

Recent Books from South Africa – Sept 2014

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Cookery Books

Cooked in the Karoo / Justin Bonello
Johannesburg, South Africa : The Penguin Group (SA), 2014
240p.;
ISBN : 9780143538189
\$ 56.75

In this latest culinary adventure, Justin Bonello and his crew go on a two-year journey into South Africa's backyard to rediscover the pulse of the Karoo. Kicking up dust across the semi-desert, Justin is dependent on the legendary hospitality of the people who live there. His mission is simple: to walk in their shoes, to cook with them and to tell the stories of the thirsty land. Catch a glimpse of things you won't expect in this arid landscape - from the wide-open spaces and endless starry nights to the extraordinary and rare characters that are the heart and soul of this thirsty land. Experience their incredible hospitality, witness their daily struggle to survive and taste the delicious dishes rooted in the kitchens of yesteryear.

Cooked in the Karoo will make you want to pack up your car and travel into this painted landscape – a space where you will rediscover the importance of sometimes just sitting in silence and reconnecting with the essential things in life: good food and creating dust-covered memories with great friends.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167892>

Ecology/Environment

Snakes & Snakebite in Southern Africa / Johan Marais
Cape Town, South Africa : Struik Publishers, 2014
120p.;
ISBN : 9781775840237
\$ 30.00

An essential guide to identifying all dangerous snakes and common harmless snakes in southern Africa, as well as quick and important practical advice on first aid measures in the case of snakebite.

Simple icons, distribution maps, succinct text and numerous full-colour photographs assist with easy identification of snakes commonly encountered in the region. Symptoms and treatment of snakebites are described, providing the reader with vital first-aid information.

Clear, practical and easy-to-use, Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa will prove invaluable to all those with outdoor interests.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167893>

Meteorites: A Southern African Perspective / Ronnie McKenzie

Cape Town, South Africa : Struik Publishers, 2014

120p.;

ISBN : 9781775840985

\$ 23.50

Meteorites are the remnants of meteors from outer space that have survived the corridor of fire through Earth's atmosphere and landed on our planet. Rare, and bearing secrets about the formation of our Universe, these 'treasures from space' have fascinated people ever since they were first identified in the late 18th century as extraterrestrial arrivals. This jam-packed book by enthusiast and collector Ronnie McKenzie introduces the topic in straightforward language and is richly illustrated with some 200 photographs and diagrams. It discusses how to identify meteorites, where they come from and where they have landed on Earth, the many different types, and how to set about collecting them. It also dispels some of the myths about these stones, and presents some infamous meteorite scams. A handy basic guide for those new to the topic, and for anyone interested in entering the field of meteorite collecting.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167895>

The Poacher's Moon / Richard Peirce

Cape Town, South Africa : Struik Publishers, 2014

144p.;

ISBN : 9781775841784

\$ 26.75

When wildlife conservationist Richard Peirce learnt about the targeting of three private game reserves in the Western Cape in 2011 and the butchery of some of their rhinos, he embarked on a crusade to raise public awareness about the horrors of rhino poaching. This is the story of Higgins and Lady, two rhinos from the farm Fairy Glen that defied the odds by surviving a brutal attack. Peirce keeps the reader spellbound as he recounts the series of attacks and their aftermath in chilling detail: the unbearable savagery, suspect police work, shady characters, mysterious happenings and death threats. Reading like a crime thriller, this account of dogged survival, compassion and triumph – along with desperate strategizing to outwit the poaching mafia – will have wide appeal.

Colour images throughout, taken as the drama unfolded, bring the subject even more vividly to life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167898>

History

Ragged Glory : The Rainbow Nation In Black And White / Ray Hartley
South Africa : Jonathan Ball Publishers, 2014
297p.;
ISBN : 9781868425563
\$ 37.50

As a leading political journalist and newspaper editor, Ray Hartley had the best seat in the house for the unfolding drama of the new South Africa, as well as privileged access to many key players, including Nelson Mandela himself. On a cold Highveld morning in May 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office to become South Africa's first democratically elected president. A new era had begun. The promise of those heady days of political transition soon gave way to a more sober view on the magnitude of the challenges facing the new government.

