

African Biographies

Feb 05

These biographies are from East and South Africa. The South African biographies are written for adults learning to read and write and the Kenyan titles were written for use in schools but all are suitable for adults or young people. These books will also provide useful supplementary materials for school courses on Africa and they are also of interest as examples of the vigorous educational publishing taking place in Africa.

COMPILATIONS

Against the Wind

Five South Africans Follow Their Dreams

by Lesley Lewis

Against the wind tells the stories of five remarkable South Africans: Simon Mkhize who, year after year ran the Comrades Marathon unofficially, ignoring its racial bans; Magema M. Fuze, the first black South African to publish a book in Zulu; Sibusisiwe Violet Makhanya, the first black woman to become a social worker; K.E. Masinga, the first black radio announcer, and Nhlumba Bertha Mkhize, one of the first people to champion women's rights in South Africa

Illustrated with black and white photos.

Price: \$7.00

Publisher: New Readers Publishers

ISBN: 1-874897-60-3

Year of Publication: 1992

Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa

Length/Size: 42 pages, A5, portrait

Level: advanced

Peppercorn Title #: 610-0009



Nightingales and Nice-Time Girls The Story of Township Women and Music (1900-1960)

by Minky Schlesinger



The story of black women and music in South Africa from the 1900s, when most African women still worked in rural areas, to the 1950s when many women had moved to the cities. Some of them had become famous performers in the dance-halls of the townships. Read about the characters,

musical influences and tortured experiences of the black South Africans that led to the birth of a unique South African musical sound. Includes photographs and stories of famous stars including some, such as Miriam Makeba, who became world famous.

Illustrated. Includes a world list.

Price: \$9.50

Publisher: ViVa Books

Series: Living History

ISBN: 1-874932-06-9

Year of Publication: 1993

Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa

Length/Size: 84 pages, A5, portrait

Level: advanced

Peppercorn Title #: 600-0010

African Biographies

INDIVIDUALS

alphabetically by first name

Bildad Kaggia **Voice of the People** by *Evan Mwangi*

“This is the story of Bildad Kaggia, preacher, scholar and one of the leaders of Kenya’s struggle for independence.” It is a fictional recreation of Kaggia’s life but with a “backbone of facts”. The book is based on library research, interviews with Bildad Kaggia, members of his family, and oral histories from his family and people in his home village.

His autobiography, *The Roots of Freedom* was published in 1974.

Evan Mwangi is a literary critic and teaches literature at the University of Kenya. He is currently teaching at Ohio State University in Athens, Ohio.

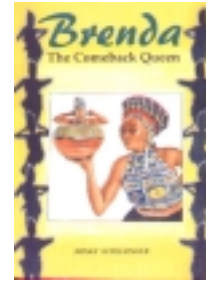
One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-04-0
Year of Publication: 2001
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 102 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0015

The *Lion Books* provide biographies of notable Africans, both historical and contemporary. They are suitable for adult learners reading at an intermediate to advanced level, and also for use in schools to provide supplementary materials for teaching about Africa. They are written by East African journalist and academics and are published in Kenya. The introduction provides context and some suggestions for further reading.

Brenda **The Comeback Queen** by *Minky Schlessinger*

Biography of Brenda Fassie, one of South Africa’s best loved pop stars.



She was an overnight success at an early age with her hit *Weekend Special*, after which she went through numerous ups and downs: from great wealth to bankruptcy and back again; from drug addiction to respected artist. Brenda’s life proves the old saying that you can’t keep a good woman down. Brenda died in 2004.

Illustrated with black and white photos. Includes a word list and a list of Brenda’s albums.

Price: \$8.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-87-5
Year of Publication: 2002
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 60 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0094

Dedan Kimathi **Leader of the Mau Mau** by *David Njeng’ere*

Biography of the leader of the Mau Mau guerilla campaign against British colonialism in Kenya, as told through the eyes and memories of a young girl.

“Dedan Kimathi was a beloved hero of the Mau Mau guerilla war waged in Kenya’s forests to win freedom from the British Empire.” He was hanged in 1957 by the colonial government.

