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# April 2026 Highlights April 2026 Hoogtepunte



## FICTION / FIKSIE



**Kanniedood** deur Irna van Zyl

9780798186025 | Human & Rousseau | Afrikaanse roman | TPB | R350

Skinderpraatjies veroorsaak dat speuradjudant Storm van der Merwe tydelik geskors word. Die omgewingsaktivis Jane English nooi haar uit om tot verhaal te kom op haar wildplaas buitekant Barrydale. Maar Jane het 'n verskuilde agenda: 'n sindikaat het die vorige week bitter skaars vetplantjies van haar plaas gestroop en sy smeek Storm om die smokkelnetwerk oop te vlek.

'n Bitslekker krimi oor omgewingsdiefstal deur die topverkoperskrywer Irna van Zyl, wat afspeel in Hermanus en die Klein-Karoo.



**Wisani and the Bafokeng Brothers** by Thandi Moagi

9780795711343 | Kwela Books | English Novel | PB | R285

Wisani Maluleke is studying at Wits and juggling three jobs to keep the lights on while caring for her bedridden mother and her younger brother. Life in Soweto has made her tough and resilient, but she's stretched to breaking point until her research project leads her to the Bafokeng brothers, heirs to the feared Marashea underworld.

At the heart of this brotherhood is Mohapi Mofokeng: broody, commanding, and dangerous.

Set in Soweto and Lesotho.

"Masterful storytelling" - Takalani M



**Ashes of Euphoria** by Jean-Paul Willemse

9780795711404 | Kwela Books | English Novel | PB | R290

*Ashes of Euphoria* is a gripping novel set in the gritty backdrop of Kraaifontein in Cape Town. This novel follows three complex characters: Jameel, his cousin Zaid and their "friend" Stacey. When what seems like a golden business opportunity for the trio turns into a nightmare, their lives are torn apart in ways they never saw coming. Jameel and Stacey will learn that every choice has consequences, and redemption comes at a price. . .



**Brief op veertigduisend voet** deur Tom Dreyer

9780795803437 | Queillerie | Afrikaanse poësie | PB | R240

Soos die verwysing na perspektief in sy digbundelitel, *Brief op veertigduisend voet*, aandui, laat Dreyer die leser nuut en in verwondering na objekte en verskynsels kyk.

Lig, wat sig moontlik maak, word metafores ingespan vir die menslike belewing van die verbygaan van tyd. Verlatenheid, ooptes, en ongekarteerde gebiede word metafore vir die onsekerheid en prekêre avontuur van die post-postmoderne mens.

Die bundel sluit natuur- en bewaringsgedigte in, asook reisgedigte, verweef met geskiedenis, wat die mens se interaksie met sy omgewing belig.

Spanning tussen die antieke en moderne word geskep met die insluiting van gedigte oor tegnologiese en wetenskaplike innovasie, asook wetenskapsfiksie – reeds deur die titel gesuggereer. En menslike verhoudinge – deur die "brief" van die titel geakliveer – word in roerende dog onsentimentele liefdesgedigte verbeeld.

*Brief op veertigduisend voet* is nuut, vars, opwindend en verbeeldingryk, terwyl dit ook die beste aspekte van die poëtiese tradisie bevat.

## NON FICTION / NIEFIKSIE



**Cape Flats to the JSE** by Phakamisa Ndzabela

9780624093893 | Tafelberg | Business | TPB | R350

Black Economic Empowerment has not had a positive image in the media. This is partly thanks to a few individuals who became mega-rich overnight, while the majority of black people, who were supposed to benefit, remained poor.

One company that did things differently is Brimstone, founded in 1995 by an accountant and an insurance salesman who did not want to leave their community behind. This is an inspiring story of small beginnings, resilience and a social conscience in business.



### **Trace by Ryan Blumenthal**

**9780624095989 | Tafelberg | Current Affairs | TPB | R280**

Forensic pathologist Ryan Blumenthal works in a world few people are ever exposed to . . . the mortuary. He spends his days among the dead, uncovering how they died and whether a crime was committed. To date, he has performed over 13 000 autopsies.

In *Trace*, Ryan takes readers behind the scenes of some of the strange death scenes he has attended, such as a shallow grave beside a river where a body was found with an amputated finger. He also shares rare and unusual cases, including a man who may have died from autoerotic asphyxia and a suspected poisoning that turned out to be a shooting. His work has brought him face to face with many kinds of unnatural deaths, including those caused by lightning strikes, wild animals, muti killings, and even a solitary wasp sting.

Through it all, Ryan sees himself as a voice for the voiceless, striving to bring justice to the dead and truth to their loved ones.



### **Because I Love You by Joy Watson**

**9781776194902 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | Nonfiction | TPB | R320**

**'I was here. This happened. It mattered. And now, I am ready to carry on.'**

This is not a book about breakups. It's about erasure. About the quiet harm that can live inside love, the kind that doesn't leave bruises on the skin but rewrites the architecture of your mind. It's for anyone who's wondered whether they were overreacting, too sensitive, too much, too little. Anyone who has asked, "Am I the problem?"

Joy Watson's exquisite excavation of the female psyche traces the inner lives of three women: Zara, Mira and Thuli. Their stories unfold in fragments, with beginnings, middles and endings that are not always clean, and are interwoven with reflections from the author's own experience. These are real stories, lightly fictionalised to protect those who lived them.

If you have ever felt lonelier in a relationship than you were on your own, this book is for you. And as you begin again, you are not alone.



### **On the Sponge Islands by Julia Martin**

**9781776194612 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | Travel | PB | R300**

Julia Martin explores the Greek Dodecanese Islands—Rhodes, Symi, Halki, Kalymnos, and Patmos—tracing the cultural and ecological legacy of sponge diving. Sea sponges, valued for their porosity, were harvested since antiquity, but late nineteenth-century deep sea diving suits enabled unprecedented extraction, bringing wealth at tremendous human cost. The industry ultimately collapsed.

Over three visits, Martin meets islanders including Aphrodite, Letteris, Manuel, and Zinovia, whose stories reveal the sponge trade's rise and fall and its entanglement with environmental devastation. Despite war's scars—both human and ecological—the Aegean remains luminous and alive.

*On the Sponge Islands* combines natural history, recovery, and ecosocial reckoning through lyrical prose, dialogue, and extraordinary characters. While the Aegean seabed's devastation mirrors wider ecological catastrophe, green renewal on some islands embodies hope. This story of extinction and resilience, loss and restoration, reminds us it may not be too late.

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