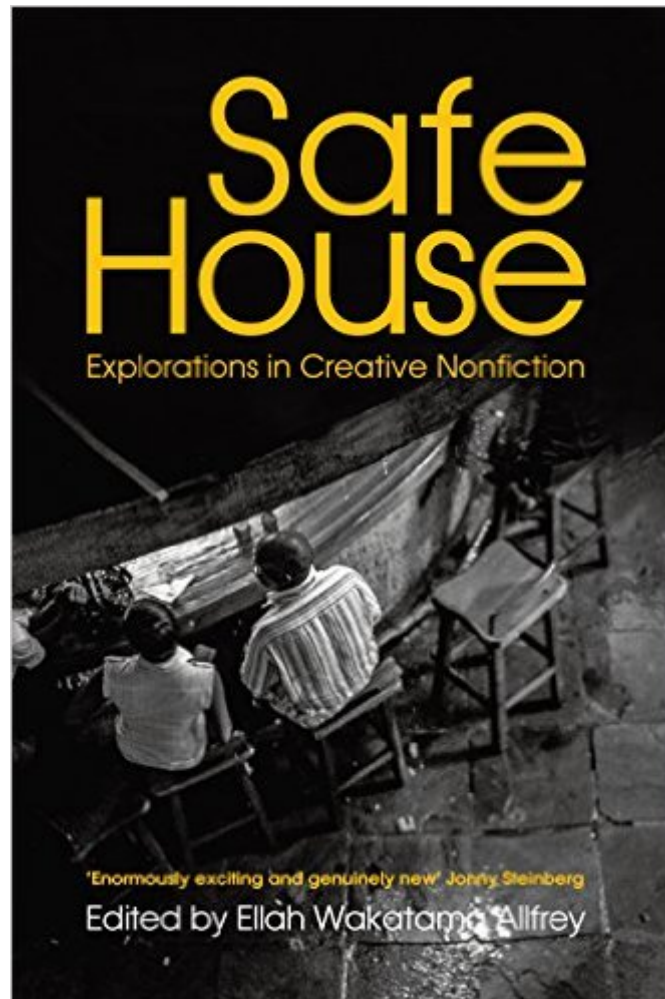


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# Safe House: Explorations In Creative Nonfiction (Commonwealth Writers)



## Synopsis

Illuminating African narratives for readers both inside and outside the continent. A Nigerian immigrant to Senegal explores the increasing influence of China across the region, a Kenyan student activist writes of exile in Kampala, a Liberian scientist shares her diary of the Ebola crisis, a Nigerian journalist travels to the north to meet a community at risk, a Kenyan author travels to Senegal to interview a gay rights activist, and a South African writer recounts a tale of family discord and murder in a remote seaside town. In a collection that ranges from travel writing and memoir to reportage and meditative essays, editor Ellah Wakatama Allfrey has brought together some of the most talented writers of creative nonfiction from across Africa.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (1 customer review)

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## Customer Reviews

While essay anthologies and collections from places such as North America and Britain are common and plentiful, and part of the publishing landscape there, essays from Africa are rare indeed. It's sometimes hard enough, in a calendar year, to find essays published in South Africa, where I live, and rarer still to come across anthologies of the genre. This collection of creative non-fiction is to be welcomed, and let's hope there are many more to come. The reasons for the paucity of essays might be many, editor Ellah Wakatama Allfrey offers up one such reason: "But African creative nonfiction, from the personal essay to the travelogue to the forensic investigation, seems, to me, to be in a germinal phase. This must have, in part, to do with resources. You have to leave your study to write compelling nonfiction. It takes time and money." While it's true that a

writer needs both money, and time, and sometimes travel, in order to produce essays, this collection proves that no matter the obstacles, African writers throughout the continent are finding the means to do so. With essays ranging from the Ebola crises to homophobia and murder, *Safe House* provides a lively portrait of the continent and some of the issues and concerns that intrigue and interest these writers here – all living on the continent. Here are some of the highlights: *Fugee* by Hawa Jande Golakai. A lively, if at times meandering exploration into the Ebola crisis in Liberia, where her family comes from, in 2014. From being detained at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg, to making it back to Liberia, her essay reveals what life was like while the epidemic was raging.

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