Under Mandela and his successor, Thabo Mbeki, the country grappled with the restructuring of the state, massive inequality and poverty, rising crime, battles over economic policy, the arms deal, the HIV/AIDS crisis, the BEE era, the cancer of political corruption and the rise of a new and predatory political elite. With the removal of Mbeki, followed by the interregnum of Kgalema Motlanthe, the stage was set for the coming to power of the controversial Jacob Zuma. These are all key threads in Ray Hartley's rich and complex narrative history of the democratic era.

Admirably concise but rich in detail, drawing on a wide spectrum of interviews, documents and experiences, Ragged Glory offers a bracingly critical look back at the achievements and the failures of two turbulent decades, during which South Africa took its place at the table

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167899>

Dancing To The Beat Of The Drum - An Autobiography / Pamela Nomvete
Cape Town, South Africa : Kwela Books, 2014
272p.;
ISBN : 9780795706875
\$ 32.50

The sangomas say that when it is time to connect with your true calling, your true self, you must "dance to the beat of the drum".

Returning to the land of her parents' birth in 1994 – after making a name for herself as an actress on the British stage – Pamela Nomvete became a household name as Ntsiki Lukhele, "the bitch", on Generations. But the mirage of

luxury and success in which she lived was just that, a mirage. Behind closed doors she battled her husband's infidelities, addiction and spiritual confusion. Dancing To The Beat Of The Drum details the traumatic personal crisis Pamela went through as her success grew – a crisis which took everything she had worked for from her – and how she came to re-evaluate her priorities and reconnect with the spiritual side of her life – something she had long neglected.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167900>

A High Price For Freedom: Memoirs / Siphon Richard Shabalala
Cape Town, South Africa : CASAS, 2014
172p.;
ISBN 9781920287658
CASAS Book Series No.106
\$ 41.75
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=166846>

The World's Great Question: Oliver Schreiner's South African Letters 1889-1920
/ Edited and Introduced by Liz Stanley and Andrea Salter
Cape Town, South Africa : Van Riebeeck Society, 2014
422p.;
ISBN 9780981426457
Publications of the Van Riebeeck society. 2nd series- Vol.45
\$ 46.75
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=166849>

Western Empire / Sampie Terreblanche
Johannesburg, South Africa : The Penguin Group (SA), 2014
600p.;
ISBN : 9780143539070
\$ 58.50

Controversial in its approach, monumental in its scope – this book is the crowning achievement of a distinguished academic career by one of South Africa's most respected senior economists.

Sampie Terreblanche takes a critical look at how social and economic inequality became entrenched in the current world order dominated by Western powers since the 1500s. The book details how five centuries of Western empire-building shaped our society into the deeply unequal and gratuitously unjust place that it is today. It also teaches us that every empire is unsustainable and the remaining industrial countries in the West are weaker than most people think.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167902>

Nothing Left To Steal - Jailed For Telling The Truth / Mzilikazi wa Afrika
Johannesburg, South Africa : The Penguin Group (SA), 2014

267p.;

ISBN : 9780143538929

\$ 40.00

This tell-all memoir reveals the details behind Sunday Times journalist Mzilikazi wa Afrika's exposure of the R1.7 billion lease scandal between police commissioner Bheki Cele and property tycoon Roux Shabangu, for which he was infamously arrested in 2010.

It is also the riveting account of how a neglected boy in an unknown village became one of South Africa's most awarded investigative reporters and found himself at the receiving end of the corruption that had defeated those he helped put in power.

