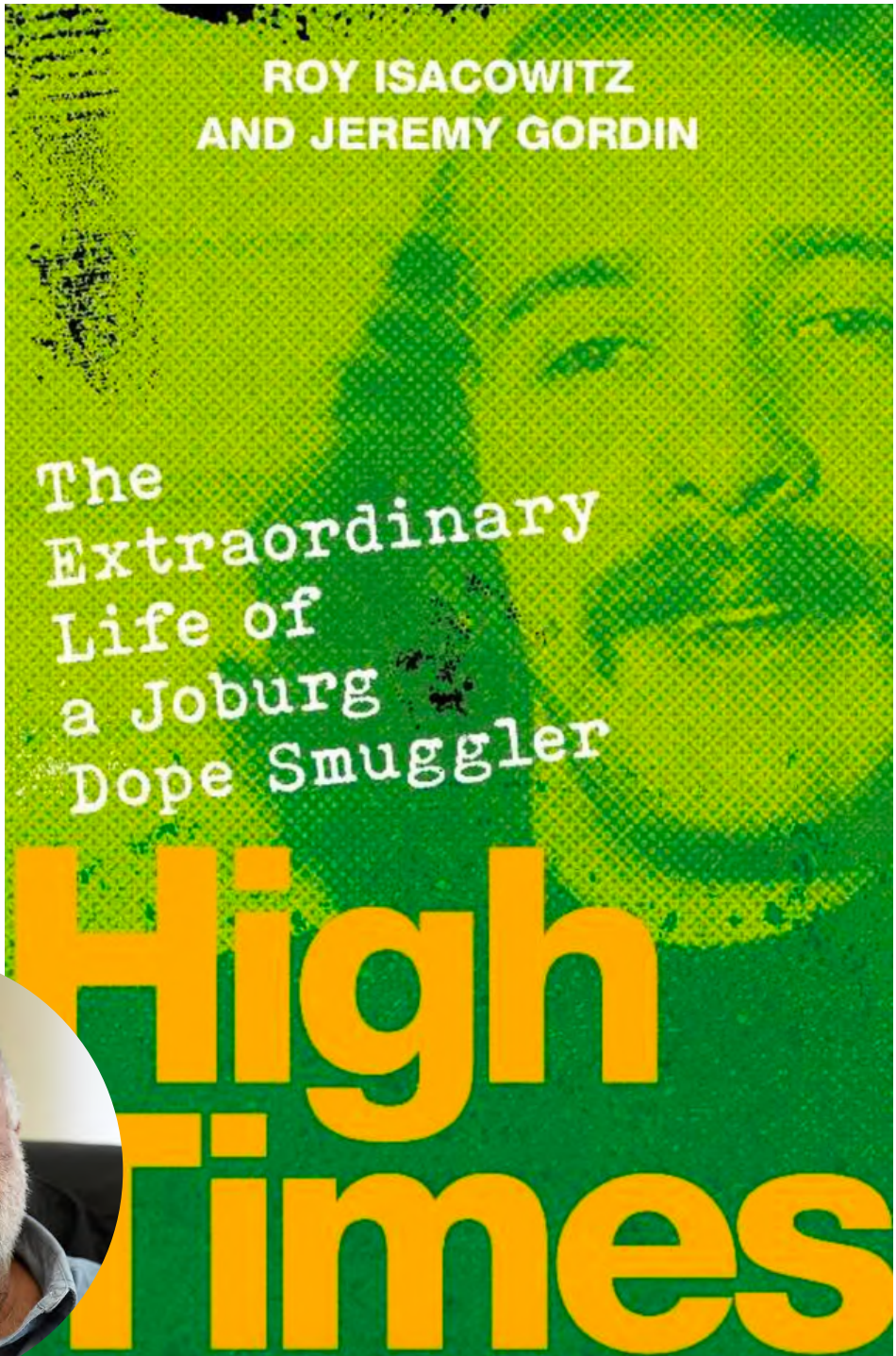
# HIGH TIMES

## *The Extraordinary Life of a wild and fearless Dope Smuggler*

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

**Roy Isacowitz** is an author and journalist, now retired in Tel Aviv. The late **Jeremy Gordin** was an award-winning journalist, editor and author.

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# BOUNCE: HOW TO RAISE RESILIENT KIDS AND TEENS

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

An easy-to-read, effective guide that can make an immediate difference to one's approach to parenting and to parents' relationship with their children.

Based on years of experience as a parent and a parenting expert, it provides accessible information and advice, thought provoking exercises and proven techniques. It explores issues that impact us all, including: What resilience actually is; Anxiety and depression; Building resilience in our children by working on our own resilience; Boundaries and gentle parenting; Helping children through grief; Parenting the anxious child; Tips for divorced parents; Childhood depression; Highly sensitive children and resilience. Bounce will help you tackle this messy and beautiful journey of life and parenting in a very human way.

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

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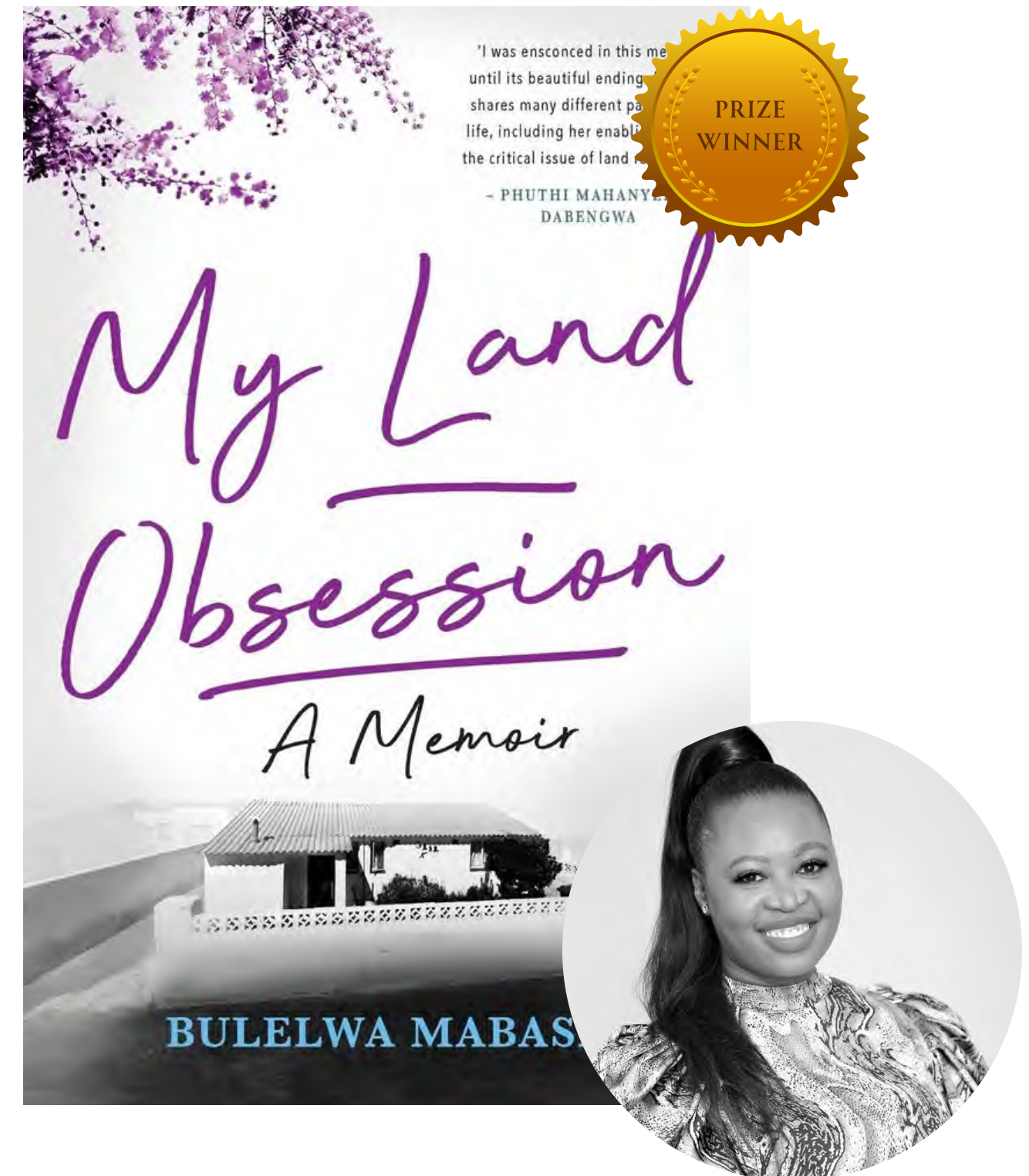
# MY LAND OBSESSION: A MEMOIR

*Winner of the 2024 Alan Paton Sunday Times Non-Fiction Award.*

Bulelwa Mabasa was born into a 'matchbox' family home in Soweto, Johannesburg, at the height of apartheid. In MY LAND OBSESSION, she shares her colourful Christian upbringing, framed by the lived experiences of her grandparents, who endured land dispossession in the form of the Group Areas Act and the migrant labour system. Bulelwa's world was irrevocably altered when she encountered the disparities of life in a white-dominated school. Her ongoing interest in land justice informed her choice to study law at Witswatersrand University, with the land question becoming central in her postgraduate studies. When Bulelwa joined the practice of law in the early 2000s as an attorney, she felt a strong need to build on her curiosity around land reform, moving on to form and lead a practice centred on land reform at Werksmans Attorneys. She describes the role played by her mentors and the professional and personal challenges she faced. My Land Obsession sets out notable legal cases Bulelwa has led and lessons that may be drawn from them, as well as detailing her contributions to national policy on land reform and her views on how the land question must be inhabited and owned by all South Africans.