David Njeng’ere develops curricula in Secondary School English language and literature at the Kenya Institute of Education.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

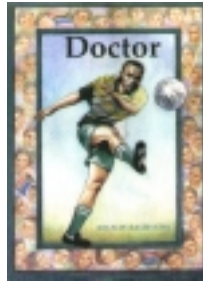
Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-18-0
 Year of Publication: 2003
 Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
 Length/Size: 83 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0028

Doctor

by *Nelson Rashavha*

A biography of one of South Africa's most popular soccer heroes. Theophilus Doctorson Khumalo has played in the American Major League with the Columbus Crew Club. Illustrated with photos.

Also Available in:
 Afrikaans (600-0206)
 isiZulu (600-0901)
 Setswana (600-0608)
 Tshivenda (600-0804)



Price: \$6.00
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 Series: Life Stories
 ISBN: 1-874932-72-7
 Year of Publication: 1999
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 18 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: beginner
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0027

Elijah Masinde Rebel with a Cause

by *Ezekial Alembi*

The story of Elijah Masinde, one of the important figures in Kenya's struggle for independence.

"Elijah Masinde was one of the most mysterious characters in Kenya's fight for independence. People who knew him claim that he walked through prison walls and stood on the point of a spear!" In this biography, a grandmother

tells the story of this mysterious character while the children ask questions around the evening fire. He was born some time between 1909 and 1911 and died in 1987."

"Ezekial Alembi teaches children's literature and literary criticism at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. He is a well-known writer of children's stories and literary criticism."

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-00-8
 Year of Publication: 2000
 Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
 Length/Size: 69 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0006

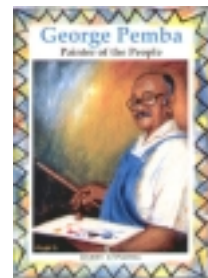
George Pemba Painter of the People

by *Barry Feinberg*

While George Pemba is a fairly well-known artist in South Africa, he has only recently begun to get wider international exposure. Pemba struggled to get formal training, and to earn a living from his art. With the introduction of apartheid policies in 1948, he found it even more difficult to pursue his art. He decided not to leave the country but to carry on painting the living conditions and cultures of African people.

This book tells the story of his life and shows many aspects of his work as it developed over time, through black and white photos and color reproductions.

A beautifully produced book with full color illustrations, which will be a delight for learners and teachers alike. Includes a word list.



African Biographies

Price: \$12.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-37-9
Year of Publication: 2000
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 69 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0052

Gerard Sekoto **My Life and Work** *by Karen Press*

Gerard Sekoto was one of the first black modern artists in South Africa. It is only now that his work is becoming more widely known. In this book, Sekoto tells the story of his life from herding cattle in the Transvaal to living in self-exile in France. He tells how he became interested in art as a young boy and explains how his work progressed and developed.

The art historian Barbara Lindop introduces his works to the reader. This beautiful book has been written in an easy to read style for new readers as well as those with little knowledge of art. The text is clear with good size print and about 200 words to the page and is illustrated with Sekoto's paintings in black and white, and color. Suggestions about how to use the book, a glossary and a word list are included.

A beautiful book about a wonderful artist.

Price: \$16.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-09-3
Year of Publication: 1995
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 126 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0015

The *Lion Books Teacher's Guide* (640-0017) provides extra material and teaching suggestions for the books *Elijah Masinde*, *Mekatili wa Menza*, *Mohamed Amin*, *Jomo Kenyatta*, and *Mwana Kupona*.

The Demon and the Angel **The Story of Jake Ntuli, Empire** **Boxing Champ**

by Mogorosi Motshumi
A biography of the South African boxing champion, Jake Ntuli.

"Jake Ntuli was born in Soweto in 1929. His family was very religious and Tuli became an altar boy. People called him an angel. After leaving school he became a successful amateur boxer. He turned professional in 1950 at the age of 21. In the ring the hard-hitting Tuli was a demon. In 1952 he won the British Flyweight Empire title and became the first African to do so."

Illustrated with drawings and black and white photos. Adapted by Richard Maguire for advanced level readers. Includes a world list and a record of Ntuli's fights.