Fearless in the face of corrupt authorities with sinister political motives, and fervent about justice, Wa Afrika's life was characterised by resistance to oppression and inequality from an early age. Destined to defend and uphold the principles of democracy, his story is the inspiring tale of an ordinary man, armed with a pen, who challenged the proverbial giant that carried a sword in his sheath.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=165975>

Mampara : Rhodesia Regiment Moments of Mayhem by a Moronic, Maybe
Militant, Madman (Paperback) / Toc Walsh

30 Degrees South Publishers, South Africa, 2014

256p.;

ISBN : 9781928211303

\$ 41.75

Toc Walsh was conscripted into intake 138 Depot Rhodesia Regiment on 18 April 1974 and endured a year of what he deemed to be 'military mayhem'. In July 1976, he was drafted again with the 10th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment to continue his wild ride into the maniacal world of combat. The country was in a state of national emergency and all available men were called up on continuous service. Mampara is a no-holds-barred look at one man's lived experience of war. The title of the book stems from the Shona word mampara that is said to originate from the slurred bark of the male Chacma baboon. The baboon indulges in alcohol-laden fermented fruit in an attempt to attain courage for difficult endeavours such as courting a female. In many ways, us as humans indulge in the same practise especially in times of intense stress or hardships. Young men experiencing the intense stresses of combat become, like the baboon, hungry for a way to cope.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167904>

Out of Action / Chris Cocks
30 Degrees South Publishers, South Africa, 2014
284p.;
ISBN : 9781928211587
\$ 41.75

Out of action is the reworked and updated edition of Survival Course, the sequel to the best-selling Fireforce - one man's war in the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Part 1, 'War', chronicles Chris Cocks's final 16 months of combat in the Rhodesian bush war, as a stick leader in PATU, the Police Ant-Terrorist Unit. It is a time of unbelievable cruelty as the part-time white reservists battle overwhelming odds, without air support and...without a future. Part 2, 'Peace', recounts the author's painful adjustment to life as a civilian - a fifteen-year odyssey in the embryonic state of Zimbabwe. It is an intensely personal journey in which the author pulls no punches as he describes his clumsy attempts to come to terms with a) the new dispensation of black Africa and b) himself. It is a *cri de couer*, the story of a young man, brutalized by war, who seeks escape in alcohol and drugs, and who, in the process, causes immeasurable pain and suffering to those around him. These too are the casualties of war.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=118761>

The James Stuart Archive: Volume 6 / Webb, Colin de B
Scottsville, South Africa : University of Kwazulu Natal Press, 2014
472p.;
ISBN : 9781869142643
\$ 90.00

James Stuart was an official in the Natal colonial civil service in the 1890s and early years of the twentieth century. In meticulously recorded conversations with some 200 interlocutors, the great majority of them Africans, he assembled a vast and unique collection of notes on the history and customs of the Zulu and other peoples of what is now the KwaZulu-Natal region. This sixth volume presents a further twenty-six sets of testimonies drawn from material in the James Stuart Collection of the Killie Campbell Africana Library in Durban.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167905>

Violence in/and the Great Lakes: The Thought of V-Y Mudimbe and Beyond / Farred, Grant
Scottsville, South Africa : University of Kwazulu Natal Press, 2014
240p.;
ISBN : 9781869142841
\$ 42.50

Violence in/and the Great Lakes: The Thought of V-Y Mudimbe and Beyond is, in the best sense of the term, a homage to Valentin Mudimbe. This collection of essays honours the intellectual legacy of Mudimbe, for decades now one of

Africa and the diaspora's most significant minds, by taking up the challenges – ethical, political, philosophical, literary, sociological, anthropological, psychological – his work poses. This book gathers a group of US- and Africa-based scholars, many of whom are long-time Mudimbe collaborators and colleagues, who use the questions posed, the critiques and insights offered and the paradigms constructed by Mudimbe's oeuvre to understand the implication – and, in some instances, the application – of Mudimbe's work in our moment.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167906>

Brothers in War and Peace / Dennis Cruywagen
Cape Town, South Africa : Zebra Press, 2014
272p.;
ISBN : 9781770226005
\$ 38.50