**Bulelwa Mabasa** is a mother of four who lives in Johannesburg. As director and head of the Land Reform, Restitution and Tenure practice at Werksmans Attorneys, her expertise is spread across commercial dispute resolution, mining litigation, mining regulation, land reform, and administrative and constitutional law. Bulelwa was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa as the only attorney on the Presidential Expert Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture in 2018. She is the co-editor of LAND IN SOUTH AFRICA: CONTESTED MEANINGS AND NATION FORMATION (2021), the country's leading book on land reform.

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# THE NEW YORK BOOK OF HAPPINESS

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

Barbara Zitwer speaks intimately and humorously to readers how New York City fosters and creates a unique combination of qualities that will enrich your life and feed your soul. Every chapter contains stories and examples from the city itself and Barbara's New York life on how thinking and acting like a New Yorker can be the pathway to success. I will teach readers how to adopt the famous New York attitude, hustle, creativity and camaraderie, and make it their own. I loved New York when I first came at six, and now as an older woman who has lived here for fifty years, I never cease to feel wonder, joy and gratitude for this city. Come with me, turn the page, and change your life.' Chapters end with a lesson in happiness, a recipe for a classic New York dish, and recommendations for a movie and book about the city that never sleeps. A companion to Zitwer's THE KOREAN BOOK OF HAPPINESS (Short Books/Octopus 2023, now published in 12 languages), THE NEW YORK BOOK OF HAPPINESS is an intimate exploration of how New York instils toughness and grit, fosters inclusion, open-mindedness and engenders success and happiness.

**Barbara J Zitwer** is a New York literary agent, playwright, novelist and founder of the Barbara J Zitwer Agency, a global literary and film agency based in New York City. Singlehandedly responsible for introducing contemporary Korean literature to the world, she discovered and represented the 2016 Man Booker Prize winner Han Kang (THE VEGETARIAN, HUMAN ACTS, THE WHITE BOOK) and the 2011 Man Asian Prize winner and NEW YORK TIMES bestseller Kyung-sook Shin (PLEASE LOOK AFTER MOM), as well as Korean international bestsellers You-jeong Jeong (THE GOOD SON), Sun-mi Hwang (THE HEN WHO DREAMED SHE COULD FLY) and Un-Su Kim (THE PLOTTERS). Zitwer was awarded the 2016 International Literary Agent of the Year Award by the British Publishing Association, and the 2016 Special Literature Agent Prize by the Korean Government Ministry of Culture. Her publications are THE KOREAN BOOK OF HAPPINESS (Short Books/Octopus), THE JM BARRIE LADIES SWIMMING SOCIETY, and WHEN THE SEA BELONGED TO US. She lives in New York City with her husband and beloved dog.

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

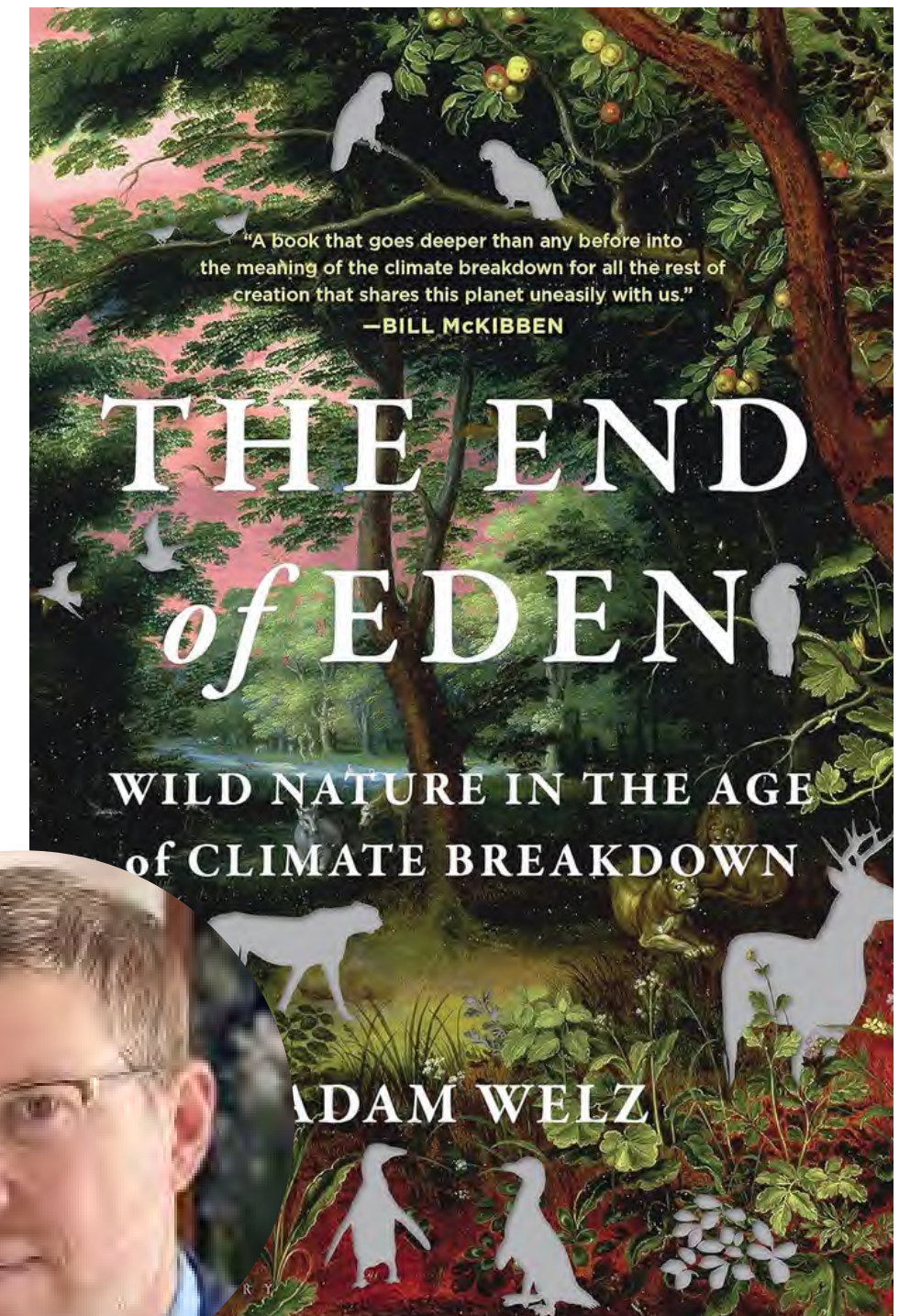
*A revelatory exploration of climate change from the perspective of wild species and natural ecosystems – an homage to the miraculous, vibrant entity that is life on Earth.*

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

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

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



# THE TEST KITCHEN

*A stunningly illustrated coffee table book by the winner of the Best Restaurant in Africa at The World's 50 Best Restaurant Awards is for the serious home cook and for food lovers the world over.*

At The Test Kitchen, internationally celebrated chef Luke Dale Roberts' flagship Cape Town restaurant, Dale Roberts has created a menu that both respects the local and traditional and pushes boundaries of contemporary cuisine. Dale Roberts has forged a unique career in gastronomy to preserve established local culinary knowledge while creating exciting modern dishes. He has captured the attention of the world's culinary cognoscenti, including Heston Blumenthal, who has written the foreword to this, Dale Roberts' first book.

**Luke Dale Roberts** is a British-born chef who studied in Switzerland and England and spent five years at restaurants across Asia. Now based in Cape Town with a quiver full of awards and consistent international recognition since opening The Test Kitchen in 2010; the Pot Luck Club in 2011; The Shortmarket Club in 2016 and Salsify at the Roundhouse in 2018, he remains a force to be reckoned with on the global culinary scene. Dale Roberts won numerous awards for his work at La Colombe – the restaurant won the Acqua Panna Best Restaurant in Africa and the Middle East in 2010 and was ranked 12th in the overall San Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants list. In 2018, The Test Kitchen won Best Restaurant in Africa at The World's 50 Best Restaurant Awards.

