# OUTSPOKEN

Tshuma is an outspoken person who dares to retell the history of Zimbabwe in 1984-1987 when a genocide took place through writing the book *House of Stones*.

"For me, telling other stories is a way to bring recognition to other stories, other narratives that have been locked out of a space, ignored or erased"

She has an interesting style of writing. Instead of creating bright characters, she often writes characters that you will hate/feel repulsed to reflect the reality that no one is perfect, in terms of their morality and judgement.
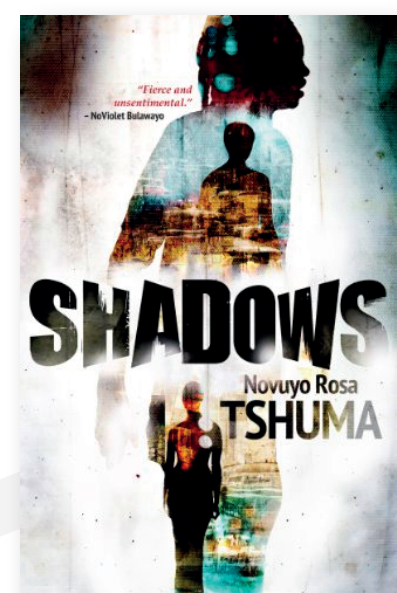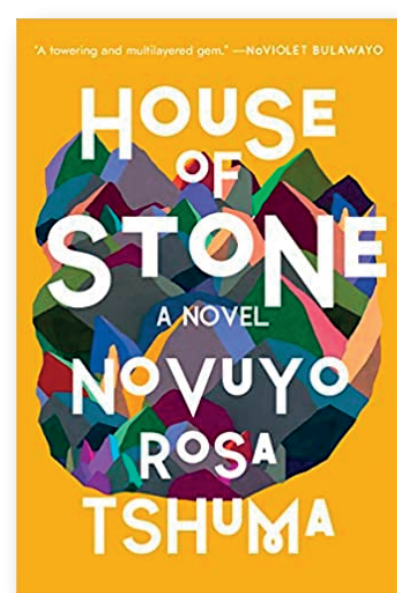
VOICE OF MINORITIES

Hong Kong has always labelled itself as an inclusive and diversified city.

But the mainstream voices and the primary representation of its citizens have always been 'us'.

People who are different from the social normality are rarely represented, rarely heard and rarely seen.

No matter if it is race, nationality, sexuality or ideologies - the voices of the people that differ from the mainstream are drowned out by the majority.

If we are the minority, what can we do to stand out and make ourselves seen and heard?

How can we promote inclusiveness to the rising pillars of society?

There is no better way to learn it than to read from a person who was undermined before - who had to '*negotiate their existence*'.

NOVUYO ROSA TSHUMA

HOUSE OF STONES

House of Stone is a story about history, conflict, belonging, and power.

Tshuma unearths the stormy beginnings of her home country Zimbabwe, reveals the horrid side of colonialism, takes us through the war of independence, and presents the reality of reinventing a nation and an individual.

Through her multilayered way of storytelling, Tshuma shows us how the present is built on past pain and suffering.

As one moves forward to establish a new identity in a nation, the troubled past also deserves to be acknowledged, not forgotten.

House of Stones also portrays the youth of Africa being oppressed under colonialism and the unstable political environment. In a country with paper over the cracks, the majority are blindfolded by the utopia of independence, while the minorities are overcoming and letting go of the miserable past, yet striving to seek an identity.

The story allows young readers to revisit the history and power outages of the nation built upon brutal political corruption.

REWRITING HISTORY

Historical Fiction is a fictional realm created by the writer in which the plot is set similarly to real historical events.

Tshuma bases her world on the history near South Africa, specifically in Zimbabwe, where she spent her childhood and high school years.

However, her fictional realms include not only Zimbabwe, but Africa as a whole. One of her most decorated book, *House of Stone*, delves into Africa's colonial history, adding her personal touch from her vision of her homeland.

Like her other collection, *Shadows*, Tshuma tells a painfully realistic story about the common people, brutal and honest, just like history.

SHADOWS

Shadows, a set of short stories depicted Zimbabwe's real life issues in a comic relief way.

The novella was set in an unjust place torn between both economic and political problems.

Mpho grew up in an environment where violence and unethical issues are allowed and how he faced such obstacles and hardships.

NOVUYO ROSA TSHUMA - A 34 year old Zimbabwean, renowned author of *Shadows* and *House of Stones*, and Assistant Professor in Emerson College in Boston.

Growing up in an unjust environment, Tshuma wanted to speak out for her race. Listening to her family's secrets and reading a variety of works motivated her to write the novel *House of Stones* and many others. By combining humour and emotions, she created a fictional world where readers can understand the difficulties of minorities in a captivating way.

She is also the recipient of the Balcones Fiction Prize & Lanna Foundation Fellowship Award in 2020.

Novuyu Rosa Tshuma
Tribute Nyoni-Tribbaz

WRITER
FIGHTER
PROFESSOR
ZIMBABWEAN