



PRESS RELEASE:

***MY FIRST AFRICAN ADVENTURE* BY RIAAN MANSER WITH MURRAY WILLIAMS, CHANTAL TURLING & MARTINUS VAN TEE WINS THE SA BOOK AWARDS 2023**

3 October 2023

Yesterday the winners of this year's South Africa Book Awards were announced at a special virtual ceremony, hosted by Nielsen BookData and supported by Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA) and the South African Booksellers Association (SABA).

Now in its 23rd year, the SA Book Awards strive to celebrate books written and published in South Africa from the previous year, as voted for by South African Booksellers. Booksellers were asked to vote for their favourite titles from a list of bestselling titles published in South Africa and written by South African authors, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa in 2022.

The three categories were Fiction, Non-Fiction and Children's, and each category winner was awarded R5,000.00. The overall winner, for the title with the most overall votes, was awarded R20,000.00.

Sally Andrew, who previously won the award in 2016 for her novel *Recipes for Love and Murder*, took home the Fiction prize for her novel *The Milk Tart Murders*. Upon receiving the award, she said, "Thank you Nielsen BookData, PASA and the SA booksellers and book readers for giving me this award. Some may think that one award leads to another, but in truth it is as unlikely as lightning striking twice in one place. But each of us, every day, walks a path of miracles, with miracles all around us. A rainbow has the power to blow your mind and light up your soul every time you see it. But so many of us will barely glance at it. I am still learning so much. Today I am grateful for this particular miracle."

The winner of the Non-Fiction prize was *The South African Air Fryer Cookbook* by Louisa Holst. She said: "It is a tremendous honour to win this award. We set out to create a book full of easy and delicious air-fryer recipes for South African families to enjoy and we are delighted and grateful for the wonderful support and feedback we have received. It's also fantastic to realise that the SA booksellers have enjoyed selling our book too. Thanks so much to the team that worked on this book and to Nielsen BookData, PASA, SABA and all of the booksellers who voted."

The winner of the Children's category, and also the overall winner, was *My First African Adventure*, by Riaan Manser with Murray Williams and Chantal Turling, illustrated by Martinus Van Tee. Riaan Manser, who accepted the award on board a plane with his family, said: "President Nelson Mandela once told me my bicycle ride around Africa would inspire the youth of the continent. I never believed him - maybe until now. To thank, we have our country's incredible, passionate booksellers, bookshops

**Nielsen
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SA Booksellers
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and publishers. You are inspiring young and old readers, in every book shop, every day. Nielsen BookData, SA Booksellers Association and the Publishers' Association of South Africa - we salute you all - keeping the love of reading and adventure alive!"

Murray Williams went onto say: "This book was born for a real Young Adventurer, a 'laat-lammetjie' girl-child, Bethany-Boo. One day, on our bike, we came upon Riaan, out riding too. I told him: 'We need to write about your adventures for Boo - and ALL South Africa's children! So they can experience the magic and wonder of Africa too!' This is for every child in South Africa. May your eyes grow wide with: WONDER!"

And Chantal Tarling added: "We're incredibly honoured and grateful to share our vision of developing curiosity, courage and a sense of adventure to our next generation of intrepid explorers!"

The winners were announced on Tuesday 3 October during a special virtual ceremony and on social media using **#SABookAwards**.

For more information:

SA Book Awards | Nielsen BookData

Stephanie Enderby
Head of Marketing
marketing.book@nielseniq.com
www.nielsenbook.co.uk

SA Booksellers Association

Tashrikah Jones
National Office Manager
saba@sabooksellers.com
www.sabooksellers.com

Publishers Association of SA

Rhulani Bila
Operations Manager
Rhulani@publishsa.co.za
www.publishsa.co.za

Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2023 – Adult Fiction Title:

Doolhof by Rudie van Rensburg
Mercy by Jackie Phamotse
The End by Dudu Busani-Dube
The Milk Tart Murders by Sally Andrew

Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2023 – Adult Non-Fiction Title:

Faf: Through Fire by Faf du Plessis with Marco Botha
Our Poisoned Land by Jacques Pauw
The ANC Billionaires by Pieter du Toit
The South African Air Fryer Cookbook by Louisa Holst

Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2023 – Children's Title (Fiction and Non-Fiction):

Donker Web by Fanie Viljoen
My First African Adventure by Riaan Manser & Murray Williams
The Wildest Dog and Other African Tales by Avril Van der Merwe
Vetplantfeetjies by Antjie Krog and Ingrid de Kok

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