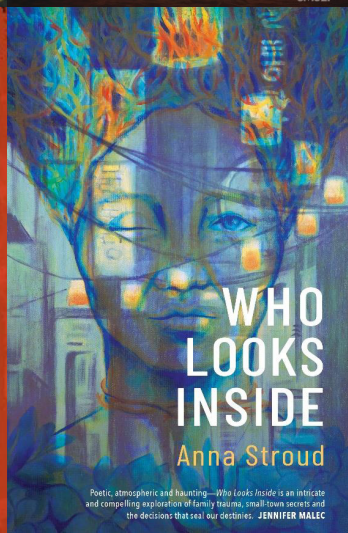
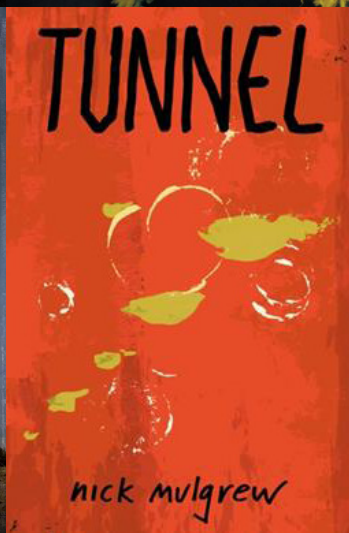
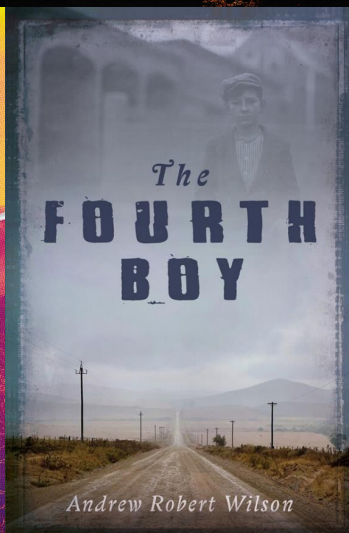
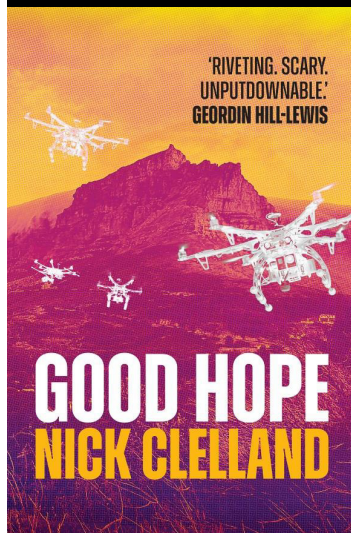
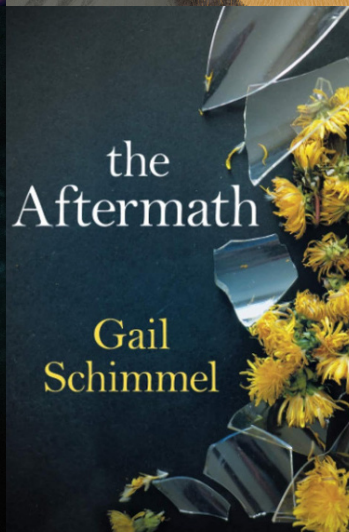
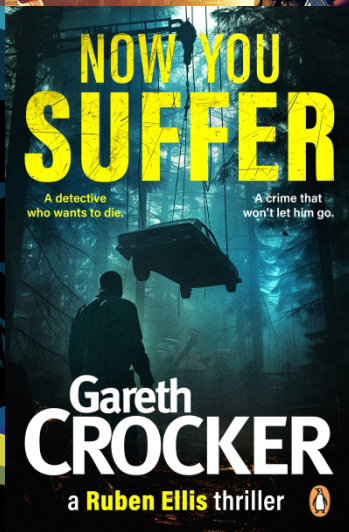
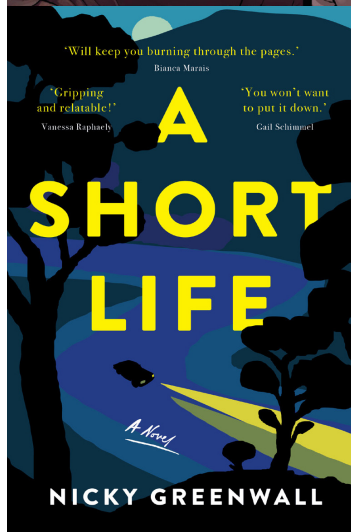
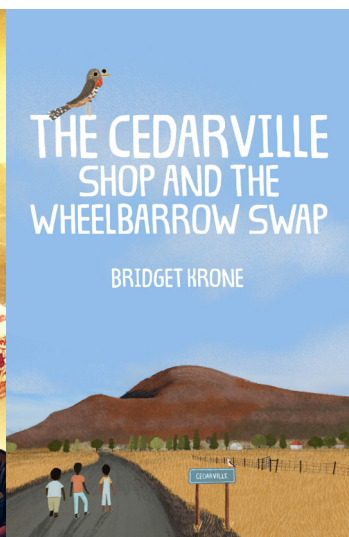
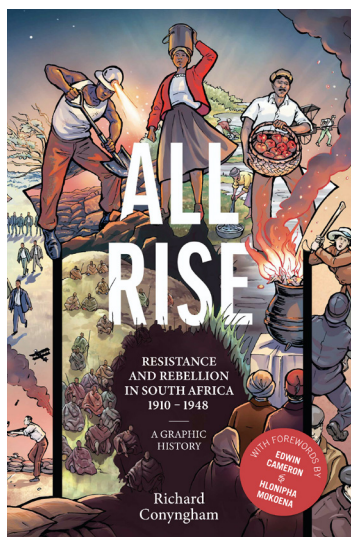


BOOK TO SCREEN

PAGES
CATALYST PRESS 02-05
MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER | 14h30-15h30

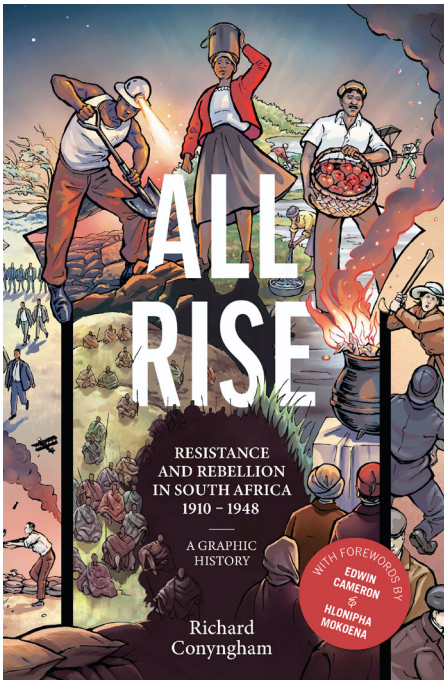
LENNON RITCHIE AGENCY 06-09
TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER | 13h00-14h00

KARAVAN PRESS 14-17
WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER | 13h00-14h00



ALL RISE

BY NICK CLELLAND



A graphic anthology celebrating pivotal human rights court cases—the stories of which have never been told before—in South Africa’s pre-apartheid years, and the unsung heroes who sacrificed everything to ensure a better future for all.

