# March/May 2014 Releases – SUB 2

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Advance Information

Oscar

An Accident Waiting To Happen

Melinda Ferguson & XXXX

978-1-920601-32-4 • True Crime • Trade Paperback • 235x155mm • 216pp • R195.00 • South African Rights

(Publishing date is dependent on end of trial, before appeals, hopefully end of March 2014. This book doesn’t, however, rely on the verdict.)

NEW TITLE

Oscar: An Accident Waiting to Happen is the all-exclusive inside story of a teenage daughter’s romance turned into every mother’s nightmare.

In September 2011, 24-year-old Oscar Pistorius was introduced to the XXX* family. The next 2.5 years would become a series of rollercoaster rides of emotional highs as young love blossomed, contrasted with dangerous lows, as Pistorius’s international celebrity, emotional fragility, broken promises and acts of recklessness consumed the family.

The London Olympic Games in 2012 was the lowest point. While the world watched Pistorius making history as the first disabled athlete to compete against the likes of Usain Bolt, behind the scenes the weeping Paralympian was on the phone to the XXX* family 24/7.

Promises by Pistorius to get psychological help never materialised. After one too many signs that his dangerous behaviour was endangering her daughter’s life, by late October 2012, mother XXX* laid down the law, telling Pistorius to stay away from her family forever.

In her last conversation she warned: “Oscar, you have got to step out of your life... Something is going to go wrong. And it’s going to happen soon... Your life is like this terrible accident waiting to happen.”

Just over three months later Pistorius would shoot his new girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp four times with his 9mm Parabellum pistol.

Brilliantly researched with never before published behind-the-scenes detail, set against the killing that shocked the world, if you only read one book this year, read this one.

“The book sketches a very disturbing but loving portrait of Oscar Pistorius and his deep and dangerous flaws”

— Marianne Thamm

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MF BOOKS JOBURG
Oscar: An Accident Waiting To Happen, (MFBooks, Jacana) is written by award winning journo Melinda Fergus-
on and best-selling author (Smacked) in close collaboration with a key state witness XXX*. Ferguson launched
MFBooks in late 2012; this is the 10th book in her imprint.

*HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
Due to the sub judice nature of material relating to the upcoming Pistorius trial, certain names have been
omitted.

Also available as an ebook:
978-1-920601-33-1 d-PDF
978-1-920601-34-8 ePUB
978-1-920601-35-5 mobi file
“I have said before that black people have Ubuntu, and white people have ADT, and that ADT is also the armed wing of the DA.”

POLITICAL WONK, SHARP SOCIAL COMMENTATOR, relentless interviewer of people who try to get away from him, Chester Missing explains all of history, some geography and the last 100 years of politics. He spells out in inimitable puppet fashion, the must-knows, the who’s who and the what-what.

I know puppets don’t usually write books, but puppets also don’t usually interview heads of political parties, cabinet ministers and the public protector on national television, or write for newspapers, or get involved in debates with actual political professors on radio shows. The most satisfying part of being a puppet is that no matter what you say you never have to take responsibility for saying it, so really being a puppet is just like being a politician.

Chester Missing is one of South Africa’s most prominent political commentators. His hard hitting, no holds barred analysis of South Africa’s socio-political landscape leaves public figures running for cover.

Another thing about this book is that if you don’t know who Gwede Mantashe is, don’t worry. That’s what I am here for, to tell you know that if you look for the hairiest comrade in the room, one who sounds like a diesel engine, and is kind of beach ball shaped, that comrade is probably ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe. Give him a hug. It makes him growl.

Chester is a regular on eTV and eNCA’s Emmy Award-winning satirical comedy, Late Nite News with Loyiso Gola. Chester has performed on the comedy circuit, appearing in shows such as Blacks Only, The Metro FM Comedy Experience, and the Vodacom Funny Festival.

His importance to the South African political landscape was highlighted when he was invited to cover the ANC Elections at Mangaung as part of eNCA’s team of reporters.

“The EFF want to apply a Thomas Sankara (awesome previous president of Burkina Faso) type solution where all public officials use government services, earn modest salaries and drive modest cars. Why am I skeptical? One word: Breitling.”
The world wanted South Africa’s true, liberated history – and the writing of it – to begin in 1994, but deep contradictions have quickly bubbled to the surface, revealing a society gripped in turmoil. The results of all this have been, of course, paradoxical: a series of elections since 1994 seemed to confirm the ANC’s hold, both popular and legitimate, on power. Yet, simultaneously, South Africa has found itself with one of the world’s highest rates of protest and dissent, expressed both in the workplace and on township streets, in universities and technikons (higher education institutions of technology), clinics and central city squares. This is a paradox that requires explanation – underscored most recently by the South African Police Service’s cold-blooded shooting of 34 striking Lonmin miners at Marikana on 16 August 2012. For Marikana stands not only as a telling sign of the precise character of the post-apartheid state but also as an index of the many deep complexities that the student of South Africa must continue to ponder.

