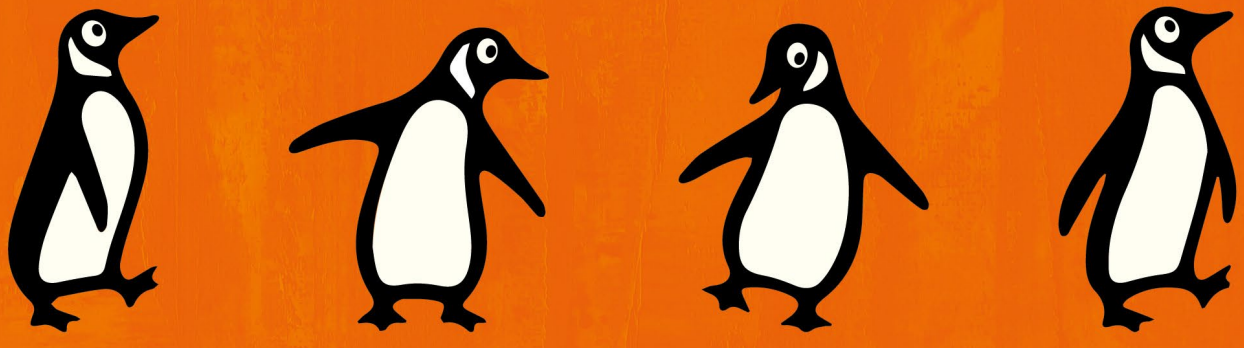
PENGUIN BOOKS



Penguin Random House South Africa

Penguin Random House Highlights

AUGUST

We are excited to share our August releases with you, which includes brand new books from Marie Lotz, Jackie Phamotse, Siphokazi Jonas and Tillie Cole.

Happy reading!



Brandstapel

Marie Lotz

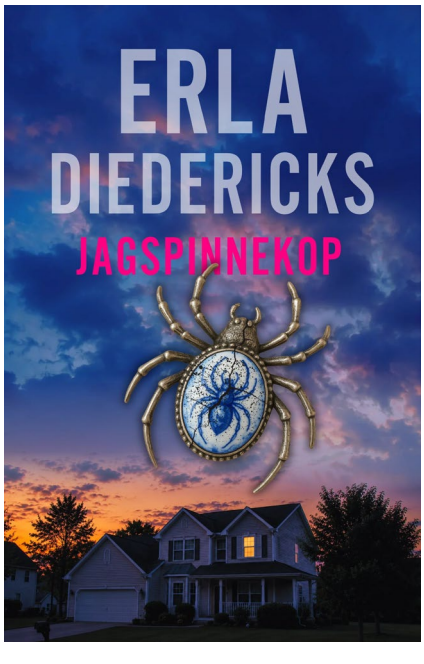
Sagteband · R350 · 9781776380978

Party mense begrawe die verlede. Ander verbrand dit.

'n Brandstigter saai chaos en skroom nie om lewens te neem nie. Wanneer majoor Alek Strauss verdwyn en sy voertuig op 'n skrootwerf gevind word met 'n vebrande lyk binne-in, word sy vrou, Ilse Liebenstein, en die Fiskale Spesiale Ondersoekeenheid se hele wêreld omgedop. Dié keer is dit persoonlik. Wie sou verantwoordelik wees?

Kort voor lank verdiep die raaisel. 'n Gesin word uitgewis in 'n brand in Monaghan Farm en 'n paar dae later brand nog 'n slagoffer in 'n pakhuis dood. Op elke toneel vind die ondersoekspan bisarre leidrade wat die sake aan mekaar verbind. Die piromaan is nie net behep met vlamme nie, maar geniet duidelik die slagoffers se lyding. Amper asof elkeen spesifiek uitgesoek is.

Dit berus by kaptein Bastian Wolvaardt om die brandstigter te stuit voor hy weer toeslaan. Maar hoe nader hy aan die vlamme kom, hoe groter raak die risiko dat hy ook sal brand.



Jagspinnekop

Erla Diedericks,

Sagteband · R340 · 9781779860606

Moeg vir 'n koue bed? Ons ken net die plek.

Smooch is 'n gewilde platform vir mense opsoek na … meer. Daar kan jy wees net wie jy wil. Sê net wat jy wil. Flankeer met wie jy wil.

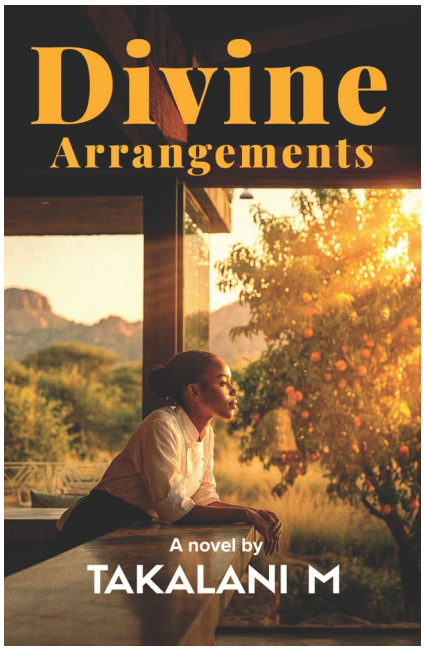
Maar Suzette Fourie weet daar is 'n donker kant aan hierdie interaksies. As profileerder weet sy van die moorde. Vrouens uit die voorstede van Kaapstad. Elkeen ongelukkig met hulle liefdeslewe. Elkeen vermoor en gevind in 'n veld. Elkeen gemerk met die grillerige kenteken van die moordenaar.

Die media noem hom die Jagspinnekop. En Suzette weet hy gebruik hierdie platforms as sy jagveld. Dis waar hy weerlose vrouens opspoor. En sy aptyt blyk eindeloos.

Nou moet sy hom plattrek voor hy sy tande in die volgende slagoffer kan slaan.

Jagspinnekop is 'n onheilspellende spanningsverhaal vir die moderne era wat diep onder jou vel in gaan kruip.

KONTAKPERSOON VIR PLAASLIKE FIKSIE PUBLISITEIT
Frieda Le Roux · fleroux@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 021 460 5400



Divine Arrangements

Takalani Mutshinyan

Sagteband · R350 · 9781776381234

Party mense begrawe die verlede. Ander verbrand dit.

