



Down Second Avenue (Penguin Classics)

By Es'kia Mphahlele

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Down Second Avenue (Penguin Classics) By Es'kia Mphahlele

Es'kia Mphahlele's seminal memoir of life in apartheid South Africa—available for the first time in Penguin Classics

Nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1969, Es'kia Mphahlele is considered the Dean of African Letters and the father of black South African writing. *Down Second Avenue* is a landmark book that describes Mphahlele's experience growing up in segregated South Africa. Vivid, graceful, and unapologetic, it details a daily life of severe poverty and brutal police surveillance under the subjugation of an apartheid regime. Banned in South Africa after its original 1959 publication for its protest against apartheid, *Down Second Avenue* is a foundational work of literature that continues to inspire activists today.

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Editorial Review

Review

“If Nelson Mandela is our political star, Mphahlele was his literary equivalent.”

—Barney Mthombothi, in *The Star*

About the Author

Es'kia Mphahlele (1919–2008) published two autobiographies, *Down Second Avenue* and *Afrika My Music*, and three novels, *The Wanderers*, *Chirundu*, and *Father Came Home*, in addition to short stories and nonfiction. His short story collection, *In Corner B*, is available from Penguin Classics.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o's writings have been translated into more than thirty languages. His novels *Petals of Blood*; *Weep Not, Child*; and *A Grain of Wheat* are available in Penguin Classics. He lives in Irvine, California.

Users Review

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