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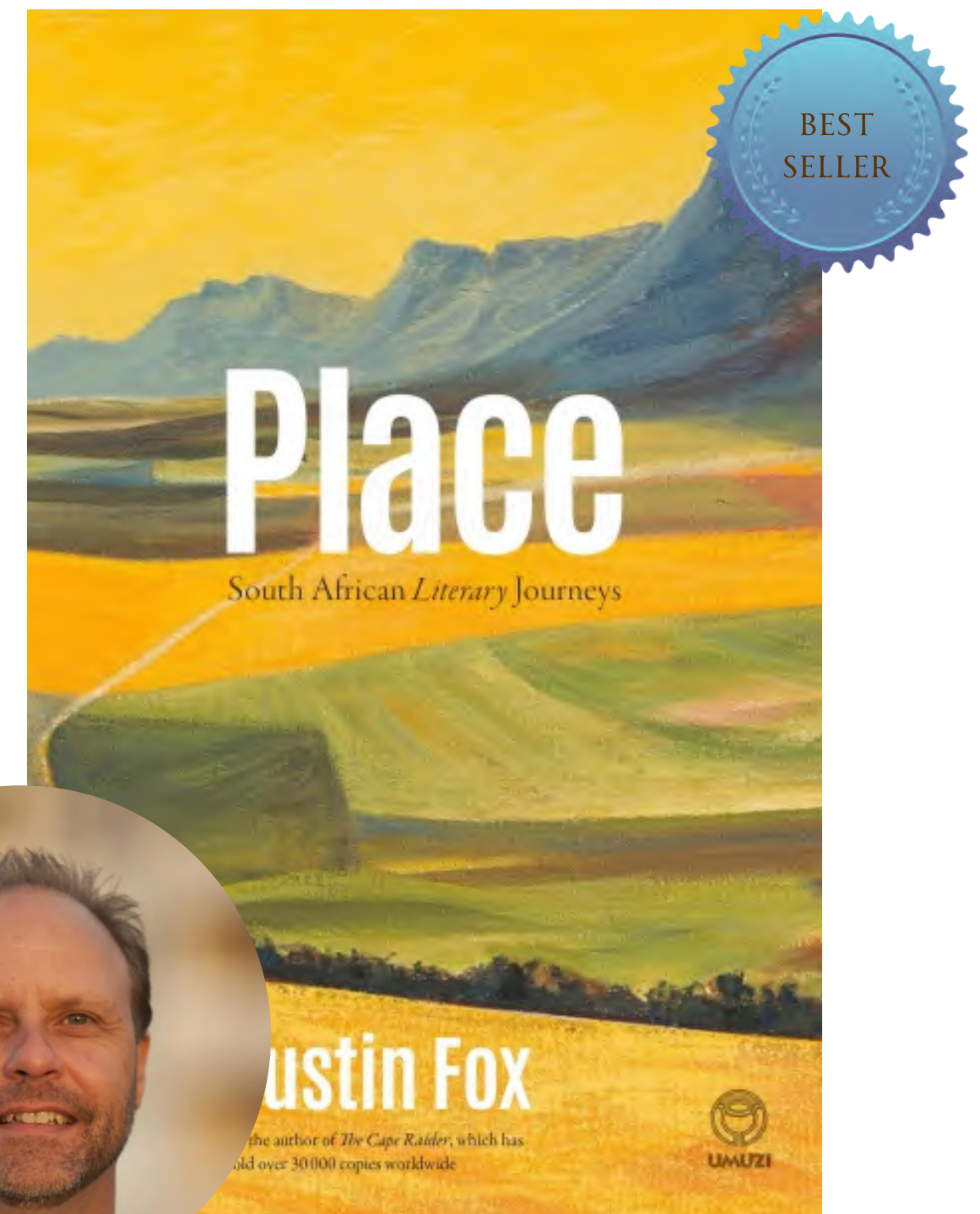
# PLACE: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY JOURNEYS — ✦

*'Let us, then, set off together on a series of journeys around South Africa with an old kitbag full of books instead of maps to guide us.'*

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 former editor of GETAWAY magazine. He received his doctorate in English at Oxford, and was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town, where he has taught part time for two decades. He is the author of twenty books, and his writing and photographs have been published worldwide. Fox has been longlisted for the Alan Paton Award for non-fiction and the Olive Schreiner Prize for Literature. His debut novel, WHOEVER FEARS THE SEA, was in the running for Africa's richest literary award at the time, the Etisalat Prize. Fox's first WWII naval adventure, THE CAPE RAIDER, was published in South Africa and the UK in 2021.

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# LUPUS LOVE STORY

*It's never lupus ... until it is.*

At sixteen Kathryn White is diagnosed with lupus. Systemic lupus erythematosus is an autoimmune disease. Your body attacks its own tissues. This is what you will die of, the doctors told her. In 1996 there is very little information about lupus available. For the first two years Kate is in and out of hospital, almost dying, always surviving. More than two decades later the word lupus has come into mainstream media. There's a recurring gag on the series House and Selena Gomez and Lady Gaga have both documented their struggles, but there is still no definitive text. Lupus is dangerous and difficult to define. There is a genetic tendency, but the trigger is environmental. It's nature and nurture. So, who in Kate's family had it? And what was her trigger? Mapping the journey of her colonial ancestry, mapping her body, Kate follows the vein: North China, opium, tea, shipping; Hong Kong, banking, HSBC, Shanghai and Peking; India in the early 1700s; Java, orphanages, missionaries in Penang; the first translation of the Chinese English bible; Amsterdam, New Amsterdam, loyalists, rebels, burghers, hangings; Rhodesia, Scotland and the Zambian copper belt; World Wars I and II; the Cape Colony, South Africa. From the 1600s to today, both sides of her family have documented and have been documented. Of course, there are also the hidden adoptions, the bad marriages and the secret families. Part of the journey will be uncovering the truth. Looking at the history of diagnoses, and unpacking and examining medical details, Kate demystifies this most mysterious of illnesses. She treats medical information in the simplest way possible, all the while exploring the language around illness, the history of lupus, how pain is communicated, and how patients are treated. In recent years epigeneticists have been investigating the role of inherited memory in genealogy. By tracing her family's path, Kate untangles some of the stories she's been told. But LUPUS LOVE STORY is also about the adventure: after three novels, it's time for Kathryn White to hunt the wolf in her own story.

**Kathryn White** is the author of the literary novels EMILY GREEN AND ME and THINGS I THOUGHT I KNEW, both longlisted for the SUNDAY TIMES Prize. Her humorous novel ANNA PETERS' YEAR OF COOKING DANGEROUSLY received a 4-star review in the SUNDAY TIMES and appeared on many Best Of lists for the year. All her work has been published by Penguin Random House South Africa. Kathryn has worked in multiple industries as a writer, journalist, and copywriter. From long-form essays to documentary films, her work focuses on narrative, with the landscape and environment often interjecting as character. Recent awards in advertising and communications include a 2023 Silver in the Tourism Film and a Silver for a Limited Series at the New York Festival's TV & Film Awards, a Gold for Film Series at the Japan World Tourism Film Festival, and various prizes for social media campaigns. Born in East London, South Africa, she is a keen horse rider and lives in Cape Town with her boyfriend, dog Joe and cat Tiger-Joe.

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# CHILDREN'S, YOUNG ADULT & GRAPHIC NOVELS





# BEARENT

*Because a bearent is lots more fun than a parent.*

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

**Greg Grabianski** is a novelist, screenwriter and show creator. Two of his original series are in development at Disney and several others of his are shows in various stages of development at studios and networks worldwide. A writer on BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD, Greg was a staff writer on late-night talk shows THE TONIGHT SHOW and THE KEENEN IVORY WAYANS SHOW, and he co-wrote the movies SCARY MOVIE and SCARY MOVIE 2. Greg built a career in children's animation, writing on shows SKUNK FU and ANGELO RULES for Cake Entertainment, LOUD HOUSE for Nickelodeon, PICKLE & PEANUT for Disney TV Animation and RAINBOW BUTTERFLY UNICORN KITTY for Nickelodeon, TAFFY for TBS, ANGRY BIRDS: SUMMER CAMP MADNESS for Cake/Netflix, PRESTO! for TeamTo, AGENT 203 for Toon2Tango/Super RTL, and PETS & THEIR TOYS, a new, nodialog show for Million Volt Studios/Netflix.

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# TARZON OF THE EEPS

*A cyborg's fight to save his jungle.*

Planet Eep: home to the Eeps, a colony of stupid little battle robots who evolved to survive in their extraterrestrial jungle. The Eeps rebuilt Tarzon after finding his body, equipping him with self-regenerating biomechanics that grew as he grew. Just as Tarzon reached his early cyborg adulthood, humans invaded Planet Eep. Carrying blob technology, the humans' high-powered blobcrafts fired blob-lasers all over the planet. To them, Planet Eep is the perfect setting for a blob-themed amusement park. Tarzon and the Eeps look like primate-level tech compared to the humans' blobcrafts, but they'll tear anyone limb from limb to defend their jungle. Everything changes when Captain Jane Proter arrives. Her family's own centuries-old pre-colonial past gives her a possible link to understanding a supposed "savage" like Tarzon. Are the values she now defends as corrupted as she suspects? Tarzon's simple sense of right, wrong and love for the jungle may be the only hope to save the Eeps and their civilization.