SYNOPSIS

ALL RISE: RESISTANCE AND REBELLION IN SOUTH AFRICA brings to life six true stories of defiance by marginalized South Africans against colonial rule in the years leading up to Apartheid. Presented in six parts, each illustrated by a different South African artist, this graphic anthology unearths the forgotten struggles of ordinary, working-class women and men who stood up against oppression during one of the most turbulent periods in South African history. From immigrants and miners to tram workers and washerwomen, these everyday heroes risked everything to fight for a better future.

This collection revitalises a history often overshadowed by iconic figures, celebrating the courage and resilience of those often left out of the narrative. The diverse team behind ALL RISE —comprising creators of varied races, genders, and backgrounds— embodies the equal South Africa envisioned by the individuals in these stories. These true tales of grit, compassion, and hope are being shared for the first time in print, inspiring readers to become everyday activists and allies in their own right.

GENRE

Comics/Graphic Novels

SIMILAR TITLES

- ABINA AND THE IMPORTANT MEN by Trevor Getz
- THEY CALLED US ENEMY by George Takei

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

Animated series

AUTHOR

RICHARD CONYNGHAM is the author, creative director and researcher behind ALL RISE. He is a Pietermaritzburg-born writer who lives in Mexico City. After graduating from the universities of Cape Town and Cambridge, he worked for South African civil-society organizations Equal Education, The Bookery, and Ndifuna Ukwazi, the London publisher Slightly Foxed, and the edtech organization Make Tomorrow. In 2016, Richard collaborated with the Trantraal Brothers to create Safety, Justice and People’s Power, an illustrated companion to the O’Regan-Pikoli Commission of Inquiry into policing in Khayelitsha.



**CATALYST
PRESS**

BORN AT THE END OF THE WORLD

BY DONICA MERHAZION

The cover is still in the design phase. For the dossier, a temporary AI-generated cover has been created.



In 1960s Ethiopia, Elen escapes an arranged marriage and builds a new life in Asmara, Eritrea, as a bar owner and mother. Drawn into the resistance against the brutal Derg regime, she becomes an undercover freedom fighter, but when captured, she must fight to survive for her unborn child. Girmai, a former street boy turned resistance leader, recruits Elen and falls in love with her, despite being married. Separated by war, they face the consequences of their love and their fight for freedom.

GENRE

Historical romance

SIMILAR TITLES

OUTLANDER by Diana Gabaldon

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 4 episodes (45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Elen is on the verge of an arranged marriage in 1960s rural Ethiopia when she escapes to the nearest city across the border in nearby Eritrea. Years later, she has created a life for herself in Asmara; she is the mother of two children and the owner of a successful bar. Yet her life is transformed when she is catapulted into an underground resistance movement against the Derg, the brutal Ethiopian military regime; she saves many lives as an undercover freedom fighter but when the Derg eventually arrest, torture and imprison her, she must find a way to stay alive to save her unborn child.

Girmai is a street boy turned influential entrepreneur and member of the resistance, who meets Elen by chance at the local bar. Impressed by her discretion and instinctive knack for reading people, he swiftly recruits her to the underground cell network. They fall in love and begin a clandestine relationship despite Girmai's marriage to someone else. As the Derg closes in on Asmara, and executes and tortures ever increasing numbers of resistors and civilians, Elen discovers she is pregnant. Shortly afterwards, Girmai is forced to flee across borders to escape certain death after Elen's arrest and leaves behind everything he's built.

Separated by the Derg's brutality, Elen and Girmai both must bear the consequences of their love and their choices as freedom fighters, and find the strength to face a future where they may never see each other again.

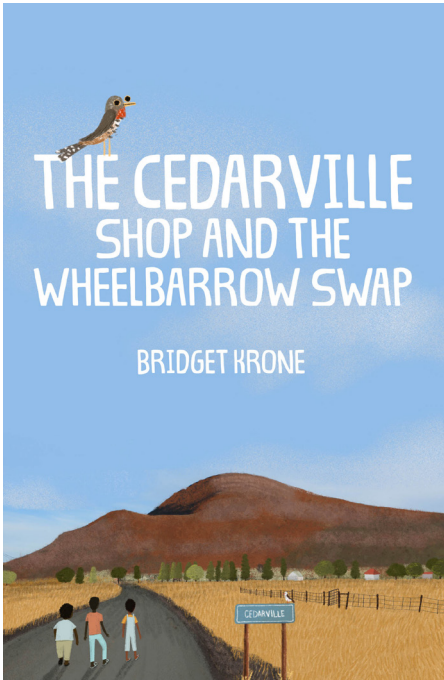
AUTHOR

DONICA MERHAZION was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1979 under unimaginable circumstances- in an Ethiopian prison called Alem Bekagn translated into 'end of the World.' A former journalist and now teacher, Donica currently lives in Nairobi, Kenya, with her family. She has also called Eritrea, Zambia and the United States her home. Donica holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Asmara and a MA in General and Special Education from the University of Maryland. Her passion for storytelling drives all aspects of her life, especially when she teaches. She uses stories to make connections with her students as she encourages their love of reading and writing and constantly strives to instill in them confidence in their own worth and potential. When she is not delving into the latest effective instructional strategies, she can be found hiding in her favorite quiet spots and writing.



THE CEDARVILLE SHOP AND THE WHEEL BARROW SWAP

BY BRIDGET KRONE



When Boipelo Seku learns about a man who traded his way from a paperclip to a house, he starts a trade of his own in his small village of Cedarville, South Africa, accidentally setting in motion a string of good deeds that will change his community forever.