Twin brothers. Two futures. One destiny. Abraham and Constand Viljoen were identical twins who took starkly different paths in life. One was a deeply religious man, who opposed apartheid; the other was a man of war, who became head of the SADF. But together they would play a crucial role in preventing South Africa from descending into civil war. In the early 1990s, Constand came out of retirement to head the Afrikaner Volksfront, which opposed the negotiations with the ANC and made plans for military action. Realising that war would destroy their country, Abraham approached his estranged brother and urged him to consider the alternative: talks with the ANC. What followed was a series of secret meetings and negotiations that ultimately prevented civil war.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167907>

Law

Can Rights Cure? : The Impacts of Human Rights Litigation on South Africa's Health System / Marius Pieterse
Pretoria, South Africa : PULP, 2014
194p.;
ISBN 9781920538279
\$ 37.50
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167908>

Don't Film Yourself Having Sex - And Other Legal Advice For The Age Of Social Media / Emma Sadleir • Tamsyn de Beer
Johannesburg, South Africa : The Penguin Group (SA), 2014
195p.;
ISBN : 9780143538943
\$ 38.50

In the digital age you can get into serious legal trouble at the click of a button.

The shift from passive Internet user to active digital citizen has brought about unprecedented levels of online interaction, creation and connecting. But as people begin to share more and more about themselves and their lives on social media, they are finding themselves getting into trouble for what they say and do online.

Emma Sadleir and Tamsyn de Beer, who together run one of South Africa's leading social media law consultancies, point out the social traps and legal tangles that you could find yourself facing as you navigate the murky waters of the digital age. In a fun, witty and easily accessible way, this ground-breaking book details the legal, disciplinary and reputational risks that you, your company and your children face online.

By outlining the laws and rules applicable to what you do and say on social media, and providing practical and common sense advice, *Don't Film Yourself Having Sex* ultimately shows you that in order to reap the extraordinary benefits of digital technology without succumbing to its risks, you need to start practising responsible digital citizenship.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167910>

Justice Denied / David Klatzow

Cape Town, South Africa : Zebra Press, 2014

296p.;

ISBN : 9781770226944

\$ 41.75

If you are accused of a crime you did not commit, do you believe that justice will prevail in a court of law? Perhaps you should think again...• An innocent woman is almost sent to prison for eight years because of a mistaken fingerprint identification by so-called forensic experts;• a chicken farmer is hanged for a brutal murder he did not commit due to incorrect analysis of post-mortem bruising; and• a mother is sent to prison for murdering her baby daughter when a substance is falsely identified as blood...These are just some of the major forensic disasters that have occurred over the past 100 years, and which are exposed in *Justice Denied*. Contrary to what television series like *CSI* and *NCIS* would have one believe, forensic science does not provide instant answers to impenetrable crimes; in reality, forensic science is neither clearcut nor easy to interpret, and practitioners are not all competent – as renowned forensic scientist Dr David Klatzow proves in this book. In *Justice Denied*, he exposes the miscarriages of justice resulting from the faulty courtroom testimony of corrupt or incompetent forensic pathologists and unscrupulous public prosecutors who seek convictions at all costs.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167912>

Linguistics

Pharos Tweekalige Skoolwoordeboek/Pharos Bilingual School Dictionary /
Pharos dictionaries
South Africa : NB Publishers, 2014
672p.;
ISBN : 9781868901289
\$ 24.50

The new Pharos bilingual school dictionary contains more than 10 000 headwords from Afrikaans and English. This collection of headwords includes the core vocabulary from both languages. The following information is provided for each headword: syllabification, primary stress, inflected forms such as plurals, past tense forms and degree of comparison, an apt translation, and full sentences, which illustrate the use of the word. The headword is printed in blue to make the dictionary more user-friendly. Derivatives of the headword are included at the end of the article so that users can identify word families.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=153279>

'n Dief Aan Die Kers - Skelm Woorde Deur Die Eeue / Anton F. Prinsloo
South Africa : NB Publishers, 2014
274p.;
ISBN : 9781868901760
\$ 32.50

This brand-new book by Dr. Anton F. Prinsloo describes how the original meanings of approximately 1 000 Afrikaans words have changed in the course of years, so that the meanings we know today almost make no sense at all.