At the same time, the fact of dissent so graphically expressed is also a source of hope for those who sense that something better than the semi-liberation that the ANC has presided over in its country must not be long delayed. We will have to examine the roots of such hope – both within the ANC itself and within the broader society of South Africa – before determining the future of South Africa.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR


Patrick Bond is a senior professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Centre for Civil Society in Durban. His books include Elite Transition; Cities of Gold, Townships of Coal, Unsustainable South Africa, Against Global Apartheid, Talk Left, Walk Right and Zuma’s Own Goal.
By the end of the 1960s, opposition to apartheid was in disarray. Yet in the space of a few short years, major and radical challenges developed that would set the country on a new path.

This lively and original book tells the story of a generation of activists who embraced new forms of opposition politics that would have profound consequences. In the process it rescues the early 1970s from previous neglect and shows just how crucial these years were in the struggle to transform society. It explores the influence of Black Consciousness, the new trade unionism, radicalisation of students on both black and white campuses, the Durban strikes, and Soweto 1976, and concludes that these developments were largely the result of home-grown initiatives, with little influence exercised by the banned and exiled movements for national liberation.

‘A much-needed and engrossing personal account of the embryonic student and black trade union movements of the early seventies, and how this younger generation of activists, both black and white, battled to wage struggle at a time when apartheid was at its height, and the liberation movements at their weakest. Through their actions, the radicalism of this generation defined a new politics of opposition.’

– Barbara Hogan, former Minister of Health and of Public Enterprises and political prisoner

‘In the dark days of the early seventies, when the news filtered through to Robben Island of a campaign to release political prisoners, waged by a small group of left-leaning, white students, it buoyed our spirits immensely. This book provides invaluable and illuminating insights into how the next generation of activists took up the struggle against apartheid under very difficult conditions, a story that has not often been told.’

– Ahmed ’Kathy’ Kathrada, Rivonia trialist and Robben Island prisoner

(see overleaf)
‘Fascinating and important insight into the emergence of a brave young radicalism of the early 1970s embracing white campuses, black consciousness and trade unionism, which raised questions and challenges not only for the apartheid-capitalist nexus but also for the mainstream liberation movement.

‘Those in exile and in prison strove then to discern what was new and possible. Whilst hope for change was reinforced by these developments, there was also a degree of concern and prejudice. This was compounded by lack of clarity from afar, as to whether such emergent forces would be loyal to the ANC-SACP alliance and how to provide leadership to them.

‘Looking back, there is much need for honest reflection and the author does us a service with his well-worked research and writing. It leaves one with tantalising thoughts as to whether the incipient democratic left challenges from civil society and trade union circles in South Africa today might fundamentally change our political landscape.’

– Ronnie Kasrils, chief of intelligence for Umkhonto we Sizwe and government minister from 1994 to 2008

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Glenn Moss was a student leader at Wits University in the 1970s. Detained and charged under security legislation in the mid-1970s, he was acquitted after a year-long trial. He went on to edit *Work In Progress* and the *South African Review*, head Ravan Press, and then work as a consultant to South Africa’s first post-apartheid government.

Also available as an ebook:
978-1-4314-0972-3 d-PDF
978-1-4314-0973-0 ePUB
978-1-4314-0974-7 mobi file
‘The old Transkei has long been considered a forlorn, barely relevant entity at the margins of South African history, a world of corrupted Bantustan bureaucrats and poor peasants. Tim Gibbs gently upends this myth, persuading us that we cannot understand contemporary South Africa until we come to terms with the importance of its “hinterland”. This book is bound to make you think about South Africa and the forces that have shaped it in ways you haven’t considered before.’ – Jonny Steinberg

Mandela’s Kinsmen is the first study of the fraught relationships between the ANC and their relatives inside apartheid’s first ‘tribal’ Bantustan. Timothy Gibbs reinterprets the complex connections between nationalist elites and the chieftaincies, and overlapping ideologies of national and ethnic belonging.

In South Africa, like the rest of the continent, the chieftaincies had often been well-springs of African leadership in the early 20th century, producing leaders such as Nelson Mandela, who hailed from the ‘Native Reserves’ of rural Transkei. But then the apartheid government turned South Africa’s chieftaincies into self-governing, tribal Bantustans in order to shatter African nationalism, starting with Transkei in 1963.

Drawing on a wealth of first-hand accounts and untapped archives, Mandela’s Kinsmen offers a vividly human account of how the Bantustan era ruptured rural society. Nevertheless, Gibbs uncovers the social and political institutions and networks that connected the nationalist leadership on Robben Island and in exile to their kinsmen inside the Transkei.

Even at the climax of the apartheid era – when interlocking nationalist insurgencies spiralled into ethnically based civil wars across South Africa and the southern African region – elite connections still straddled Bantustan divides. These relationships would shape the apartheid endgame and forge the post-apartheid policy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Timothy Gibbs is a research fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge, and a research associate with the National Research Foundation Chair in Local Histories at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He has lived, studied and worked in South Africa, on and off, for more than a decade.
The Side of the Sun at Noon is a quest, a journey of discovery.

