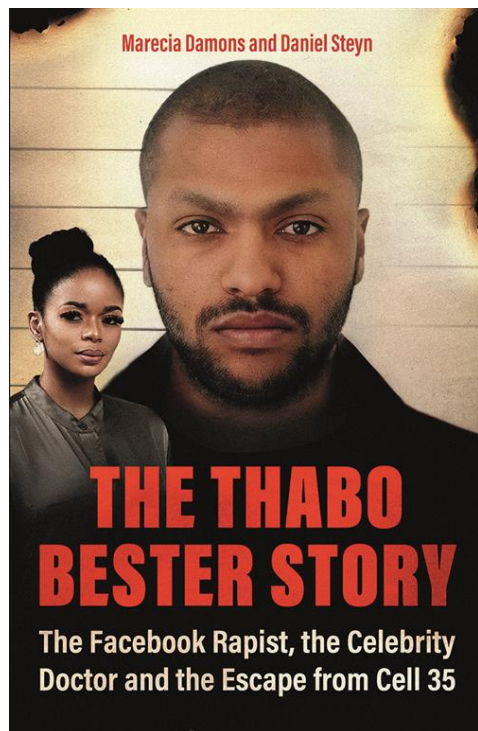


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The Thabo Bester Story

The Facebook Rapist, the Celebrity Doctor and the Escape from Cell 35

It is the quintessential crime story: murder, rape, cons, an improbable love affair, a prison break, a burnt body, a coffin filled with meat, a flashy lifestyle, and then a hasty escape in a black SUV through three countries.

The sensational escape of murderer and rapist Thabo Bester, assisted by his lover, society doctor Nandipha Magudumana, shocked South Africa and set social media alight. In *The Thabo Bester Story*, Marcia Damons and Daniel Steyn, the award-winning GroundUp journalists, who exposed the couple's scams and caught the government sleeping at the wheel while Bester and Magudumana lived the high life in Sandton, go behind the headlines.

Here they tell the full story, from Bester and Magudumana's early lives, their unlikely love affair and the tragedy surrounding their many victims, to a web of complicity in South Africa's broken prison system. Incredible, but true.

About the authors

Marcia Damons is a journalist at GroundUp and part of the team that exposed Thabo Bester's faked death. Originally from George, she studied Journalism at the University of Stellenbosch and lives in Cape Town.

Daniel Steyn is a journalist at GroundUp. He was part of the team that first exposed the scam where Thabo Bester faked his own death in prison. He has had work published on News24 and in Daily Maverick, and was trained in journalism, marketing, and film-making. Daniel lives in Cape Town.

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