

## Book List

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### Anthropology:

- "A Handbook of Tswana Law and Custom" by Ian Schapera \*  
*From JH: The classic work. He has a piece in African Political System (another oldie) which is a good short statement of Tswana political structure as it existed.*
- "Debility and Moral Imagination in Botswana" by Julie Livingston \*
- "Reasonable Radicals and Citizenship in Botswana: The Public Anthropology of Kalanga Elites" by Richard P. Werbner \*
- "The Social Basis of Health and Healing in Africa (Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care)" edited by Steven Feierman and John M. Janzen

### Economics & Economic Policy:

- "Aspects of the Botswana Economy: Selected Papers" by J. S. Salkin, et al
- "Policy Choice and Development Performance in Botswana (Economic Choices Before the Developing Countries)" by Charles Harvey (Author), Stephen R. Lewis (Author), Keith Griffin (Foreword)
- "An African Miracle: State and Class Leadership and Colonial Legacy in Botswana Development" by Abdi Ismail Samatar \*

### Fiction:

- "A Carrion Death: Introducing Detective Kubu" by Michael Stanley \*
- "Far and Beyond" by Unity Dow \*
- "Juggling Truths" by Unity Dow \*
- "The Screaming of the Innocent" by Unity Dow \*
- "The Girl Who Married a Lion: and Other Tales from Africa" by Alexander McCall Smith\*

### History:

- "The Colour Bar: The Triumph of Seretse Khama and His Nation" by Susan Williams \*  
*From JH: Seretse's biography from a European point of view. No sense of his impact on Botswana.*
- "History of Botswana" by Thomas Tlou  
*From JH: This is for high school but it is very well done.*
- "King Khama, Emperor Joe, and the Great White Queen: Victorian Britain through African Eyes" by Neil Parson \*  
*From Amazon.com: In 1895 three Bechuana chiefs from southern Africa traveled to London to implore Queen Victoria not to turn their territories over to the empire builder Cecil Rhodes. King Khama and his associates won a few concessions, but they were ultimately unsuccessful. In their travels, however, they helped sway British public opinion to a more sympathetic view of indigenous issues in Africa, especially by favorably impressing the liberal clergy. Basing his account of the Bechuana*

*leaders' tour of Great Britain on contemporary newspaper reports, Neil Parsons carefully reconstructs their itinerary, which included a strange stop at Madame Tussaud's famous wax museum.*

- "Marriage of Inconvenience: The Persecution of Ruth and Seretse Khama" by Michael Dutfeld
- "Seretse Khama, 1921-80" by Thomas Tlou, Neil Parsons & Willie Henderson with an epilogue by Julius K. Nyerere (Hardcover)
- "Beloved partner : Mary Moffat of Kuruman, a biography based on her letters" by Mora Dickson (1989) \*

HIV / AIDS & Health in Botswana:

- "Saturday is for Funerals" by Unity Dow and Max Essex
- "English - Setswana medical phrasebook and dictionary: Puisanyo ya bongaka ka sekgoa le Setswana" by Alfred M Merriweather \*
- "Setswana - English Phrasebook (Puisanyo Ya Sekgowa Le Setswana)" by A.J. Wookey

Memoir:

- "Botswana Time" by Will Randall \*
- "Casting with a Fragile Thread: A Story of Sisters and Africa" by Wendy Kann \*  
*Zimbabwe, not Botswana-based*
- "Desert Doctor" by Dr. Alfred Merriweather \*
- "Doctor Remembers" by Dr. Alfred Merriweather
- "The Lost World of the Kalahari" by Laurens Van der Post
- "Place of Reeds" by Caitlin Davies \*
- "Twenty Chickens for a Saddle: The Story of an African Childhood" by Robyn Scott \*
- "Masire: Very Brave or Very Foolish? Memoirs of an African Democrat" by Quett Ketumile Joni Masire \*

*From Amazon.com: Quett Ketumile Joni Masire was born in Kanye in 1925 and later became one of the founding fathers of independent Botswana. Long admired for his innovative farming methods, Sir Ketumile formed the Botswana Democratic Party in 1962 and was one of the key architects of Botswana's political and economic development. He then served as Vice President of Botswana from 1966-1980 and then became President in 1980 upon the death of Sir Seretse Khama. He lead his party to three successive election victories in 1984, 1989 and 1994, retiring in 1988. The years under Masire realized stellar income per capita growth rates, extensive decline in corruption, and important changes in the election processes. Since retiring from the Presidency, Masire was knighted in 1991 and has continued to be an influential presence in African affairs.*