Centuries ago, the word ambition (ambisie) for example had nothing to do with a strong pursuit of success and prosperity. If someone had ambition in those days, this person walked from house to house like a beggar.

And the meaning of the Dutch dyke (dyk) was at that time least of all that of a "high wall at the sea to keep the water out". The word particularly did not refer to the wall, but to the ditch that was dug to obtain soil to build the wall, which had to protect the land against the sea.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167914>

Literature

The Hunchback Missionary / Elsa Joubert
South Africa : Jonathan Ball Publishers, 2014
304p.;
ISBN : 9781868426324
\$ 33.50

At a prayer meeting on a cold Rotterdam night, the young clerk Aart Anthonij van der Lingen – a pale, sickly, hunchbacked ‘fish from the North’ – is held in the charismatic Reverend Johannes Kicherer’s thrall. Lured by Kicherer’s passion, he leaves his grey and loveless life to land at the Cape of Good Hope as a lay missionary in 1800.

But when the Missionary Society draws lots to determine where to send the new arrivals, Van der Lingen is sent east and Kicherer north. The hunchback missionary must make his own way in a place that, on the surface, God has forsaken – until, as the pitiless landscape and the blank faces of his would-be congregants strip Van der Lingen incrementally of his pride, he learns that he has nothing to give to the Africa that is ultimately his salvation.

Based on historical figures drawn from the Cape Town Church Archives, *The Hunchback Missionary* is a sweeping narrative of vanity and humility, of the sacred and the profane, of how Europe’s rampant strides across newly colonised Africa led to the abyss from which a continent still struggles, today, to retreat.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167915>

150 Stories / Nataniël

South Africa : NB Publishers, 2014

520p.;

ISBN : 9780798166645

\$ 39.50

This extensive collection of stories by the inimitable Nataniël will make an ideal Christmas gift for any of his fans! His unique voice and style, his quirky and sharp humour, his empathy for the outcast and outsider, make him an important voice in our society.

The collection includes almost all his stories (English and Afrikaans) from his older books which are now out of print (*Oopmond*, *Rubber*, *Maria Maria*, *Tuesday*, *Kaalkop 2*, *When I was*), as well as 10 new stories.

In a review in Pretoria News of one of his books, Diane de Beer said: “Nataniël has always been a master storyteller, as he creates an extraordinary world filled with lonely people all struggling to find their way.”

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167918>

Rachel's Blue / Zakes Mda

Cape Town, South Africa : Kwela Books, 2014

272p.;

ISBN : 9780795706813

\$ 32.50

A novel set in southeast Ohio, *Rachel's Blue* explores what happens when a rapist fights for parenting rights over a rape-conceived child.

Weaving together the intimate personal struggles of its characters with the earth-deep worries of a small town, Rachel's Blue deftly pulls readers into a close-knit community only to show how suffocating such a community can be. Mda's insights into the hopes and sufferings of human relationships, into the pains of truth telling, and into American culture are as poignant as ever...

But this is not just an American novel. Although it is set in the US, rape is a global issue and one that South Africans are only too aware of. By setting his new novel in the US, Mda allows the reader to move out of a South African space to engage more closely with the struggles of young women in an impoverished community.

An engagement that brings the reader face to face with the reality of what is happening back home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167919>

The Keeper / Marguerite Poland

Johannesburg, South Africa : The Penguin Group (SA), 2014

182p.;

ISBN : 9780143539032

\$ 39.50

When lighthouse keeper Hannes Harker is posted to a remote island with his young wife, he discovers something long-hidden in the tower that causes him to lose his footing and fall.

Seriously injured, Hannes is evacuated to hospital and nursed back to health by Sister Rika, to whom he haltingly tells the story of his life: of his mother's mysterious death, of his wild young wife, Aletta, and of the desolate island inhabited only by the lighthouse keepers and guano workers – two communities confined together, yet rigidly separated in one of the bleakest places on earth.

