

Women in Africa

This catalog lists books from the Peppercorn collection, which deal with the experiences of African women. They are mostly but not exclusively from East Africa and southern Africa. Most are written as easy to read texts for adult learners and are also suitable for children in middle and high school.

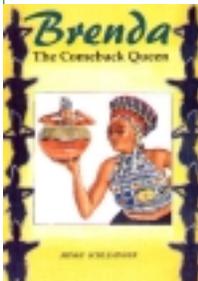
They are written in English, although, a few are bilingual and some are also available in other African languages.

These books are all in paperback format unless otherwise stated.

BIOGRAPHIES

Brenda The Comeback Queen

by Minky Schlesinger



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.

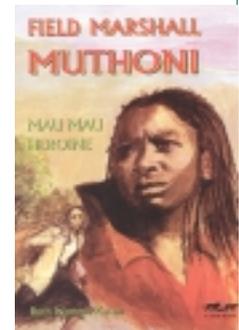
Illustrated with B&W photos. Includes a word list and a list of Brenda's albums.

Price: \$8.50
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 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

Field Marshall Muthoni Mau Mau Heroine

by Ruth Wairimu Karani

"Muthoni wa Kirima showed great courage even as a young girl when she killed a rhinoceros to save her father's goats. Later she followed her husband into Nyandarua Forest to join the Mau Mau freedom fighters. Dedan Kimathi named her Weaver Bird because of her ability to weave brilliant strategies in the struggle for Kenya's independence. This heartwarming story brings to life Kenya's exciting history."



Price: \$12.00
 Publisher: Sasa Sema
 Series: Lion Books
 ISBN: 9966-951-35-0
 Year of Publication: 2005
 Place of Publication: Nairobi Kenya
 Length/Size: 53 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 640-0033

If you are interested in the material in this catalog you will want to check out *Women In Literacy in Catalog 3*

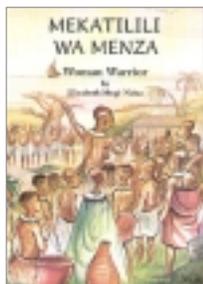
Women in Africa

Mekatilili Wa Menza

Woman Warrior

by Elizabeth Mugi-Ndua

The story of an East African resistance leader in the first part of the 20th century. Mekatilili was an extraordinary woman, who led her people in resistance against British colonialists in 1914.



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 their 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.

Price: \$12.00
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

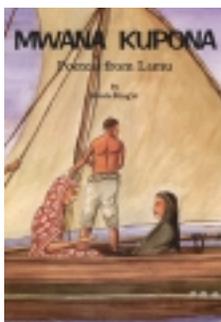
Mwana Kupona

Poetess From Lamu

by Kitula King'ei

Biography of the 19th century Swahili poetess. Provides a vivid portrait of the life of the Moslem community on the Kenyan coast in the 19th century as well as insights into the poem she wrote for her daughter to guide her through life.

Includes complete text of her intendi, *Conquer the World* in Swahili.



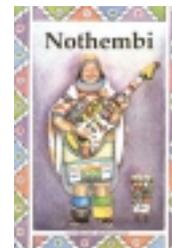
Price: \$12.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
Series: Lion Books
ISBN: 9966-951-05-9
Year of Publication: 2000
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 105 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0002

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 B&W photos. Includes a word list.

Also Available In:
isiNdebele (600-0304)

Price: \$6.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
ISBN: 1-874932-09-3
Year of Publication: 1999
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 17 pages, A5, portrait
Level: beginner
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0038

The *Lion Books* are written by East African academics and journalists and published in Kenya. They provide informative and insightful material on the African experience and at the same time an interesting set of biographies for readers looking for new and interesting material.

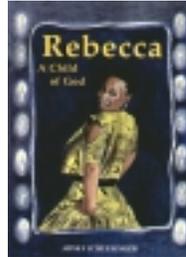
Women in Africa

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 B&W photos and drawings.

