



## Trackers

*Deon Meyer , K.L. Seeger (Translator)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Trackers

*Deon Meyer , K.L. Seeger (Translator)*

**Trackers** Deon Meyer , K.L. Seeger (Translator)

Lemmer's First Law: Don't get involved. But when Emma le Roux looks at him with pleading eyes, when the roof of his Karoo house needs big repairs, when the cause is good and just, laws can be broken. So he sighs, and says, yes, he'll ride shotgun for two rare black rhinos. Bad decision. Because on a dark and dusty road in Limpopo, they stick a Smith & Wesson Model 500 against his head. They kick him and beat him, they lie, they deceive him, and they steal his Glock, the one with his fingerprints all over it. They should have killed him. And now he goes after them--the start of a trail of violence that will run the length and breadth of a country, and touch many lives.

It will leave a trail of blood through the first private-investigation dossier of former cop Mat Joubert. It's a "fifty-five," police slang for a missing persons case. It will stomp fear and horror through the life of Milla Strachan, who walked out on her rich, cheating husband and abusive teenage son to start a new life. A trail of death, stretching from the Chizarira to the Cape Waterfront. And at the end of it, nobody will be untouched.

## Trackers Details

Date : Published September 6th 2011 by Random House Canada (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780307360168

Author : Deon Meyer , K.L. Seeger (Translator)

Format : Paperback 496 pages

Genre : Cultural, Africa, Fiction, Mystery, Crime, Thriller

 [Download Trackers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Trackers ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Trackers Deon Meyer , K.L. Seeger (Translator)**

---

# From Reader Review Trackers for online ebook

## Trish says

Long before I started recording the books I'd read and writing reviews, I read my first Deon Meyer novel called *Heart of the Hunter*. It was a tremendous introduction to South African fiction—rich with characters strong and brave, written with such specific local color, one could be nowhere else on earth. I now grab Meyer's new books whenever a bookstore is wise enough to stock them, and recommend them to anyone who likes international mystery fiction.

In this latest offering, Meyers takes on a plot thick with international terrorism, diamond and animal smuggling, and gang warfare. He reprises or invokes old faces: private investigator Mat Joubert; “retired” bad boy and private security bodyguard Lemmer; Lukas Becker, archeologist and bruiser with a heart of gold; Benny Griessel, policeman *extraordinaire*. We are introduced to a new character that we hope to see again: Cornelia Johanna van Jaarsveld, better known as the animal tracker, “Flea.” It is a lot to assimilate, but Meyer manages. The final third of the book is riveting, and exhibits Meyer's great skill: writing a fast-paced story unique with characters that matter to us.

This big book is almost an embarrassment of riches: many threads, stories within stories, lots of characters. It could have been three separate novels, though they all tied together at the end. In my ebook version, the first one hundred pages “set the scene” for an international terrorism plot, but do not display Meyer's great skills at characterization. The reader must not lose hope, because the rest of the book is hallmark Meyer. I perhaps would have encouraged greater editing on the background terror plot, while I understand the reason for it. It was, perhaps, more detailed than necessary and certainly less interesting. It would have taken some effort to shorten the plot explication while highlighting Milla, the character who later plays a pivotal role. In any case, far be it from me to withhold praise from Deon Meyer, who can be masterful in sharing South Africa with us.

As an added bonus, Meyer's website has photographs posted by the author that show the locales he describes in the book, titled *Spoor* in the Afrikaans edition. In case you've never been to South Africa, this is a good opportunity to visualize the landscape Meyer describes in his novels.

---

## Maddy says

Divided into four “books”, TRACKERS features a large cast of characters and is an incredibly complex work. It's intimidating to even begin to think of summarizing what takes place in the book, so hopefully, a brief synopsis will suffice. Basically, the book focuses on security issues within South Africa. The country's intelligence agency is on high alert with information indicating that militant Muslims are planning to a terrorist act. There are a few smuggling schemes, one involving diamonds and one black rhinos, an ill-fated romance and various dangerous situations.

