



## PRESS RELEASE:

# REFILOE MOAHLOLI WINS SA BOOK AWARDS 2021 WITH *HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU SAY HELLO?*

**7 OCTOBER 2021**

The winners of this year's SA Book Awards were announced yesterday at a special virtual ceremony hosted by Nielsen Book and supported by SABA and PASA. Over the last 21 years the awards have recognised books written and published in South Africa, as voted for by South African booksellers, and recent winners have included Trevor Noah, Sam Beckbessinger and Jacques Pauw.

Booksellers were again asked to vote for their favourite titles, in three categories, from a list of bestselling titles published in South Africa and written by South African authors, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa in 2020. Each category winner was awarded R5,000 and the overall winner, with the highest number of votes, was presented with R20,000.

The Adult Fiction prize was won by previous winner Deon Meyer for *Donkerdrif*. Deon, who also won the award in 2012 for *7 Dae*, said *"To receive this award – in these troubled times – from South Africa's booksellers is both an honour and a privilege. I'm deeply grateful. Without their continued support authors simply wouldn't be able to practice their craft."*

The Adult Non-Fiction prize was won by Stephen McGown with Tudor Caradoc-Davies for *Six Years with Al Qaeda*. In an emotional acceptance Stephen said *"A big thanks to Nielsen Book, the SA Booksellers Association and PASA for this amazing award. This would never have been achieved without the Maverick 451 team and the most incredible ghost writer, Tudor Caradoc-Davies. An enormous thanks for this incredible journey."*

*I thank my family for their input into this book, their love and for never giving up hope during those difficult six years. I am very blessed. Lastly, a special thanks to my mom, who's memory fills our family with warmth and joy."*

The Children's prize was won by twice shortlisted Refiloe Moahloli with her title *How many ways can you say hello?* which was illustrated by Anja Stoeckigt. On accepting the award Refiloe said *"The intention behind How many ways can you say hello? continues to be that our children may greet each*



*other in their mother tongue. There is so much richness to our diversity as a country, may we be inspired by it and celebrate ourselves and each other from a young age. I am so proud of the journey this book has taken into the homes and hearts of South Africans and beyond. And very grateful."*

The overall winner was, for the second year running, the Children's prize winner Refiloe Moahloli receiving the highest number of votes and a clear favourite among booksellers. On hearing the news she said *"To have won both in the children's category, and overall, has me in the heights of celebration. Children's books are being seen and heard and supported, which means our children (and their inherent value) are being seen and heard and supported. Sibongile."*

A recording of the ceremony can be watched here: <https://vimeo.com/624404362/d90191490f> The winners were also announced live on social media using #SABookAwards.

**For more information:**

**SA Book Awards**

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**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2021 – Adult Fiction Title:**

*Critical But, Stable* by Angela Makholwa  
*Donkerdrif* by Deon Meyer  
*Bare III: Ego* by Jackie Phamotse  
*Hans Gee Herklaas Horings* by Rudie van Rensburg

**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2021 – Adult Non-Fiction Title:**

*Manage your Money Like A Grownup* by Sam Beckbessinger  
*Autopsy* by Ryan Blumenthal  
*Six Years With Al Qaeda* by Stephen McGown with Tudor Caradoc-Davies  
*All Rise* by Dikgang Moseneke

**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2021 – Children's Title (Fiction and Non-Fiction):**

*Melo's Kingdom* by Thuli Madonsela, illustrated by Melissa Vermaak, Karen Ezzi and Leree Henning  
*How Many Ways Can You Say Hello?* by Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Anja Stoeckigt  
*We are One* by Refiloe Moahloli, illustrated by Zinelda McDonald  
*I Have Brown Skin And Curly Hair* by Karen Theunissen, illustrated by Charles Gibbons

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