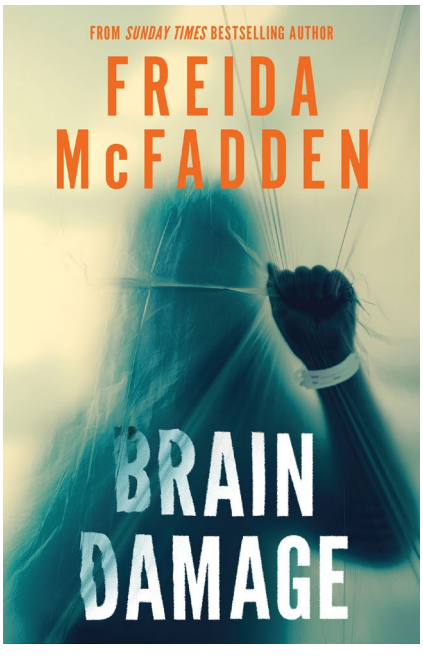
After being left at the altar, Rendani Makwarela swears off men. Instead she pours her efforts into becoming a chef. With her parents' help, she starts a catering business on her grandmother's land, and for a decade she tirelessly builds her brand as master chef to the Venda elite.

Along the way, she befriends Fhumulani Makungo – a divorced property developer who is trying to find his feet in the area. Their friendship blossoms into romance, neither of them realising just how deeply their worlds are intertwined.

When her father's business empire begins crumbling, however, Rendi's own dreams are at risk of collapse too. Yet she will do anything to keep the dream alive. But does that include an arranged marriage that could save her business but end her chance at happiness? How do you choose between success and love?

Divine Arrangements is a beautiful story about a young woman looking (and cooking) for love.

LOCAL FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Frieda Le Roux · fleroux@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 021 460 5400



Brain Damage

Freida McFadden

Paperback · R295 · 9781464298547

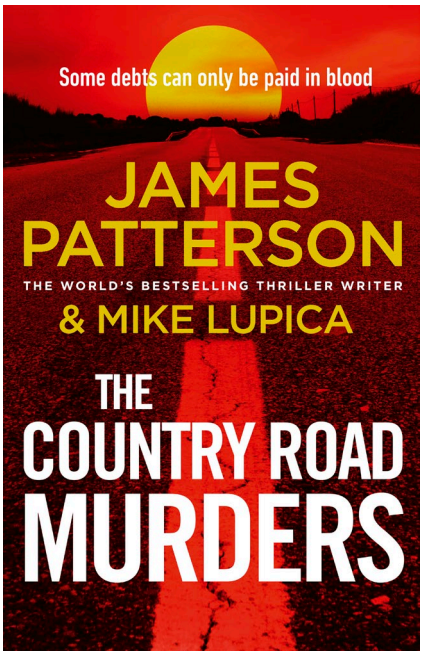
How can you survive when you can't remember who wants you dead?

Dr. Charly McKenna had the perfect life: a thriving dermatology practice, a luxury apartment overlooking Central Park, and a handsome husband who adored her.

Until the night a bullet tore through her skull... and stole everything.

Now Charly wakes in a rehabilitation hospital unable to walk, speak, or remember her own name. All she knows is that someone tried to kill her—and they may still be out there. As fragments of memory surface, so do unsettling questions about the people around her, including the attentive man who keeps appearing at her bedside.

The truth of what happened that night lives somewhere inside her brain. And as Charly pieces together the jagged edges of her past, she begins to realize the most terrifying possibility: the person who wants her dead might be the one she once trusted most.



The Country Road Murders

James Patterson

Trade Paperback · R395 · 9781529978490

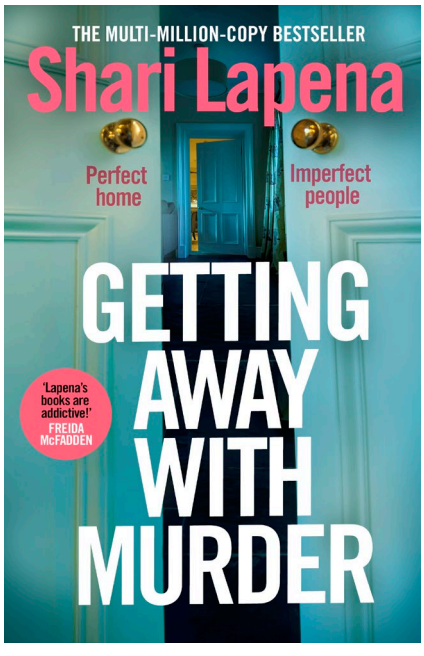
Silas Tucker was destined for glory until a devastating accident brought him back to the place where his life fell apart. His father was gunned down on a deserted country road when Silas was just a boy. The killer never brought to justice.

Now, teenage girls are vanishing and the Southern Mafia's shadow looms over his hometown.

The community is terrified. The police need help. And Silas Tucker has nothing left to lose.

When the law isn't enough, sometimes you have to take justice into your own hands.

INTERNATIONAL FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ellen van Schalkwyk · evanschalkwyk@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 011 327 3550



Getting Away With Murder

Shari Lapena

Trade Paperback · R390 · 9780857506221

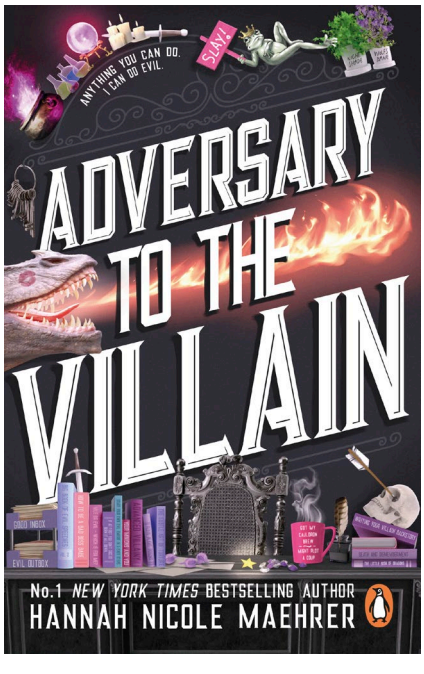
She loves her husband. But she might love their house more.

Jill and Ted adore their New York brownstone the way others adore their children. Styled to perfection, they have carefully made every inch of it their own. It reflects who they are. It is the stuff of glossy magazines and real-estate dreams. It is their sanctuary . . .

So, when Ted's inheritance runs out and he makes a bad investment, they panic. How can they lose their beloved home and enviable lifestyle? Being poor is not an option.