Book 1 focuses on the work being done by the Presidential Intelligence Agency, with the lead character being a newly hired report writer named Milla Strachan. Various threats to national security are uncovered; in particular, the group is looking at an operation involving smuggling of diamonds from Zimbabwe which may be used to arm Muslim terrorists. There were an incredible number of characters and scenarios

introduced. I found myself completely lost; when I reached page 80, I decided to start reading the book again to try to reduce my confusion.

Fortunately, Book 2 had more of a personal focus and was easier to follow. A bodyguard named Lemmer is hired by a wealthy farmer to help move a pair of black rhinos from Zimbabwe, where they may be murdered for their horns. There's a lot of action, double crosses and a rather fascinating female character introduced in this section of the book. Book 3 returns to Milla, as well as a suspected CIA agent who seems connected to the terrorist plots. It was interesting to see the transformation of Milla from a timid housewife type into an adventuresome woman.

Finally, Book 4 features a private investigator named Mat Joubert who is searching for a man who has vanished. This book barely related to the ones that preceded it; in fact, it felt like it should have been a novel of its own. At the conclusion, some connections to the prior segments occur; but all in all, it did not feel like a cohesive creation.

I was very disappointed in TRACKERS. It had an ambitious agenda that didn't quite work. The structure of the narrative was extremely confusing. It was impossible to keep track of the huge cast of characters. I kept searching for the unifying connections between all of the plots, but there were very few to be made. The other books that I've read by Meyer have been uniformly excellent, and I still eagerly await future works, despite my reaction to this book.

---

### **Sabrina says**

Deon Meyer is one of my favourite thriller writers combining fast-paced suspense with authentic South African flavour.

In contrast with his other novels (I read most of them), this one is unfortunately weaker. The different threads are too far apart from each other and when they finally connect it is quite loosely and somewhat rushed. No matter, I'll read whatever he'll write next...

---

### **Mikebee says**

Exceptionally excellent plot. Very strong characters.

---

### **Polly says**

Trackers is an epic novel reaching across the South African landscape - city, suburb, coast line and Karoo - involving three stories of people from different walks of life. First we meet Milla Strachan, the 40 year old disillusioned wife of a straying husband and mother of a manipulative teenaged son. Milla summons the courage to leave them and her stultifying suburban neighbourhood. She seeks out a job that might use her college background in journalism and satisfy her desire to get back into writing. Milla answers a fairly innocuous ad in a local paper for a journalist, "previous experience preferred". Milla musters the courage to

apply despite having no experience and is recruited quite quickly by the National Intelligence Agency. She begins to find purpose putting together reports for the higher ups amidst the camaraderie of her new colleagues and against the backdrop of increasing intel of a possible terror plot.

Next, we are propelled into Lemmer's life whose mantra is, "I don't go looking for trouble, it comes looking for me." Lemmer is enjoying a quiet Saturday morning breakfast at the Red Pomegranate with his girlfriend, Emma, when a pack of executive type Harley Davison riders pulls in, parks and proceeds to insult both the restaurant owner and Emma. Lemmer is distracted from reacting physically by the entrance of Diederick Brand, local legend and farmer, who has a one off job for him. Lemmer is reluctant as he already has a job as a body guard for another outfit and thinks his boss wouldn't be pleased. After checking in with his boss, Lemmer gives into the pressure from Diederick and Emma to act as a body guard for the pick up of two rare black rhinos who Diederick wants to rescue.

Lastly, we're introduced to Mat Joubert who has recently retired from 30 plus years with the South African Police Service, and is starting day one as a private detective. His first client is desperate to find her husband, Danie Flint, who disappeared leaving his Audi outside the gym after a regular workday. To date, the police have had no luck finding him alive or dead. Mat's forte as a cop was his ability to dig up information, slog through details and build a hypothesis and he brings this work ethos with him. While Mat uncovers the reasons why Danie might have gone missing, links between the three plot lines intersect and are drawn to a close.

I read Trackers as a e-book and regret not having a paper copy to flip back through more easily to keep track of characters, places and details. I would have given this a 5 star rating, but I'm left feeling that I would have rather read separate novels focusing on each character. I definitely want to read more books by Deon Meyer!