- "Whatever You Do, Don't Run: True Tales of a Botswana Safari Guide" by Peter Allison \*
- "When a Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa" by Peter Godwin \*  
*Zimbabwe, not Botswana-based*

Politics:

- "An African Miracle: State and Class Leadership and Colonial Legacy in Botswana Development" by Abdi Ismail Samata  
*From Amazon.com: Afro-pessimism has dominated the Africanist literature in the*

*social sciences during the last twenty years. Many works characterized as such deal with what has gone wrong in Africa. In sharp contrast, "An African Miracle" shows how an African state and its people used their resources to remain free from the dictates of racist South Africa, achieving a high rate of economic growth while maintaining a solid commitment to democracy. The book examines the relationship between the dominant class in Botswana, its leadership, and the state in understanding why Botswana succeeded where other African states with more resources and talent failed.*

*Abdi Ismail Samatar is Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of "An African Miracle" that was a finalist for the 2000 Herskovits award.*

- "Botswana: Politics and Society" by W.A. Edge (Editor), M.H. Lekorwe (Editor)
- "Dividing the Commons: Politics, Policy, and Culture in Botswana" by Pauline E. Peters\*

#### Travel:

- "Botswana - Culture Smart!: a quick guide to customs and etiquette (Culture Smart!)" by Michael Main \*
- "Botswana: The Insider's Guide" by Ian Michler
- "Botswana: Okavango Delta, Chobe, Northern Kalahari, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide" by Chris McIntyre \*
- "The Myth of Wild Africa: Conservation Without Illusion" by Jonathan S. Adams \*
- "The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, and Primates" by Richard D. Estes \*

**NOTE: If you read only one book before going to Botswana, read "Botswana - Culture Smart!: a quick guide to customs and etiquette" by Michael Main.**

#### Popular:

Please note that the books in this section are or have been quite popular and are in most cases enjoyable to read. But the conditions described or the narrative voice is considered by some to be outdated and not an accurate representation of present day life in Botswana.

- "Maru" by Bessie Head \*

*From Amazon: Margaret Cadmore, an orphaned Masarwa girl, comes to Dilepe to teach, only to discover that in this remote Botswana village her own people are treated as outcasts. In the love story and intrigue that follows, Bessie Head brilliantly combines a portrait of loneliness with a rich affirmation of the mystery and spirituality of life.*

*Bessie Head, one of Africa's best known writers, was born in South Africa but spent much of her life in Botswana. She died tragically early, in 1986, leaving behind her a fine collection of literary works. "Tales of Tenderness and Power" was the first of her works to be published after her death, and another anthology, "A Woman Alone," has also been published posthumously. Both these titles reinforce Bessie Head's literary achievements, already evident in her novels "Maru," "When Rain clouds Gather," "The Cardinals," "A Collector of Treasures," "A Question of Power", and her historical account "Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind."*

- "Cry of the Kalahari" by Mark James Owens \*
- From JH: *This book is an extremist book on conservation by people who have no sense of or value for the humans who live in Botswana. It is anthropomorphic thought at its worst.*
- "Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind" by Bessie Head \*
- "Survivor's Song: Life and Death in an African Wilderness" by Mark Owens and Delia Owens
- "The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series: The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency (Book 1), Tears of the Giraffe (Book 2), Morality for Beautiful Girls (Book 3), The Kalahari Typing School for Men (Book 4), The Full Cupboard of Life (Book 5), In the Company of Cheerful Ladies (Book 6), Blue Shoes and Happiness (Book 7), "The Good Husband of Zebra Drive" (Book 8), "The Miracle at Speedy Motors (Book 9)", "Tea Time for the Traditionally Built" (Book 10), "The Double Comfort Safari Club" (Book 11), "The Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party" (Book 12), "The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection" (Book 13)

*From Amazon.com: Alexander McCall Smith is the author of the huge international phenomenon, The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, and The Sunday Philosophy Club series. He was born in what is now known as Zimbabwe and he was a law professor at the University of Botswana and at Edinburgh University. He lives in Scotland, where in his spare time he is a bassoonist in the RTO (Really Terrible Orchestra).*

Titles marked with an asterisk are available to borrow for a one month period from the Botswana-UPenn Partnership office in Philadelphia. Contact Heather Calvert to arrange a time to drop in and borrow a book.

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