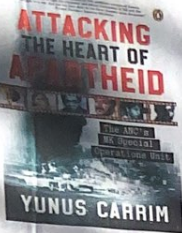


Meaningful and insightful reads that celebrate the spirit of fatherhood

AS FATHER'S Day approaches, many are looking for meaningful ways to recognise fathers, father figures, and paternal influences in their lives. One impactful way to honour these individuals is by gifting a book. A thoughtfully chosen book can entertain, inspire, or provide an opportunity for shared moments, enhancing the spirit of celebration on this special day.

ATTACKING THE HEART OF APARTHEID
Yunus Carrim
Loosco (R337)
PENGUIN

FOR over three decades, the remarkable story of Umkhonto we Sizwe's Special Operations Unit has remained largely untold. Formed under the direct command of ANC president Oliver Tambo and senior ANC and SACP executives, this elite unit executed some of the most daring and high-profile attacks against the apartheid state in the 1980s.



From the spectacular 1980 Sasol bombings to the 1988 attack at the Witbank security police offices.

Special Ops was at the forefront of the armed struggle, targeting strategic economic and military sites with precision and determination.

In this groundbreaking book, the history of Special Ops is brought to life through the voices of its surviving participants. Based on interviews with 48 individuals, conducted over nearly ten years, this oral history offers an intimate and comprehensive look at the unit's operations, challenges and achievements.

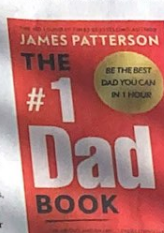
Also drawing from press reports, TBC records and official documents, the narrative provides a balanced assessment of the political context, role and significance of Special Ops within the broader ANC-led national liberation struggle.

Attacking the Heart of Apartheid is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of the anti-apartheid struggle, the dynamics of armed resistance, and the power of collective action in the pursuit of justice and equality.

#1 DAD
Patterson James
Loosco (R405)
CENTURY

PATTERSON James' Guide to Being for fathers at every stage - whether guiding a teenager, with clear advice, personal reflections, and timeless strategies, this book serves as a most important thing you can do with purpose, patience, and presence. This guide avoids overwhelming theories and guilt-inducing checklists, delivering reliable insights on being a supportive, loving, and consistent father in the 21st century. Each chapter addresses essential topics, from nurturing emotional connections and setting boundaries to managing technology and balancing work with fatherhood.

Patterson's guide reminds this that greatness doesn't require



perfection, it requires consistency, compassion, and a willingness to show up. | STAFF REPORTER

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Author Frederick Forsyth dies at 86

AFP

BRITISH thriller writer Frederick Forsyth, who instantly became a global bestselling author when his book *The Day of the Jackal* was published in 1971, died on Monday aged 86, his literary agents Curtis Brown said.

Forsyth has penned his most famous work about a fictional assassination attempt on French president Charles de Gaulle by right-wing extremists in just 35 days after falling on hard times.

The *Jackal* went on to be made into a hit film starring Edward Fox as the assassin. A Netflix remake last year with Eddie Redmayne in the lead role was released last year.

"We mourn the passing of one of the world's greatest thriller writers," his agent Jonathan Lloyd said.

Forsyth died at home surrounded by his family following a brief illness, according to Curtis Brown.

The former journalist and pilot wrote over 25 books including *The Odessa File* (1972) and *The Day of the Jackal* (1971), and sold over 75 million copies worldwide.

Many of his novels were also turned into films.

"Only a few weeks ago I sat with him as we watched a new and moving documentary of his life... and was reminded of an extraordinary life."

well lived," said Lloyd.

A sequel to *The Odessa File*, entitled *Revenge of Odessa*, on which he worked with thriller writer Tony Kenton, was to be published in August, his publisher Bill Scott-Kerr said.

"His journalistic background brought a rigour and a metronomic efficiency to his working practice and his sense for and understanding of a great story kept his novels both thrillingly contemporary and fresh," Scott-Kerr added.

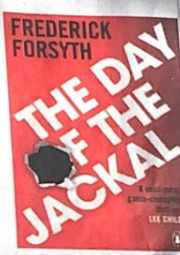
Forsyth attributed much of his success to "luck", recalling how a bullet narrowly missed him while he was covering the bloody Biafra civil war between 1967 and 1970.

"I have had the most spectacular luck at through my life," he told *The Times* last November in an interview.

"It got place, right time, right person, right contact, right promotion - and even just turning my head away when that bullet went past," he said.