With the arrival of a figure from Aletta's past, her own secrets erupt into the present, just as the simmering tensions and injustices endured for so long by the guano workers erupt into a single, shocking act of violence.

Written in the exquisite, haunting prose for which Marguerite Poland is renowned, The Keeper is the story of two generations of lighthouse keepers – men obsessed by their duty to the light – and the wives who accompany them into a life of frightening isolation.

The Keeper is a novel about the power of secrets, the power of love, and the power of stories.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167920>

Rusty Bell / Mohlele, Nthikeng

Scottsville, South Africa : University of Kwazulu Natal Press, 2014

168p.;

ISBN : 9781869142872

\$ 25.00

Michael is a respected and haunted South African corporate lawyer – the narrator of this sweeping, intimate and intricate exploration of the plurality and mystery of things: love, grief, fate, lust – but most of all life. Nthikeng Mohlele once again delves into head-cracking and bruising questions, in this coming-out-of and against-age story; told with humour, beauty and calculated rage. Brimming with delicacy and authorial thunder, this part campus novel, part philosophical epistle, is one man's rebellion against 'life as we know it'. Rusty Bell is an appallingly wise examination of the perils of being human – by a writer who knows the beauty and savagery of words.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167931>

Breathless / Jassy Mackenzie

Cape Town, South Africa : Umuzi Publishers, 2014

207p.;

ISBN : 9781415206867

\$ 30.00

Soon after her marriage, New Yorker Erin Mitchell is en route to Kruger when her vehicle is washed off a flooding bridge. She can thank her lucky stars that Nicholas de Lanoy is there to help her. Until the bridge is repaired, Erin is a reluctant guest on Nicholas's game farm, a fact that she can't share with her possessive new husband. The handsome and wealthy Nicholas is a self-confessed libertine who prefers no-strings affairs to relationships. However, as Erin learns more about him and his troubled past, she realises she is falling – hard. Guilty and torn, she considers giving her marriage a second chance. But letting her go back to an abusive partner is not something Nicholas can allow, given his own history. He's saved Erin's life once – can he now help her save herself?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167932>

Karoo Dusk / Johan Vlok Louw

Cape Town, South Africa : Umuzi Publishers, 2014

240p.;

ISBN : 9781415206805

\$ 33.50

Billy's dragon tattoo will attract strange looks in the Karoo town his family now calls home. It's difficult to blend in when your father's the new police colonel and your mother's strung out on pills and wine. Before Billy meets Suzan, who makes him dream in a sideways world, the gangster Ou Joe's roadside brothel provides strange comfort to truckers and curious youths alike. Ou Joe plans to leave a legacy before staging his final showdown with the cancer growing in his belly. After a brutal night, the colonel sets Ou Joe's place in his sights and Billy must take a stand when good and evil are yet to pick sides. In the style of a modern western, Johan Vlok Louw's novel is filled with youth, cars and guns. The

book is an uppercut to the chin, its prose as evocative as the Karoo landscape of its setting.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167933>

Birdseye / Maire Fisher

Cape Town, South Africa : Umuzi Publishers, 2014

400p.;

ISBN : 9781415207048

\$ 35.00

As children growing up at Marchbanks, an imposing mansion built high on a hill above a Cape seaside town, Bird and her five siblings love to hear the story of how their father wooed their mother, but they don't know much about the past of their reclusive grandmother, Ma Bess, who rules Marchbanks from its shadows and keeps her stories firmly locked in her cold heart. When Bird's ten-year-old twin brothers Oliver and Oscar go missing after a day of fishing, Bird appoints herself the family scribe and begins writing to the brothers she refuses to believe are gone for good. The elderly Ma Bess may be the voice in command at Marchbanks, but Bird, the youngest in the family, becomes its all-seeing eye. If Bird learns the truth, though, can life at Marchbanks ever be the same? With humour and pathos, Birdseye contemplates loss, love that endures, and the courage it takes to voice one's truth, no matter the circumstances.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167934>

