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# May 2026 Highlights Mei 2026 Hoogtepunte



## COOKERY / KOOKKUNS



**A Food Love Story** by Onezwa Mbola

9781776195169 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | Cookery | PB | R370

Onezwa Mbola is a passionate food enthusiast who believes in the power of home-cooked meals to connect people and create lasting memories. As a mother with roots in rural life, she shares this love for food not only with her son but also with her wider family, using the kitchen as a space for bonding, learning and nurturing.

In *A Food Love Story*, she traces her culinary journey, from her mother's kitchen in her Eastern Cape seaside village, to destinations around the world, and back home again. Her wholesome recipes will inspire her million+ social-media followers as well as newcomers to explore the joys of cooking.

'Hi, I'm Onezwa and I make meals using items that I've grown, raised or foraged.'



### Over-baked pot bread

When I was a child, my mother would always make pot bread for us. It was a simple, hearty bread that was perfect for a hot day. I remember the smell of the bread rising in the pot, and the way it would crust on top. It was a comfort food that I grew to love.

**Ingredients:**  
 2 cups wholemeal flour  
 1 cup water  
 1/2 cup yeast  
 1/2 cup oil  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1/2 cup salt  
 1/2 cup butter  
 1/2 cup milk



### Soy steamed fish

This soy steamed fish recipe is a healthy and delicious dish that is perfect for a quick meal. It is a traditional Chinese dish that is easy to make and can be adapted to your own taste.

#### INGREDIENTS

**Ingredients:**  
 1.5kg whole fish  
 2 cups soy sauce  
 1 cup rice wine  
 1/2 cup ginger  
 1/2 cup garlic  
 1/2 cup green onions  
 1/2 cup chili  
 1/2 cup sesame oil  
 1/2 cup cornstarch  
 1/2 cup salt  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1/2 cup vinegar

**Instructions:**  
 1. Wash the fish and remove the scales and gills.  
 2. Cut the fish into 4 pieces.  
 3. Mix the soy sauce, rice wine, ginger, garlic, green onions, chili, sesame oil, cornstarch, salt, sugar, and vinegar in a bowl.  
 4. Marinate the fish in the mixture for 30 minutes.  
 5. Steam the fish for 15 minutes.

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# NON FICTION / NIEFIKSIE



## **Zama Zama by Graham Coetzer**

9780624093176 | Tafelberg | Current Affairs | TPB | R340

Deep beneath South Africa's abandoned mines, fortunes are made in blood.

When investigative journalist Graham Coetzer goes undercover into the shadowy world of illegal gold mining, he uncovers a criminal empire that stretches from desperate miners risking their lives in flooded shafts to back-office operations where billions in tax fraud fuel a modern gold rush.

Armed with hidden cameras and recording devices, he descends into tunnels where zama zamas dodge bullets and set booby traps, and exposes invoice farms and paperwork mills. He survives midnight raids, gunfire, and death threats to expose a sophisticated VAT scam trackable by tonnes of unreported gold leaving the country annually – turning poverty into profit for those ruthless enough to exploit it. The stolen billions don't just disappear into the lavish lives of a few, they fuel a sprawling criminal ecosystem of cigarette smuggling, drug and arms trafficking, bribery networks, and suspected terrorism financing.

From the flamboyant enforcer known as 'Pineapple' who rules his criminal fiefdom with gold-braced fists, to the traumatized families left behind by illegal mining's unfettered violence, Zama Zama reveals the human cost of greed.

Part true crime thriller, part investigative exposé, this is an unflinching look at the line where victim and perpetrator dissolve.



## **The End of Normal by Max du Preez**

9781776195558 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | History | TPB | R340

In 1976 Max du Preez witnessed the first stones thrown and the first shots fired in Soweto on June 16 as a young newspaper reporter. Having grown up in the heart of Afrikaner nationalism, it was the end of his normal.

It was also the end of normal for white South Africans, most of whom were living in blissful ignorance. The events of 1976 set in motion a continuous series of developments that led to the ruling National Party and the main liberation movement reaching a settlement in 1994 that brought democracy to South Africa for the first time.

In *The End of Normal* he explores how otherwise decent people came to implement and support an evil system like apartheid. He examines the long-term impact of June 16 and takes a hard look at white and black attitudes today, in particular the resurrection of Afrikaner nationalism.



## **Under a Blood Red Sky by Annemarié van Niekerk**

9780624095811 | Tafelberg | Memoir | TPB | R385

'Gripping... filled with empathy and astounding courage.' – Antjie Krog

Annemarié van Niekerk returns to South Africa from the Netherlands to pay her respects to her gentle friend Ruben after he and his mother are brutally murdered on their farm in the Eastern Cape.