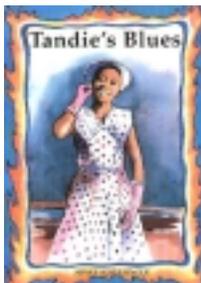
Price: \$7.00
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 ISBN: 1-874932-86-7
 Year of Publication: 2001
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 32 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: intermediate
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0089

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 the 1970s when she 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 B&W photos. Includes a word list.

Price: \$8.50
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 ISBN: 1-874932-09-3
 Year of Publication: 1995
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 84 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0014

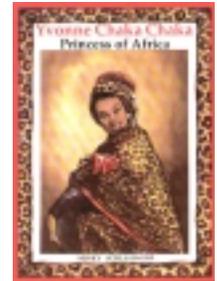
Yvonne Chaka Chaka

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".



Illustrated with B&W photos and drawings. Includes a word list and a list of some of her recordings.

Price: \$7.00
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 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

WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE

A Song For Carrying Water & Other Stories From Somalia

by Sian Hughes & M.M. Affi, eds.

Somali women delight in telling traditional folk tales to their children, and until now, these remarkable stories have been carried around in their memories and passed down from generation to generation through the spoken word only. Here some of these delightful folk tales and reminiscences are written down.

Women in Africa

Illustrated in B&W drawings and full color photographs. Includes accompanying teacher's notes.

Price: \$12.50

Publisher: Gatehouse

ISBN: 0-906253-54-3I

Year of Publication: 1997

Place of Publication: Manchester, UK

Length/Size: 105 pages, A5, portrait

Language: English & Somali

Peppercorn Title #: 940-0004

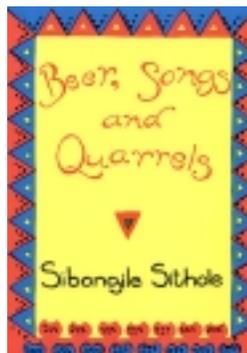
*Peppercorn
Favorite*

Beer, Songs & Quarrels

by *Sibongile Sithole*

Sharing curry recipes in Glibelands before forced removals; hiding in terror from the white valiant car; giving birth to her daughter and being discharged from the hospital on the same day without a cent in her pocket; her husband's drinking, girlfriends and violent ways; a very strange funeral and folk tales told to her by her mother ... Sibongile Sithole remembers "how things

used to be" and tells true stories about her life as a mother, friend, wife and daughter.



Price: \$7.00

Publisher: New Readers Publishers

ISBN: 0-086980-793-5

Year of Publication: 1991

Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa

Length/Size: 50 pages, A5, portrait

Level: advanced

Peppercorn Title #: 610-0010

Congo Days

by *Rob Simmonds, ed.*

The narrator, Chantal Ngalula, tells the story of her life in the Belgian Congo, the people's struggle for independence and post-independence Zaire's problems. She talks about her reasons for moving to South Africa and the xenophobia she experiences as an immigrant.

The story shifts between prose, historical biography and comic frames in which Chantal interacts with her colleagues at the adult education center where the story was written.

Price: \$5.00

Publisher: Kagiso

ISBN: 0-7986-3952-0

Year of Publication: 1996

Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa

Length/Size: 26 pages, 6.5 x 9.5, portrait

Level: advanced

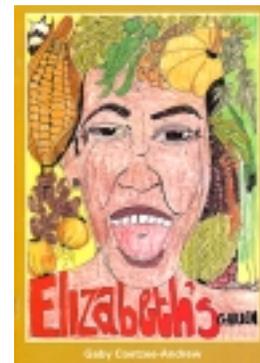
Peppercorn Title #: 630-0016

Elizabeth's Garden

by *Gaby Coetzee-Andrew*

"Elizabeth Klaassen tells the story of her life and how she gathers and uses wisdom from the world around her: from her father, her children, the plants in her garden and the animals in the veld. She also shares her favorite recipes and herbal remedies and tells you how to make your own garden."

Illustrated with B&W drawings. Includes a word list.