SYNOPSIS

For 12-year-old Boipelo Seku, growing up in the small, impoverished village of Cedarville, South Africa, many dreams feel out of reach—like living in a house big enough for his family. But when Boi discovers the story of a Canadian man who traded a paperclip for a house, he's inspired to start his own trading journey with a humble clay cow molded from river mud.

With each trade, Boi and his best friend, Pots, uncover a hidden richness in Cedarville that goes beyond material wealth. As Boi's spark grows into a warming fire, he learns the true power of community and that the value of something lies not in what you can trade for it, but in the good it brings to those you love.

"I've come to realize that some people extinguish fires, leaving the world cold and hopeless, while others tend the embers, fanning the flames with whatever they have until everyone feels its warmth."

GENRE

Coming-of-age

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE PENDERWICKS
- THE MOFFATS

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 4 episodes (45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (90 minutes)

AUTHOR

BRIDGET KRONE lives and works in Hilton, a village nestled in the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. From her office, she enjoys views of cows grazing in winter and cranes visiting in summer. With a career dedicated to writing short novels and English language textbooks for South African schoolchildren, she loves stories that surprise with a song instead of a lesson.



SMALL MERCIES

BY BRIDGET KRONE



Mercy needs a miracle. But to summon that miracle, she has to find her voice and tell the truth—and that truth is neither pure nor simple.

GENRE

Coming-of-age

SIMILAR TITLES

- ANNE OF GREEN GABLES
- BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 4 episodes (45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (90 minutes)

Named a Best Middle-Grade Book of 2020 by Kirkus Reviews. A 2021 Outstanding International Books List, United States Board on Books for Young People. This book has been translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Taiwanese Chinese, and made into an Audio book.

SYNOPSIS

Mercy lives in modern-day Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, with her quirky foster aunts, two elderly sisters who are so poor they can only afford one lightbulb. Their crumbling house has caught the eye of a greedy developer, and Aunt Flora's worsening memory loss is adding to the chaos. Desperate to avoid attention, Mercy keeps a low profile at school, but when a classmate frames her for stealing raffle money, her teachers start digging into her troubled home life.

Enter Mr. Singh, the tenant in their back cottage, who introduces Mercy to the story of Gandhi's transformative night in the Pietermaritzburg train station. As Mercy learns about Gandhi's journey for truth, she realizes she must stand up for herself, too. Facing mounting pressures, Mercy knows she needs a miracle, but to find it, she must summon the courage to speak her truth—messy, complicated, and powerful.

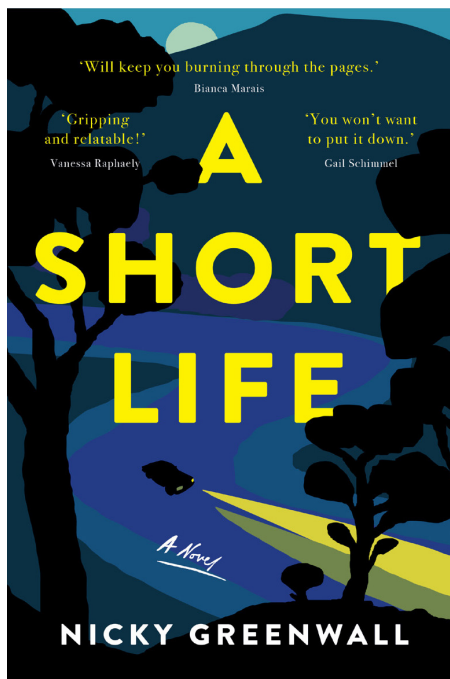
AUTHOR

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A SHORT LIFE

BY NICKY GREENWALL



How far would you go to protect the ones you love?

GENRE

Psychological Thriller/Mystery

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
by Paula Hawkins
- THE LYING GAME by Ruth Ware
- THE ACCIDENT by Chris Pavone
- I KNOW WHO YOU ARE
by Alice Feeney
- THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR by
Shari Lapena

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 8 episodes
(45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Two car accidents take place on the same night, on the same stretch of twisting valley road. One is fatal, and six friends' lives will never be the same. Only two of them know what really happened that night – and one will stop at nothing to get to the truth. When your life is on the line, who can you really trust?

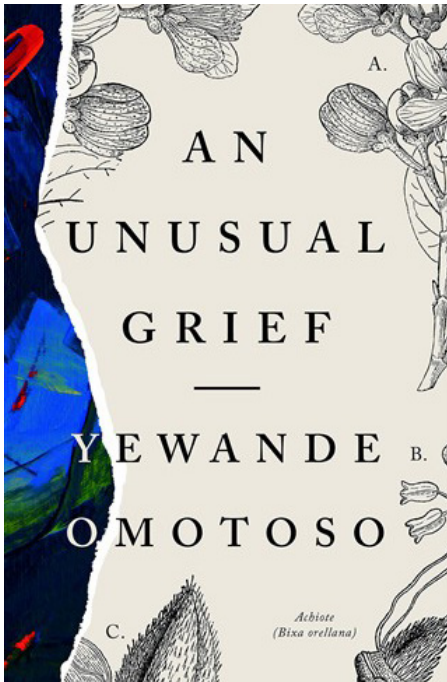
AUTHOR

NICKY GREENWALL is a former TV-presenter, entertainment journalist and producer. Her print journalism has been featured in Marie Claire, Elle, Glamour, and the Sunday Times. A SHORT LIFE is her debut novel.



AN UNUSUAL GRIEF

BY YEWANDE OMOTOSO



Set in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, the novel narrates the experience of Mojisola as she tries to trace the life of her daughter who has committed suicide.

GENRE

Drama

SIMILAR TITLES

- EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU by Celeste Ng
- THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS by M.L. Stedman
- THE MOTHERS by Brit Bennett
- AFTER YOU'D GONE by Maggie O'Farrell
- THE IMMORTALISTS by Chloe Benjamin

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

How do you get to know your daughter when she is dead?

This is the question that haunts Mojisola as she grapples with the sudden loss of her daughter, Yinka, and the unresolved fractures in their relationship. Mojisola is forced to confront the dysfunctions of her life that have led her to this point, evading her errant husband and mourning their estranged daughter alone.

Mojisola's grief takes her from Cape Town to Johannesburg where she holes up in Yinka's apartment, unearthing the life that she had built for herself there. Walking a mile in Yinka's shoes, Mojisola slips into a clandestine underworld, where she learns to break free from the bondage of the labels, wife and mother.