The answer is obvious. Or at least, it is obvious to Jill and Ted. The death of one family member could solve all their problems. Together, they can get away with murder.

As long as they love each other. As long as they trust each other. As long as neither makes a mistake.



Adversary to the Villain

Hannah Nicole Maehrer

Trade Paperback · R275 · 9781804999677

HR Update: The position of "adversary to the villain" has been filled. Evie Sage does not recall applying.

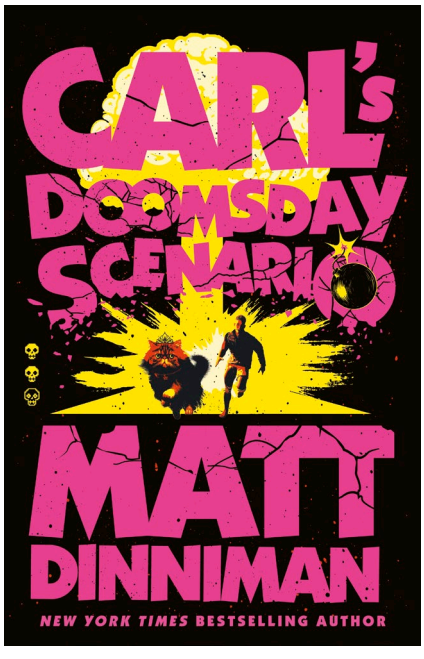
Evie has always tried to be helpful, loyal, and only mildly involved in treason. But with a dangerous prophecy threatening the very magic of Rennedawn – not to mention the race to claim its necessary artifacts before King Benedict does – things are starting to feel... less like a career path and more like a serious problem.

The prophecy won't stop pointing in Evie's direction. The Villain's magic keeps choosing her. And honestly, if you're going to be accused of evil anyway, you might as well commit.

Unfortunately, the more Evie leans into her alleged villain era, the more her boss starts acting like the hero of a completely different story. Trystan is getting closer – closer than is wise, advisable, or even remotely professional – and looking at her like she's already chosen a side. His.

Which is deeply inconvenient, because if Evie can't save the kingdom's magic, she might just become its greatest threat.

INTERNATIONAL FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ellen van Schalkwyk · evanschalkwyk@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 011 327 3550



Carl's Doomsday Scenario

Matt Dinniman

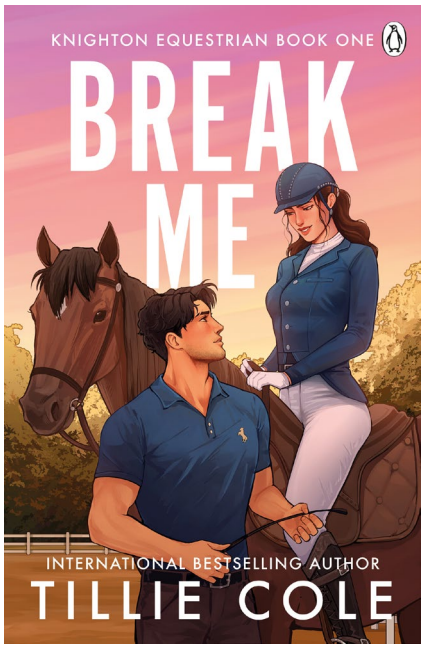
Trade Paperback · R430 · 9780241816233

Now on the third floor, Carl and Donut have to fight harder than ever. They've already proven that a Coast Guard vet and once-and-forever feline royalty are an

almost unstoppable team. Their ratings are off the chart. The watchers can't get enough. But the dungeon gets more dangerous each day, and now there's a whole new problem to deal with. Quests. They call it the Over City. A sprawling, once-thriving metropolis devastated by a mysterious calamity.

But these streets are far from abandoned. An undead circus trawls the ruins. Murdered women rain from the sky. An ancient spell is finally ready to reveal its dark purpose.

Can Carl and Donut solve the mystery in time? And can Carl finally find some pants?



Break Me

Tillie Cole

Trade Paperback · R295 · 9781405962988

Born and raised a Texas cowgirl, Hallie Oakley is the most skilled showjumper on Team USA.

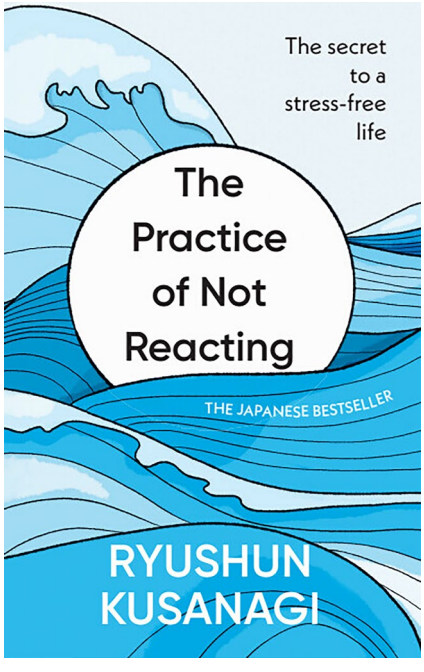
And she has just one goal in mind – an Olympic gold medal. But to achieve this, she must train with the most prestigious facility in the world – Golden Oaks.

A beautiful English stables, nestled in the Cotswolds which has produces some of the best riders. . . Including Chester Knighton. The oldest son in a showjumping dynasty, who has recently inherited Golden Oaks and only has eyes for Hallie.

Their attraction is instant and mutual, but when a shocking event threatens to tear Golden Oaks apart, Chester knows he'll do whatever it takes to protect what matters most to him.

Because losing Golden Oaks would be devastating – but losing Hallie is something Chester refuses to risk.

INTERNATIONAL FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ellen van Schalkwyk · evanschalkwyk@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 011 327 3550



The Practice of Not Reacting

Ryushun Kusanagi

Hardback · R495 · 9781846048692

Don't let negative emotions rule your life; learn the skills to take back control

Imagine how much lighter life would be if there was no more becoming angry, buckling under pressure, feeling nervous around others, regretting the past or

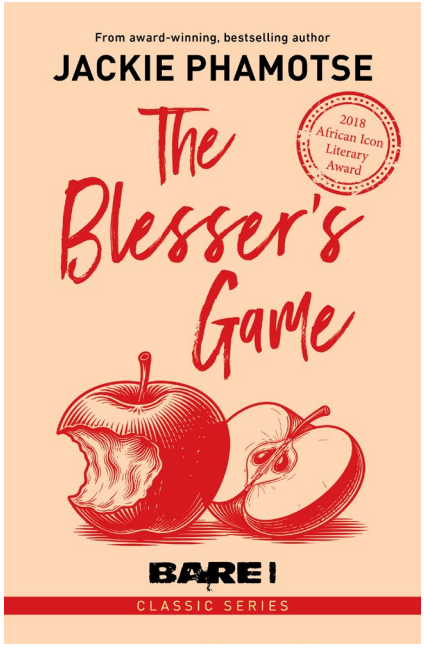
fretting about the future.

