

thasi nla'ang	(literally: 'wearing only your penis'), naked
tjerrie	a slang term for girlfriend
tjoepstil	absolutely silent
tjom	a friend or 'buddy'
lTon	a white person
toppies	timers, as in 'old timers'
toyi-toyi	protest dancing
troepies	troops
tsamma	the citron melon, a fruit native to the Kalahari
tsotsi	a gangster, a layabout, a good-for-nothing
twak	nonsense

Umkhonto we Sizwe Spear of the Nation (MK), the armed wing of the African National Congress

umfaan a boy (Zulu)

vasbyt determination

verneuking cheating

verskoon excuse, as in 'please excuse my'

vry to make out or court, to 'snog' or 'neck'

yebo yes (Zulu)

Note on the Jul'hoan People and Language

From the evidence of palaeontological finds and scenes depicted in ancient rock art, experts believe that groups of hunter-gatherers have inhabited parts of southern Africa for 40,000 years or more. The San people of Namibia, Botswana and Angola are thought to be descendants of the stone-age artists. They have been labelled Bushmen, Hottentots, Masarwa, Khoisan and San by westerners and other Africans. However, these people have no collective name for themselves. The particular group in this book have always referred to themselves as Jul'hoansi, translating as 'real' or 'ordinary people'.

From their perspective, the world outside their camps was a hostile place. Water and food were scarce, they faced natural predators, such as lion and hyena, and they were persecuted by invading pastoralists, both black and white, for centuries. The San (as some anthropologists now refer to Bushmen) were not blameless, however, sometimes provoking attack from the settler pastoralists by poaching their livestock and stealing the goods of returning migrant workers. It became common practice to shoot 'Bushmen', abduct their children and use them as indentured labourers on settler farms in what was then German South West Africa. Modern times have seen no let-up in the problems faced by these formerly nomadic people, and nowadays the Jul'hoansi are unable to live solely by hunting and gathering.