In this new world of feline companionship, reignited talents and unlikely friendships, including with Yinka's acerbic landlady Zelda, Mojisola's understanding of life, and her place within it, is built anew.

A bold and unflinching tale of one woman's unconventional approach to life and loss.

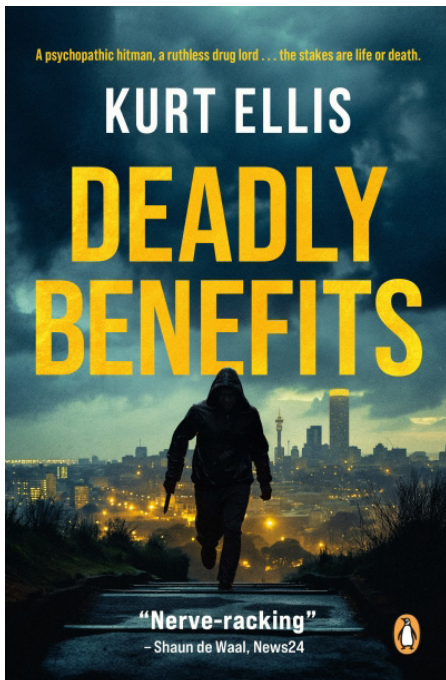
AUTHOR

YEWANDE OMOTOSO trained as an architect. Her debut novel BOM BOY was shortlisted for the 2012 Sunday Times Fiction Prize in South Africa. Yewande was shortlisted for the 2013 Etisalat Prize for Literature. Her second novel, WOMAN NEXT DOOR, was longlisted for the 2017 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction. In 2018, it was shortlisted for the International DUBLIN Literary Award and a finalist in the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Fiction. It has been translated into Catalan, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Korean. She currently lives in Johannesburg.



DEADLY BENEFITS

BY KURT ELLIS



Gabriel Laucus has lost his job and his parent's home is about to be repossessed. Desperate and on the brink of financial ruin, he devises a risky insurance scam to salvage his crumbling life. This sets in motion a catastrophic chain of events.

GENRE

Thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY by Rachel Joyce
- THE BOOK OF MEMORY by Petina Gappah
- THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES by Sue Monk Kidd
- A MAN CALLED OVE by Fredrik Backman
- COMMONWEALTH by Ann Patchett

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Gabriel Laucus has lost his job and his parent's home is about to be repossessed. Desperate and on the brink of financial ruin, he devises a risky insurance scam to salvage his crumbling life. This sets in motion a catastrophic chain of events.

Soon, Gabriel and his friends have a psychopathic hitman, a ruthless drug lord, and a relentless investigator on their tail. As Gabriel navigates a world of fraud and dangerous alliances, he must outwit his pursuers and confront the harrowing repercussions of his choices.

DEADLY BENEFITS is a heart-pounding journey through the high-stakes game of survival. The price of one wrong move could mean life or death.

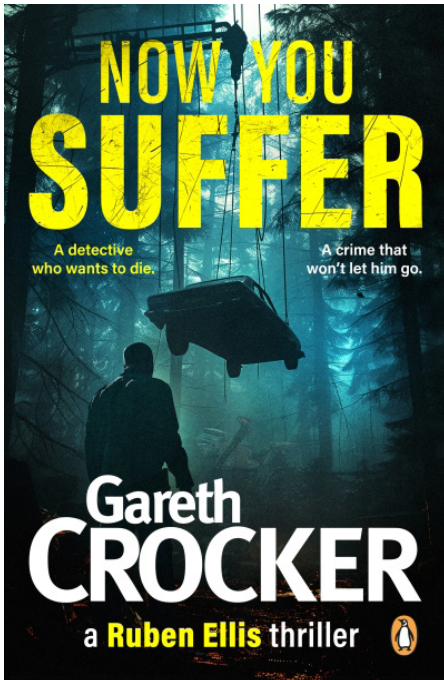
AUTHOR

KURT ELLIS is a scriptwriter and author of two novels, *BY ANY MEANS* and *In the MIDST OF WOLVES*. He holds a master's in creative writing from the University of the Witwatersrand. Ellis won the Harry Oppenheimer Creative Writing Award during his graduate degree and the WGSa Muse Award in 2021 for Best Unproduced Television Series Script. He lives in Johannesburg with his family.



NOW YOU SUFFER

BY GARETH CROCKER



Detective Ruben Ellis wants to die. The only reason he hasn't killed himself is because he first needs to hunt down the man who kidnapped and murdered his daughter.

Meanwhile, another victim is being held captive in a twisted underground dystopia. But does Ruben have enough will left to find her in time?

GENRE
Thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO by Stieg Larsson
- THE SILENT PATIENT by Alex Michaelides
- THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Paula Hawkins
- Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn
- THE BONE COLLECTOR by Jeffery Deaver

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO
FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Detective Ruben Ellis wants to die. The only reason he hasn't killed himself is because he first needs to hunt down the man who kidnapped and murdered his daughter.

Meanwhile, another victim is being held captive in a twisted underground dystopia. But does Ruben have enough will left to find her in time? Can his partner, Zander, and his brilliant therapist, Melissa, help him unravel a mystery as dark and unseen as the gold mines that run deep beneath the streets of Johannesburg? And will they discover the mind-bending truth about Thing – the deeply troubled figure in the basement?

NOW YOU SUFFER is a chilling and wholly unforgettable thriller – the first in bestselling author Gareth Crocker's riveting new Ruben Ellis series.

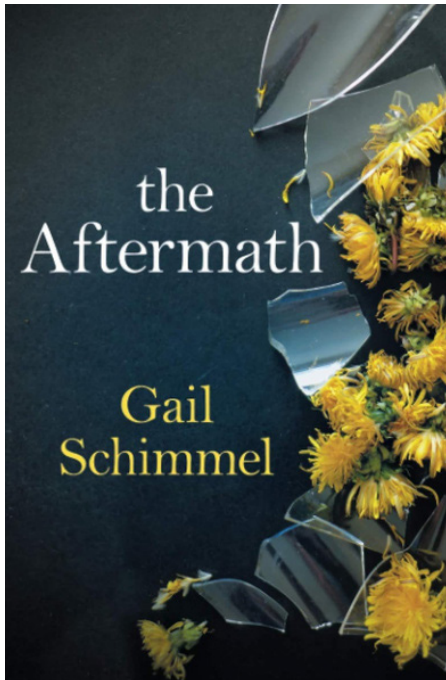
AUTHOR

GARETH CROCKER'S debut novel, FINDING JACK, was published in New York to international acclaim. It was translated into several languages and featured in eight volumes of Reader's Digest Select Editions. In 2012 Penguin Books published his adventure novel, JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS, followed by the thriller NEVER LET GO in 2013, and then KING, his fourth novel. Gareth lives in Johannesburg with his wife and two daughters.