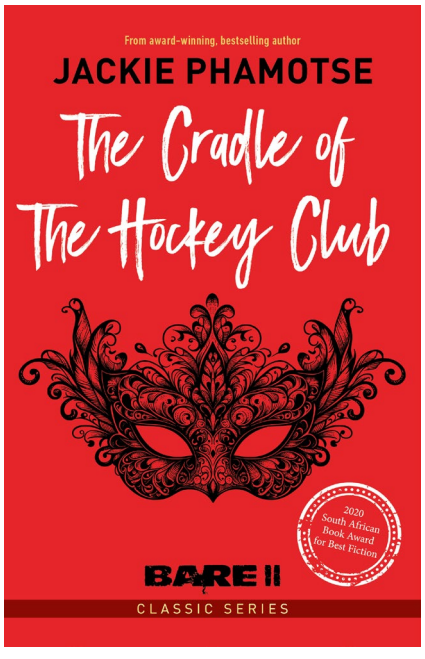
In The Practice of Not Reacting, renowned Buddhist monk Ryushun Kusanagi draws on his deep wisdom to teach us the transformative art of non-reaction. By

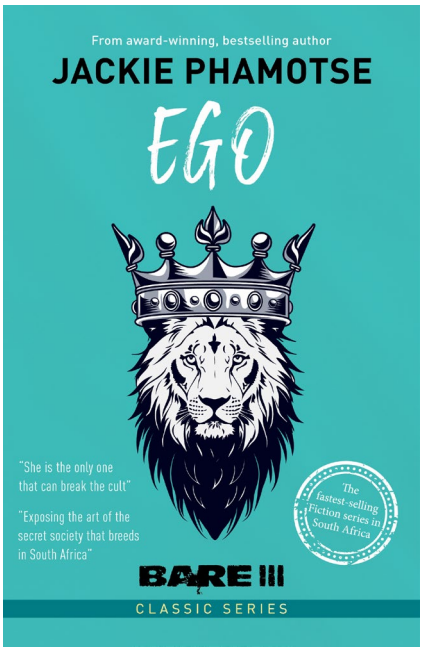
developing the skills to let our reactions go, we free ourselves up to focus on what matters most – and happiness naturally follows.

Whether you worry too much about what people think, struggle to stay calm when life throws you a curveball or feel low when things don't work out, let this book teach you the single most important habit for a peaceful life.

INTERNATIONAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Neilwe Mashigo · NMashigo@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 011 327 3550







BARE SERIES

Bare I: The Blesser's Game
Jackie Phamotse
Paperback · R350 ·9781776392964

MATERIALISTIC SLAVERY, SOCIAL MEDIA ILLUSION, BLACK DIAMONDS IN THIS REISSUE OF THE ORIGINAL BOOK!

Bare II: The Cradle of the Hockey Club
Jackie Phamotse
Paperback · R380 ·9781776392988

THE REISSUE OF THE ORINAL BOOK!

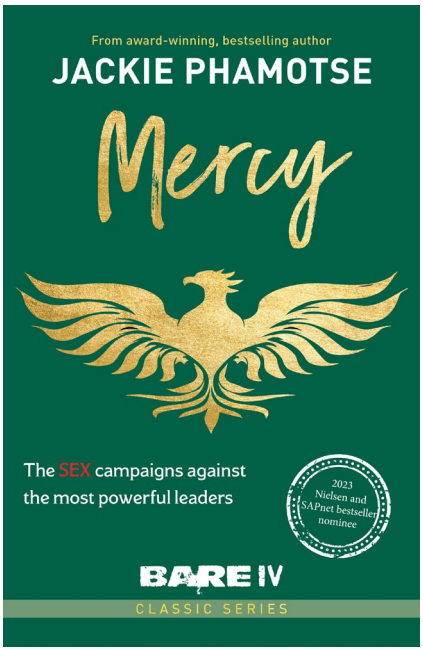
Can a dead soul ever leave the devil's den?

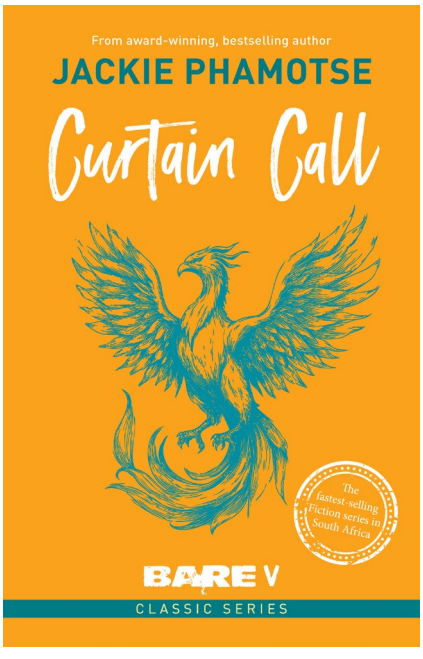
Bare III: Ego
Jackie Phamotse
Paperback · R380 ·9781776393008

REISSUE OF THE ORIGINAL BOOK!

FAMOUS MOGULS, DRUG HALO ... Tell the world your REAL truth ... Can a student become the master?

CONTACT PERSON FOR LOCAL NONFICTION
Ian Dennewill · idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · +27 (0) 11 327 3550





BARE SERIES

Bare IV: Mercy
Jackie Phamotse

- Paperback • R380 •9781776393022

REISSUE OF THE ORGINAL BOOK!

A story about the disappearance of young people, human trafficking, cults and mental illness in men.

