

Recent Books from Zimbabwe- Nov 2021

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History

A Short History of Bulawayo, 1868-2017 / Paul Hubbard
Bulawayo: Pigeon Press, 2018
48p. ; 210x148mm. ; Colour Photographs
9780797492325
\$ 25.00 / PB
76gm.

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe is a kindly and interesting city, filled with characters who fascinate and inspire. Almost from the moment of the founding of the modern city in 1894, Bulawayo has been aware of its past. The author has been researching the history of the city from its earliest days to the present time, with the aim of publishing its story in great detail. Published for a charity, this booklet is therefore only a modest contribution to that historical journey. The short booklet is produced from the text of four talks on the history of Bulawayo given by the author in 2017. Additionally readers are referred to a list of references.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=781488>

Literature

Mulberry Dreans / Violette Kee-Tui
Bulawayo: Pigeon Press, 2021
270p. ; 203x133mm.

9781779061454
\$ 18.00 / PB
256gm.

A day before Emma's 10th birthday, her life changes irrevocably and she finds herself ripped away from everything she holds dear - family, home and homeland. It takes her 30 years to summon the courage to return, finally ready to put together the puzzle pieces of her past. Her quest for answers is backdropped by a country in turmoil and a history which, once so blurry, comes into painful focus as the ghosts of her childhood take shape.

Set in the racially and radically different communities of pre- and post-war Bulawayo, *Mulberry Dreams* explores the different facets of Zimbabwean society through the lens of multiple protagonists over two generations, scarred by history, bound by circumstance, and forced to make choices for love, for family and for themselves. The reactions of a society on the brink, and the elegiac consequences of their interlocking decisions, will drive them to an inevitable and compelling conclusion.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=781489>

Not The Whispering Wild : New and Selected Poems / John Eppel

Bulawayo: Pigeon Press, 2021

84p. ; 203x133mm.

9781779293541

\$ 16.00 / PB

88gm.

In this, one of his most moving collections John Eppel is at the peak of his poetic powers. His speaker is a wizened soul, mindful of time and mortality, contemplating the cycle of life, the moon and the stars, clouds and rain, rocks, soil, tree, flowers, dogs, cats, birds, toads, spiders, termites and a tiny virus bringing us death. Also featured are beggars, schoolboys,

literature and art legends, sons and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren. John Eppel gives a symphony of words about 'our brief eternity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=781490>

Sociology

Fending for Ourselves : Youth in Zimbabwe 1980-2020 / (Ed)

Rory Pilosof

Harare: Weaver Press, 2021

xii, 270p. ; 229x152mm.

9781779224002

\$ 35.00 / PB

422gm.

Zimbabwe celebrated its independence just over 40 years ago. While the nation is no longer young, its population certainly is: over 60% are under the age of 35. Understanding youth perspectives and experiences is therefore vitally important. *Fending for Ourselves* reviews the recent histories and realities of youths in Zimbabwe, offering a distinguished range of authors exploring issues of education, employment and work, the urban experience, involvement in the informal economy, mental health, and political activity. Importantly, the collection examines successive generations of youth in Zimbabwe to show how ideas, experiences and reactions to the social, political, and economic context have shifted over time. Many of the issues affecting youth over the past 40 years have been traumatic and distressing – physical and mental abuse, declining employment and educational opportunities, poverty, ill-health and loss of hope – but this collection underlines the agency and resilience of Zimbabwe's young people, and how they have found ways to navigate the political, social, and economic terrains they occupy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=781491>
