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Sarah Stacke *Love from Manenberg*

Texts by Carl Collison, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela,
John Edwin Mason, Sarah Stacke

Designed by Bonnie Briant

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A deeply humane long-term portrait of the people in Manenberg, a neighborhood of Cape Town, South Africa

Love from Manenberg looks at life in Manenberg, South Africa, in particular the experiences of women and their children. The work makes room for complex narratives pushed aside by the media and shows the ways families look to the future and carry the joy, grief, and everyday realities of life in a community plagued by gang violence. Through fortitude and faith, they persevere and prosper.

Sarah Stacke first photographed Manenberg, a neighborhood of Cape Town, in June 2011. For over a decade, the women of the Lottering, Pietersen, and Adams families have shared their lives, showing the texture, unity, and comfort of their home. The title of the book reflects the love these women embody, but also describes the relationships the photographer has formed with them. They have become a part of the fabric of each other's lives.

From the text *Double Jeopardy* by **Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela**, who holds the South African National Research Chair in Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma:

*What's going to happen to the women and children whose stories Sarah Stacke shares in *Love from Manenberg*? When we think about the transgenerational impact of the experiences Stacke shows so poignantly in this book, we have to ask, what future awaits these children? The moments she portrays are a staging of a future we are already witnessing in the women's own lives, given their present circumstances. These images are a powerful reminder of this community's cry for social justice, their endless quest for opportunities to build a new future for their children.*

From the text *Seeing Manenberg* by **Carl Collison**, an award-winning South African journalist, photographer, and filmmaker:

Whenever Manenberg makes the news in mainstream media in South Africa—which is near-daily—headlines scream of murder, gangster-

ism and violence. Rarely are there “good news” stories. Stories that show that for every stray bullet viciously and unexpectedly ending a life there are hundreds of people simply living, loving, hoping, dreaming, and, at the end of the day, surviving.

From the text *Cape of Storms* by **John Edwin Mason**, who teaches African history & history of photography at the University of Virginia:

The greatest strength of Sarah Stacke's deeply humane book is that she, too, sees these complexities. Yes, the photographs are subtle, insightful, and beautiful to behold. But they're also entry points that invite us to see and begin to understand lives that, while they may seem very different from our own, aren't alien to us. To feel our common humanity is a crucial first step toward helping to right the wrongs of Manenberg's history.

Manenberg's history is far from over. The people that Stacke came to know and to love, and the suburb's tens of thousands of other residents, will make new histories for generations to come. They will do their best, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, to bend the long arc of history toward justice.

From the text *We're All Like Family Here* by **Sarah Stacke**:

Looking at that old picture of Franz and Naomi, I was struck by all that has happened — and is waiting to happen — in that house on Cam Road, and in so many of the houses in Manenberg that hold and remember multiple generations. Birth and death. Deeds and words. The vibrant texture of Manenberg is woven inside the rooms of these homes, it floods the streets like the strong rivers whose names they bear, and touches the light, wind, and clouds that perpetually tangle with the mighty Table Mountain.

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Press images



01_Table Mountain from Sabie Road, 2020
@Sarah Stacke



02_Debbie watching Zobi enter the school gates, 2014
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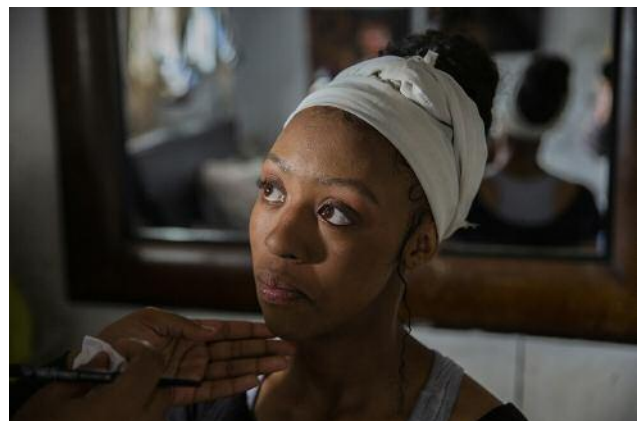
03_Edmond (left) and Graham Watson securing the cross at Ashwin's grave, 2018
@Sarah Stacke



04_Zobi helping Naomi after a stroke left her nearly incapacitated. Zenoah is in the background, 2022
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05_A full moon rising over Manenberg, 2018
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06_Tonya, with Tasha's help, getting ready for prom, 2020
@Sarah Stacke



07_ Meesie and Naomi, 2016
@Sarah Stacke



08_ Jessica (right) and her family watching from inside their front door as the South African National Defense Force (SANDF) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) guard Red River Street, 2019 @Sarah Stacke



09_ Chalcey (left) and Chandre practicing a dance they learned on TikTok, 2020 @Sarah Stacke



10_ Chalcey playing in her living room, 2018
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11_ Debbie (left) and her neighbor, Naznuna Esau, 2014
@Sarah Stacke



12_ Zobi, 2020
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