The Alibi Club / Jaco van Schalkwyk

Cape Town, South Africa : Umuzi Publishers, 2014

192p.;

ISBN : 9781415207178

\$ 33.50

In 1998 a young South African arrives in Brooklyn, New York. He becomes a bartender at The Alibi, a dive full of blue-collar workers, drug dealers, music lovers and Guinness. At The Alibi, locals play pool and watch Jeopardy! as triple-A-listers from Manhattan eye their neighbourhood's tree-lined avenues and buy up its historical brownstones. Soon soya milk and organic vegetables take up shelf space where cheap cleaning products and anaemic limes used to be. The Alibi is also the place from where its regulars experience the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, which leaves New York dripping with distrust while terror ripens on its sidewalks. The Alibi Club, Jaco van Schalkwyk's poignant debut novel, is a unique document about a city, a neighbourhood, and the lives of individuals, all changed irrevocably.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167936>

Tales of the Metric System / Imraan Coovadia
Cape Town, South Africa : Umuzi Publishers, 2014
400p.;
ISBN : 9781415207239
\$ 41.75

From a Natal boarding school in the seventies and Soviet spies in London in the eighties to the 1995 Rugby World Cup and intrigue in the Union Buildings, Tales of the Metric System shows how ten days spread across four decades send tidal waves through the lives of ordinary and extraordinary South Africans alike. An unforgettable cast of characters includes Ann, who is trying to protect her husband and son in 1970, and Victor, whose search for a missing document in 1973 will change his life forever. Rock guitarist Yash takes his boy to the beach on Boxing Day in 1979 to meet his revolutionary cousin, while Shanti, his granddaughter, loses her cellphone and falls in love twice on a lucky afternoon in 2010. Playwrights, politicians, philosophers, and thieves, all caught in their individual stories, burst from the pages of Imraan Coovadia's Tales of the Metric System as it measures South Africa's modern history in its own remarkable units of imagination.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167937>

Politics

The Arrogance of Power / Xolela Mangcu
Cape Town, South Africa : Tafelberg Publishers, 2014
240p.;
ISBN : 9780624070771
\$ 36.00

Dr Xolela Mangcu has earned a reputation as one of South Africa's most vibrant and engaging public voices. This new book is a collection of his columns written for local and international newspapers over the past fifteen years.

Vivid, polemical and poignant, it records the initial excitement – and growing disillusionment – of a leading black intellectual about post-apartheid government, notably the administrations of Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma, and the growing realisation that achieving real liberation in South Africa will require an even longer struggle than he had once believed.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167939>

Tracings: Pan Africanism and the Challenges of Global African Unity / Kwesi Kwaa Prah
Cape Town, South Africa : CASAS, 2014
116p.;
ISBN 9781920287665
CASAS Book Series No.107

\$ 25.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=166847>

South Sudan: The Crisis of Infancy / Peter Adwok Nyaba

Cape Town, South Africa : CASAS, 2014

266p.;

ISBN 9781920287672

CASAS Book Series No.108

\$ 46.75

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=166848>

The New South Africa at Twenty: Critical Perspectives / Vale, Peter

Scottsville, South Africa : University of Kwazulu Natal Press, 2014

288p.;

ISBN : 9781869142896

\$ 50.00

Some of South Africa's finest academic minds look back at twenty years of democratic rule. How far have we really come? Is race still an entrenched issue in our country? Why does gender discrimination continue? Why are the poor in revolt? Is free expression under threat? What happened to South African Marxism? What drives Julius Malema? How have the unions experienced the post-apartheid years?