Price: \$9.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-23-9
Year of Publication: 1999
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 92 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0045

James Sofasonke **Mpanza** **The Father of Soweto** *by Kevin French*

"This is the story of James Sofasonke Mpanza. He fought for houses for people in Orlando at the time of the Second World War. Later he became a councilor in the Urban Bantu Council of Soweto. Mpanza's work for the people of Soweto earned him the name 'Father of Soweto'. Some people even wanted to change the name of Soweto to Mpanzaville, but not everyone liked Mpanza. Many people were not happy that he became a councilor. They felt that he worked with the apartheid government."

NEW

African Biographies

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Price: \$8.50
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 Series: Life Stories
 ISBN: 1-874932-07-7
 Year of Publication: 2004
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 96 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0058

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga People's Revolutionary

by Ezekiel Alemi

"Jaramogi Odinga was a teacher, businessman, and politician who inspired millions of people to rise up against the injustice in both colonial days and in independent Kenya."

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-24-5
 Year of Publication: 2005
 Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
 Length/Size: A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0030

Jeevanjee Rebel of the Empire

by Zarina Patel

This is an introductory biography of A.M. Jeevanjee, a brilliant entrepreneur in colonial Kenya who resisted the British Empire.

Born in Karachi (now Pakistan) in 1856 to a family of traders he became a trader early on in his own right. He traveled to East Africa in 1890 and started trading there by provisioning ships in Mombasa. He went on to help in the construction of the Uganda Railway, and founded the newspaper the *African Standard* (now the *East African Standard*).

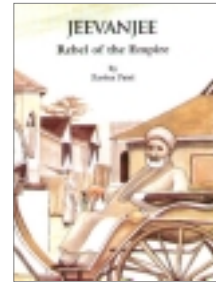


As an Asian he was also discriminated against in colonial East Africa. In 1914 he helped found the East African Indian National Congress and was involved in the fight for rights for both Indians and Africans.

The author is a writer and human rights activist in Nairobi and the granddaughter of Jeevanjee. Her preface to this book also suggests some other relevant publications.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-07-5
 Year of Publication: 2002
 Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
 Length/Size: 86 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0024



Jomo Kenyatta Father of Harambee

by Egara Kabaji

Biography of Jomo Kenyatta, one of the leaders of Kenya's struggle for independence and the first president of independent Kenya.

"From shepherd boy and carpenter, through the struggle for independence, Jomo Kenyatta inspired those around him with the idea of *harambee*."

Egara Kabaji is a literary critic for the press and radio and teaches literature at Kenyatta University.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-01-6
 Year of Publication: 2000
 Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
 Length/Size: 94 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0004

African Biographies

Kippie Moeketsi

Sad Man of Jazz

by Peter Esterhuysen

This is the story of Kippie Moeketsi, one of the greatest jazz musicians of his time. He was a member of the best bands of the 1950s and 1960 and made many records. Kippie had two problems: one was that he was a black man in South Africa during the years of apartheid, the other was that he was addicted to alcohol. Only after his death was Kippie's contribution to South African music fully recognized.

Illustrated with black and white photos. Includes a list of some of Kippie's recordings and a word list. Adapted by Minky Schlesinger for advanced level readers.

Poster available (600-0061)

Price: \$ 8.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-21-2
Year of Publication: 1995
Place of Publication:
Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 80 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0020



Mekatilili Wa Menza

Woman Warrior

by Elizabeth Mugi-Ndua

The story of an East African resistance leader in the first part of the twentieth century. A member of the Giriama people who lived on the Kenyan coast north of Mombasa, she was an extraordinary woman, who led her people in resistance against the British colonialists in the early 1900s.

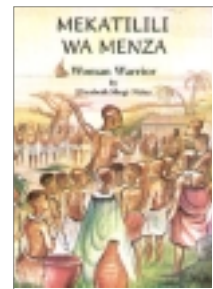
This biography tells of her early years and of the coming of British colonial rule. Although men were the leaders in her society she nonetheless led the resistance against the British and the forced labor practices, which enslaved their men and impoverished their society.