THE AFTERMATH

BY GAIL SCHIMMEL



Three women: a mother, a daughter, a friend. Can they save each other from the past?

GENRE

Thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

- BIG LITTLE LIES
by Liane Moriarty
- THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS
by M.L. Stedman
- LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE
by Celeste Ng
- THE HUSBAND'S SECRET
by Liane Moriarty
- THE SILENT WIFE
by A.S.A. Harrison

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Twenty-six years is a long time not to be alive. Since The Accident that ruined her life, Catherine has lived on autopilot, going through the motions of work and motherhood without being fully present. Trying to fill the gap, her daughter, Julia, is looking for love in all the wrong places, and wreaking havoc on the lives that she touches along the way. Now that Julia is an adult, facing her own challenges, it might be time for her and her mother to unravel the demons that they have lived with since the accident.

THE AFTERMATH is told from four points of view: Julia; her mother, Catherine; her lover, Daniel; and Daniel's wife, Claire

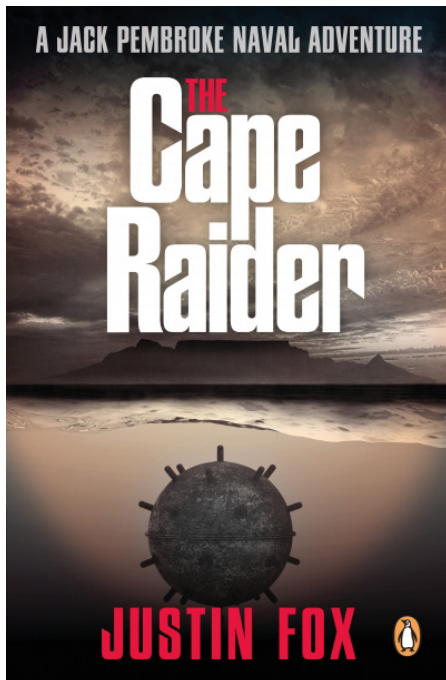
AUTHOR

GAIL SCHIMMEL has been writing stories since she could put pen to paper. When her father mentioned that real writers have to rewrite and correct their work repeatedly, Gail decided that her career prospects lay in easier directions, and eventually grew up to become a lawyer. But the need to write remained, and Gail fitted her writing into her evenings. She has worked as a freelance journalist, and in 2007 she published a children's book, CLAUDE & MILLIE, under the name Gail van Onselen. Gail is an attorney specializing in advertising law, and is currently a partner at one of the biggest law firms in Africa. She was born in 1974, and has lived in Johannesburg her whole life. Gail lives in Craighall Park with her husband, Paul, their child and their pets.



THE CAPE RAIDER

BY JUSTIN FOX



An Allied-Nazi showdown in the icy South Atlantic Jack Pembroke is thrust from a London desk job into the jaws of World War II. As a young naval officer, he sees his ship sunk under him at Dunkirk, an event that leaves him defeated.

GENRE

Historical, Naval adventure

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE CRUEL SEA
by Nicholas Monsarrat
- THE NIGHTINGALE
by Kristin Hannah
- THE CAINE MUTINY
by Herman Wouk
- THE SHADOW OF THE WIND
by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
- MASTER AND COMMANDER
by Patrick O'Brian

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Jack Pembroke is thrust from a London desk job into the jaws of World War II. As a young naval officer, he sees his ship sunk under him at Dunkirk, an event that leaves him defeated. After recovering in London, Jack sails for South Africa to join his admiral father at the Cape where a fledgling naval force is preparing to fight the coming onslaught of German raiders and u-boats in the South Atlantic. Jack is appointed commander of a small minesweeping flotilla – an inept bunch of South African sailors who distrust this foreign captain forced upon them – and must quickly mould them into a fighting unit.

Meanwhile a Nazi commerce raider, a powerful warship disguised as a neutral merchant ship, has left Germany for the Cape, intending to wreak havoc on Allied shipping. Jack and his flotilla will be pushed to the limit – and beyond.

A sweeping historical adventure, THE CAPE RAIDER is the tale of a broken hero who has to find himself despite the trauma of war, a domineering father and the death of his mother during the Blitz. He must adapt to a new country, a new navy and new love, and finally he must come face to face with the Nazi raider in a fight to the death in the icy seas off the southernmost tip of Africa.

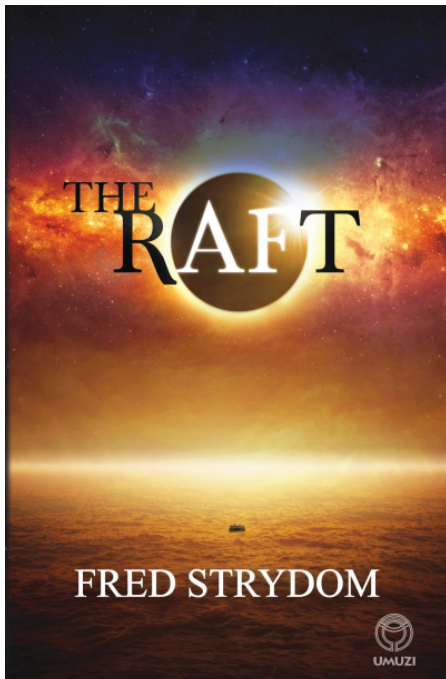
AUTHOR

Travel writer and photographer JUSTIN FOX is the former editor of Getaway International magazine. He studied at Oxford, after which he was a research fellow at the University of Cape Town, where he now teaches part time. His writing and photographs have been published worldwide and he is the author of a dozen non-fiction books. He lives and works in Cape Town.



THE RAFT

BY FRED STRYDOM



The day every person on earth lost his and her memory was not a day at all. In people's minds there was no actual event ... and thus it could be followed by no period of shock or mourning. There could be no catharsis. Everyone was simply reset to zero

GENRE

Dystopian Sci-Fi/Thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE ROAD by Cormac McCarthy
- THE PASSAGE by Justin Cronin
- STATION ELEVEN by Emily St. John Mandel
- THE BOOK OF M by Peng Shepherd
- THE STAND by Stephen King

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

On day zero, humankind collectively lost its memory. The collapse of civilisation was as instantaneous as it was inevitable. For a man named Kayle Jenner, confined by a regime to a commune on a remote beach, all that remains is the vague and haunting vision of a son ... That, and a wooden raft.