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

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**'Mike de Seve is the funniest writer I know ... every time I start a new script, I ask myself: What would Mike do?' – Rob David, Executive Producer and Vice-President, Mattel.**





# THE ROYAL WITCH

*The fate of a kingdom – in the hands of two kids who just can't get along.*

Each generation, a grand ceremony in the Kingdom of Alveria binds its crown prince to a powerful witch. Jointly, future king and witch must protect their realm. Enter timid and awkward Gus. He's trained his entire life to become the Royal Witch and is absolutely terrified to meet the – so gorgeous – prince. Prince Emilio: confident, self-absorbed, and Gus's opposite in every way. In a partnership that seems doomed from the start, things go from bad to worse when Emilio announces in the middle of the ceremony that he hates magic and doesn't want to be the Royal Witch at all. A fight breaks out. Everyone watches in horror as the two boys, meant to protect their country, brawl it out on the palace floor. Despite their disastrous tantrum, the ceremony is concluded, leaving them bound together and forced to cooperate. THE ROYAL WITCH follows the many misadventures of Gus and Emilio as they learn to work together to protect their kingdom. Based on a Webtoon featured as a Rising Star, Staff Pick, Hot Series, and one of the faces of Webtoon's 2022 LGBTQ+ Pride events.

**Emily Kaye** got her start in social media, writing skits for YouTube and TikTok which gained over 100,000,000+ views and earned her YouTube's Silver Play-Button. She branched out into writing webnovels that had millions of views. Her most popular, HERO VS VILLAIN, is ranked as the #1 LGBTQ+ novel and the #4 romance novel on Wattpad and is the fourth most liked free-to-read novel on Tapas. HERO VS VILLAIN received a manhwa (comic) adaptation by the Korean studio Toomics and has been optioned for an animated series. Emily specializes in writing queer and female-led stories and was one of the main faces for Webtoon's 2021 Pride. She wrote and co-directed the prize-winning short film FREELY WE SERVE, which screened at festivals including Newfest, Genreblast, the Seattle Queer Film Festival, and PRISM.

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# IN MY HOOD

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

Lagos: home of Nollywood, Afrobeat, bonkers traffic, a rad floating city within a city, and 15 million people, including Shades. Like every young Lagosian, Shades is in the city in search of his place in the sun. Shades might not know his new hood yet, but he knows his way around astronomy and all things paranormal. He works hard and has fallen – hard! – for Yetunde. Problem is bratty rich-kid Desmond likes Yetunde too. Where will Shade find the guts to tell her how he feels about her? The lovely Yetunde – Science major by day, kung fu fighter by night – has enough courage for both of them. But Shades has an enemy bigger than jerky Desmond. Enter The Deuce. He's cool, smart, strong. A rebel thirsty for power. Worst of all, he lives inside Shades, taking over his life any chance he gets. When you're facing a mobster or a deranged goat armed with a bazooka, The Deuce comes in handy; but the guy is crazy dangerous, and Shades gets left with the chaos The Deuce leaves in his wake. IN MY HOOD is an adventure comedy series featuring superb characters. Meet gangster boss Don Pappy and his henchman, strong-but-sweet Shege, dumb-and-dumber cops Pele and Koko, and a band of animals armed to the teeth and their own agenda.

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

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# FUR FORCE 5

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

Goofy teenage dog-walker ZADIE ZINN just got a new customer. Score!  
Too bad he turns out to be the world's most dastardly super-villain. Whoops.  
Soon Zadie's working for all his buddies in the super-evil LEAGUE of HYPER EVIL as well.  
Now she's really got a job to do: save the world from all her clients' evil schemes. Good thing their awesome pets are all on board to secretly help.  
And they've never had so much fun.  
Go Fur Force 5!

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

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# SHREDDY BEARS

*They're teddys, they're armed, they're dangerously cute!*

When threats arise that are too big, too bad, or too awesome for the military to handle, the president sends in the Shreddy Bears! This covert team of cybernetic combat teddy bears under the direction of the president's whip-smart granddaughter uses cuddly chaos and adorable brawn to complete the mission with extreme cuteness ... and an excessive amount of explosives.

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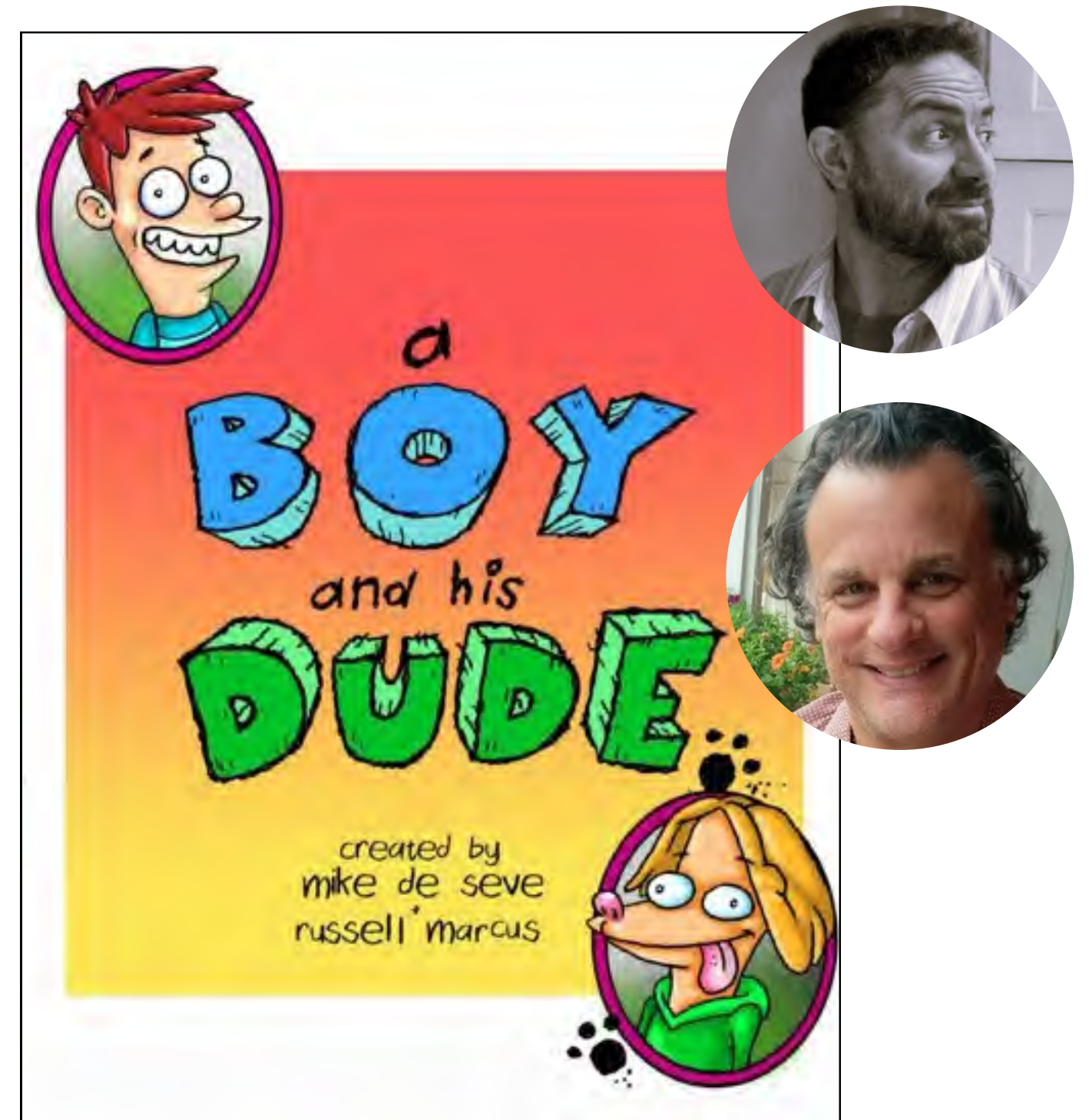


# A BOY AND HIS DUDE

*To save him, they had to SHAVE him.*

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

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



# FATHOM FORCE

*Dive into a world of adventure, where four ordinary teens become extraordinary ocean protectors.*

Four ordinary teens find themselves with extraordinary powers to transform into sea creatures when an ancient order recruits them to protect the world's oceans. Guided by their mentor Pierre and a shape-shifting vessel endowed with the collective consciousness of the Elders, heroes Jaden, Parker, Yu Qi and Logan must dig deep and discover that they have what it takes to stop worldwide evil from destroying the world's oceans. Together they are ... the Fathom Force!