---

## Colleen says

Meyer captures the flavour of post-apartheid South Africa so well in his novels - the changing social engagements between a wide variety of people. Trackers mixes up white farmers (Zimbabwean & South African), mercenaries, Muslim extremists and a whole lot more, in a complex plot which is recent and feels like it touches many of the issues we read about in the daily newspapers. The ending is rather unsatisfying - I won't give away why - but the mix of people who meet in such a variety of situations throughout the book kept me engaged. Because it takes place in current South Africa, it is familiar and revealing of so much of what is not directly said in the daily papers. Three stars only because of the ending, otherwise would be 3.5 or 4.

---

## Alex Cantone says

**Trackers** is four interrelated novellas by South African author Deon Meyer, translated from Afrikaans. In "Milla" (Conspiracy) a Cape Town housewife walks out on her abusive husband and selfish teenage son to start her life afresh. Trained in journalism she is picked up by a government agency which produces an in-house magazine and reports. This is a front for the Presidential Intelligence Agency (PIA), and she is soon involved in profiling a local Moslem cleric with links to the gang 'Restless Ravens' operating out of the Cape Flats, the gangster Julius Shabangu, operating out of the Gauteng (Jo'burg area) who uses Zimbabwean youths in car-jacking operations, a money-launderer in the Middle East and a senior man in Robert Magabe's government. It is 2009 and at stake here is a possible terrorist attack ahead of the FIFA World Cup.

In "Lemmer" (the Black Swan) Lemmer is a bodyguard working for Cape Town protection agency "Body

Armour". He is hired by Karoo farmer Diederik Brand, to escort a vet Flea Van Jaarsfeld as she transports a pair of rare black rhino across the border from Zimbabwe, on an 18-hour road trip through Limpopo to the Karoo, avoiding the main highways and weigh stations, when they are ambushed by armed men, led by Gauteng gangster, Julius Shabangu.

In "Milla" (A Theory of Chaos) the action returns to Cape Town. Shabangu's body has been found and the prime Suspect is Lukas Becker, a man whose phone calls were intercepted, wanting his money back from the boot of the hire vehicle, which was carjacked out of Jo'burg. With possible CIA involvement, Milla is tasked with profiling Becker ... and unexpectedly comes face-to-face...

Finally, in "Matt Joubert" (Form 92), former superintendent Joubert of the SAPS has left the police, disillusioned after a career spanning 30 years, to join a private detective agency. It is now February 2010 and Joubert is assigned the case of Danie Flint, reported missing by his wife, Tanya, in October 2009. A loyal employee, considerate husband and son, Flint's car was found unlocked at the gym he frequented but no body has been recovered. Was he abducted or did he "disappear?" As Joubert digs deeper he discovers a husband who has led a dual life while he fights the money-pinching organisation that has hired him.

In each of these stories there are clever linkages to the others, or to characters in other books by Meyer. I really enjoyed his style of giving each story an abrupt ending, leaving the reader to ponder what happened next. The book includes a skeletal map of South Africa in the front pages, with the locations described, and a glossary with words in Afrikaans, (with some Shona, Sesotho and IsiZulu) and Arabic, bringing colour and depth to the narrative.

I admit I found it an intriguing read as I was over there in 2011, and recognised several places I visited or passed through. Will definitely read other books by him. Recommended for armchair travellers and mystery buffs everywhere.

---

### **Leon Mare says**

Once I discovered Deon Meyer I purchased five of his books in succession. This review is for all five of them. Meyer's work is of outstanding quality. He has an intimate knowledge of Cape Town and South Africa in general. His grasp of the undercurrents in the widely diverse society of this troubled country is exceptional. Interesting characters are expertly woven into the fabric of his spellbinding plots. I highly recommend anything penned by this gifted author.

---

### **Gloria Feit says**

Bringing back two characters from previous novels, the South African author has written a complicated story with three separate plots which are related both in circumstances and the people involved. One theme involves what appears to be a Muslim plot, which a government intelligence service suspects at first to be a tradeoff between the smuggling of diamonds in exchange for weapons. A second, an offshoot of the smuggling operation by a man seeking to recover a large sum of money he claims was stolen from him by gangsters (who incidentally are involved in the smuggling operation).