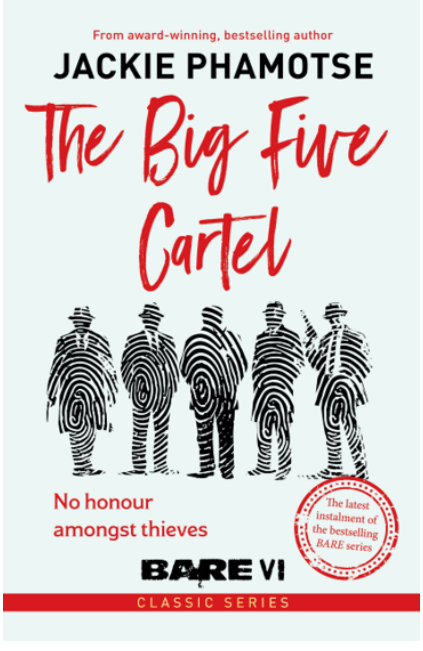
Bare V: Curtain Call
Jackie Phamotse

- Paperback • R390 •9781776393046

REISSUE OF THE ORIGINAL BOOK

If you had a choice to worship two gods, would you sell your soul for money or freedom?

CONTACT PERSON FOR LOCAL NONFICTION
Ian Dennewill • idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za • +27 (0) 11 327 3550



Bare VI: The Big Five Cartel

Jackie Phamotse

Trade Paperback · R380 · 9781776393145

In order to get to the truth, we might have to burn the house down and rebuild it. It has been said that only rats come out to play at night, yet eagles don't sleep. South Africa has been captured by criminals who seek to go nameless, but there is one man whom everyone fears. South Africa is an illicit treasure and **The Big Five** are controlled by the Ghost who lives with lions.

On 6 July 2025, a press conference sets off a domino effect in a country that has a bleeding heart. The kidnapping of a man opens a Pandora's Box that leads to a career criminal and his mysterious bosses. While he tries to run from the truth, he makes a deadly mistake that might bring down the entire pyramid.

While the General is weeding out criminals, Imani Lebone meets a man whom she will never forget. A young pilot running a private emergency-rescue company, Imani struggles to cope with her mother's death as she clings onto her fragile business, the same one that propels her into the hands of the man the General has been seeking. Many will watch as their lives are upended and people disappear.

In this thrilling love-and-hate story depicting the most powerful figures in the land, the truth finally reveals itself. Gibson Kente is no ordinary businessman, but his desire to possess Imani distracts his focus and, in one moment of pleasure, the truth is finally set free.

The Big Five Cartel reveals the state of South Africa's hidden mafias, from their after-nine sex orgies to human trafficking and Machiavellian traits.

A raw and unfiltered man can only have one love …

LOCAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ian Dennewill · idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · (0) 11 327 3550



Liwa... Always on Their Minds

Jackie Phamotse

Trade Paperback · R360 · 9781776393121

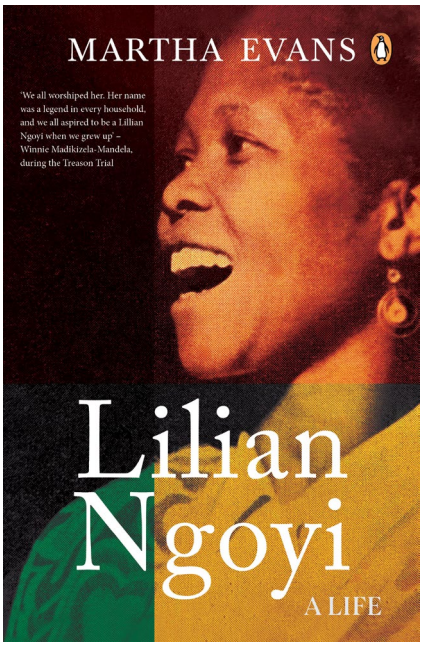
Childhood friends Liwa Nile and Noel Glass grow up in Port Alfred bound by hope and pure love for each other. But their deep, dark desires bring in sinister trails of lust, murder and unclassified sexual escapades to the heart of Melrose Arch.

When Liwa loses her beloved father, her dear friend Noel comes to the rescue. As they grow their architecture business, it emerges that Noel is no ordinary painter. Her love for darkness quickly turns Liwa's wet bed into a nightmare.

With every break of dawn, a soul falls. More people are soon disappearing while their business is thriving.

Tyson Manson seeks sexual pleasure. So, when a love affair boils over, he discovers more than he expected. As he digs deeper into the women's past, more worms fill in the missing pieces. Will his findings destroy the bonds of a long-standing friendship?

LOCAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ian Dennewill · idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · (0) 11 327 3550



Lilian Ngoyi
Martha Evans
Trade Paperback · R360 · 9781776094790

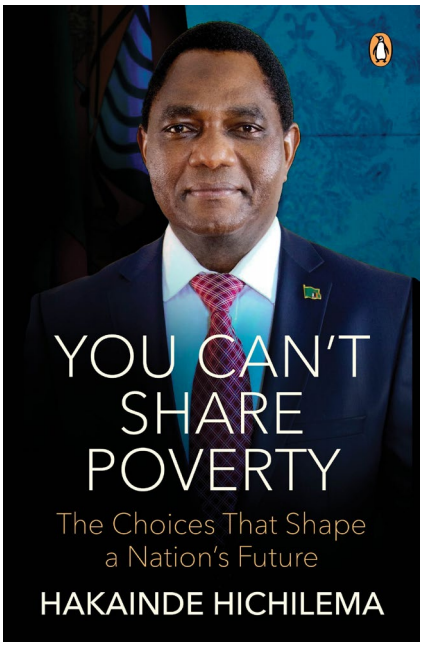
Lilian Ngoyi was a trailblazing figure in South Africa's liberation struggle – an electrifying orator, a key architect of the 1956 Women's March, and the first woman elected to the ANC 's National Executive Committee. Yet her life story has never been fully told.

In this authoritative and deeply researched biography, Martha Evans brings Ma-Ngoyi vividly to life. Born in a Pretoria location, widowed young and raising her family in poverty, Ngoyi truly represented the people she spoke for and was the most senior ANC woman leader not married to a high-profile man, forging her own path through her political instinct, charisma and formidable courage.

From the Garment Workers' Union to the Federation of South African Women and the ANC Women's League, she rose to national prominence, travelling abroad as a representative of the liberation movement, standing alongside the giants of her era, and organising one of the largest protest marches South Africa had seen. Then came arrest, the Treason Trial, solitary confinement and years of banning – a deliberate attempt to silence her.

Drawing on letters, speeches and rich archival sources, this compelling biography restores Ngoyi to her rightful place in history and reveals the complex, deeply human woman behind the icon.

LOCAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ian Dennewill · idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · (0) 11 327 3550



You Can't Share Poverty: The Choices That Shape a Nation's Future

Hakainde Hichilema

Trade Paperback · R300 · 9781776393503

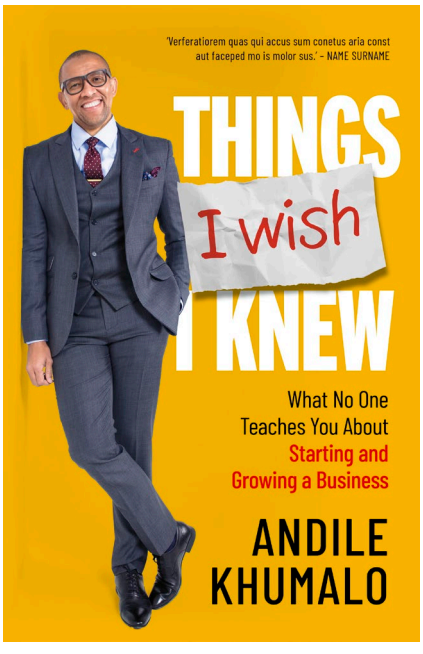
In *You Can't Share Poverty*, Zambian president Hakainde Hichilema delivers a clear-eyed account of what it takes to turn around a struggling economy and restore trust in government. Part political memoir, part reform playbook, this is a book about leadership under pressure – and the real-world consequences of policy decisions.

Hichilema traces Zambia's journey from post-independence optimism through decades of state control, economic decline and rising debt, to the moment his administration took office in 2021 facing near bankruptcy. Drawing on his own experience – from rural beginnings and a career in business to repeated electoral defeats, imprisonment, and eventual victory in 2021 – he reflects on the challenges of rebuilding trust, restoring economic stability, and creating jobs in a rapidly changing global environment.

The book also looks forward, examining the opportunities presented by critical minerals, regional trade, agriculture and tourism, and what African countries must do to compete in a changing global economy. Throughout, Hichilema argues that growth – not redistribution – is the only sustainable path to jobs and rising living standards.

Direct, practical and grounded in experience, *You Can't Share Poverty* offers valuable insights for readers interested in governance, economic reform and the future of Africa.

LOCAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Ian Dennewill · idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · (0) 11 327 3550



Things I Wish I Knew

Andile Khumalo

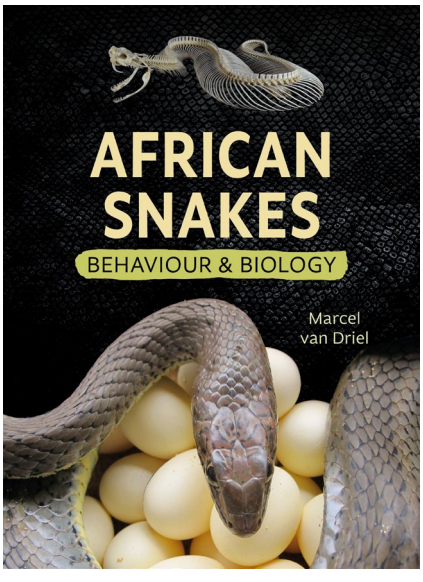
Trade Paperback · R370 · 9781776393268

Things I Wish I Knew is a candid account of building and growing businesses, told through the author's own experiences on the entrepreneurial journey. Drawing on real decisions, real consequences and real outcomes, the book shares lessons earned through success, failure and everything in between.

Rather than offering formulas or theory, it explores what actually happens in the world of entrepreneurship - from funding negotiations and leadership choices to governance, cash flow pressure and the personal cost of entrepreneurship. Short stories and case studies bring these lessons to life, revealing how early decisions compound over time.

This book is written for those who want to start businesses, as well as those already building them, and are looking for a perspective grounded in experience. It is a deliberate act of sharing and offering hard-won insight so others can approach entrepreneurship with greater clarity, resilience and intention.

LOCAL NON-FICTION PUBLICITY CONTACT
Neilwe Mashigo· nmashigo@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · (0) 11 327 3550



African Snakes: Behaviour and Biology

Marcel van Driel

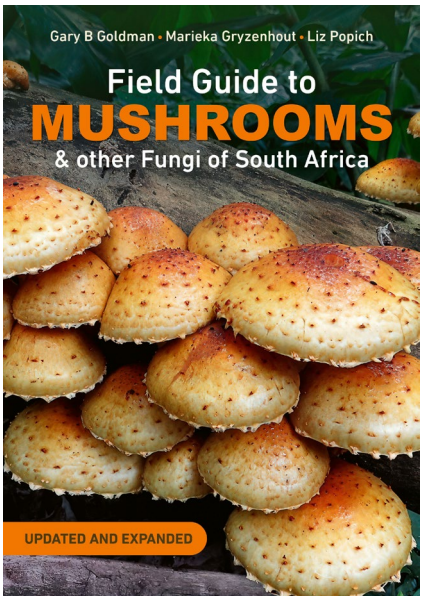
Soft cover · R490 · 9781779890580

From bush vipers to burrowing asps – snakes thrive in every habitat on the African continent. Discover how these oft -misunderstood reptiles perceive their world, defend themselves, feed and breed. This user-friendly book includes:

- The evolutionary history of snakes, with pro les of the eight families found in Africa today
- Detailed notes on inner and outer anatomy, explaining why these limbless creatures flourish in every corner of the continent
- In-depth explanations of snake behaviours, such as diverse hunting techniques and defence mechanisms
- Profiles of particularly interesting species, like the highly specialized Egg-eater and aquatic Yellow-bellied Sea Snake
- Answers to dozens of frequently asked questions: Which species is the most dangerous? How do snakes swallow prey that is larger than their head?
- Breakdown of handy diagnostic characteristics to help identify snakes in the wild

Discover how snakes really work

STRUIK NATURE PUBLICITY CONTACT
Belinda vand der Merwe · bvandermerwe@penguinrandomhouse.co.za ·021 460 5400



Field Guide to Mushrooms & other Fungi of South Africa

Gary B Goldman, Marieka Gryzenhout, Liz Popich

Soft cover · R620 · 9781775848639

Building on the success of the original book, this new edition of the *Field Guide to Mushrooms & other Fungi of South Africa* now covers 420 species – more than any mushroom book in the region. The revised edition has been fully updated and expanded, with 220 new entries added and more than 1,000 new photographs included.