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# WEIRDER THAN YOU

*When nature turns weird.*

Hey!' shouts Fox. 'Can you keep it down!' Did you know a red fox has incredibly sensitive hearing, able to detect a mouse's squeak from 100 feet away? Or that after a chase, a cheetah needs about 30 minutes to catch its breath before eating? 'CHEETAH CHEETAH, WHEN CAN WE EAT-A?!' Or that squirrels sweat through their feet? 'Dad! Pete keeps on touching me with his sweaty paws!' WEIRDER THAN YOU is a collection of hilarious and bizarre stories that explore the oddities of the natural world. Each episode takes uncanny yet true nature facts and spins them into a riotous sketch that'll have you laughing while learning. From the peculiar mating dances of birds to the mind-boggling survival tactics of insects, nothing is too weird for this comedic journey that promises to tickle your funny bone and stretch your imagination, reminding you that truth really is stranger than fiction.

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# WINNIE-THE-POOH

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

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

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# THE WATER BEAR

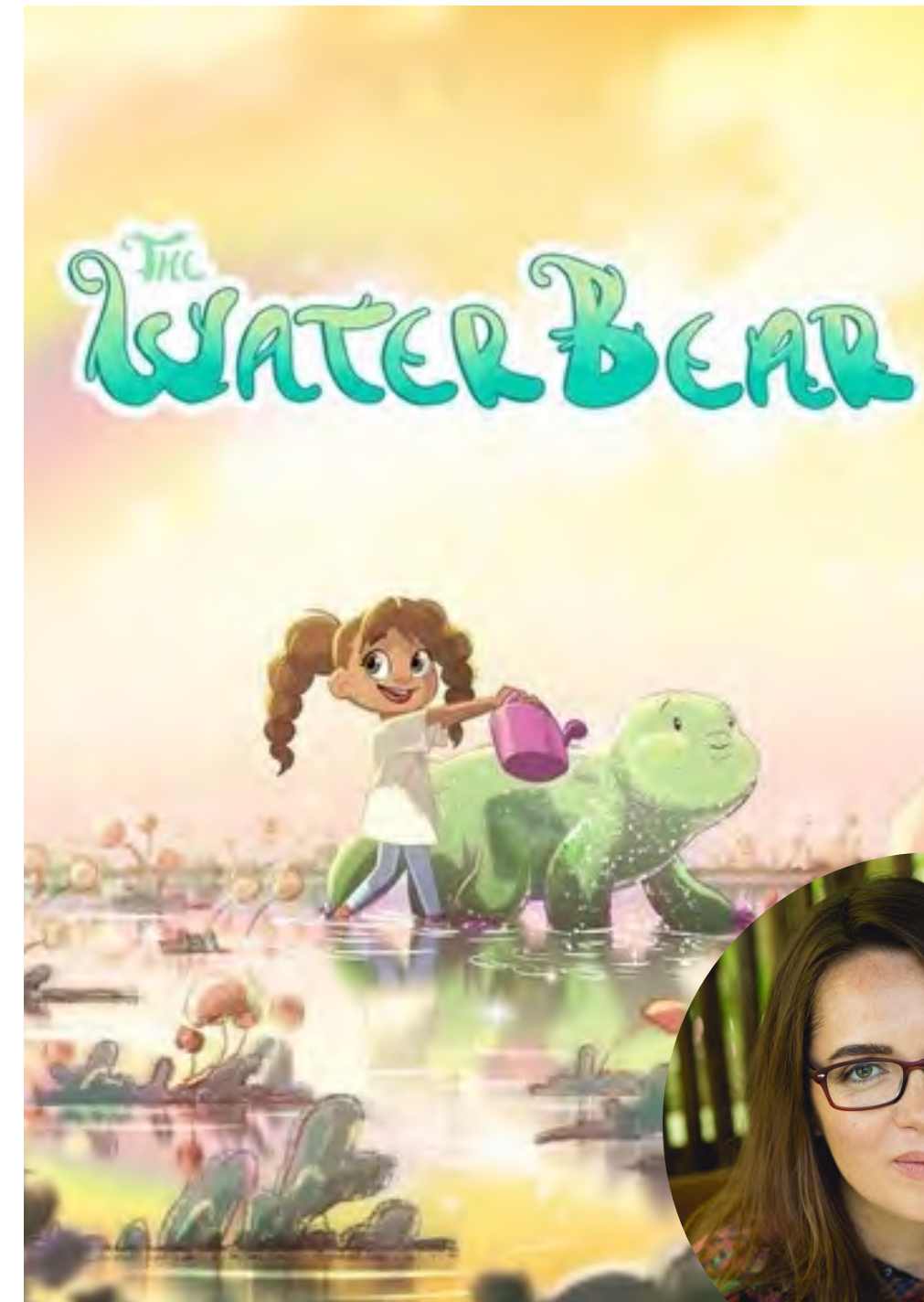
*A big friendship in a tiny world.*

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

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

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**Water Bear hugs are the Best bear hugs!**



# TONKO AND THE SIZA MASK

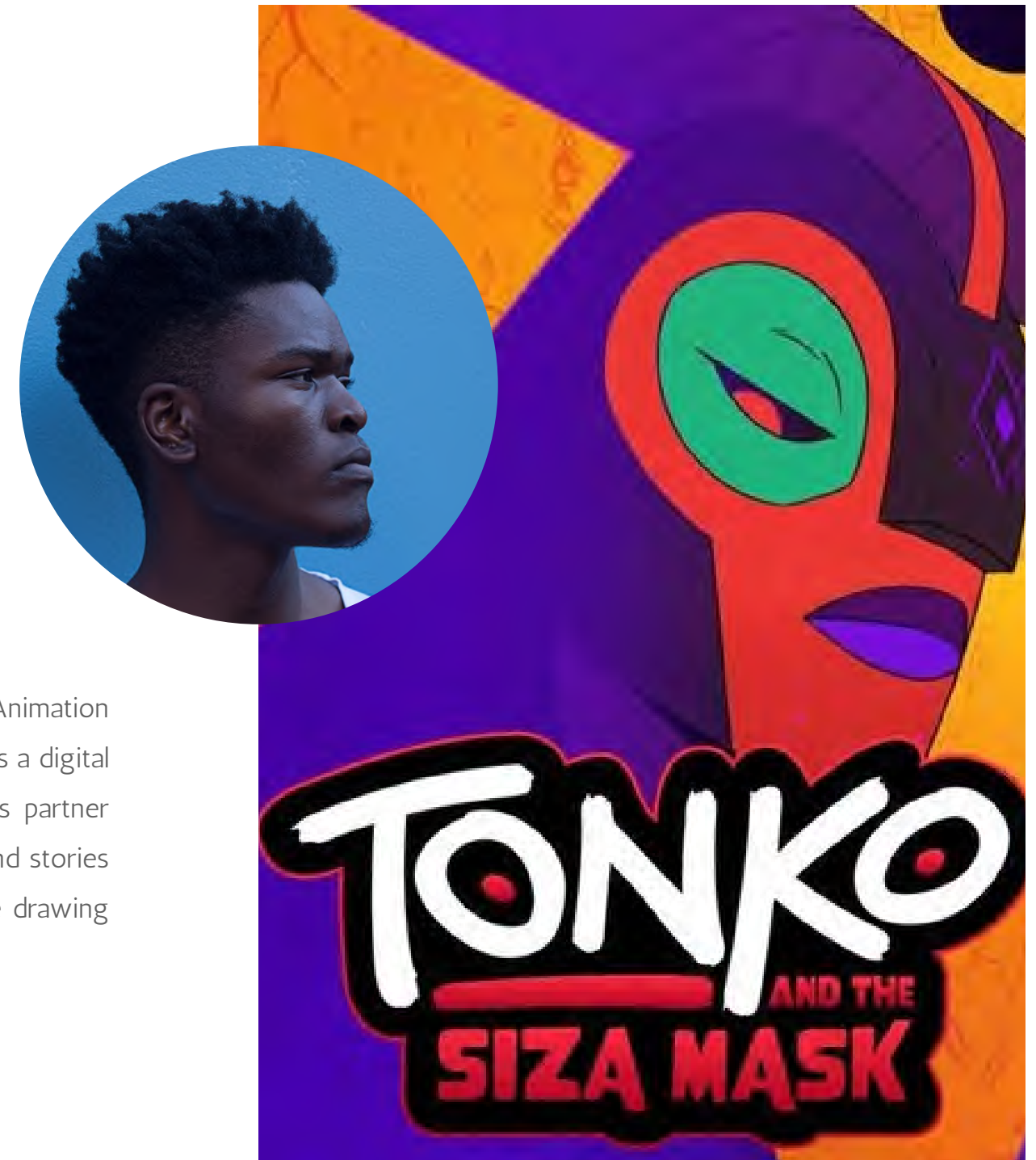
*There's no hiding behind THIS mask!*

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

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

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





# AFRONAUGHTS

## *Zero-gravity Zeroes.*

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

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

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# 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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# TRIBE

*Divided by power, united by a mother's love.*

In a world where women manifest the traits of their totems, Timba, an insecure, ungifted woman escapes from her husband, Chief Moto, after he attempts to use their daughter's powers for military advantage. But when other tribes learn of her child's abilities and go after them, to have a shot at making it out alive, Timba will have to unlock the true source of power which she'll learn lies within.