Mekatilili wa Menza provides both a biography of a strong woman leader in a male dominated society, and an insight into the impact of early colonialism in East Africa.

Elizabeth Mugi-Ndua has taught literature and written children's text-books at the Kenya Institute of Education. Her introduction includes a useful bibliography of additional reading.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-03-2
Year of Publication: 2000
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 80 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0005



Mohamed Amin

The Eyes of Africa

by Edwin Nyutho

The story of the Kenyan photographer and photojournalist, Mohamed Amin, born in Kenya in 1943 the son of an immigrant from the Punjab who worked for East African Railways.

He became entranced by photography at an early age and had his first pictures published in a national newspaper when he was still at school in Tanganyika. Mohamed Amin went on to photograph and film many important stories including the Russian involvement in Zanzibar, and Idi Amin's coup and brutal dictatorship in Uganda and later the famine in Ethiopia in 1984. He died in a plane crash following a hijacking in the 1990s.

Edwin Nyutho is a professor of journalism at the University of Nairobi who had worked with Mohamed Amin and who has made his own documentary movies in Africa. His introduction includes some references for further reading.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-02-4
 Year of Publication: 2000
 Place of Publication: Nairobi Kenya
 Length/Size: 86 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0003

Mwai Kibaki **Economist for Kenya**

by Ng'ang'a Mbugua

Biography of the third president of Kenya, elected in 2002. "A brilliant economist, Mwai Kibaki made his name building the economy of Kenya."

Born in 1931, he was a gifted student, attended Makerere University College in Uganda, where he became an economist. He started work with the Shell Oil Company, as government jobs were not then open to Africans; went to London to further his studies; and subsequently helped in the founding of KANU, one of the Kenyan political parties leading the fight for independence. He became a Minister in the independence government and then Finance Minister. He later left the government and helped found the opposition parties which led to the removal by election of the government of Daniel Arap Moi.

Includes a copy of his inauguration speech.

Ng'ang'a Mbugua is a writer of children's stories and a journalist based in Nairobi.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-20-2
 Year of Publication: 2003
 Place of Publication: Nairobi Kenya
 Length/Size: 85 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0027

Mwana Kupona **Poetess from Lamu**

by Kitula King'ei

Biography of the nineteenth century Swahili poetess. Includes the complete text of her intendi, *Conquer the World* in Swahili.

Provides a vivid portrait of the life of the Moslem community on the Kenyan coast in the nineteenth century as well as insights into the poem she wrote for her daughter to guide her through life.

Kitula King'ei composes Swahili poetry and teaches literature at Kenyatta University.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-05-9
 Year of Publication: 2000
 Place of Publication: Nairobi Kenya
 Length/Size: 105 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0002

The *Lion Books* provide biographies of notable Africans, both historical and contemporary. They are suitable for adult learners reading at an intermediate to advanced level, and also for use in schools to provide supplementary materials for teaching about Africa. They are written by East African journalist and academics and are published in Kenya. The introduction provides context and some suggestions for further reading.

African Biographies

Nelson Mandela **Fighter for Humanity** *by Catherine House*

Biography of Nelson Mandela who grew up in a small Xhosa village, became a lawyer and led South Africa to a democracy of freedom for all its people. This book tells the story of the life of Nelson Mandela from childhood to his election as president in South Africa and subsequent retirement.

Catherine House has been a teacher and researcher in East and southern Africa and has published numerous works of children's literature.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-08-3
Year of Publication: 2002
Place of Publication: Nairobi Kenya
Length/Size: 122 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0022

Nothembi *by Nothembi Mkhwebane*

This autobiography of the popular African musician Nothembi Mkhwebane tells how she became famous and why she went back to school.

"Nothembi got bored sitting in her room where she worked as a domestic worker. She recorded her own music on a tape recorder and took it to a record company, but she could not read contracts and lost money from her music. Now she is back at school and has a good contract. Her music is earning her money and making her famous.

Illustrated with black and white photos. Includes a word list.

