



BOOK CLUB

# A NOVEL OCCASION

The response was unanimous: O's first-ever book club event was a resounding success.



AS ANY BOOK-LOVER WILL TELL YOU, CHILLY weather doesn't dampen the desire to indulge in all things literary. The enthusiastic O readers who braved the Johannesburg cold on 21 July to attend O's inaugural book club function, hosted with The Mall of Rosebank and Vanilla Restaurant, proved this. In a suitably elegant setting, guests got to know each other over a delicious meal.

O's invited author was the talented Kopano Matlwa, joint winner of the 2010 Wole Soyinka Prize for African Literature. Matlwa launched proceedings with a reading from her latest novel, *Spilt Milk* – a controversial story of young love thwarted, which she describes as “an allegory of love lost between Black and White South Africa.” O's books editor, Deidre Donnelly, then led a panel – which included media personality Melanie Bala – in discussion. Matlwa's charm and eloquence made for a stimulating evening. After a Q and A and generous prize giveaways, publisher Shay Heydenrych filled the audience in on Jacana's new releases, and Matlwa did a book signing. Readers received a gift and a six-month subscription to O magazine, and left with the satisfaction that comes from talking about books with new friends.

**A big thank you to the following sponsors, who helped make the evening such a success:**  
The Mall of Rosebank, Vanilla Restaurant, Cadbury's Bournville, Carrol Boyes, Exclusive Books at The Mall of Rosebank, Givenchy, Jacana Media, Luella and Zebra Square.

1. O's Deidre Donnelly with radio presenter Melanie Bala (left) and model Lerato Moloi.
2. Readers were able to purchase latest releases, including *Spilt Milk*, from the Exclusive Books sellers.
3. Pulane Motau, Lebogang Phiri and Lerato Manana.
4. Kgomotso Lukhelle, Allison Amra, Eva Bublik and Grace Rapholo.
5. Author Kopano Matlwa, Ingrid Matlwa and Lerato Moloi.
6. Thuli and Nelisive Mofutsanyana.
7. Norah Keye, Anna Marobe, Nombulelo Nkogatse and Tlangelany Hlonwane.
8. Each reader left with a gift bag.