Born in Zimbabwe and having lived and worked in Australia, the UK, and South Africa, **Tendayi Nyeke** has been nominated for South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTA) in multiple genres for her production work. A former Writer's Guild of SA council member, Tendayi has worked as a film and TV executive on several award-winning shows and has written, produced, and directed TV programmes across South Africa's major broadcasters. Tendayi holds an MBA in Music and Creative Industries from Henley Business School (2016) and has been invited to speak at TV markets and festivals in South America, Europe, and Southern Africa. As a development executive for the International-Emmy Award Winning animation firm Triggerfish animation studios, Tendayi looked after the story development of a diverse slate of shorts, series, and feature film IP in partnership with global streamers and studios. In 2021, Tendayi began her role as co-executive producer on her first animated feature film with a global streamer.

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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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# VETPLANT FAIRIES

*Fairies among the succulents!*

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

**Fiona Moodie** is an artist and writer. *Vetplant Fairies* is one of seventeen children's books she has illustrated since her first book, *Benjamin Rocking Horse*, was published in Zürich in 1979. Since then, her children's books have appeared in numerous countries and in many languages. In 1996, *Nabulela*, her eighth book, was published in seven South African languages. Her illustrations have been exhibited in prominent galleries, including the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and the Chihiro Art Museum in Tokyo features her work in its permanent collection. She is the recipient of the mer Prize among others, and has been honoured by unicef. She lives in Cape Town. **Ingrid de Kok** is the author of the celebrated poetry collections *Familiar Ground*, *Transfer*, *Terrestrial Things* and *Other Signs*. Her poems have been published locally, internationally and in translation, and a volume of selected and new work, *Seasonal Fires*, appeared in South Africa and the United States. Among her prizes are the Herman Charles Bosman Award, a South African Literary Award, and the 2019 Ritratti di Poesia Prize from Fondazione Culturale Arte in Rome. She lives in Cape Town. **Antjie Krog** has published many volumes of poetry, three of them collections of children's verse: *Mankepank en ander monsters*, *Voëls van anderste vere* and *Fynbos Fairies*. She has been awarded the Hertzog Prize among many other awards, and is the author of the acclaimed *Country of My Skull*, which won the Alan Paton and Olive Schreiner awards. She lives in Cape Town."

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# HORROR





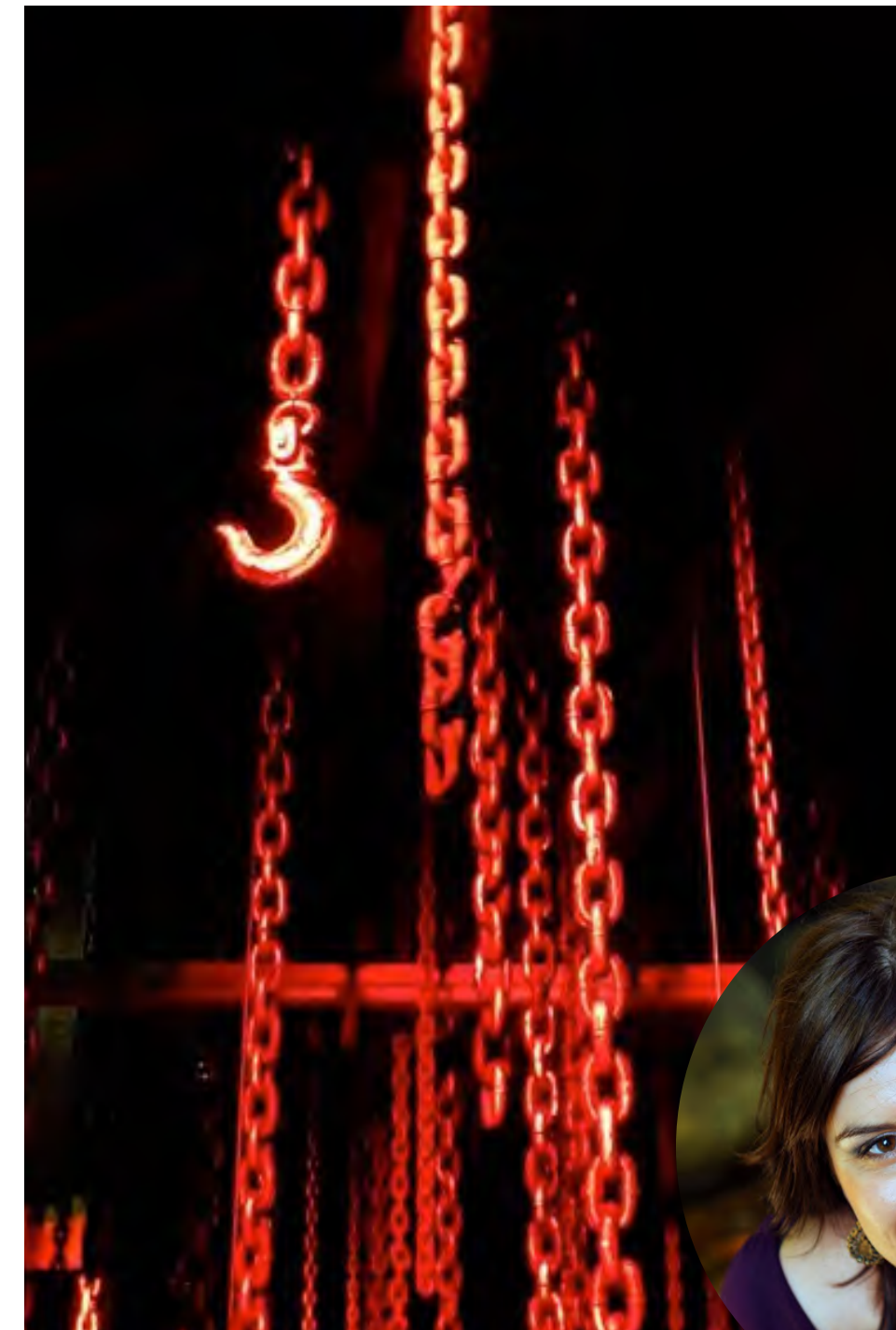
# DEAD MEAT

*When meat's the only thing left to eat.*

Fifteen-year-old Natalie has had a horror of blood and meat since the day her bother, Flynn, now 17, raped her at age 9. Yet she and her family (mother Viv, former trophy wife, now hapless housewife; father Ray, former accountant, now handyman, and grandmother Eleanor) are trapped on an enormous factory farm in a world where climate change has left plant crops devastatingly rare, and the Corporation ensures meat is virtually all there is to eat. With grains grown exclusively for raising cattle, pigs and chicken for slaughter, and greens a black-market luxury, Natalie is emaciated, bitter and angry. She is desperate to escape, but electric fences and the draconian punishments of the Corporation stand in her way. In contrast to his sister, Flynn is passive, complacent to the horrors of the farm, and hobbled by guilt and shame over the abuse. With a pet rat his only friend, he goes about the daily grind, wishing for a way to make amends to Natalie, who bristles at his every advance. One night Flynn helps Natalie steal apples from the farmer's private orchard; the farmer's devious, arrogant 11-year-old son, Brett, sees them and threatens to tell, which would get them killed. In a scuffle on a wall overlooking the free-range pig pen, Natalie pushes Brett to his death, where he is eaten alive by the pigs. Afterwards, the entire farm is in fear, wondering who might be blamed and put to death. Quietly nightmarish and utterly gripping, the psychological horror DEAD MEAT has all the makings of a cult classic. It may be some time before you're able to eat a bacon sandwich again.

**Maya Fowler** is a South African novelist, editor and translator, currently living in Vancouver, Canada. She is the author of the novels PATAGONIA, THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM and TEBATSO GAAN SEE TOE. Her current focus is literary and general fiction, although she's produced award-winning work for young adults and children.

