

# The Sculptors Of Mapungubwe By Zakes Mda

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in the timeless kingdom of mapungubwe the royal sculptor had two sons chata and rendani as they grew so grew their rivalry and their extraordinary talents but while rendani became a master carver of the animals that run in the wild hills and lush valleys of the land chata learned to carve fantastic beings from his dreams creatures never before seen on the earth from this natural rivalry between brothers zakes mda crafts an irresistibly rich fable of love and family what makes the better art perfect mimicry or inspiration who makes the better wife a princess or a mysterious dancer ageless and contemporary deceptive in its simplicity and mythical in its scope the sculptors of mapungubwe encompasses all we know of love envy and the artist s primal power to forge art from nature and nature into art mda s newest novel will only strengthen his international reputation as one of the most trenchant voices of south africa

archives of times past explores particular sources of evidence on southern africa s time before the colonial era it gathers recent ideas about archives and archiving from scholars in southern africa and elsewhere focusing on the question how do we know or think we know what happened in the times before european colonialism 0the essays by well known historians archaeologists and researchers engage these questions from a range of perspectives and in illuminating ways written from personal experience they capture how these experts encountered their archives of knowledge

beyond the textbook 0the essays are written at a time when public discussion about the history of southern africa before the colonial era is taking place more openly than at any other time in the last hundred years they will appeal to students academics educationists teachers archivists and heritage museum practitioners and the general public

sol plaatje s mhudi is the first full length novel in english to have been written by a black south african and is widely regarded as one of south africa s most important literary works set in the 1830s it tells the tale of mhudi and ra thaga a romantic story set against a violent backdrop of war between barolong and matebele complicated by the intrusions of boer trekkers with whom the barolong form an alliance it is notable among other things for the way plaatje uses the past to explore the roots of the oppression and injustice suffered by his people a century later when the book was written page 4 of cover

in 1997 m e r mathivha an elder of the black jewish lemba people of south africa announced to the lemba cultural association that a recent dna study substantiated their ancestral connections to jews lemba people subsequently leveraged their genetic test results to seek recognition from the post apartheid government as indigenous africans with rights to traditional leadership and land retheorizing genetic ancestry in the process in genetic afterlives noah tamarkin illustrates how lemba people give their own meanings to the results of dna tests and employ them to manage competing claims of jewish ethnic and religious identity african indigeneity and south african citizenship tamarkin turns away from genetics researchers results that defined a single story of lemba peoples true origins and toward lemba understandings of their own genealogy as multivalent guided by lemba people s negotiations of their belonging as diasporic jews south african citizens and indigenous africans tamarkin considers new ways to think about belonging that can acknowledge the importance of historical and sacred ties to land without valorizing autochthony borders or other technologies of exclusion

issues for nov 1957 include section accessions aanwinste sept 1957

this book is a collection of non fiction by the prolific author zakes mda it showcases his role as a public intellectual with the inclusion of public lectures essays and media articles mda focuses on south africa s history and the present identity and belonging the art of writing human rights global warming and why he is unable to keep silent on abuses of power some of his best known novels include ways of dying 1995 mnet book prize the heart of redness 2000 commonwealth writers prize africa and sunday times fiction prize the madonna of excelsior 2002 one of the top ten south african books published in the decade of democracy the whale caller 2005 cion 2007 black diamond 2009 the sculptors of mapungubwe 2013 rachel s blue 2014 and little suns 2015 sunday times literary award zakes mda was born in herschel in the eastern cape in 1948 and studied in south africa lesotho and the united states he wrote his first short story at the age of fifteen and has since won major south african and british literary awards for his novels and plays his writing has been translated into twenty languages mda is a professor of creative writing at ohio university subject zakes mda literature journalism media studies african studies current affairs history politics non fiction

discusses the geography and climate history wildlife economy government people religion and culture of south africa

kristin uys a tough magistrate goes on a one woman crusade to wipe out prostitution in her town her reasons are personal and her zeal is fierce her main targets are the visagie brothers stevo and shortie who run a brothel and although she fails to take down the entire establishment she manages to nail stevo for contempt of court from diepkloof prison the outraged stevo orchestrates his revenge against the magistrate aided and abetted by his rather inept brother shortie and his erstwhile nanny aunt magda as kristin faces menacing phone calls and vandalism the chief magistrate has no choice but to assign a bodyguard to protect her to kristin s consternation security guard don mateza moves into her home and trails her everywhere this new arrangement doesn t suit don s longtime girlfriend tumi former model and successful businesswoman who is intent on turning don into a black diamond a member of the wealthy new black south african middle class and don soon finds that his new assignment has unexpected complications which tumi simply does not understand in black diamond zakes mda tackles every conceivable south african stereotype skillfully turning them upside down and exposing their ironies often hilariously this is a clever quirky novel in which mda captures the essence of contemporary life in a fast changing urban world

the mapungubwe cultural landscape is one of the profound treasures of southern africa s social and archaeological history appropriately declared a world heritage unesco in 2003 contained within this landscape is indispensable information on precolonial state formation social hierarchies architecture of stone walled towns mineral processing and intercontinental trade and yet the mapungubwe state rose towered over its environs and then declined long before european colonial incursions what exactly were the social dynamics in this polity what technologies did it utilise how did it relate to neighbouring polities unable to sustain itself in this combined edition of two mistra publications now jointly titled mapungubwe reconsidered a living legacy mistra seeks to contribute to the body of knowledge about mapungubwe straddling such issues as the relationships between humans and the environment management of mineral endowments and the form and impact of southern africa s global intercourse in this historical period

mapungubwe cultural layers explores the archaeological site of mapungubwe a pre colonial kingdom in southern africa to reveal insights into the origins of social hierarchy and complex political systems flourishing between 1220 ad and 1300 ad mapungubwe offers a unique lens through which to understand the region s pre colonial history the book examines the evolution of regional trade networks and the genesis of leadership models arguing that mapungubwe represents a pivotal moment in the development of social and political complexity the book progresses through a detailed examination of mapungubwe s archaeological layers beginning with an introduction to the geographical and historical context of iron age southern africa it meticulously analyzes evidence of social class divisions such as differentiated burial practices including the elite burials containing the famous gold rhinoceros the investigation extends into the sophisticated trade systems that sustained mapungubwe and the emergence of early forms of governance highlighting the kingdom s influence on subsequent african societies by integrating archaeological data scientific insights and oral histories mapungubwe cultural layers provides a comprehensive picture of life in this significant african kingdom the book connects archaeology with anthropology history and political science critically examining how the study of mapungubwe informs broader debates about the origins of social inequality and the diversity of leadership models in pre colonial africa

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