



The Unlikely Secret Agent

RONNIE KASRILS

The Unlikely Secret Agent has just been published in French

Jacana Media is delighted to announce that *The Unlikely Secret Agent* by Ronnie Kasrils, recipient of the 2011 Sunday Times Alan Paton Award, has just been published in French by Mardaga Publishing.

On hearing the news of the French edition, author Ronnie Kasrils had this to say: *'I am particularly delighted that this book about an unsung heroine of South Africa's national liberation struggle is appearing as a French-language publication. The anti-fascist resistance in Europe during World War Two has resonances in this book about a daring young woman who was prepared to sacrifice her freedom to a just cause. I believe French-speaking people of all ages will be inspired by this Scots-born woman who grew up in South Africa and became the first female operative in the clandestine armed struggle under Nelson Mandela's command.'*

Written after the death of his wife in 2009, *The Unlikely Secret Agent* tells the story of Eleanor Kasrils, one of the few white South African women to engage in armed struggle against the apartheid regime. A story written with humility and a pride that the reader can only share.

'Ronnie's response to Eleanor's sudden death last year at home in South Africa was to write this extraordinary book at breakneck speed. It is a love story, a historical document of great importance, and a terrific tale of a clandestine success.' – Journalist and writer, Victoria Brittain

'A poignant and beautiful book.' – Washington Post, James McAuley

'This "little" book about an "ordinary" woman with the heart of a lioness confirms the truth that our freedom was not free. From its pages rings out another truth that among the outstanding heroines and heroes of the South African struggle were those who did not set out to perform heroic deeds. These are the heroic combatants for freedom like the Unlikely Secret Agent, Eleanor Kasrils, the subject of this engrossing "little book", who did the equally "little" things without which victory over the apartheid regime would have been impossible.'

– Former President of the Republic of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki

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Neilwe Mashigo
011 628 3200
neilwe@jacana.co.za

FOR SALES ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Jacana Media
011 628 3200

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