It is a raft that will set Kayle on a journey across a broken world to find his son.

Braving a landscape of elusive encounters, a maze of other people's dreams, and muddled memories, Kayle will discover more than just his lost past. He will discover the truth behind Day Zero – a truth that makes both fools and gods of men.

AUTHOR

FRED STRYDOM studied Film and Media at the University of Cape Town. He has taught English in South Korea and has published a number of short stories. He currently works as a television writer and producer in Johannesburg, where he lives with his wife, three dogs, cat and horse.

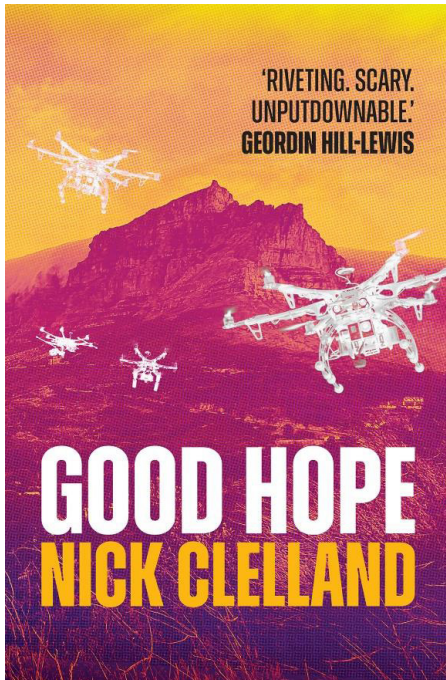


NOTES

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GOOD HOPE

BY NICK CLELLAND



The Western Cape is now an independent country. Successful, safe, murderous. Lisa Robinson has moved from Durban to Cape Town to be with Grant, the prospective next First Minister of the Good Hope Territory. The GHT is the safest and most prosperous country in the southern hemisphere – at a price. Citizens contract to be tracked by drones, executions are synchronised to the Noon Gun and only those with qualifications are permitted to vote in the Qualified Franchise system. Life here is picture-perfect. The Mother City is pristine. Everyone has a job. Tourism is booming. But this shiny new state has decided that Lisa is a problem, and problems here disappear quickly and quietly.

GENRE

Dystopian political thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

Hunger Games, Bodyguard (British TV series), Anatomy of a Scandal

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 8 episodes (45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Lisa Robinson starts a relationship with Grant Stonell, GHT politician and potentially their next First Minister. Formerly the South African province of the Western Cape, the Good Hope Territory (GHT) is the most prosperous country in the southern hemisphere – but at a price. Citizens are tracked 24/7 by drones and only those with qualifications and jobs are permitted to vote in the Qualified Franchise (QF) system. Their relationship becomes the talk of the tabloids and many start to speculate that Lisa at his side is improving his chances of winning. When Lisa's brother is killed in front of her she learns it was a GHT-sanctioned hit and that she was the likely target – a brutal attempt to derail Grant's prospects? Lisa confronts the danger and decides to go help Grant win so she can get justice for her brother. In Cape Town she draws support from an old Varsity friend from Durban, Charlotte. Lisa and Grant invite Charlotte over for dinner and Lisa, unseen, catches Charlotte taking photos of Grant's documents. Is she a spy? In the Resistance? Charlotte also is messaging someone about all her chats with Lisa. Meanwhile, Grant tactically leaks that the wife of First Minister Breda had an illegal abortion. Breda corners Grant telling him he knows Grant leaked the abortion story and threatens him. Days later Grant's chief of staff Cait is quietly killed, her body dumped at sea. Cait is then announced by GHT as an undercover SA agent on the run. Grant realises there is no way the world's most sophisticated surveillance state doesn't know where Cait is and that she is likely dead. He switches to crisis management mode. The scandal has cost them crucial votes. Lisa is devastated by the news of Cait. Driven by a desire to not be the helpless accessory in this ruthless political drama, she confronts Charlotte and offers to help the Resistance. Using her wits, she is able to record a private conversation between Grant & Breda where Breda effectively admits to killing Cait. The next day though, Lisa is confronted by Breda himself who wants the recording. Lisa denies having it. Breda makes it clear that Lisa's grandmother and aunt will be killed if that recording is ever released. Conflicted, Lisa hatches a plan. She makes Charlotte blackmail Grant, offering him the recording on the basis of publicly promising to revoke QF should he win. Charlotte is also not to tell Grant that Lisa was involved in any way. Grant takes the deal from Charlotte and makes the announcement. Lisa had hoped this would give him an unassailable lead, but the election is still a dead heat. Lisa is devastated but Grant assures her he is definitely going to win. Panicking Lisa screams asking Grant not to use the tape. He realises what she has done. Despite the risks to her family and driven by her compulsion to punish Charlotte, Lisa comes up with a risky plan. They show Breda's Minister of Justice the evidence. The book ends with a news report that the First Minister and a member of the Resistance have been summarily arrested and jailed on the eve of the election based on an unprecedented order from the Minister of Justice, leaving the result a foregone conclusion.

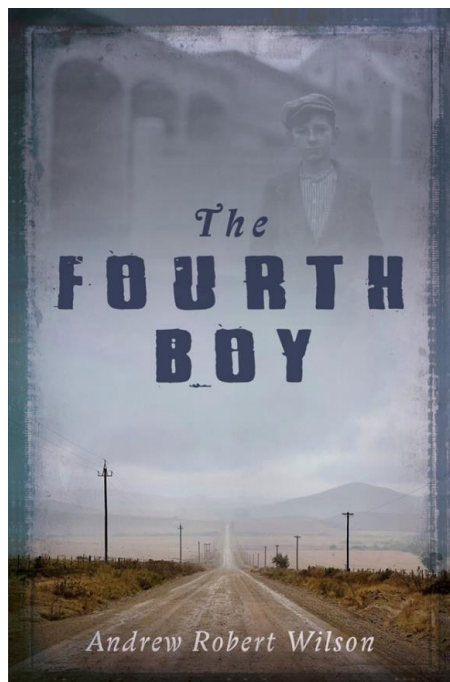
AUTHOR

NICK CLELLAND is a political animal. He was elected to the Durban Metropolitan Council in 1996 at the age of twenty-four, and three years later as a Member of Parliament. Though quickly tired of elected politics, he has made a career of it all the same. He has worked as a political advisor, consultant and coach with mayors, ministers, premiers and prime ministers around the world, and was the brains behind Cape Town's 'Day Zero' behaviour change strategy. A keen yet mediocre cyclist, Nick lives in Cape Town. Together with Ryan Coetzee, he co-authored Spin: The Art of Managing the Media (2018). Good Hope is his first novel.



