



PRESS RELEASE:

TREVOR NOAH SCOOPS TOP PRIZE AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY SA BOOK AWARDS

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Celebrating its 20th Anniversary, the winners of this year's SA Book Awards were announced today as part of a special virtual Ceremony hosted by SABA, sponsored by Nielsen Book and supported by PASA. Over the last 20 years the awards have recognised books written and published in South Africa, as voted for by South African booksellers, and recent winners have included Sam Beckbessinger, Jacques Pauw and Sally Andrew.

This year a record number of booksellers voted for their favourite titles, in three categories, from a shortlist of bestselling titles published in South Africa and written by South African authors, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa in 2019.

The Adult Fiction prize was won by Jackie Phamotse, a self-published author, for her book *Bare: The Cradle of the Hockey Club*. Jackie described winning the award as an honour, thanking everyone who has supported her over the years.

The Adult Non-Fiction prize was won by Pieter du Toit for *Stellenbosch Mafia*. Pieter thanked the booksellers and book dealers for all their hard work ensuring that books are available to the South African public, also praising them for continuing to encourage reading and the pursuit of writing.

The Children's prize was won by previous winner Trevor Noah for the child adaptation of *Born a Crime*. On accepting his award Trevor said: "Writing a book was a very scary experience but turning the book into a book specifically for kids was even more scary because children have a very short attention span if your book is boring!" He went on to thank all the kids who read the book, the parents who read the book with their children and the teachers who recommended the book to their students.

The overall winner, receiving the highest number of votes and the clear favourite among booksellers, was indisputably Trevor Noah. On receiving the news he said "This book was my blood, sweat and tears. It was my family's story and my country's story". He went on to praise South African authors, saying they have the most amazing and inspirational stories to tell, encouraging them to continue writing them down so they can be shared with the rest of the world. Trevor has donated his prize money to the Trevor Noah Foundation which supports underserved youth with the educational foundations and



opportunities they need to become resilient future leaders of South Africa. More information can be found here: <https://trevornoahfoundation.org/>

The Award Ceremony was also covered live on social media using #SABookAwards.

For more information:

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Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2020 – Adult Fiction Title:

Death on the Limpopo by Sally Andrew
Sex, lies & Stellenbosch by Eva Mazza
Zulus of New York by Zakes Mda
Bare by Jackie Phamotse

Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2020 – Adult Non-Fiction Title:

Dit proe soos huis by Herman Lensing
Gangster State: Unravelling Ace Magashul by Pieter-Louis Myburgh
Betting on a Darkie by Mteto Nyati
Stellenbosch Mafia by Pieter Du Toit

Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2020 – Children’s Title (Fiction and Non-Fiction):

Die Groot Jaco Jacobs Storieboek by Jaco Jacobs
Zackie Mostert by Jaco Jacobs
Yes Yanga! by Refiloe Moahloli
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah



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