These (and many other) questions run through pages that, amongst other things, bring back the voices of both Neville Alexander and Jakes Gerwel. Analytical and accessible, this book continues a long tradition of engaging South Africa's politics and society in a non-partisan, but critical, fashion. It opens the way for innate explanations and provides insights that lie beyond the workaday accounts on offer by pundits.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167945>

Sports

100 South African Sporting Legends / Bronwen leak

Cape Town, South Africa : Zebra Press, 2014

320p.;

ISBN : 9781770224537

\$ 36.75

100 South African Sporting Legends features a selection of 100 South African sports personalities who have either excelled at their sport and/or helped shape South African sport as we know it. It is a compendium of interesting biographies presented in bite-size chunks, providing a coherent and colourful picture of the nation's sporting personalities. Written in an accessible style, and beautifully illustrated throughout, 100 South African Sporting Legends will entertain and inform. It covers all the major sporting codes – from the turn of the twentieth

century to the present day – and some minority sports with which readers may not be too familiar. From mainstream sports such as rugby, cricket, soccer, tennis and golf to less-followed but equally fascinating disciplines such as surfing and freediving, there is something for everyone.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167947>

When the Lions Came to Town / Luke Alfred
Cape Town, South Africa : Zebra Press, 2014
272p.;
ISBN : 9781770226531
\$ 36.75

The early 1970s in South Africa were a time of economic boom, political repression, growing isolation and an unshakeable confidence that the Springboks were the best rugby team in the world – until the infamous 1974 British Lions tour. It was a tour in which a group of talented and long-haired rugby players from the United Kingdom played, sang and drank their way across the country, beating the Springboks 3-0 in the four Tests, with the last one a dubious draw. Until then the Lions hadn't beaten South Africa at home in 78 years. South African rugby was in a backward, introspective phase. So uncertain were the Bok selectors of who their best side was that they pulled 33-year-old Hannes Marais out of retirement to lead the team, and they chose 38 players for the four Tests. In contrast, the Lions under captain Willie John McBride and coach Syd Millar had prepared as never before and played inspired rugby.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167951>

Call It Like It Is / Mike Behr; Jonathan Kaplan
Cape Town, South Africa : Zebra Press, 2014
320p.;
ISBN : 9781770225855
\$ 36.75

The world of the international rugby referee has always been a closely guarded secret... until now. As a Durban schoolboy, Jonathan Kaplan watched rugby at Kings Park every Saturday, dreaming of the day he would represent his country. Now, three decades later and at the age of 47, he reflects on the career highs and lows that saw him retire as the most capped international, Super Rugby and Currie Cup referee of all time. But records and milestones are just a part of an intriguing memoir that affords the reader a rare glimpse into the world of international refereeing... and what lies behind that enigmatic, penetrating glare that is as typical of Jonathan Kaplan as his silver-grey patch of hair. In *Call It Like It Is*, Kaplan describes exactly what it takes to be an international rugby referee: his gradual climb to the top, the sacrifices he had to make in his personal life, his struggle with injuries and rugby management, the toll an itinerant lifestyle exacted upon him, and much, much more. But this is not only an autobiography: Kaplan also offers his opinion on the role of technology in rugby, dissects his own

successes and failures, debates the selection and assessment of referees, and, yes, gives his take on the 2011 Rugby World Cup and the Bryce Lawrence affair.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=167952>

Travel Guidebooks

This is Namibia / Peter Joyce
Cape Town, South Africa : Struik Publishers, 2014
144p.;
ISBN : 9781928213048
\$ 38.50

Namibia is a country of surprising contrasts – big skies and far horizons, arid landscapes and verdant waterways, jagged mountains and geological wonders, barren soils and bountiful seas. Its reputation as one of the most inhospitable regions in the world belies its capacity to sustain an array of fascinating life forms – from the unique desert-adapted elephant and beetles to the delicate lichens that have evolved to survive in the planet’s oldest desert, the Namib. Its people, too, have learnt to thrive in the harsh environment of this scorched wilderness.

This is Namibia brings to life the history, natural splendours, magnificent wildlife and diverse cultures of this beautiful and enigmatic land. Through its stunning photographs, detailed introduction and informative captions, this book provides a compelling insight into one of the world’s last true wilderness regions.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=139096>