THE FOURTH BOY

BY ANDREW ROBERT WILSON



The fondly nurtured idyll of the Karoo as a place of tranquillity is shattered when recently graduated journalist Grant Asher's first real investigative assignment in the mid-1980s draws him into a series of unexplained murders in three quiet Karoo towns. There are two mystifying links: the victims were once part of a group of five hundred Polish-Jewish children housed at an orphanage in Oudtshoorn during the Second World War, and each victim was missing the tip of their little finger, removed post mortem. Exquisitely written, Wilson's debut novel will stay with you long after the last page is turned.

GENRE

Recent-historical drama

SIMILAR TITLES

- A DRY WHITE SEASON
- RED DUST
- MOFFIE

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 8 episodes (45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

Having spent life skimming the surface of his existence and finding shelter in a parallel, nether-world of partly real, partly imagined existence, Grant Asher's first newspaper assignment in the mid-1980's upends his easy, acerbic world and unshackles him from his inability to connect emotionally with his present and his past when he meets the Machiavellian Hein Grossman, world renowned ceramicist and local celebrity. Riding the storm-tossed contradictions of 1980's South Africa, echoed in his own split-screen being, Grant's yearnings and mistrusted memories of a brief army romance spill into his present-day infatuation with the young case detective investigating a series of mysterious murders in the Karoo; a relationship mostly unrequited becomes all-consuming. The most emotionally immersed affair that never really happened would become the one that surpasses all others. Ceramicist Hein Grossman's casual bigotry and self-publicised Nazi leanings draws the investigation closer to him, as Grant is enraptured by his complex psychopathy, seeing in the ceramicist parts of an older version of himself, but once Grant and the detective trace the murders directly to Grossman, the top layer of a neo-Nazi killing three Jewish men is stripped away to reveal a mind and a reality far more complex. Grant's digging into Grossman's psyche begins to reveal a man who, having passed himself off as German for forty years, is really a child shattered by war and the murder of his father at the hands of a Nazi officer; a child who was one of the five hundred orphans sheltered in Oudtshoorn, a child who was never German, but Jewish. Grossman was a boy who grew up to expunge the shame and powerlessness of seeing his father, the strongest figure he knew, bow and plead for his life, before the Nazi, all power and control, ended it. Having lived his adult life as a German, the parallel world he created for himself and the subsequent rationale for what appears to be murder, concealed a darker truth from the orphanage: three bright boys, one, a love of his life, the other two betrayers that eventually drove his love from him. Grant Asher's world is upended as he realises that while his own passions lay confined to his parallel world, Grossman seems to have lived and killed for his, in this real world. Grant is forced to question his own relationship with memory, with fantasy and with existing here and now. The fact that Grossman removed a small piece of bone from each of his victims, including that of his life-long love, ground it down and incorporated it in three of his world-renowned ceramics appears to be revenge on the world, and a final goodbye to a love he had, then lost forever. Grant discovers though, that even a truth dressed up too neatly must eventually shed its finery.

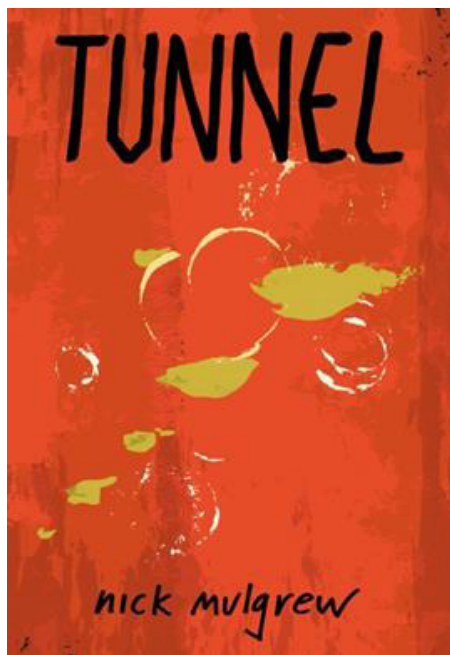
AUTHOR

ANDREW ROBERT WILSON has over 30 years of experience in media and entertainment as an actor, writer, and director. He has worked on international TV formats like "Big Brother", "Deal or No Deal", "Come Dine With Me SA", "The Great SA Bake Off", and "So You Think You Can Dance". As a scriptwriter and head writer for "Isidingo", he developed formats for companies like Urban Brew Studios, Endemol SA, and Rapid Blue. He was a Mail & Guardian theatre critic in the late 1990s and worked as a presenter, scriptwriter, and editor for wildlife TV. Andrew has worked across Africa, including projects in Namibia, Nigeria, Malawi, and Tunisia. He holds a Bachelor of Journalism from Rhodes University.



TUNNEL

BY NICK MULGREW



One evening in early autumn, ten people drive into a tunnel through the Cape mountains – and find themselves trapped. As their limited supplies dwindle, what do they do? Where can they go? What will they find? *Tunnel* burrows deep into the psychologies and coping strategies that connect and disconnect these protagonists in a dark, tense and compelling human drama. An urgent new novel, told through many eyes; a journey – terrific and mystical – through despair, memory, and love.

GENRE

Dystopian political thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

- THE ROAD (John Hillcoat, 2009)
adapted from the novel by Cormac McCarthy.
- OPEN WATER (Chris Kentis, 2003)
- SILO (Graham Yost, Apple TV, 2023)
- SNOWPIERCER (various adaptations
from the graphic novel
LE TRANSPERCENIEGE).

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

- LIMITED SERIES – 4 episodes
(45-minute episodes)
- FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM
(120 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

The story begins with Andreas and Samuel, a couple whose strained relationship mirrors their failing car. On a getaway to the mountains, their trip goes awry when the car breaks down outside Cape Town. Frustrated, they argue as the car sputters back to life. The radio suddenly switches on, emitting a strange noise, prompting Samuel to rip it out. The roads are empty, fires burn on the horizon, and police roadblocks line the way. Impatient at the toll plaza leading to the mountains, Samuel bypasses the roadblock and drives into the tunnel.

