



SA BOOK AWARDS

PRESS RELEASE:

LEO BY DEON MEYER WINS THE SA BOOK AWARDS 2024

19 December 2024

The winners of this year's South Africa Book Awards were announced yesterday 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 their 24th 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 curated shortlist of bestselling titles published in South Africa and written by South African authors, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa in 2023.

The three categories were Fiction, Non-Fiction and Children's, and each category winner was awarded R5,000. The overall winner, for the title with the most overall votes, was awarded R20,000.

The Fiction Prize was won by Deon Meyer for *Leo*, which also scooped the Overall Prize for receiving the most bookseller votes. Deon said: *"I am deeply honoured and grateful to receive the two awards bestowed by the South African booksellers. This recognition means the world to me, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to the association's members who have supported my journey as an author over the past thirty years. Their acknowledgment inspires me to keep telling stories that connect and resonate."*

The winner of the Non-Fiction prize was *Truth to Power* by André de Ruyter. On accepting his award, André said: *"Thank you for honouring my book with this award, which is made all the more significant by being from the experts at the coalface of publishing: the booksellers."*

The Children's category was won by Zandile Ndhlovu for *Zandi's Song*, illustrated by Katlego Keokgale. Zandile said: *"To be a girl that grew up in Soweto, around scary stories about the water, then going on to live in the world as a mermaid while working to create an invitation to young hearts globally is a privilege, sharing not only her beauty but what it means to protect her, wherever you come from, is an honour. This recognition is an affirmation of the power in following your heart... what an honour."*

The winners were announced on Wednesday 18 December during a special virtual ceremony and on social media using **#SABookAwards**.

**Nielsen
BookData**



SA Booksellers
ASSOCIATION

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SA Book Awards | Nielsen BookData

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Fiction Prize Shortlist

Help, help - Nataniël

Katvis - Annelie Botes

Leo - Deon Meyer

Little Secrets - Gail Schimmel

Siembamba - Madelein Rust

Non-Fiction Prize Shortlist

Ek het n' Engel gesien - Amore Bekker

Fatima Sydow: My Story, My Heritage - Fatima Sydow

Rassie: Stories of Life and Rugby – Rassie Erasmus & David O'Sullivan

Truth to Power: My Three Years Inside Eskom - André de Ruyter

Who will Rule South Africa? - Adriaan Basson & Qaanitah Hunter

Winnie & Nelson: Portrait of a Marriage - Jonny Steinberg

Children's Prize Shortlist

Croc & Pickle Level 1 Book 1: Pickle in a jam - Jaco Jacobs and Nadia du Plessis

Lekker Liewe Heksie-Stories - Verna Vels, illustrated by Vian Oelofsen

My First Wild Island Adventure - Riaan Manser with Murray Williams and Chantal Tarling, illustrated by Marinus van Tee

Ouma Mollie gann terug skool toe - Fanie Viljoen, illustrated by Johann Strauss

Zandi's Song - Zandile Ndhlovu, illustrated by Katlego Keokgale

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