The visit triggers memories of journeys in her youth from the 1960s to the 1980s: from Port Elizabeth, where Annemarié grew up in a loving yet strict Afrikaner household, to Umtata, where she lectured at the university and fell in love with Denzel, a black colleague, leading to serious and ongoing conflict with her staunchly Nationalist father. It also recalls her time in Hillbrow, and later Yeoville, where she and Denzel illegally lived together, until violence tore their relationship apart.

As she grapples with the violence that permeates South African society, Annemarié immerses herself in the details of the court case against the murderers of Ruben and his-mother.

Masterfully told, *Under a Blood Red Sky* poignantly interweaves the author's personal story with some of the most pressing issues of our time.



**Where to from Here?** by Tara Roos

9781776195602 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | Non Fiction | TPB | R280

A must-read from one of the leading thinkers of the next generation.

Tara Roos cuts through the political noise with this analysis of South African politics that argues that we have entered the age of uncertainty as populism is on the rise.

She delves into the structural weaknesses, strategic miscalculations and political-party identity crises that have ushered South Africa into a new and unstable coalition era. Parties are categorised into three groups: Winners, Losers and Survivors as Roos lays out what they are getting right, where they are failing and why some have found growth while others have collapsed.

In a democracy still grappling with the promises of 1994, *Where to From Here?* is an account of how politicians have failed the people and how the electorate, in turn, must now demand better.

This is an indispensable book for anyone wanting to understand the future of South African politics and the choices that will define it.



**The Three Comma Club** by Jonathan Ancer & Gus Silber

9781776194728 | Jonathan Ball Publishers | Business | TPB | R340

It wasn't long ago when someone in Silicon Valley coined the term 'The Three Comma Club' to describe that small group of individuals whose net worth is one billion dollars or more. According to Forbes' World's Billionaires List for 2025, there are around 3 000 'dollar billionaires' in the world.

The wealth, power, and influence wielded by these moneymakers and money spenders is gargantuan.

This book takes a deep dive into the world of billionaires, blending humor, insight, and a touch of 'eat the rich' irreverence to examine the rise and occasional downfall of the mega-mega-rich.

From historic figures like Croesus and Rockefeller to modern tech moguls and oligarchs, the authors explore how billionaires emerge, how they maintain their fortunes, and what happens when they fall from grace.

## FICTION / FIKSIE



**Die Serwiër** deur Carel van der Merwe

9780795803239 | Queillerie | Afrikaanse roman | TPB | R330

*In 'n hiemamaals waar die goeies beloon word en skuldiges moet boete doen, glo hy nie. Almal wat aandadig was, moet in hierdie lewe gestraf word. Dit gaan haar nie terugbring nie, of hom wyspreek nie, maar dit is ten minste iets.*

'n Serwiese geheime agent wat 'n dwelmsindikaat ondersoek, word koelbloedig vermoor in Kaapstad se berugte nagklubdistrik. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisiediens was hulpe hande – dit was 'n gewone straatroof; die skuldiges is onbekend.

Die Serwiese geheime diens, 'n organisasie met 'n reputasie vir vergelding, koop dit nie; hulpe stuur die gedugte majoor Viktor Vesic na Suid-Afrika om ondersoek in te stel.

Sy speurwerk lei hom na onverwagse plekke . . . en dan raak dit persoonlik. Nou word die spoor 'n bloedspoor.

Die bekroonde skrywer Carel van der Merwe se *Die Serwiër* lig die sluier op Suid-Afrika se verstregelde kriminele en politieke onderwêreld.



### **Mei en alles daarna** deur Zelda Bezuidenhout

9780795803338 | Queillerie | Afrikaanse roman | TPB | R320

Ná die wêreld se mees beskaafde egskending, bevind 'n ontnugterde Juna Ferreira haar op 'n klein dorpie sonder 'n plan vir haar toekoms. Wanneer sy 'n unieke litteken op 'n dorpenaar se wang herken, stuur dit haar in die teenoorgestelde rigting – ver, ver die verlede in. Sy herbesoek haar grootwordjare op die Vrystaatse goudvelde; 'n tyd wat sy as sorgvry en gelukkig onthou.

Maar was dit regtig so? Hoekom onthou ander mense dit anders? En hoeveel donker geheime lê vasgevang in die hartverskeurende ruïne van die eens statige ou Limestone House?

*Mei en alles daarna* is 'n verhaal oor die geheue se dans tussen werklikheid en versinsel, die lewe se sirkelgang, en ons verbintenisse met alles en almal wat ons voorafgegaan het.