Inside, they find the tunnel's exit blocked by massive steel doors. Another car is there, but they don't investigate. Mistaking the blockage for a rock fall, Samuel turns around, only to nearly crash into doors that have closed behind them. A minibus taxi speeds past, pursued by a police car. Samuel tries to escape but nearly wrecks the car against the sealed barriers.

The narrative shifts to Ledi, a documentary assistant traveling inland. She sees Andreas and Samuel's car enter and exit the tunnel and follows, meeting up with them. Together, they inspect the doors, hearing strange noises and an emergency signal on the radio playing the outdated anthem 'Die Stem van Suid-Afrika.' Realizing they are trapped beneath the mountains, they regroup in darkness.

Meanwhile, Mr. B, the minibus driver, is apprehended by Mo, a reclusive ex-soldier turned rural police officer. Mo, who uses they/them pronouns, had pursued Mr. B after he bypassed a roadblock. In the back of Mo's police car, Mr. B worries about his passengers—a group of teenage schoolgirls—and his missing medication, while Mo's radio emits disruptive noises.

As Andreas, Samuel, and Ledi assess their limited supplies, Mo arrives, sparking a confrontation. The civilians discover Mr. B's passengers, who have walked through the tunnel searching for their teacher. In the chaos, Andreas frees Mr. B but injures him. Mo retreats to the other end of the tunnel, taking refuge in Mr. B's abandoned minibus. There, Mo finds a hidden staircase leading up the mountain, revealing a smoke-filled, devastated landscape. Conditions in the tunnel worsen. The group scavenges for water and supplies. Mr. B, suffering without his medication, dies from self-inflicted injuries. Mo, wounded by a mother baboon, returns to the tunnel and dies after urging the group to escape through the staircase.

The survivors climb the staircase into a ravaged world. As hope fades, Samuel, injured, stays behind with Andreas, who comforts him as explosions echo in the distance. Amidst the chaos, their bond is renewed, even as the world collapses around them.

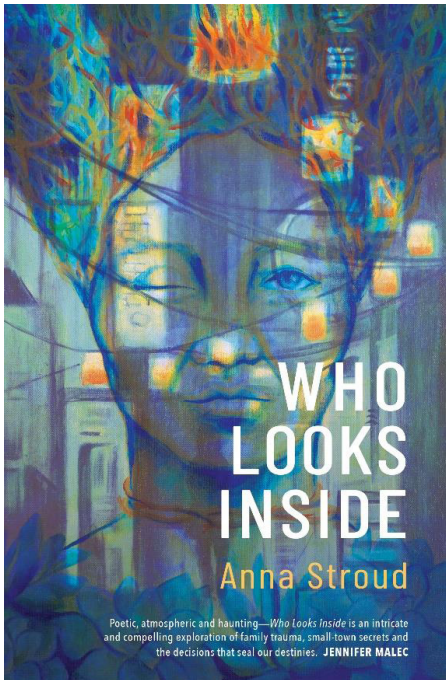
AUTHOR

NICK MULGREW, born in Durban in 1990, is a multi-award-winning writer and publisher. A 2015 Mandela Rhodes Scholar and 2018 Mail & Guardian Young South African, he studied at Rhodes University, UCT, and the University of Dundee. He is the author of six books, including *A HIBISCUS COAST*, winner of the 2022 K. Sello Duiker Memorial Award, and *THE FIRST LAW OF SADNESS*, winner of the 2018 Nadine Gordimer Award. His story *THE STORM* was a finalist for the 2023 BBC National Short Story Award. In 2014, Mulgrew founded the poetry press uHlanga, launching the careers of celebrated South African poets. Based in Edinburgh since 2019, he completed his PhD in English and Creative Writing in 2024.



WHO LOOKS INSIDE

BY ANNA STROUD



The news of her mother's death pulls Hannah back from South Korea to her childhood home in the Karoo where she discovers that she has never escaped her abusive father and passive mother. That, in fact, she has been there all along, baking bread and raising a son whose father might be a local farmer she is having an affair with. Her world unravels as she struggles to separate the life she has built for herself as an English teacher in South Korea from the one she survived. Unsettling, eerie and evocative, *Who Looks Inside* explores themes of childhood trauma in a working-class Afrikaans family.

GENRE

Low-key supernatural thriller

SIMILAR TITLES

US (2019), POSSESSION (1981), THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (1991), SLIDING DOORS (1998), SOMMERSBY (1993), TRIOMF (2008)

IDEAL TO ADAPT INTO

FULL LENGTH FEATURE FILM (90 minutes)

SYNOPSIS

When Hannah, an English teacher in South Korea, learns that her mother has died, she returns to her childhood home in the Karoo, South Africa, only to discover the usurper, Hanna, living the life she's tried to escape. Should Hannah overthrow the usurper and reclaim her place or return to her demure life away from the noise and chaos of her childhood? As she grapples with this internal conflict, her doppelganger turns the tables and pursues Hannah as her life unravels. Hannah tries desperately to escape her doppelganger – only to realise that it's impossible: she cannot escape herself.

REVIEWS

- Poetic, atmospheric and haunting - WHO LOOKS INSIDE is an intricate and compelling exploration of family trauma, small-town secrets and the decisions that seal our destinies. — Jennifer Malec, editor of *The Reading List* and *The Johannesburg Review of Books*
- WHO LOOKS INSIDE answers that question in a novel that demands your full attention with its imaginative leaps into the nature of trauma, how it is experienced, and how healing can take place. This is an assured debut. Stroud keeps us intrigued throughout, guessing, wondering, and then drawing our own conclusions. — Arja Salafranca, News24

AUTHOR

ANNA STROUD loves books. Like, really loves them. Authors, too. She once travelled over two hundred kilometres by bus from Daegu to Wonju in South Korea to hear Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o speak. She's been reading Antjie Krog since the age of eleven, even the sweary bits. She moved close to Love Books so she'd never miss a book launch. Naturally, she'd become a writer, with stories appearing in *Grocott's Mail*, *Cue*, *WordStock*, *The Sunday Times*, *Books LIVE*, *City Press*, *The Reading List*, *Daily Maverick*, *The Johannesburg Review of Books*, *tagged!* and *Business Day*, among others. When she's not writing, she's walking her husband, Sean, and two dogs, Raven and Poe, at the park.





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