Price: \$5.00

Publisher: Kagiso

ISBN: 0-7986-4720-5

Year of Publication: 1997

Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa

Length/Size: 27 pages, 6.5 x 9.5, portrait

Level: advanced

Peppercorn Title #: 630-0022

Equal Shares

Oodi Weavers & the Cooperative Experience

by *D. Lewycky & K. Nthomang*

Equal Shares tells a fascinating story about the history of a group of dynamic people who changed the economic life of their community. The authors examine a key community-based cooperative in Botswana, launched in the early 1970s, and hailed as a model of development and social change.

Women in Africa

With little formal education, virtually no job experience, still working their own agricultural lands, many as single mothers, they have maintained their business for over 25 years.

Equal Shares is written in different voices, and tells the inspiring story of the defining moments in the lives of the Oodi Weavers.

Price: \$25.00
 Publisher: Between the Lines
 ISBN: 1-896357-21-0
 Year of Publication: 1999
 Place of Publication: Toronto, Canada
 Length/Size: 188 pages, 6 x 9 inches, portrait
 Peppercorn Title #: 730-0004

Faith, Family & Friendship Muslim Women Tell Their Stories

Written by women from Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan, in an ESOL class in Newport, South Wales. Illustrated in full color.

Price: \$25.00
 Publisher: Ta'aleem Alnyssa
 ISBN: 1-8526919-1
 Year of Publication: 2001
 Place of Publication: Wales, UK
 Length/Size: 44 pages, A4, portrait
 Format: spiral-bound
 Peppercorn Title #: 970-0001

The individual stories have also been published as a series of individual, bilingual starter readers.

All books \$6.00

[In English & Somali](#)

Rahma's Scarf

970-0002

My Son Wins a Scholarship to Oxford

970-0003

Capital Punishment

970-0004

[In English & Arabic](#)

On Finding Yourself a Young Widow in a Foreign Country

970-0005

Qat

970-0006

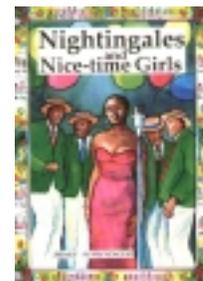
My Yemeni Welsh Family

970-0007

Nightingales & Nice-Time Girls The Story of Township Women & 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 townships' dance halls. 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 Miriam Makeba, who became world famous.

Illustrated. Includes a world list.

Price: \$9.50
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 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

No Space To Plant Stories Told By Women From Canaan

by *G. Ndukwane, T. Memela, D. Phakath*

“Four women from Canaan tell their life stories: moving from one place to another, marrying, having children and struggling to find a home where there is space to plant.”
 Illustrated.

Price: \$7.00
 Publisher: New Readers Publishers
 ISBN: 1-874897-58-1
 Year of Publication: 1992
 Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa
 Length/Size: 46 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: advanced
 Peppercorn Title #: 610-0011

Women in Africa

Our Experience

Women From Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh & Pakistan Write About Their Lives

by *S. Fitzpatrick & F. Mumin, eds.*

Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Pakistan write about their lives and experiences in their home countries, and in Britain.

We gain an insight into their home cultures through lullabies, children's games, recipes and reminiscences.

Price: \$12.50

Publisher: Gatehouse

ISBN: 0-906253-53-5

Year of Publication: 1996

Place of Publication: Manchester, UK

Length/Size: 92 pages, A5, portrait

Language: English, Bengali, Swahili, Somali, Urdu

Level: advanced

Peppercorn Title #: 940-0028

Shells On A Woven Cord Xheedo Dumar Wadaag Aleel Lagu Xadhkeeyay

*Hooyada Africada Bari/MAMA East
African Women's Group*

Members of the MAMA East African Women's Group talk about their lives in East Africa and as refugees in England through a blend of traditional stories and real life experience.

"These women are tough: they keep talking while their men are out making war. What is distinctive about this collection by Somali women writers in Sheffield (England) is precisely that sense of diverse voices making a community out of stories they tell, and offering us, no matter how different we are, a bridge into that world."