Then there is free-lance bodyguard Lemmer, who makes his second appearance in a Deon Meyer novel [the

first being “The Blood Safari”], who becomes involved indirectly in the smuggling operation when he accompanies a truck bearing two black rhinos into South Africa from a neighboring country which the gangsters believe is the method for bringing in the diamonds. And finally Mat Joubert, the enigmatic South African detective, now retired, on his first day working for a private detective agency, who manages to bring all the threads together.

This stand-alone thriller aims high, and largely achieves its ambitions. Adding to the spice is not only the author’s ability to portray the social, economic and political background of South Africa in depth, but a chilling look at how it is also a place where terrorists can run rampant. And, icing on the cake, a first-rate mystery to keep the reader enthralled. Highly recommended.

---

### **switterbug (Betsey) says**

Many thrillers are about saving humanity, not necessarily inhabiting it. Maverick heroes are replicated from types previously established in classic iconic stories. Villains are cut from generic, barbaric cloth--the more psychopathic and gruesome, the better. Character and language are sacrificed for plot and standard themes, and the admirable hero/ine (or noble anti-hero/ine) saves the world. Gosh, with the hundreds of thrillers published each year (month?), the human race is lucky to be alive.

Enter the intelligence and nuance of South African novelist, Deon Meyer, whose arresting thrillers open and close with crackle and character. The plot doesn't proceed without the evanescence and development of his mosaic cast. Each primary protagonist of the three distinct stories in TRACKERS has an enigmatic personality, a moral imperative, and palpable inner conflicts--and Meyer winds the three plots into a robust and rosy overlap. Plot and story move in tandem with character, and discovery is united with exposure.

Characters are the key to open every dark path and locked password. The veld shimmers; you'll be Wiki-ing the Great Karoo and the black rhino. You won't want it to end. That's assured--you will be breathless for more--for the next page, the subsequent chapter, the following installment. Meyer created a hybrid of stand-alone and series--a few characters from former novels, and at least one that isn't done yet. One track in each.

TRACKERS is Meyer's most complex, tightly controlled, and literary novel to date, with an ending so exhilarating yet sublime that you will be pondering it for days. I have been an ardent fan for the past four books, but Meyer has not only eclipsed himself, he has outshone the towering abundance of other thrillers on the market.

His biting social commentary doesn't feel like a mouthpiece manipulation--it is woven in to the sharp observations of the various characters, such as Mat Joubert, the PI of the third story, a former member of SAPS gone corporate-private, and wrestling with middle-age ennui. Also, his passionate love for his wife is delightful.

Meyer's mastery of language and poetic expression is channeled through the character of Milla Strachan, the would-be writer and lover of words, a forty-year-old survivor of spousal abuse whose grown son takes her for granted. Meyer inhabits Milla with sinewy ease; his ability to express his primary female character is haunting, and Milla's choices feel organic (like the rest of the cast).

And then there is troubled Lemmer, who fans will remember from Blood Safari; Becker, an opaque

swashbuckler; and Flea, his darkest of all female characters, a cipher. There's an offstage man, Danie, a cryptic, integral fellow who is revealed through other characters, such as his wife, his boss, and his employees--but who is he? Moreover, references to a primary protagonist from *Thirteen Hours* is intriguing to those of us who read it, because it engages us with a sense of continuity. And there are some secondary, beguiling characters who you're sure you'll see again.

There's no reason to tell you the plot here. Just a few nods to Meyer's intrepid storytelling--he creates three different stories that keep you riveted, and you gradually stop wondering how, why, where, or when this all combines. You trust him, and after the first fifty pages or so, you stop worrying about remembering the plethora of names (it does settle down).

Also, there's a wonderful glossary in the back, an education in itself. I wish I had known about it before I started reading. Laura Seegers translates from the original Afrikans with seamless authority. There are eleven official languages of South Africa, and her choice inclusions of slang, acronyms, and phraseology create an indelible atmosphere.

Words like *asseblief*--it means "please," or *bergie*, which is a homeless person living on the side of Table Mountain. And *oom*, a form of respectful address, like "uncle." *Spoor* means "track," the mark a wild animal leaves in the bush. (All this and more in the glossary.) Also, heading the chapters of Lemmer's story are short sentences from Louis Liebenberg's *THE ART OF TRACKING*. After all, this book is about tracking--animal tracking, surveillance, and detective tracking. Okay, now you have it.