Neither plant nor animal, mushrooms constitute a unique group of organisms. They appear in a staggering variety of shapes, sizes and colours, and identifying them can be challenging. Featuring the most distinctive and commonly found species in South Africa, this guide is the perfect tool for quick and accurate identification in the field. The text for each

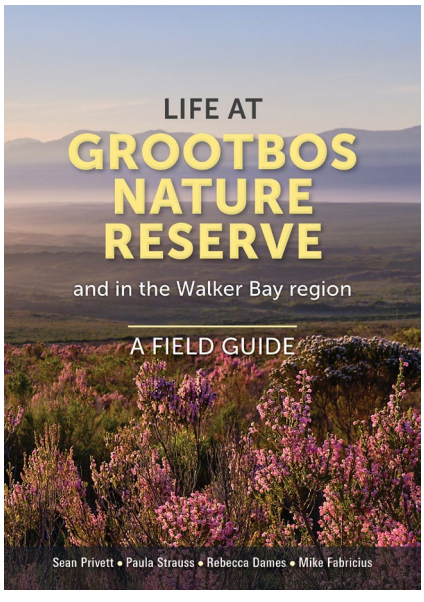
species covers diagnostic features, distribution (both regionally and worldwide), typical habitat, edibility and toxicity. Magnificent photographs accompany each description, making this both a practical guide and a beautiful book.

A brief introduction outlines the basic anatomy and biology of mushrooms, their use for humans, and the vital role they play in sustaining all life. Guidelines for foraging and photographing mushrooms are also included.

Packed with information, this field guide will be welcomed by all mushroom enthusiasts, and by nature, lovers in general.

FULLY UPDATED AND EXPANDED BESTSELLER

STRUIK NATURE PUBLICITY CONTACT
Belinda vand der Merwe · bvandermerwe@penguinrandomhouse.co.za ·021 460 5400



Life at Grootbos Nature Reserve and in the Walker Bay region – A Field Guide

Sean Privett • Paula Strauss • Rebecca Dames • Mike Fabricius

Soft cover · R550 · 9781779890801

When the founder of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, Michael Lutzeyer, bought a piece of farmland in a coastal corner of the Western Cape in 1991, little did he know that his 'holiday home' would one day become globally recognised for both its conservation practices and its sustainable tourism efforts.

For close on 30 years, the 3,500-hectare reserve has welcomed international and local visitors to experience its treasure trove of botanical and wildlife wonders – now showcased in this new comprehensive field guide, Life at Grootbos Nature Reserve and in the Walker Bay region (which follows in the wake of the magnificent illustrated Grootbos Florilegium).

Both a record of all that Grootbos has achieved, and a tool for identification of most of the organisms occurring there, the field guide covers primitive plant forms and flowering plants, fungi, and a wide variety of animal groups (insects, spiders, scorpions, reptiles, fish, amphibians, mammals and birds).

Also highlighted are the fascinating history and geology of the region as well as insights into the early days of Grootbos, how it has grown, how it functions, and the important training and skills development it delivers through its ongoing community projects.

All-in-one guide to the region's remarkable biodiversity

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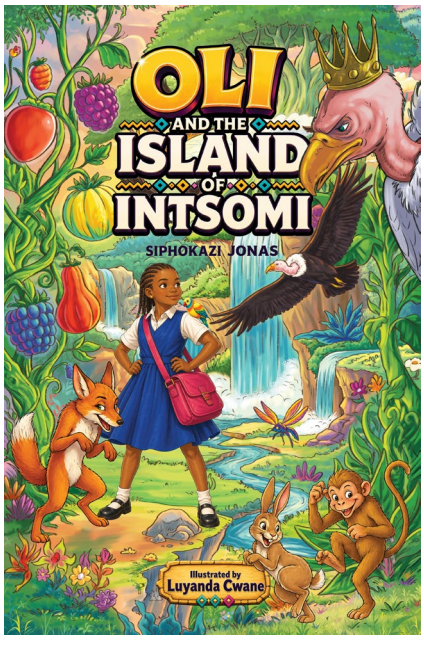


Oli and the Island of Intsomi

Sipokazi Jonas (Illustrated By Luyanda Cwane)

Paperback · R200 · 9780637012171 · 9+

Ten-year-old Olinde Ukuthiywa has always felt like she doesn't quite belong. Her name means "one waiting to be named," and while other children's names carry stories and meaning, hers only reminds her that her story hasn't begun yet. She dreams of having real friends and a name she can truly call her own.

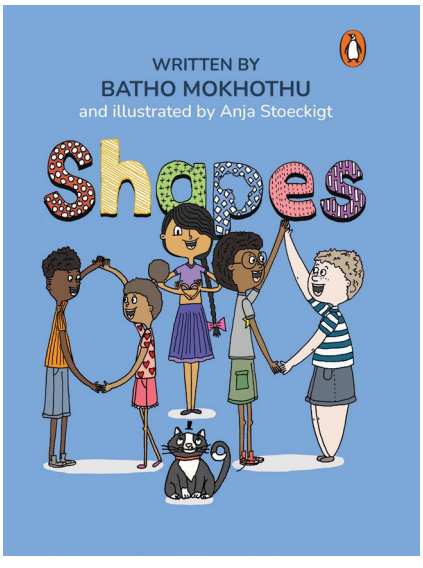
But everything changes the night a mysterious clay pot shatters in her home, unleashing a powerful vulture who carries her away to the Island of Intsomi—a place of breathtaking beauty, ancient magic, and dangerous secrets.

On the island, children are well-fed, well-behaved… and slowly forgetting who they are. Under the rule of the ruthless King Prospero, stories are twisted into lies, and memories fade. With the help of her sharp-tongued companion Ntengu and a hidden community of animals, Oli discovers that she may be the last Storykeeper—part of a long line charged with protecting the power of intsomi, the traditional stories that once connected worlds.

Armed with a mysterious ancestral necklace and the courage she didn't know she had, Oli must learn to find her voice, claim her identity, and tell a story powerful enough to break the king's hold. Because if she fails, the island—and every child on it—will be lost forever.

And this time, her story won't just be told… it will be written by her.