Price: \$15.00

ISBN: 0-9531101-2-5

Year of Publication: 2000

Place of Publication: Sheffield, UK

Length/Size: 92 pages, 8.25 x 7.75 inches, landscape

Language: Somali & English

Peppercorn Title #: 914-0002

Trader

by *Rebecca Tagoe*

An amazing story of buying and selling cloth in Ghana, and of emigrating to England.

Price: \$7.50

Publisher: Gatehouse

ISBN: 0-906253-46-2

Year of Publication: 1995

Place of Publication: Manchester, UK

Length/Size: 20 pages, A5, portrait

Level: beginner

Peppercorn Title #: 940-0006

Audio-cassette:

Price: \$7.50

Peppercorn Title #: 940-0049

Voices In the Backyard

by *Richard Jordi*

A story about three generations of women.

On a summer's day, the two older women tell the young girl about their different experiences as domestic workers. The story comes from interviews with eight domestic workers who live and work in Cape Town.

Illustrated with B&W drawings.
Includes a word list.

Price: \$5.00

Publisher: Kagiso

ISBN: 0-7986-4717-5

Year of Publication: 1997

Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa

Length/Size: 24 pages, 6.5 x 9.5, portrait

Level: advanced

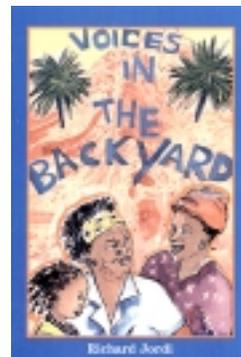
Peppercorn Title #: 630-0019

We Wait for Elandskloof

by *Bridget Pitt*

"Alleta Titus tells the story of her community's forced removal from the farmland in the Western Cape which they had purchased from the Crown. This land claim is presently being addressed in the land claims court."

Illustrated with B&W drawings.



Women in Africa

Price: \$5.00
 Publisher: Kagiso
 ISBN: 0-7968-3957-1
 Year of Publication: 1996
 Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa
 Length/Size: 16 pages, 6.5 x 9.5 inches, portrait
 Level: intermediate
 Peppercorn Title #: 630-0005

The Future is Ours

by *Magdalena Hermanus*

The story of a woman's journey through life. Spanning 30 years, it covers her move from rural Transkei to Cape Town and her growing awareness of the power of the women in her community and how they work together to build up their community.

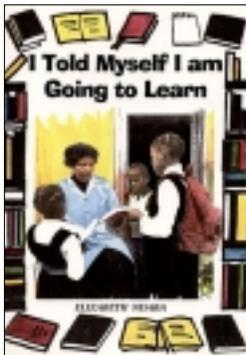
Price: \$5.00
 Publisher: Juta & Company
 ISBN: 0-7021-3845-2
 Year of Publication: 1996
 Place of Publication: Cape Town, South Africa
 Length/Size: 48 pages, A5, portrait
 Peppercorn Title #: 620-0027

WOMEN AS LEARNERS

I Told Myself I Am Going to Learn

by *Elizabeth Ndaba*

"Elizabeth wanted to be a good mother. But she knew she must make time to learn to read. In *I Told Myself*, she tells how she struggled to go to a literacy class. She tells how she found the courage to tell her family that she could not read, and how she stood up to her husband who did not want her to succeed. It is a personal story that many people will understand."



Elizabeth Ndaba, is a domestic worker in Johannesburg, South Africa. She wrote this story after attending literacy classes with the English Literacy Project. A very popular title presented as a photostory.

Price: \$7.00
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 ISBN: 1-874932-93-X
 Year of Publication: 2001
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 26 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: beginner
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0060

My Name is Selina Mabiletsa

by *Chris van Wyk*

"Selina Mabiletsa could not read and write, but she had a happy life with her husband Joe. 'Joe is my eyes,' Selina always said. Then everything went wrong and trouble came to Thokoza where she lived. Selina now had to be strong on her own."

