

Crossroads

I Live Where I Like: A Graphic History

Koni Benson • Illustrators: André Trantraal, Nathan Trantraal, and Ashley E. Marais • Foreword by Robin D.G. Kelley

Drawn by South African political cartoonists the Trantraal brothers and Ashley Marais, *Crossroads: I Live Where I Like* is a graphic nonfiction history of women-led movements at the forefront of the struggle for land, housing, water, education, and safety in Cape Town over half a century. Drawing on over sixty life narratives, it tells the story of women who built and defended Crossroads, the only African informal settlement that successfully resisted the apartheid bulldozers in Cape Town. The story follows women's organized resistance from the peak of apartheid in the 1970s to ongoing struggles for decent shelter today. Importantly, the history was workshopped with contemporary housing activists and women's collectives who chose the most urgent and ongoing themes they felt spoke to and clarified challenges against segregation, racism, violence, and patriarchy standing between the legacy of the colonial and apartheid past and a future of freedom still being fought for.

Presenting dramatic visual representations of many personalities and moments in the daily life of this township, the book presents a thoughtful and thorough chronology and archival newspapers, posters, photography, pamphlets, newsletters, and documentary clips that further illustrate the significance of the struggles at Crossroads for the rest of the city and beyond. This collaboration has produced a beautiful, captivating, accessible, forgotten, and in many ways uncomfortable history of Cape Town that has yet to be acknowledged and subverted.

Crossroads: I Live Where I Like raises questions critical to the reproduction of segregation and to gender and gender dynamics of collective organizing, to ongoing anticolonial struggles and struggles for the commons, and to new approaches to social history and creative approaches to activist archives.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

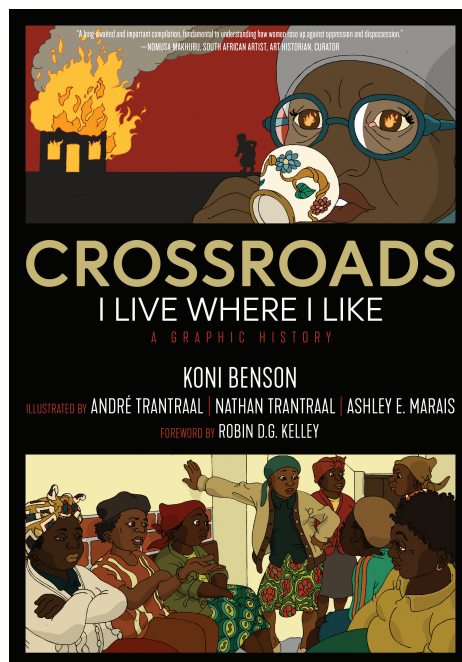
Koni Benson is a historian, organizer, and educator. She is a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, where she is committed to creative approaches to history that link art, activism, and African history in her work with various student, activist, and cultural collectives in southern Africa.

André Trantraal is a writer, illustrator, and translator from Bishop Lavis, Cape Town. His work has been exhibited in Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Cape Town and his political cartoons have appeared in a range of South African newspapers.

Nathan Trantraal is a poet, cartoonist, translator, playwright, screenwriter, short story author, and columnist. He was awarded the Ingrid Jonker Prize for poetry, and his work has been exhibited in Cape Town, Munich, and Amsterdam. He is currently a lecturer at Rhodes University at the School of Languages.

Ashley E. Marais is a comic book artist, designer, and painter. Also with the Trantraal Brothers, he is joint illustrator of *Safety, Justice & People's Power*, a book about the Khayelitsha Commission, written by Richard Conyngham.

Robin D.G. Kelley is an American historian and academic and is the Gary B. Nash Professor of American History at UCLA. During the academic year 2009–10, Kelley held the Harmsworth Chair of American History at Oxford University, the first African-American historian to do so since the chair was established in 1922. He was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship in 2014. Author of *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*; *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression*; *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class*; and many more books.



SUBJECT CATEGORY
Comics / History-Africa

PRICE
\$20.00

ISBN
978-1-62963-835-5

PAGE COUNT
168

SIZE
7x10

FORMAT
Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE
5/21

DISTRIBUTED BY
Publishers Group West
(510) 809-3700
www.pgww.com

DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY
Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd
t: 020 8829 3000
orders@turnaround-uk.com

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