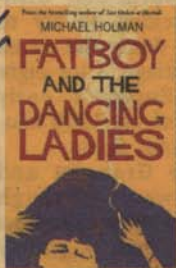


SYDNEY MORNING HERALD NEWSPAPER



FATBOY AND THE DANCING LADIES

By Michael Holman

Polygon, 256pp, \$26.95

In the imaginary yet instantly recognisable East African country of Kuwisha, a crowd of interested parties shifts and jostles for position and advantage. There are harrumphing relics of British colonialism and glue-sniffing teenage boys who work for Charity Mupanga at her thriving business, Harrods International Bar (and Nightspot).

It is a place that's been made out of three shipping containers and appears, despite its name, to specialise in breakfasts.

Michael Holman was brought up in Africa and spent several years working as the Zambia correspondent of *The Financial Times*. This very funny and very educational satire is a sequel to his first novel, *Last Orders at Harrods*.

It tells the same kind of fast-paced tale of absurd organisational chaos. As corrupt politicians, jaded journalists, squabbling aid agencies and well-meaning celebrities all jostle for power and advantage, the citizens of Kuwisha's worst slum get on as best they can with the business of daily life.