In the mid-17th century when the Dutch first settled at the Cape of Good Hope, built their fortress and began trading with the indigenous Khoikhoi, they were told of a mysterious people called the Chobona, who lived in stone houses deep in the interior of the country, were rich in gold and cattle and had long hair and pale skins.

Believing them to be the people of Monomotapa, the legendary southern African empire from whom the Portuguese obtained their gold, the Dutch made every effort to reach them. “Volunteers” were selected, plans drawn up, maps supplied and expedition after expedition dispatched. None succeeded in finding the elusive Chobona.

In the centuries to come historians would dismiss the Chobona as fantasy, blaming the stories on what they believed to be the over-active imagination of Eva, a young Khoikhoi girl who was the Dutchmen’s main interpreter.

Yet the rumours never ceased. And, as our knowledge of the past has grown, so too has the possibility that the rumours were real.

The Side of the Sun at Noon explores the truth behind the rumours, following in the footsteps of the early explorers in what is an innovative and engaging interweaving of a rich array of sources, from ancient Arab writings and indigenous oral traditions, to contemporary historical documents and modern archaeological discovery.

This book makes you challenge the accepted notions of our history – making you look, and look again.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hazel Crampton is the author of The Sunburnt Queen (Jacana, 2004). The Side of the Sun at Noon is her second book. Hazel is an artist and she lives in Cape Town.

Also available as an ebook:
978-1-4314-0941-9 d-PDF
978-1-4314-0942-6 ePUB
978-1-4314-0943-3 mobi file
This book is a follow-up to the successful Bush War, which provided, for the first time, personal, first-hand accounts of the military conflict and civil war in Angola, as told by Soviet advisers to the Angolan army. This volume concentrates on the climax of this conflict, the months-long battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1987/8, the largest military engagement on African soil since the Second World War. Here South African forces came to blows with Angolan FAPLA troops and their Cuban allies in a battle whose outcome is still hotly debated.

The Soviet soldiers’ experience of the war and their views and assessment of their South African enemies as well as their Cuban and Angolan allies will surprise and fascinate South African readers. At the same time they offer new insights into the conflict.

Dr Gennady Shubin is a senior researcher for the Institute for African Studies in the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. He has published 17 books (nine of them are co-authored) including three books on modern South Africa’s history, six books on the Anglo-Boer War 1899–1902, two books on South Africa’s army and military industry, and six books of memoirs about the Angolan war (one of them in English and one in Russo-English).
“Think [Nabokov’s] Pale Fire, perhaps, or [Byatt’s] Possession, but in a contemporary Afropolitan context.” Jenefer Shute, author of Life-Size, Sex Crimes and User ID

Unhappily married Cape Town academic Art Berger is offered what appears to be a professional lifeline: to reconstitute the final papers of the great South African writer Charles de Villiers into book-form. He is uncomfortable about the role of ghost-writer, but the project becomes literary detective-work he cannot give up. Introduce De Villiers’ beautiful daughter Taryn, and Art is ensnared.

Sunderland alternates between sections, mostly in journal form, chronicling Art’s struggle to make sense of De Villiers’ fragmented and disordered text, and sections – scenes, notes, outlines – from that very work (also entitled ‘Sunderland’). A novel of (literary) ideas as much as of character, this fascinating collaboration by two of South Africa’s finest wranglers of words still comes to a literal crescendo; a finely tuned masterpiece to read in one sitting.

**ABOuT THE AuTHOR**

**Ken Barris** is a writer and critic, based in Cape Town and working at Cape Peninsula University of Technology. His research interests include post-apartheid writing, the politics of space, and white identity. He has won various literary awards, including the M-Net Book Prize and Ingrid Jonker Prize, and most recently the University of Johannesburg Prize for his fifth novel, Life Underwater (2012).

**Michael Cope** has worked, among other things, as a designer, jeweller and a computer programmer. He also teaches Goju karate, and has published two novels, Spiral of Fire (1986) and Goldin: A Tale (2005), two volumes of poems, a memoir, Intricacy: A Meditation on Memory (2005), as well as several chapbooks of poetry and extensively on the Internet. He is a veteran performer of poetry and lives in Cape Town.
‘Ken Barris’s skilled writing... moulds the ordinary into something extraordinary and impresses upon the audience a range of emotions that linger long after the last line has been read.’

– The Sunday Independent

‘[Michael Cope’s] memoir is as complex and beautiful as the richest jacquard cloth, its tones and hues catching and scattering the light.’

– Liz Winters, The Write Co

‘Michael Cope [...] writes with superb control and sensitivity both to outer and inner worlds... It is hard to do justice to the richness of this intelligent, moving, panoramic book.’

– David Pike, Natal Mercury

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