

Special Assignment

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Memories at Low Altitude
Brothers in War and Peace
A Rumour of Spring
The Unexploded Boer
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as a spokesman for a country a continent and the developing world thabo mbeki played a crucial role in world politics but to many people he remained an enigma throughout his presidency is this simply because he was a secretive man or were there complicated political factors at play who was the real mbeki in this book multiple award winning journalist william mervin gumede chronicles mbeki's spectacular rise to dominate africa's oldest liberation movement he explores the complex position that mbeki occupied following in nelson mandela's footsteps holding together an alliance with deep ideological differences and ruling an intensely divided country revealing the political and personal tensions behind the scenes gumede explains how mbeki sought to mould the anc into his image through tight control and exposes the intrigues behind the battle for succession covering mbeki's attempts to modernise the economy and kick start an african renaissance and investigating his controversial stance on issues from aids to zimbabwe the book offers invaluable insights into the arcane machinations behind political decisions that touch the lives of millions every day

a story of war and peace in mozambique and beyond memories at low altitude spans four decades of southern african history from the point of view of one of its main protagonists jacinto veloso fought in the mozambican liberation struggle and served as a minister in samora machel's cabinet after independence when the region was dominated by civil war and the conflict between east and west veloso's story covers many fascinating issues of this period among them the conflict between frelimo and the south african backed renamo the negotiations that

resulted in the nkomati accord in which he was a key participant the processes that contributed to the withdrawal of cuban and south african troops from angola and the independence of namibia the impact of post independence mozambique s strictly socialist economy and its subsequent shift to a more market orientated approach and the aeroplane crash in which samora machel was killed velosa s insights are particularly interesting given his role in the commission of inquiry into the crash

abraham and constand viljoen were identical twins who took starkly different paths in life one was a deeply religious man who opposed apartheid the other was a man of war who became head of the sadf but together they would play a crucial role in preventing south africa from descending into civil war in the early 1990s constand came out of retirement to head the afrikaner volksfront which opposed the negotiations with the anc and made plans for military action realising that war would destroy their country abraham approached his estranged brother and urged him to consider the alternative talks with the anc what followed was a series of secret meetings and negotiations that ultimately prevented civil war brothers in war and peace documents the crucial yet largely unheralded role the viljoen brothers played in ensuring peace in south africa based on interviews with the brothers and other key political figures the book gives new insights into a time when the country s future was on a knife edge

democracy in south africa turns twenty on 27 april 2014 in a rumour of spring max du preez investigates and analyses the progress and lack of progress the country has made during these twenty years a rumour of spring looks at the legacies of nelson mandela and thabo mbeki in an attempt to understand how we got here and examines jacob zuma s presidency to better understand where we are in the context of blatant corruption populism and tragedies such as the marikana massacre the book considers the current state of the ruling party and the opposition and dissects the big issues currently afflicting our society including the state of education land reform crime and policing the judiciary nationality and race and then with images of the arab spring fresh in our collective memory it dares to look to the future and what it may hold an honest and balanced account a rumour of spring tackles the questions asked by ordinary south africans every day how are we really doing what is really going on in our country how should we understand what is happening here and will it get any better

in the winter of 1975 erich rautenbach s life took a serious turn for the worse when he was bust for selling weed by gun toting undercover cops he d been selling the dope to raise money to leave south africa in a bid to escape his army call up and resist having to shoot people in the name of apartheid but instead he found himself in the infamous john vorster square at the mercy of drug squad policemen who seemed convinced that he was part of some notorious drug ring this wild memoir recreates the cape town of the 1960s and 70s where erich hung out with people from district six and the bo kaap and jammed with fellow musicians at the office on long street he describes his travels around the country to durban johannesburg the zulu village where he bought durban poison and all the places in between and recounts his experiences at john vorster square the fort and sterckfontein sanatorium where events quickly spiralled out of control written in an electric and hilarious style the unexploded boer is destined to become a cult classic

presents ideas on how to create websites for teenagers from the basics such as links and catalogs to technical skills relating to elements like blogs feeds and podcasting

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