



**SA BOOK**  
A W A R D S

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

# **CHILDREN OF SUGARCANE BY JOANNE JOSEPH WINS SA BOOK AWARDS 2022**

**24 NOVEMBER 2022**

The winners of this year's SA Book Awards were announced yesterday at a special virtual ceremony hosted by Nielsen BookData and supported by SABA and PASA. Over the last 22 years the awards have recognised books written and published in South Africa, as voted for by South African booksellers, and recent winners have included Deon Meyer, Stephen McGown and Trevor Noah.

Booksellers were again asked to vote for their favourite titles, in three categories, from a list of bestselling titles published in South Africa and written by South African authors, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa in 2021. Each category winner was awarded R5,000 and the overall winner, with the highest number of votes, was presented with R20,000.

The Adult Fiction prize was won by Joanne Joseph for *Children of Sugarcane*. On accepting the award Joanne said *"It's an honour to be recognised for my work on Children of Sugarcane. We often underestimate the power of fictional words in helping us come to terms with some of the most daunting aspects of reality and our complicated history in South Africa, India and Britain. I think it's time we explored this genre as a more effective tool in enriching the teaching of history, especially in our schools."*

The Adult Non-Fiction prize was won by Gérard Labuschagne for *The Profiler Diaries: From the Case Files of a Police Psychologist*. In his acceptance speech Gérard said *"This is something I really hadn't expected, there were so many great books in this category which could easily have won. When the book came out I told myself I would be happy if the first print run sold out, I never thought that my first book would reach the heights it has. Thank you so much to the readers who put their faith in me, and to Penguin for believing in my story."*

Refiloe Moahloli was announced as the winner of the Children's prize for the second year running with her title *How many ways can you say goodbye?*, illustrated by Anja Stoeckigt. Refiloe said *"The intention behind How many ways can you say goodbye? is that in sharing the story with our children, we create a safe space for them to express their feelings. It is also a continuation of a conversation that we started in*

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*How many ways can you say hello? - one that demonstrates care and respect in interacting with self and another. I am so excited that this series is resonating with so many, and that it has been recognised for such an awesome award. May we keep lifting children's literature, and celebrate our beautiful diversity within it."*

The overall winner was the Fiction prize winner Joanne Joseph receiving the highest number of votes and a clear favourite among booksellers. On hearing the news she said *"Though it took many years of hard work, it was a joy to mould the work of our great historians into a fictional narrative. My sincere thanks to my family and friends, my outstanding editors and publishers, the enthusiastic booksellers and media colleagues who promoted Children of Sugarcane, the many readers who supported this book, and the SA Book Awards for this amazing recognition!"*

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

**For more information:**

**SA Book Awards**

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**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2022 – Adult Fiction Title:**

*107 Kaalkoppe* by Nataniël  
*Children of Sugarcane* by Joanne Joseph  
*Hans Bars die Bioborrel* by Rudie van Rensburg  
*Hartedief* by Rudie van Rensburg  
*The Promise* by Damon Galgut

**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2021 – Adult Non-Fiction Title:**

*Fatima Sydow Cooks* by Fatima Sydow  
*Hosting with the Lazy Makoti* by Mogau Seshoene  
*The Billionaire Mindset: Secrets of a Successful South African Entrepreneur* by Daniel Strauss  
*The Profiler Diaries: From the Case Files of a Police Psychologist* by Gérard Labuschagne  
*The Stellenbosch Mafia: Inside the Billionaire's Club* by Pieter Du Toit

**Shortlist for SA Book Awards 2021 – Children's Title (Fiction and Non-Fiction):**

*How Many Ways Can You Say Goodbye?* by Refiloe Moahlol, illustrated by Anja Stoeckigt  
*Leer My Lees Met Tippië die Olifant Vlak 4 Boekstel: Leer My Lees Reeks* by José Palmer & Reinette Lombard, illustrated by Zinelda McDonald  
*Minki's se Avontuurkamp: Minki Reeks* by Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Tumi K. Steyn  
*My Coily Crownly Hair* by Zulaikha Patel, illustrated by Chantelle and Burgen Thorne  
*Shudu Finds Her Magic* by Shudufhadzo Musida, illustrated by Chantelle & Burgen Thorne

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