

MY FIRST BOOK

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My first book, *Red Ink*, started as just an idea... I've always loved crime thrillers, especially those revolving around protagonists who are everyday people finding themselves in extraordinary circumstances. I find this kind of book far more compelling than detective novels because it's easier for me to relate to the characters. The vulnerability of an everyday person in a dangerous situation is tangible for me as a reader. I was reading up on a South African serial killer, and the thought suddenly occurred to me: "What if someone like me were to have an encounter with a character like that? What would be the circumstances that would bring us together and how would I relate to this person?" The idea evolved from there.

After submitting it to the publishers I felt extremely nervous! There's nothing as nerve-wrecking as putting something that is a creative reflection of yourself out there to the world, especially if it's about facing possible rejection of your concept. But seeing my book on the shelves was surreal. I think I first saw it in a shop in Knysna while on holiday with my mother and my son. I'm not sure what powerful force prevented me from jumping up and down and screaming: "There it is! There it is! I wrote that!" Potentially very embarrassing! I guess I learnt that we never know what we are capable of until we are bold enough to try.

