



Press Release

SA Book Awards 2024 Shortlist Announced

This year marks the 24th annual SA Book Awards, powered by Nielsen BookData and supported by PASA and SABA. The awards strive to celebrate books written and published in South Africa, as voted for by South African booksellers and last year recognised authors Sally Andrew, Louisa Holst and Riaan Manser.

The awards celebrate South African booksellers' favourite titles in three categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Children's. This year the shortlists have been curated by a highly respected panel from the South Africa book industry.

SA Book Awards Panel



Melvin Kaabwe
Puku Children's
Literature
Foundation
Previously Group
Digital Executive at
Van Schaik Books



Grattan Kirk
Chief Executive
Officer at Exclusive
Books



Sewela Langeni
Author
Owner of Book Circle
Capital (BCC)



Siya Masuku
Graphic Novelist
Founder/Director of
Siyafunda Online
Vice Chairperson for
IBBY SA
Member of board at
The National Library
of South Africa



Dr Thabo Tšehloane
English Literature
Department
University of
Johannesburg

The panel reviewed a longlist of bestselling titles, as measured by Nielsen BookScan South Africa, to generate each shortlist. Each title had to be written by a South African author and published in South Africa between 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

South African booksellers have now been invited to vote for their favourite shortlisted title from each of the categories to decide the winners. Each category winner will be awarded R5,000.00 and the overall winner, receiving the highest number of votes, will be presented with R20,000.00. The winners will be announced at a virtual ceremony and on social media on Wednesday 18 December 2024.

**Nielsen
BookData**



SA Booksellers
ASSOCIATION



We are delighted to share the shortlisted titles below:

Fiction Prize

Help, Help - Nataniël
Katvis - Annelie Botes
Leo - Deon Meyer
Little Secrets - Gail Schimmel
Siembamba - Madelein Rust

Non-Fiction Prize

Ek het n' Engel Gesien - Amore Bekker
Fatima Sydow: My Story, My Heritage - Fatima Sydow
Rassie: Stories of Life and Rugby – Rassie Erasmus & David O’Sullivan
Truth to Power: My Three Years Inside Eskom - Andre de Ruyter
Who will Rule South Africa? - Adriaan Basson & Qaanitah Hunter
Winnie & Nelson: Portrait of a Marriage - Jonny Steinberg

Children’s Prize

Croc & Pickle Level 1 Book 1: Pickle in a jam - Jaco Jacobs
Lekker Liewe Heksie-Stories - Verna Vels & Vian Oelofsen
My First Wild Island Adventure - Riaan Manser
Oum Mollie gann terug skool toe - Fanie Viljoen
Zandi's Song - Zandile Ndhlovu

Previous winners Deon Meyer and Riaan Manser are nominated again, with Riaan Manser winning last year’s overall prize for *My First African Adventure*. Jaco Jacobs and Nataniël have been shortlisted previously but for the majority it is their first time.

On accepting his award in 2023, Riaan Manser who was on board a plane at the time said: *"President Nelson Mandela once told me my bicycle ride around Africa would inspire the youth of the continent. I never believed him - maybe until now. To thank, we have our country's incredible, passionate booksellers, bookshops and publishers. You are inspiring young and old readers, in every book shop, every day. Nielsen BookData, SA Booksellers Association and the Publishers' Association of South Africa - we salute you all - keeping the love of reading and adventure alive!"*

Our thanks and appreciation to our panel for their time and expertise curating the shortlist. We wish all the shortlisted authors the warmest of congratulations and the very best of luck!

For more information:

SA Book Awards | Nielsen BookData

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