Asked why he had decided to give up journalism, he said: "I had to go back to it - he took it to 2016 and 'run out of things to do'."

"I can't just sit at home and do a nice little romance from within my study. I have to go out and check out places like Modaghu, Guinea Bissau, both hellholes in different ways," he said.



Forsyth had two sons by his first wife. His second wife, Sandy, died last year.

Conservative MP David Davis paid tribute to his friend as a "fabulous workaholic".

He told Sky News that Forsyth "was a great believer in the old values - he believed in honour and patriotism and courage and directness and straightforwardness, and a big defender of our armed forces".



FREDERICK Forsyth. | Supplied

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FOR CONSIDERATION REVIEWS SHOULD BE 300-500 WORDS

BOOKMARK

Transform your public speaking skills, build confidence and connect with your audience

IGNITION: 3 STEPS TO DRIVE FROM NEWBIE PRESENTER TO EXPERT PRESENTER
Dinesh Pillay
Loosco (R495)
QUICKFOX PUBLISHING

PUBLIC speaking can be a daunting task, no matter how many times you've done it. It's a journey that many of us embark on, often filled with both excitement and trepidation.

Even those who have stood before audiences countless times can find themselves needing to return to the basics.

In her book, *Ignition: 3 Steps to Drive from Newbie Presenter to Expert Speaker*, Dinesh Pillay shares a practical approach to help us find our voice and connect with our audience again.

For me, public speaking has been a pivotal part of my personal and professional development. Long before I discovered Pillay's insights, I spent years honing my delivery and learning the nuances of storytelling.

As a Distinguished Toastmaster, I grasped the mechanics of a strong speech, but this book reminded me of something crucial: even seasoned speakers benefit from a reset - a moment to pause, reflect, and remember what truly resonates with an audience.

Reading Pillay's work felt like returning to the fundamentals but through a sharper lens. It did not introduce something entirely new. Instead, it reframed what I already



When this book reinforced is something I have learned the hard way, it is that confidence is a muscle. You train it. You build it. You earn it through reps.

The most powerful speakers are not always the most talented; they are the ones who practice deliberately and consistently.

That line stopped me in my tracks. Because it is not about waiting to feel confident - it is about doing the work that builds your confidence.

One of my favorite takeaways was a deceptively simple idea: You have to enjoy your speech before anyone else can.

When I am excited about my message, when I genuinely enjoy the words I am saying, everything changes. My pacing smooths out. My tone finds its rhythm. My presence lands. And the audience? They lean in.

That hit hard. Because I have given speeches where I was too focused on perfection and others where I was just in the moment, fully alive in the message. The difference was night and day.

This guide reminded me that public speaking is not just a performance, it is a shared experience. And if the speaker is not feeling it, the audience will not either.

For me, it was a well-timed reminder, and no matter how long you have been speaking, it is always worth stepping back to view your voice with fresh eyes.

| REHANA RUTTI

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| REHANA RUTTI

Quaint village café turns dead in darkly humorous novel

MAKING A KILLING
Bonnie Espie
Loosco (R4275)
WHISTLER & CO.

WHISTLER do you get when you visit a quaint village, a sleepy hamlet, a place where the locals are friendly and the atmosphere is warm and inviting?

A riotously dark, funny and satisfying debut novel, that's what.

When Winifred Staples escapes Johannesburg for a quieter life in the quaint village of Riverdale, she is hoping for peace, pastries and a warm welcome.

Instead, she's almost forced into teaming up with the savvy Sylvie, whose language is peppered with Afrikaans, but not so much that non-speakers cannot follow.

The pair open *The Novel Lottery*, a cosy haven of tea, books, dogs and gossip. Everything's going swimmingly - until a customer accidentally dies after hours.

Rather than let a small matter like murder ruin their dream, Winifred and Sylvie roll up their sleeves and get creative. With a flair for resourcefulness (and disposal), the duo prove that nothing - not even the odd corpse - can keep a good café down.

Espe delivers a delightfully twisted tale filled with wit, warmth and a generous dash of the macabre. Her characters leap off the page - Winifred is deliciously anxious, Sylvie is a force of nature, and together they're irresistible.

This novel is a cheeky, clever romp through friendship, secrets and small-town survival. Just the right blend of cosy and criminal. It reminds me of Sally Andrew's Tannie Maria book series set in the Klein Karoo, so hopefully Espe has more to come.

| KAREN WATKINS

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