

## Recent Books from South Africa – June 2022

**Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd**  
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### **Biography/Memoirs**

Hopes and Dreams That Sound Like Yours: Stories of Queer Activism in Sub-Saharan Africa / Taboom Media & GALA Queer Archive.

Braamfontein: MaThoko's Book, 2021

102p. ; 260x168mm. ; Colour Illustrations

9780620935340

\$ 25.00 / PB

242gm.

In *Hopes and Dreams*, 20 human rights defenders from Sub-Saharan Africa share their activist journeys and reveal what inspires their fight for LGBTIQ equality. Some are deeply personal stories of self-discovery and acceptance. Others chart the challenges LGBTIQ rights groups face in discriminatory environments. All carry messages of hope and dreams for a better tomorrow. Queer and ally artists bring each story to life with original illustrations that depict the joys and struggles of our collective movement. The result is a beautiful archive and powerful anthology of resilience.

More than 40 people contributed to *Hopes and Dreams* and its accompanying videos over three short months. The project emerged from a Media Advocacy for LGBTIQ Equality workshop Taboom Media hosted in January with activists from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816600>

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Out of Place : An Autoethnography of Postcolonial Citizenship / Nuraan Davids

Cape Town: African Minds Publishers, 2022

xii, 162p. ; 234x156mm.

Includes Index

9781928502364

\$ 30.00 / PB

288gm.

*Out of Place* offers an in-depth exploration of Nuraan Davids' experience as a Muslim 'coloured' woman, traversing a post-apartheid space. It centres on and explores a number of themes, which include her challenges not only as a South African citizen, and within her faith community, but as an academic citizen at a historically white university. The book is her story, an autoethnography, her reparation.

By embarking on an auto-ethnography, she not only tries to change the way her story has been told by others, transforms her 'sense of what it means to live' (Bhabha, 1994). She is driven by a postcolonial appeal, which insists that if she seeks to imprint her own way of life into the discourses which pervade the world around her, then she can no longer allow herself to be spoken on behalf of or to be subjugated into the hegemonies of others.

The main argument of *Out of Place* is that Muslim, 'coloured' women are subjected to layers of scrutiny and prejudices, which have yet to be confronted. What we know about Muslim 'coloured' women has been shaped by preconceived notions of 'otherness', and attached to a meta-narrative of 'oppression and backwardness'. By centring and using her lived experiences, the author takes readers on a journey of what it is like to be seen in terms of race, gender and religion – not only within the public sphere of her professional identities, but within the private sphere of her faith community.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816605>

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## **Literature**

Skin Rafts / Kelwynsole

Cape Town: Hands-On Books, 2022

114p. ; 210x140mm.

9781928433392

\$ 16.00 / PB

By highlighting and teasing out the mingled emotions of anxiety, disenchantment, hope and anger which characterise South Africans' current experienced reality, Sole's poetry questions and expands on our concerns about identity and belonging. In so doing, the poems in *Skin Rafts* contemplate the relationships that exist between us on a number of seemingly discrete, but actually intertwined, fronts - the personal relationship between lovers; the wider social and political relationships between human beings; as well as the problematic and contested human relationships that are brought to bear on land, landscape and the non-human. In this collection the reader is confronted with the circumstance that both body and society exist in a fragile dimension of uncertainty, where we all are 'bobbing / on our raft of skin'.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816607>

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Bury Me Naked / Teamhw SbonguJesu  
Pietermaritzburg: TNG Publishing, 2022  
66p. ; 210x140mm.  
9780620974943  
\$ 16.00 / PB  
76gm.

Bury Me Naked is driven by its hard-hitting language, accessible images, and depth of feeling. The poems are set in the poet's home village of KwaGezubuso, and show the tough life of young people in South Africa's neglected rural areas. Many poems are religious, with a respectful but irreverent attitude to God.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816615>

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Peach Country / Nondwe Mpuma  
Durban: uHlanga, 2022  
60p. ; 203x133mm.  
9780620986885  
\$ 16.00 / PB  
82gm.

With exquisite clarity and poise, Nondwe Mpuma's debut collection guides us through dreamscapes of ritual, harvest and destitution - of tornado-stricken villages, mythical beings, and the eternally evanescent promise of love. Grounded by understated and precise verse, Mpuma weaves together the spiritual and the natural with effortless, imagistic flair. In Peach Country there is celebration, mourning, meditation, prayer, exploration, impatience and joy; throughout, however, Mpuma maintains an open-eyed wonder at the entirety

of existence, viewed from her particular, and particularly enchanting, corner of the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816616>

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Bloodred Dragonflies: New and Selected Poems in English and Versions from the Filipino / Jim Pascual Agustin

Makhanda: Deep South, 2022

90p. ; 198x129mm.

9781928476467

\$ 16.00 / PB

88gm.

*Bloodred Dragonflies* is Agustin's first book published in South Africa. A selection from three decades of work, it includes new poems and some recently translated versions of poems from the Filipino. His poems, constructed from subtle images, close observations of nature and refracted memories, demonstrate how innocence can stay alive under the most difficult conditions.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816617>

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Geruisloos, Ongemerck / Henali Kuit

Makhanda: Deep South, 2022

102p. ; 198x129mm.

In Afrikaans

9781928476443

\$ 16.00 / PB

98gm.

*Geruisloos, Ongemerck* is 'n aangrypende kortverhaalbundel wat stilisties tussen voorstedelike-realisme en surrealisme wissel. Kuit ondersoek die alledaagse lewe met onverwagte ompaaie, woede en humor.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816618>

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### **Politics/Current Affairs**

The African Renaissance Project of Thabo Mbeki: Its South African Roots and Targets / Sehlare Makgetlaneng (Ed) Lynn Southey

Pretoria: Institute for Preservation and Development, 2022

vi, 516p. ; 234x156mm.

9781991205308

\$ 55.00 / PB  
816gm.

This book provides a critical analysis of the targets and objectives of The African Renaissance project as articulated by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. The work is divided into five chapters: South Africa before and since 1994; invaluable lessons for the African Renaissance project; targets and objectives of the African Renaissance as articulated by Thabo Mbeki; the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as the litmus test for the African Renaissance; the DRC as the strategic heart of the African continental transformation; the African Renaissance Project: key issues, processes and developments. It provides a critical analysis of the South African socio-historical roots and targets in these issues, processes and developments of the African Renaissance project. The book has a conclusion and recommendations.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816619>

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Treading A Delicate Tightrope: A Principal Balancing Between Education and Political Change During Turbulent Time / Mike Burton  
Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd, 2022  
xiv, 212p. ; 229x152mm.  
9781920033835  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
374gm.

When Mike Burton became the principal of All Saints College in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, little did he know about the journey on which he was embarking.

Very soon after taking up the position, Mike realised that the vision of the founding organisation was becoming irrelevant as education and politics converged, reaching a crisis point in the second half of the 1980s. Mike found himself walking the tightrope between the expectations of the funders on the one hand and those of the students and community on the other.

Matters reached a tipping point and Mike had to make a decision. As 'Comrade Mike' he elected that the interests of the students and the community take precedence. Mike chose education AND liberation.

Mike Burton's Tightrope is a gripping, personal account that transports the reader back to the liberation struggle of the 1980s and the educational issues that informed policy in the nascent democracy. The book will be of particular

interest to those involved in education at the time as well anybody who observed or was engaged during that turbulent period of change.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816620>

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