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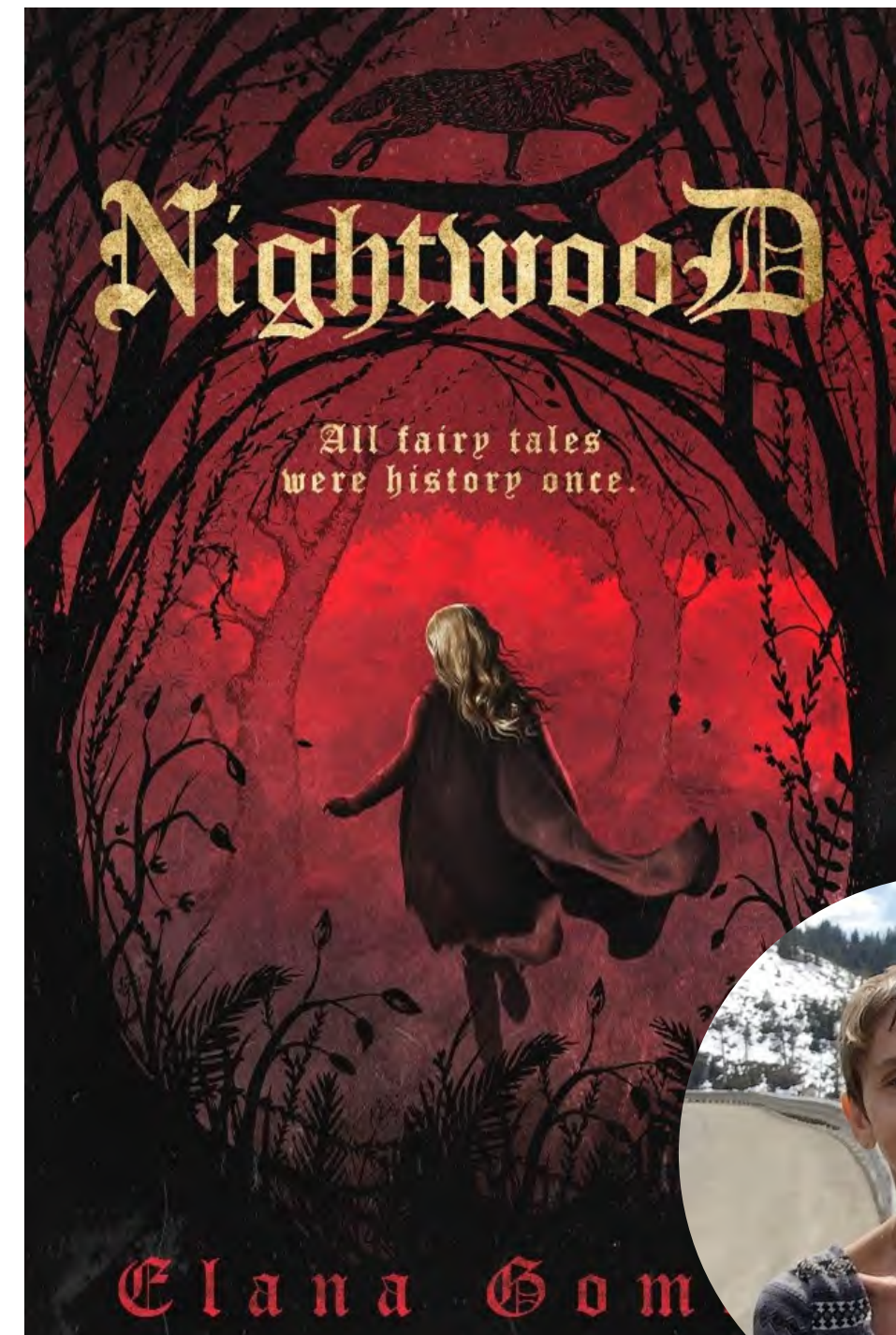
# NIGHTWOOD

*All fairy tales were history once...*

All fairy tales were history once. Ally is a Ukrainian bride who married a wealthy Californian, Carl Morris. Everything is strange in her new home: the shadowy redwoods, the peculiar neighbors, and the mystery surrounding the death of Carl's first wife. But Ally is determined to leave her own tragic past behind and to be a good wife and a good American. Escaping darkness is not so easy, however. Ally discovers that her house is situated on the borders of Nightwood, where fairy tales become nightmares and nightmares become reality. And the ruler of Nightwood has plans of his own. Unexpectedly joined by new friends, Ally escapes to embark on a perilous journey across a dying land filled with mythical beasts and creatures from fairy tales. To save Carl, Ally will have to brave the horrors of Nightwood and uncover the shattering secret of her own identity.

Born in Ukraine and currently residing in California, **Elana Gomel** is an academic with a long list of books and articles, an award-winning writer, and a professional nomad. She has taught in Israel, Italy, and the US, and is known in the academy for her (purely theoretical) interest in serial killers, alien invasions, and rebellious AIs. Her upcoming academic publication is Palgrave Handbook of Global Fantasy. She is the author of more than a hundred stories, several novellas, and five novels of dark fantasy and dark science fiction. Several of her stories appeared in Best of the Year anthologies. Her most recent fiction publications are NIGHTWOOD, a novel of fairy tales and exile, and the collection MY LADY OF PLAGUES AND OTHER GOTHIC FAIRY TALES. She is a member of HWA and can be found at [www.citiesoflightanddarkness.com](http://www.citiesoflightanddarkness.com) and on social media.