CHILDREN PUBLICITY CONTACT
Nadine Petrick · npetrick@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 021 462 4360



Shapes

Batho Mokhothu

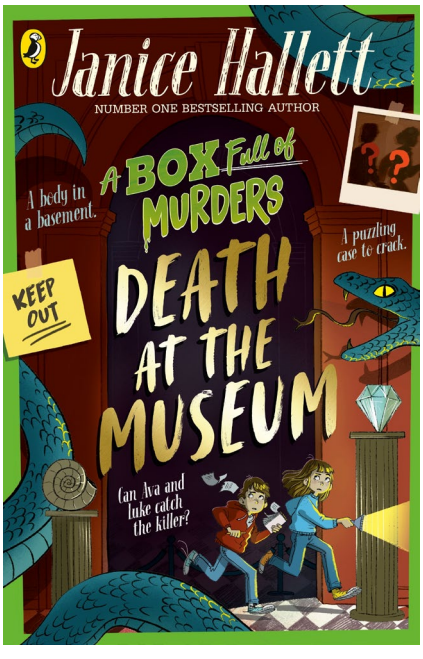
Hardback • R200 • 9780637009584 • 7+

Batho is the kind of child who can't walk through a city without asking questions. On his way home from school in Cape Town, past the slopes of Table Mountain and the historic walls of the Castle of Good Hope, through the bold lines of the Zeitz MOC AA and the sweeping curves of the Bosjes Chapel, he begins to notice something remarkable. Hidden in plain sight are shapes — triangles, arches, circles, spirals — quietly holding everything up.

What starts as simple curiosity becomes an eye-opening journey into how the world is built. Batho discovers that these shapes aren't just beautiful; they are powerful. They create strength, balance, and stability in the buildings and landmarks that define his city — and in natural forms too. With every new discovery, he learns to see engineering and design not as distant concepts, but as part of everyday life.

Set against a distinctly South African backdrop with universal appeal, *Shapes* blends story and STEAM learning in a way that feels organic and adventurous. It invites young readers to look more closely at their own surroundings, sharpening observational skills and sparking critical thinking. Visually engaging and highly giftable, this is a story that works as beautifully in the classroom and library as it does at home – inspiring confidence, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of how our world fits together.

CHILDREN PUBLICITY CONTACT
Nadine Petrick • npetrick@penguinrandomhouse.co.za • 021 462 4360



Death at the Museum

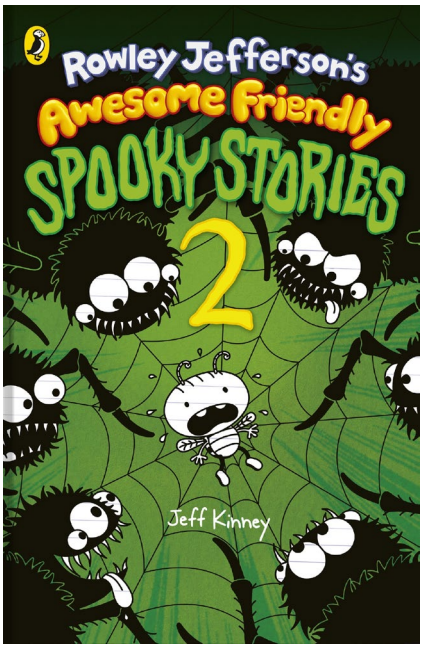
Janice Hallett

Trade Paperback · R250 · 9780241636220 · 9-12

Imagine an old museum with more secrets than anyone could ever guess. A school trip that ends in murder. A crime unsolved for decades. . . But who did it?

Now, Ava and Luke are on the case, following the clues left in a new box of murders. Using School workbooks, museum records, secret recordings and letters the siblings start to unravel the mystery of a body in the basement. But can they discover what really happened . . . before the killer strikes again?

YOU know the facts. YOU have all the clues. Can YOU solve the mystery before they do?



Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories 2

Jeff Kinney

Hardback · R285 · 9780241820865 · 9-12

LAUGH-OUT-LOUD, SILLY, SPOOKY-THEMED STORIES FROM THE HILARIOUS WORLD OF WIMPY KID!

Fans of Greg Heffley and the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney get a chance to dive into the twisted, unexpectedly hilarious imagination of Rowley Jefferson - Wimpy Kid Greg Heffley's best friend.

SCARE YOURSELF EVEN SILLIER!

Rowley Jefferson – best friend to WIMPY KID, Greg Heffley – takes his spooky storytelling to the next level in this spine-tingling collection of HILARIOUSLY terrifying tales!

You'll encounter MONSTROUS insects, the Grim Reaper as a boy, and a lost pinkie that's searching for its owner.

But reader BEWARE – while these stories are sidesplittingly FUNNY, they'll still give you a delightful fright!

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN PUBLICITY CONTACT
Lorienne Brown · lbrown@penguinrandomhouse.co.za · 011 327 3550

AUGUST TITLES AT A GLANCE

Title	Imprint	Publicist
Brain Damage	Source Books	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
Country Road Murders	Random House	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
Getting Away With Murder	Random House	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
Assistant to the Villain 04	Random House	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
DCC 02 Carl's Doomsday Scenario	PUK	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
Knighton Equestrian 01: Break Me	PUK	Ellen Van Schalkwyk
Practice of Not Reacting	Random House	Ellen van Schalkwyk
Bare I: The Blesser's Game	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Bare II: The Cradle of the Hockey Club	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Bare III: Ego	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Bare IV: Mercy	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Bare V: Curtain Call	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Bare VI: The Big Five Cartel	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Lilian Ngoyi	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Liwa ... Always on Their Minds	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
You Can't Share Poverty	Penguin	Ian Dennewill
Things I Wish I Knew	Penguin	Neilwe Mashigo
Brandstapel	Penguin	Frieda le Roux
Divine Arrangements	Penguin	Frieda le Roux
Jagspinnekop	Penguin	Frieda le Roux
Death at the Museum	Puffin	Lorienne Brown
Shapes – HB	Penguin	Nadine Petrick
Oli and the Island of Intsomi	Penguin	Nadine Petrick
Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories 2	Puffin	Lorienne Brown

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE PUBLICISTS' CONTACT DETAILS

- Ellen van Schalkwyk evanschalkwyk@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 011 327 3550
- Neilwe Mashigo NMashigo@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 011 327 3550
- Ian Dennewill idennewill@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 011 327 3550
- Lorienne Brown lbrown@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 011 327 3550
- Belinda van der Merwe bvandermerwe@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 021 460 5400
- Frieda Le Roux fleroux@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 021 460 5400
- Nadine Petrick npetrick@penguinrandomhouse.co.za / 021 462 4360

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- ❖ Sample copies are subject to availability.