This is the story of one woman's struggle for survival and the surprising way in which her newly developing writing skills came to her rescue. Illustrated. Includes a world list.

Also Available In:
 isiXhosa (600-0084)

Price: \$6.00
 Publisher: ViVa Books
 ISBN: 1-874932-24-7
 Year of Publication: 1996
 Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
 Length/Size: 18 pages, A5, portrait
 Level: beginner
 Peppercorn Title #: 600-0037

Thandeka's Story A Book For Literacy Teachers

by *Nancy Murray*

This book helps literacy teachers enrich learners' lives by making lessons interesting, lively and helpful. It can be used alongside any literacy approach.

The emphasis is on helping learners to read with understanding and meaning.

Price: \$5.00
 Publisher: Juta & Company
 ISBN: 0-7021-3405-8
 Place of Publication: Cape Town, South Africa
 Length/Size: 78 pages, A5, portrait
 Peppercorn Title #: 620-0047

Women in Africa

COMIC BOOKS & PHOTO STORIES

Waiting For Lerato

by *Monique Fagan & Cathy Winter*

"Two women are framed by the balustrade of an old building in a city overlooking a taxi rank.



They discuss the relations between men and women, drawing on their own painful experiences. The artwork is experimental, using the comic genre. The scenes from the taxi rank below form a visual subtext which enacts a second narrative - a love story - from which the title of the

reader is taken. The humour of the subtext is set off against the serious and important gender issues raised in the text."

Price: \$5.00
Publisher: Kagiso
ISBN: 0-7986-3943-1
Year of Publication: 1996
Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa
Length/Size: 20 pages, 6.5 x 9.5 inches, portrait
Level: beginner
Peppercorn Title #: 630-0001

The Trick

by *Wendy Annecke*

"MaMkhize has no money to pay the rent or buy food. Her husband spends all the money on drinking at the shebeen. She asks the sangoma for help, and together they plan a clever trick to stop her husband's drinking."

Illustrated with B&W photos of actors playing the characters.

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: New Readers Publishers
ISBN: 0-86980-837-0
Year of Publication: 1991
Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa
Length/Size: 37 pages, A5, portrait
Level: beginner
Peppercorn Title #: 610-0008



At twelve o'clock Bonga comes in.
He falls over the children's bed.
He sleeps on the floor, snoring.

Women in Africa

Komerera

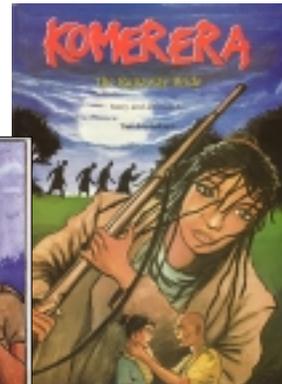
The Runaway Bride

by *Tuf Mulokwa*

"Historical drama of love and heroism set in the Mau Mau period of Kenya's struggle for independence: a beautiful young girl runs away from her village to avoid a forced marriage and runs in to other dangers from all sides."

A full color comic book.

Price: \$11.95
Publisher: Sasa Sema
ISBN: 9966-9609-9-6
Year of Publication: 2000
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 36 pages, A4, portrait
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0013



Women in Africa

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Home Girls

by Karen Press

A group of young women take the law into their own hands to deal with the violent ways men in their community treat women. A provocative story about one response to the problem of rape in South Africa. Illustrated.

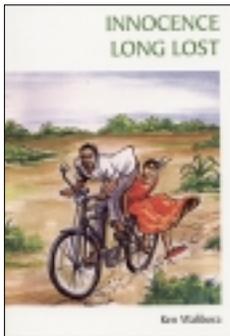
Also Available In:
Afrikaans (600-0079)

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: ViVa Books
ISBN: 1-874932-50-6
Year of Publication: 1999
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 18 pages, A5, portrait
Level: intermediate
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0032

Innocence Long Lost

by Ken Walibora

“There is no betrayal as heart-rending as that of a child at the hands of her own parents. In *Innocence Long Lost* we journey through Edna’s reminiscences of the horrors of her childhood. A thrilling narration, disturbing but hopeful as Edna begins to reclaim her right to personhood.”



