

# I WRITE WHAT I LIKE

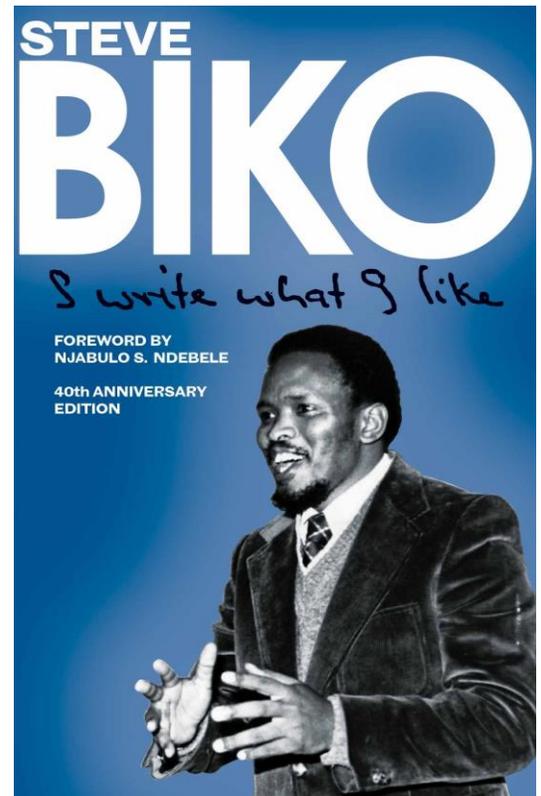
STEVE BIKO

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

With a Foreword by Njabulo S. Ndebele

*I Write What I Like* features the writing of the famous activist and Black Consciousness leader, Steve Biko. Before his untimely death in detention at age 30, he was instrumental in uniting Black Africans in the struggle against the apartheid government in South Africa. This 40th anniversary edition includes a Foreword by Njabulo S. Ndebele, personal reflections on Steve Biko and Black Consciousness, as well as Biko's first known published piece of writing. In addition, it features all the material of the original Picador Africa edition: a collection of Biko's columns entitled *I Write What I Like* published in the journal of the South Africa Student Organisation under the pseudonym of 'Frank Talk'; other journal articles, interviews and letters written by Steve Biko at the time; an Introduction by Nkosinathi Biko; a preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and a moving memoir by Father Aelred Stubbs, which pays tribute to the courage and power of this young leader, who was to become one of Africa's heroes.

**STEVE BIKO** was born in Tylden, Eastern Cape, South Africa in 1946. As a medical student, he founded a black student organisation in 1969 and created a national 'black consciousness' movement. The movement's aim was to combat racism and the South African apartheid government. He was banned in 1973, which prohibited him from speaking in public, writing for publication and any travel. Biko was arrested by police in September 1977 and died in detention, naked and manacled, from extensive brain damage, six days later. He left a widow and two young children. His death caused international protests and a UN arms embargo. Biko became a symbol of the antiapartheid movement. An inquest in the late 1980s found no one responsible for his death, but in 1997 five former policemen admitted being involved.



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