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THE GIRL FROM SIMON'S BAY

South African-born Barbara Mutch weaves an evocative story in *The Girl From Simon's Bay*. It follows the life of Louise Ahrendts from 1937, when the country was still known as the Union of South Africa and Simon's Town was a bustling navy port. She lives with her dad, a shipbuilder, and mother, a cook for a navy family. Her best friend and sweetheart Piet Philander lives down the road and the two of them spend their afternoons swimming in the bay and dreaming of their futures.

Louise's goal is to become a nurse in the local hospital. But as a coloured girl in an already partially segregated society, she faces more challenges than most on her journey to realising her dream. When World War II breaks out, the Royal Naval

By Barbara Mutch (Allison & Busby)

Hospital requires her skills and, while nursing wounded soldiers back to health, Louise falls in love with a British lieutenant and a wartime romance soon blossoms.

The fact that this soldier is married and white is dangerous enough, but when a new era dawns in South Africa, Louise is faced with even tougher decisions.

Mutch is a skilful writer and crafts a beautiful, soul-searching story.
- Ingrid Wood