### **'n Knippie moord** deur Elsa Winckler

9780798186186 | Human & Rousseau | Afrikaanse roman | PB | R290

Klara Beyers, voormalige joernalis, bestuur desdaag 'n gastehuis en blommeplaas op Somerse naby Hermanus.

Sy is heldersienende en voel onheil in haar nek begin kriewel die oggend toe Dewald Rademeyer sonder 'n bespreking op haar drempel staan. 'n Dag later daag Judi Dench, 'n misterieuse Siamese kat met 'n oënskynlik verskepte sesde sintuig, ook by die gastehuis op en dis nie lank nie of Dewald se lyk word met 'n naaldwerkskêr in sy nek gevind.

Kolonel Mack Biesenbach van Kaapstad en kaptein Chaik Mocke is eerste op die misdaadtoneel waar hulle 'n geskokte Klara met bloed op haar hande aantref.

'n Knippie moord is humoristies, propvol kinkels en kleurryke karakters, en natuurlik ook 'n tikkie romansel!



### **Vreemde vos** deur Carel van Rooyen

9780798186162 | Human & Rousseau | Afrikaanse roman | PB | R290

Vreemde vos sing soos 'n nagtegaal: Sober, en suiwer. Dis 'n storie wat mode en gier oorstig."

Die dertienjarige Timotheus Nieuwoudt se lewe verander onherroeplik wanneer hy sy linkerhand in 'n motorongeluk verloor. Terwyl hy probeer aanpas by sy nuwe realiteit in 'n wêreld waarin hy reeds as buitestander leef, kondig sy ouers aan dat hulle gaan skei, en Tim voel meer geïsoleerd as ooit. Dan gebeur iets onverwags: Telkens wanneer Tim alleen voel, verskyn daar 'n onwaarskynlike besoeker – 'n Europese rolvos.

Die aflegging van onskuld is deel van menswees en kan soos 'n sikloon alles voor die voet platvee, maar dit is ook moontlik om sin te maak van die storm. *Vreemde vos* is 'n tydlose verhaal wat geeneen ongeraak sal laat nie.

'n Teer, spitsvondige stem, met emosionele diepgang. – Johannes de Villiers



**Die vrou met nege lewens** deur Debbie Loots

9780795803444 | Queillerie | Afrikaanse roman | TPB | R320

Op die drempel van sestig, met haar jongste kind op pad uit die huis, sukkel die hoofkarakter van *Die vrou met nege lewens* om rus in haarself te kry. Die enigste konstante blyk haar sorg van katte te wees, wat soos 'n draad deur haar lewe loop.

Onvergenoeg met die een na die ander blyplek, haar werk, die mense naaste aan haar, en veral haarself, gaan sy op 'n soektog na betekenis en 'n doel in haar lewe. Dit lei tot lang meditasies, swem in die see, joga, psigoanalise, en sy pak selfs meer as een psigedeliese reis aan, met verreikende gevolge.

En dan word haar soeke deur 'n gesondheidskok op die spits gedryf . . .



**A Love that Heals** by Cathrine Phiri

9780795711367 | Kwela Books | English Novel | PB | R250

Thandaza was abandoned as a baby in Mamaolo, south of Polokwane, and adopted by a woman she calls her gogo. Thandaza's dream is to build a better life for them so she decides to move to Johannesburg to find a job.

But in the City of Gold she is confronted by rejection and empty promises. Until one morning in Yeoville, where she meets Steven, a successful restaurateur. He seems to epitomise everything she's ever prayed for.

A story about two hearts destined to find each other.



**Lifting the Lid** by Bonnie Espie

9780795711466 | Kwela Books | English Novel | TPB | R320

Secrets are stacking up like wine barrels in the heat.  
And this year's ferment? It's definitely going sour.

Winfred and Sylvie are keeping one eye on the dwindling bank balance of their bookshop-café and another for the menacing villager who knows too much about their side-hustle, which is anything but legal.

When a wine-themed reality TV show rolls into town, the village of Riviersvallei erupts in excitement. For Winnie and Sylvie, it should be a welcome distraction. But there's nothing more real than reality TV and the cameras bring their own complications.

Sylvie is convinced the slick presenter is greasier than her freshest vetkoek and Winnie chokes on her Sauvignon Blanc when she hears that Skoklaan, the mampoer king, is suddenly bottling five-star wine.

And then a body turns up in the leliwater . . .

When survival depends on keeping the freezer door – or wine vat – firmly shut, how far will Winfried and Sylvie go to protect their deadly secret?

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