



ISBN 978-1-928232-74-2

GENRE Photography/Current Affairs

FORMAT Soft cover with flaps

SIZE 255x240mm

EXTENT 160pp

PRICE R280

RIGHTS World Rights

RELEASE January 2019

**FOR INFORMATION &
SALES ENQUIRIES**

sales@jacana.co.za
Tel: +27 011 628 3200

TO ORDER

orders@booksite.co.za
Tel: +27 087 022 0237

These are the things that sit with us

EDITED BY PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA,
FRIEDERIKE BUBENZER AND MARIETJIE OELOFSEN

'The cycle of hurt and bitterness needs to be broken. It is hoped that telling these stories may help to do that by making visible the lingering pain of apartheid. By publishing these stories, a small part of the healing may begin – for the storytellers and for all South Africans.' Bettina Wyngaard

"My family used to have a plot there. These were big plots of land. We had animals – cows and horses and stuff like that, and a big garden where we planted all the vegetables we could use. Then the government just came and said, you can't have any animals there, so we had to get rid of it. These are the things that sit with us." - *Research participant, Trauma, Memory, and Representations of the Past Project*, March 2016

This book makes visible undocumented everyday experiences that shaped the lives of ordinary South Africans during the country's brutal and painful past. It is a record of things that "sit" within all of us. By sharing their memories, the storytellers map the scope of the wider, and difficult, conversation about the meaning of justice and the missing parts of the discourse of reconciliation in South Africa. It creates a space for a conversation about South Africa's history and what it means to talk to and to hear the other within the context of this history. In publishing each story in Xhosa, Afrikaans and English, we hope that the book will stimulate conversation among South Africans across languages. We hope that it will enable South Africans to connect with one another in a manner that seeks mutual understanding about the complicated aspects of our shared history and its continuing impact on the lives of individuals and communities.

It is for this reason that we have compiled the collection of stories in this book. Stories – people narrating their memories of life under apartheid – can help introduce an alternative understanding of the painful aspects of their traumatic pasts. Twenty years after the TRC, this book is testament to our understanding that justice and reconciliation is not merely an event or a legal process but an on-going process that requires people to talk publicly about the effects of colonialism and apartheid on South Africans, and the need to listen to one another's stories.

We publish what we like

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

Professor and Research Chair for Historical Trauma and Transformation at Stellenbosch University. My work was inspired by witnessing profound human moments of change and transformation when I served on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). As a site of testimony and a space for listening to the pain of the other, the TRC provided points of identification, entryways into the experience of others and opened the possibility not only for empathic connection with the other, but also for the critical work of moral reflection. These insights from the TRC continue to influence my approach to difficult dialogues and my everyday relational encounters.

Friederike Bubenzer

Senior Project Leader, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

Throughout my life, I have been fascinated by the power of stories to connect people. I have longed to hear and document the memories of family members whose stories, real and imagined, have helped me understand myself and the world around me. That process enabled me to embark on the often difficult journey of compiling this book. I know that these stories have the power to bridge the divides that live on in the minds of this country.

Marietjie Oelofsen

Post-doctoral Fellow, Studies in Historical Trauma and Transformation, Stellenbosch University

In an uncertain world, I find a constant in the power of stories – true or fictional, spoken or written down – to disrupt the truths I hold about who I am, and what the world looks like. Now that the storytellers in this book, and the characters in their stories, have appeared in my head, I cannot erase their disruptive voices. I thank them for this gift.