Of all Meyer's books, this has the most global of contexts, ultimately. It is surely the most exciting. The fat lady doesn't sing, either--she whispers.

---

## **Sandi says**

Always enjoy reading this author's work. While this book was a bit long and the plot quite complicated, everything came together in the end and the characters and South African setting were as well done as in previous books.

---

## **Ian says**

I hadn't planned to read this book but came across it in my local library and, having read some of the author's other work, took it out on a whim. This is an ambitious novel, comprising 3 separate but interlocking stories, each based around a main character and each based on the theme of "tracking". The three main characters are Milla Strachan, a housewife who escapes an abusive relationship and gets a low level job with a Government Intelligence Agency; Lemmer, a professional bodyguard, on a job that involves transporting endangered rhinos from Zimbabwe to South Africa, and hired because of the danger from poachers; and Mat Joubert, a former Police Superintendent turned PI, investigating a missing person case. Within the 3 main strands there are a host of subplots with a varied cast of colourful characters. On the whole I found the "Milla" strand to be the weakest of the three, with a fairly implausible plot; but the author successfully creates a air of tension during the "Lemmer" storyline; and the "Joubert" strand, which forms the last quarter of the book, kept me intrigued as to how the storylines would come together.



I only discovered Deon Meyer's work quite recently, and have been reading his books in the wrong order. Both Lemmer and Joubert have I believe appeared in earlier novels, and I could probably have done with reading those first, to have built up more knowledge of the characters. In particular "Lemmer" seems an interesting character and at some point I will probably read the novel that first introduced him.

Meyer's books are written in Afrikaans but the English translations do a fine job in creating a sense of the locations involved, and in conveying the linguistic richness of the country, with South African English borrowing words liberally from Afrikaans as well as the country's other languages.

---

### **Katharine says**

I read this book on the recommendation of my friend and fellow-librarian Susan, as an example of South African mystery. The settings were fascinating, and as the book was written by an Afrikaner, it provided an interesting window into post-apartheid life in RSA. The story was a series of linked mysteries, with people suddenly finding themselves caught up in events set in motion somewhere else. No one ever had the whole picture except for the reader- a different way to write a mystery.

While various bad guys got what was coming to them throughout the book, there was real tension created for me at one point in the story. I read so much mystery, espionage and thriller that this has become an unfamiliar feeling for me. However, when two endangered rhinoceroses are being smuggled across borders and then their truck is stopped by some really bad guys, I couldn't believe how worried I felt for these poor creatures who were already under way too much stress. Of course, this is why there is a rhino on the cover! I can safely recommend the book to rhino lovers like me, they come through fine.

---

### **jo says**

i am not sure this book does or says something meaningful about the human condition\*, but it sure is a hell of a read. it's divided in 4 related parts, and while the set up in the first part is a bit slow (but the book is almost 500 pages!), the rest is really engaging and fascinating. post-apartheid south africa is a place where organized crime seems to have blossomed with great generosity, to the point that the international organized crime world sees it (south africa) as a nice safe haven. at least that's the sense i got. deon meyer, a white afrikaner, doesn't delve too much into social/racial issues, but he does show south africa from an afrikaner's point of view, which is something i had never gotten. it's amazing and crazy how insular race-based points of view can be. you think, south africa, totally mixed country, the cast is guaranteed to be mixed. and it is. but the point of view, and the main actors, are solidly afrikaner.

but then you think of america, of how racially diverse *it* is, and still white authors manage to write books without a single non-white character in them.

it's a crazy world, getting crazier every day.

anyway, let me re-iterate: really engaging, interesting, well-plotted, complex, and fascinating spy thriller. you won't guess *anything*. and that's part of the beauty. treat yourself.

\*other than: people will rob you blind and, if they have to, will kill you, and all because of some very stupid thing like money or power or wanting to get ahead. and sometimes they'll be nice to you, but don't count on it because it hardly ever happens and when it does it's probably fake. which, all of the above, is the basic premise of any spy-thriller ever written.

---