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# THE HEADLESS BOY

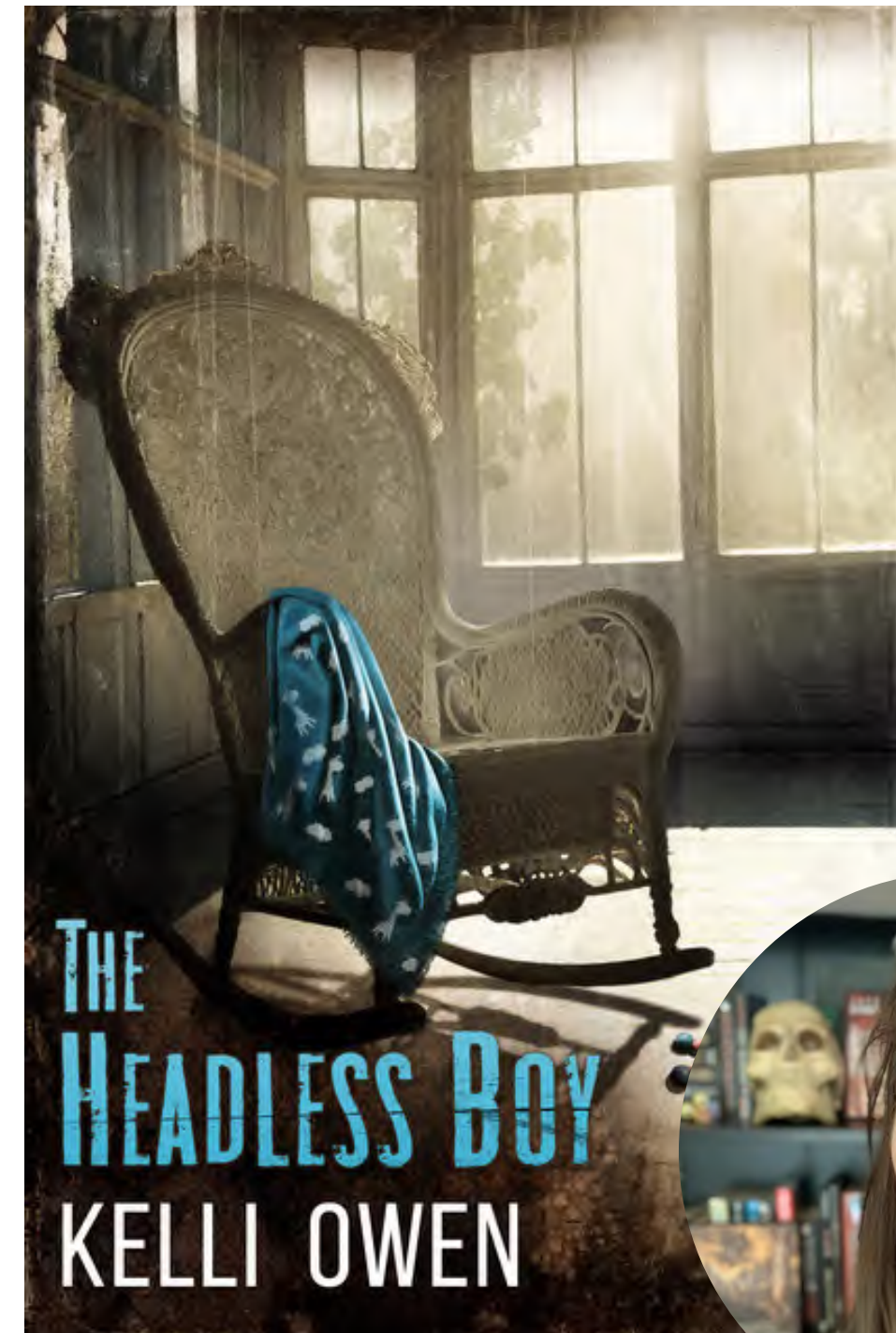
## *The horror of grief.*

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'**





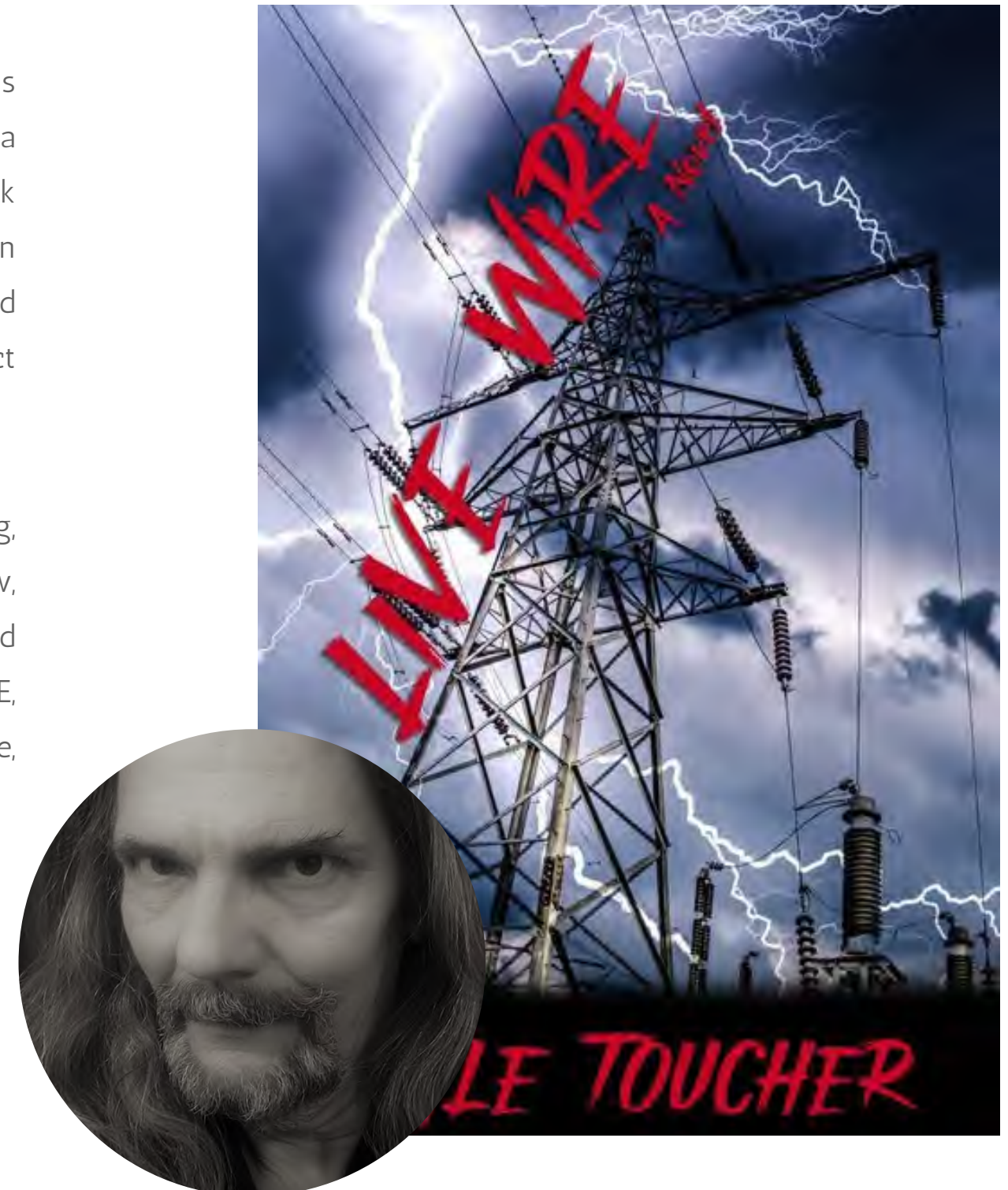
# LIVE WIRE

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

A storm is coming ... In 1993 New Mexico, Black Magic and High Tech find common ground in Medusa Engineering's Project Dragonfire, and for one endless October night, a fissure opens between here and Elsewhere ... LIVE WIRE, a horror thriller for science fiction fans, begins with four people sequestered in a desert filling station during a freak thunderstorm. Outside, one-hundred-foot electrical towers, miles and miles of them, uproot and stalk the desert. In tandem arrives The Signal, a dissonant machine language that subverts the human mind ... harvesting old guilt, shame, and trauma. Fifty miles down the road at the Very Large Array, the Medusa Engineering Corporation unleashes Project Dragonfire, a bold technological effort that has summoned a raven ...

**Kyle Toucher** (rhymes with voucher) was raised on a diet of Frankenstein and Godzilla, Black Sabbath and Black Flag, Lovecraft, Blatty, Barker and King. Through his twenties, he fronted the influential Nardcore crossover band Dr. Know, made records and hit the road. Later, he moved into the Visual Effects field, which led to eight Emmy nominations and two awards for FIREFLY and BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA. Recent credits include TOP GUN: MAVERICK, THE ORVILLE, and defence industry clients. He lives with a lovely woman, five cats, two dogs, and several guitars in a secure, undisclosed location.

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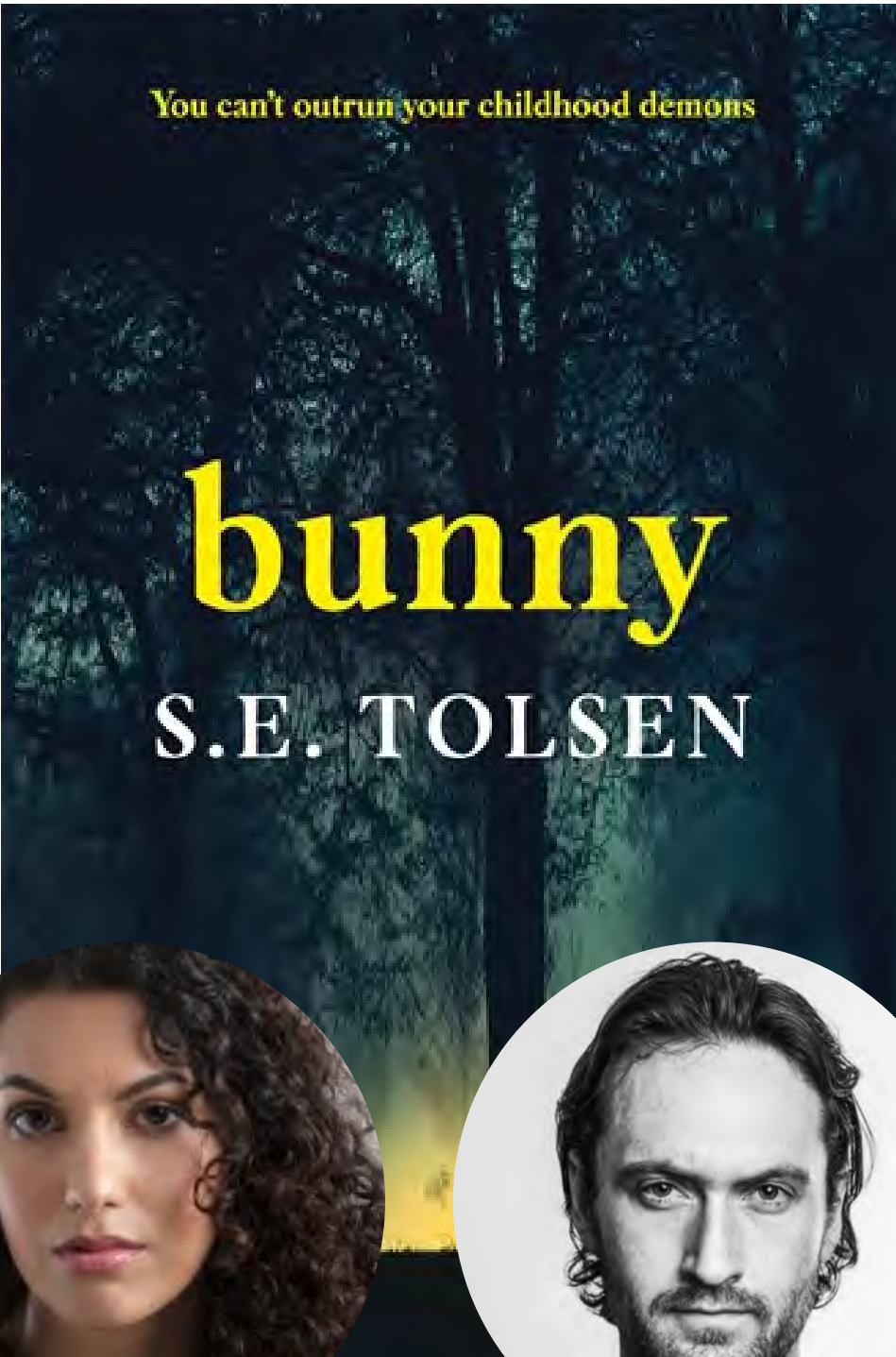
# BUNNY

*A terrifying homecoming for two scriptwriters.*

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

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

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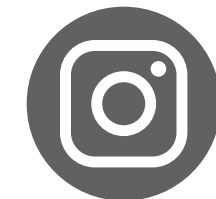
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