Also Available in:
isiNdeble (600-0304)

Price: \$6.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-71-9
Year of Publication: 1999
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 17 pages, A5, portrait
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0038

Paul Adams *by Eugene Abrahams*

An introductory biography of the famous cricket player. Illustrated with photos. Includes a word list.

Also Available in:
Afrikaans (600-0207)

Price: \$6.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-73-5
Year of Publication: 1999
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 18 pages, A5, portrait
Level: beginner
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0031

Rebecca **A Child of God** *By Minky Schlesinger*

A biography of Rebecca Malope, South Africa's most popular gospel singer.

"She was a sickly child born into a poor family. As a little girl she had to work on a farm, but the Malope children longed to be singers. When she was 17, Rebecca went to Johannesburg where her life changed forever."

Illustrated with black and white photos and drawings.

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-86-7
Year of Publication: 2001
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 32 pages, A5, portrait
Level: Intermediate
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0089

The Tree Man

Robert Mazibuko's Story

by Wendy Annecke

"Robert 'Tree Man' Mazibuko died in 1994 at age 90, just after he had told his life story to Joanne Bloch. This book is an account of his life struggle to teach people efficient and environmentally friendly methods of farming. It includes illustrations of the innovative trench farming method that he used instead of fertilizers and chemicals which he said were poison."

Illustrated with black and white photos and drawings.

Also Available in:
isiZulu (610-0904)



Price: \$7.00
Publisher: New Readers Publishers
ISBN: 1-86840-173-3
Year of Publication: 1996
Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa
Length/Size: 32 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 610-0014

Ronald Ngala

by Clara Momanyi

A biography of Ronald Ngala, one of the lesser known figures in the Kenyan independence movement.

Ngala was born in 1922 grew up among the Giriama people on the Kenyan coast. He went to Makerere University College in Uganda where he trained as a science teacher (and where he became a friend of Julius Nyerere, later to be the first president of Tanzania), and back in Kenya he taught, becoming a school principal. He entered politics at the time of the emerging nationalist struggle and founded KADU, the second of the Kenyan nationalist political parties, becoming a minister in the new Kenyan government. He died from injuries received in a car wreck in 1972.

Clara Momanyi teaches African Literature and Swahili at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. Her introduction lists other publications about Ronald Ngala and about the history of Kenya and the independence movement.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-06-7
Year of Publication: 2001
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 86 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0023

Shaka Zulu

Great Warrior King

by Stanley Gazemba

This biography of Shaka, the great Zulu leader, is an advanced level reader.

"Brilliant and ruthless, Shaka introduced innovations in military strategy and built the mighty Zulu empire of the nineteenth century."

The author, Stanley Gazemba, won the Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature in 2003 with his novel, *The Stone Hills of Maragoli*. He is currently studying journalism at the Kenya Polytechnic in Nairobi.

One of the *Lion Books* series of African biographies, published in Kenya.

Price: \$10.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-27-0
Year of Publication: 2004
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 39 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0029

African Biographies

Tandie's Blues

The Story of Tandie Klassen

By Minky Schlesinger

The life story of Tandie Klaasen, a well known South African jazz singer. Born in 1931, she sang and danced her way through the years until by the 1970s Tandie had struggled to the top. She had been a gangster's girlfriend, a domestic worker, and a stage actress, but now she was a star. Then something happened that changed Tandie's whole life.

Read about Tandie's life of bad luck, how she picked herself up and carried on and how her life of troubles led her to sing the blues.

Illustrated with black and white photos. Includes a word list.

Price: \$8.50
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life stories
ISBN: 1-874932-22-0
Year of Publication: 1995
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 84 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0014

Yvonne Chaka Chaka

Princess of Africa

by Minky Schlesinger

In 1985 a shy young girl from Soweto recorded a hit song, *I'm in Love with a DJ*. It set the townships' feet tapping. This young girl was Yvonne Chaka Chaka and since then she has become a superstar. Read about her family, her school friends and her rise to fame. In Africa, Yvonne is more popular than Madonna, making her the "Princess of Africa".

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
Series: Life Stories
ISBN: 1-874932-02-6
Year of Publication: 1993
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 52 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0005

