

The Sunburnt Queen

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a seven year old english girl washed up on the wild coast in about 1736 is adopted by the amampondo grows up to become a woman of surpassing beauty marries the chief of the clan and becomes an ancestor of many of the xhosa royal families

the true story of a child shipwrecked in africa

south africa is popularly perceived as the most influential nation in africa a gateway to an entire continent for finance trade and politics and a crucial mediator in its neighbours affairs on the other hand post apartheid dreams of progress and reform have in part collapsed into a morass of corruption unemployment and criminal violence a short history of south africa is a brief general account of the history of this most complicated and fascinating country from the first evidence of hominid existence to the wars of the 18th 19th and 20th centuries that led to the establishment of modern south africa the horrors of apartheid and the optimism following its collapse as well as the prospects and challenges

for the future this readable and thorough account illustrated with maps and photographs is the culmination of a lifetime of researching and teaching the broad spectrum of south african history nattrass's passion for her subject shines through whether she is elucidating the reader on early humans in the cradle of humankind or describing the tumultuous twentieth century processes that shaped the democracy that is south africa today

heartwarming story of the year treive nicholas spent in a forgotten corner of apartheid south africa where humour and kindness flourished amid grinding poverty and brutal racism funny and shocking in equal measure tale of a british teenager far from home and his unlikely friendship with a local nun is one of adventure ambition and hope

writing the ancestral river is an illuminating and unusual biography of the kowie river in the eastern cape this tidal river runs through the centre of what used to be called the zuurveld a formative meeting ground of different peoples who have shaped our history khoikhoi herders xhosa pastoralists dutch trekboers and british settlers their direct descendants continue to live in the area and interact in ways that have been decisively shaped by their shared history besides being a social history this is also a natural history of the river and its catchment area where dinosaurs once roamed and cycads still grow as the book shows the natural world of the kowie has felt the effects of human settlement most strikingly through the establishment of a harbour at the mouth of the river in the 19th century and the development of a marina in the late 20th century both projects have had a decisive and deleterious impact on the kowie people are increasingly reconnecting with nature and justice through rivers acknowledging the past and the inter generational racialised privileges damages and denials it established and perpetuates is necessary for any shared future by focusing on this little river the book raises larger questions about colonialism capitalism development and ecology and asks us to consider the connections between social and environmental injustice

in 1510 when the cape of good hope was still revered as the portal to the indies the viceroy of portuguese india was led ashore attacked slain and hurriedly buried in a shallow grave the murder of dom francisco d almeida remains a mystery to this day was it the fulfilment of a prophecy or an act of poetic justice was it an ambush a mutiny or even an assassination if so was it instigated by the king of portugal or the church of rome knot of stone is a tale of historical detection in which two unlikely travel companions a restless dutch historian sonja haas and a jaded afrikaans archaeologist jason tomas find themselves drawn together after discovering a five century old skeleton at the foot of table mountain their search for new evidence leads the reader ever further north to ancestral burial sites remote mountain sanctuaries sacred springs medieval monasteries and rare museum artefacts via various roadside encounters including the startling revelations of a sangoma a healer empowered by the ancestors they reconstruct the past and their own identities with divergent consequences the multi layered story is ultimately a tale of self discovery as a novel knot of stone presents a unique and insightful revision of actual events offering a courageous departure from mainstream historical writing with its captivating mystery its mixture of legend and original research plus the karmic background of various historical individuals this enthralling book will appeal to all those who have enjoyed the enigmatic works of umberto eco and dan brown knotofstone.com

focussing on the past history and present day life of the people in two villages in the central eastern cape south africa the book provides a vivid but detailed and insightful account of the transformation of rural society and economy since colonisation

an age of hubris is the first comprehensive overview of the impact of missionary enterprise on the xhosa chiefdoms of south africa in the first half of the nineteenth century chronicling a world punctuated by war and millenarian eruptions and the steady encroachment of settler land hunger and colonial hegemony with it timothy keegan contributes new approaches to xhosa history and most important a new dimension to the much trodden but still vital topic of the impact cultural social and political of missionary activity among african peoples the most significant historical works on the xhosa have either become dated foreground imperial colonial history or remain heavily theoretical in nature in contrast keegan draws fruitfully on the rich africanist comparative and anthropological literature now available as well as extant primary sources to foreground the xhosa themselves in this crucial work in so doing he highlights the ways in which africans utilized new ideas resources and practices to make sense of react to and resist the forces of colonial dispossession confronting them emphasizing missionary frustration and african agency

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