Price: \$12.00
Publisher: Sasa Sema
ISBN: 9966-951-33-4
Year of Publication: 2005
Place of Publication: Nairobi, Kenya
Length/Size: 80 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 640-0032

[Read a review of this book at www.peppercornbooks.com](http://www.peppercornbooks.com)

Nhlanhla

by Patricia Watson & Cathy Winter

A story about traditional belief systems that draws on many sources including a workshop about witchcraft and medieval European witchcraft trials. The central story is about a beautiful woman, Marimba, the subject of many men’s desires, and how they come to view her as a witch. Illustrated with line drawings.



Includes a word list.

Price: \$5.00
Publisher: Kagiso
ISBN: 0-7986-3950-4
Year of Publication: 1996
Place of Publication: Pretoria, South Africa
Length/Size: 28 pages, 6.5 x 9.5 inches, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 630-0017

Surviving Rape

by Sonya Keyeser & Brett Purdon

“This book gives practical advice in a simple format about rape, answering questions such as ‘What should you do if you have been raped?’ ‘How should you look after yourself after being raped?’, and ‘What can you do if you cannot avoid being raped?’” Although some of the advice is specifically related to the South African legal context, most is applicable to women across all cultures and in all countries. Illustrated.

Also Available In:
isiZulu (610-0048)

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: New Readers Publishers
ISBN: 1-86840-171-5
Year of Publication: 1995
Place of Publication: Durban, South Africa
Length/Size: 43 pages, A5, portrait
Level: advanced
Peppercorn Title #: 610-0015

Women in Africa

Emerging Perspectives On BESSIE HEAD

by Huma Ibrahim, ed.

"This long-awaited anthology covers new thoughts and theories on the eminent and controversial writer, Bessie Head. Since her death in 1986, at the early age of 49, Head has continued to capture our political, historical, and social imagination. It also contains current research and opinions being discussed worldwide, including new scholarship emerging from four continents, Africa, Asia, Europe, and America."

Price: \$24.95
Publisher: African World Press
ISBN: 1-59221-074-0
Year of Publication: 2004
Place of Publication: Trenton, NJ
Length/Size: 222 pages, 5.5 x 8.5, portrait
Peppercorn Title #: 411-0001

*Some Books By Bessie Head
available from Peppercorn*

Life

Life Morapedi returns from the big city to her family home in rural Botswana. She brings with her the fast ways of the city. In the village she falls in love with Lesego, a rich cattle owner. Lesego finds Life exciting, but he also wants a traditional wife. Life is used to having her own money and her freedom. Their marriage cannot last, their relationship was bound to end in disaster. This is a story of what happens when two worlds collide.

Price: \$7.00
Publisher: ViVa
ISBN: 1-874932-08-5
Year of Publication: 1993
Place of Publication: Johannesburg, South Africa
Length/Size: 52 pages, A5, portrait
Peppercorn Title #: 600-0004

The Lovers

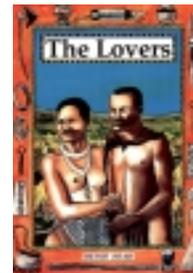
A long time ago, on a stormy afternoon in Botswana, Keaja and Tselane fell deeply in love, soon they were talking about marriage. But there was one problem: Keaja's father had already chosen a wife for him.

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The Collector of Treasures

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Women in Africa

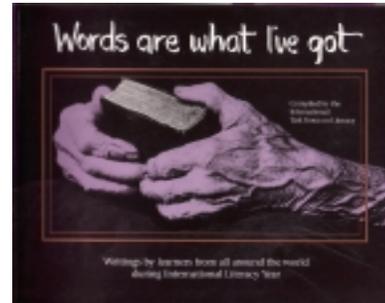
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