

Recent Books from South Africa– June 2024

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Biography/Memoirs

Marrying Accidentally : The story of Hatsuko Takara / Amos Malupenga
Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd., 2024
72p. ; 210x148mm.
9781920033163
\$ 25.00 / PB
108gm.

The story of Hatsuko Takara-Kalabula is one of a Japanese woman who decided to visit Zambia back in the 1970s, fell in love with the country and its people, and chose to stay. It is also an inspiring story about the power of love to break racial prejudice and transcend religious bigotry that still fuel many social injustices across the globe today. It is a story of courage; of how a young girl escaped the horrors of the Second World War and decided to pursue her own dream, against all odds. It is a story of a woman who ventured into a continent and country unknown to her. It's a romantic story of how a Japanese woman "accidentally" fell in love with a Zambian man. This is a story of compassion, of a woman who touched the lives of visually-impaired pupils, helping them to break through many barriers set by a society that was far less accepting of people who had physical challenges. In essence, this is a story of a woman who chose to be blind to race, nationality, religion and social status, and have her own world view free of prejudice.

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Economics/Development Studies

Growth Growth Growth : Human History and the Planetary Catastrophe / Julian Cobbing (Ed) Robert Berold
South Africa: Mvusi Books, 2023
288p. ; 229x152mm.
9780986979187
\$ 40.00 / PB
422gm.

Growth Growth Growth retells history as a succession of pivotal crises linked to economic growth. Beginning with agriculture ten thousand years ago, each crisis led to an impasse until human ingenuity devised a technical 'solution' to fix it. These solutions included the alphabet, paper, clocks, guns, the printing press, the steam engine, the petrol engine, electricity, nitrogen fertilizer, and the computer. Each solution, however, played a part in the next crisis. Growth-driven crises led to the world wars of the first half of the twentieth century, including the atrocities of Stalin, Hitler and Hiroshima. The brief 'golden age'

of capitalism of the 1950s and 1960s gave way to the ultra-corporate capitalism that, in one variant or another, is now the global economic system. Julian Cobbing's lively account exposes the historical roots of our converging problems - the destruction of the environment, the massacre of other species, the running down of oil reserves, global heating, and the nuclear threat to all of us. This time there is no technical solution, since we are devouring the Earth's finite resources. Cobbing reminds us that we are just one species in a planetary life system which could dispense with us if we are not needed

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