

# The Mirror At Midnight A South African Journey

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this book is not about the political history of apartheid south africa it is about an extraordinary south african woman s life it depicts where she was born and chronicles her courageous journey into exile to lesotho zambia zaire and britain culminating with a diplomatic assignment in the united states of america this is where the politics of the day intersects with personal lives making us all more deeply appreciative of how

profoundly the personal is political

through detailed close readings alongside investigations into the history of print culture marta fossati traces the development of the south african short story in english from the late 1920s to the first decade of the twenty first century she examines a selection of short stories by important black south african writers rolfe and herbert dhlomo peter abrahams can themba alex la guma mtutuzeli matshoba ahmed essop and zoë wicomb with an alertness to the dialogue between ethics and aesthetics performed by these texts this new history of black short fiction problematises and interrogates the often polarised readings of black literature in south africa that can be torn between notions of literariness protest and journalism due to material constraints short fiction in south africa circulated first and foremost through local print media which fossati analyses in detail to show the cross fertilisation between journalism and the short story while rooted in the south african context the short stories considered also hold a translocal dimension allowing us to explore the ethical and aesthetic practice of intertextuality these are writings that complicate the aesthetics ethics binary generic classifications and the categories of the literary and the political theoretically eclectic in its approach although largely underpinned by a narratological analysis the south african short story in english 1920 2010 when aesthetics meets ethics offers a fresh perspective on the south african short story in english spotlighting several hitherto marginalised figures in south african literary studies

this study deals with a particular kind of short story in south african english literature a kind of story variously called the fireside tale tall tale skaz narrative or the term used here the oral style story most famously exemplified in the oom schalk lourens narratives of herman charles bosman the oral style story has its roots in the hunting tale and camp fire yarn of the nineteenth century and has dozens of exponents in south african literature most of them long forgotten here this neglect has been addressed a w drayson s tales at the outspan 1862 provides a point of departure and is followed by discussions of works by william charles scully percy fitzpatrick ernest glanville perceval gibbon francis carey slater pauline smith and aegidius jean blignaut all of whom used the oral style story genre in the work of herman charles bosman however the south african oral style story comes into its own in his oom schalk lourens figure is invested all of the complexity and double voicedness that was latent and largely dormant in the earlier works bosman demonstrates his sophistication particularly in his metafictional use of the oral style story the study concludes with a discussion of the use of oral forms in the work of more recent black writers among them bessie head mtutuzeli matshoba and njabulo ndebele

this is a true story the events detailed in this book took place as reported over little more than a year the dialogue is reproduced as accurately as possible without censorship or bowing to political correctness the author has drawn together his recollection of his youthful experiences on a farm in rural natal south africa during the apartheid years the narrative is a thought provoking blend of racism humour horror sex violence and social observation set in a time of social and political upheaval the final chapter recalls the author s subsequent trip to marion island in the sub

antarctic also a part of south africa the island s environment wild creatures and the often bizarre behaviour of its isolated human inhabitants are described in a direct and often humorous fashion this is described as a journey the author passes through the south african landscape from one end of the country to the other and then by sea to its farthest outpost the weather station on marion island the actions and utterances of the real people that he meets give an insight into the popular thinking of that time although sometimes shocking this was the real south africa of the late 1970 s un filtered by the hype and simplification that may have coloured our memories the narrative is supported by appropriate newspaper headlines from the time to lend real historical perspective to the story

this book examines the role that africa has played on the world stage the african union the african leaders efforts to take care of their own problems and lessen their dependence on the united states and european countries

home front south africa and the second world war offers a fresh academic perspective through the voices of both new and established scholars leveraging recently uncovered archival material to illuminate the experiences of south africans at home between 1939 and 1945 this latest addition to south africa s wartime historiography is thoughtfully divided into two broad sections dealing with active participation in and resistance against the allied war effort the book highlights the vigorous mobilisation and recruitment campaigns that saw thousands enlist and the pivotal roles women assumed in industry and civil service it explores how the war effort permeated every facet of society challenging traditional gender roles and societal norms it delves into the dynamic shifts within south african society from politics and community mobilisation to the contributions of collegiate schools and the impact on sports it uncovers the undercurrents of dissent that existed alongside visible support it brings to light the political activism within the african national congress the covert operations of nazi sympathisers and the simmering tensions among afrikaner nationalists in doing so the chapters collectively unravel the complexity of south african society where loyalty and opposition coexisted often influenced by propaganda espionage and socio political manoeuvring

life magazine is the treasured photographic magazine that chronicled the 20th century it now lives on at life com the largest most amazing collection of professional photography on the internet users can browse search and view photos of today s people and events they have free access to share print and post images for personal use

published by the newark museum distributed worldwide by rutgers university press after twenty eight years of desire and determination i have visited africa the land of my forefathers so wrote lida clanton broner 1895 1982 an african american housekeeper and hairstylist from newark new jersey upon her return from an extraordinary nine month journey to south africa in 1938 this epic trip was motivated not only by broner s sense of ancestral heritage but also a grassroots resolve to connect the socio political concerns of african americans with those of black south africans under the segregationist policies of the time during her travels this woman of modest means circulated among south africa s black

intellectual elite including many leaders of south africa s freedom struggle her lectures at black schools on race consciousness and race pride had a decidedly political bent even as she was presented as an american beauty specialist how did bronner a working class mother come to be a globally connected activist what were her experiences as an african american woman in segregated south africa and how did she further her work after her return bronner s remarkable story is the subject of this book which draws upon a deep visual and documentary record now held in the collection of the newark museum of art this extraordinary archive includes more than one hundred and fifty objects ranging from beadwork and pottery to mission school crafts acquired by bronner in south africa along with her diary correspondence scrapbooks and hundreds of photographs with handwritten notations

eslanda essie cardozo goode robeson lived a colorful and amazing life her career and commitments took her many places colonial africa in 1936 the front lines of the spanish civil war the founding meeting of the united nations nazi occupied berlin stalin s russia and china two months after mao s revolution she was a woman of unusual accomplishment an anthropologist a prolific journalist a tireless advocate of women s rights an outspoken anti colonial and antiracist activist and an internationally sought after speaker yet historians for the most part have confined essie to the role of mrs paul robeson a wife hidden in the large shadow cast by her famous husband in this masterful book biographer barbara ransby refocuses attention on essie one of the most important and fascinating black women of the twentieth century chronicling essie s eventful life the book explores her influence on her husband s early career and how she later achieved her own unique political voice essie s friendships with a host of literary icons and world leaders her renown as a fierce defender of justice her defiant testimony before senator joseph mccarthy s infamous anti communist committee and her unconventional open marriage that endured for over 40 years all are brought to light in the pages of this inspiring biography essie s indomitable personality shines through as do her contributions to united states and twentieth century world history

a definitive one volume guide to all sub saharan african countries providing invaluable economic and directory data

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