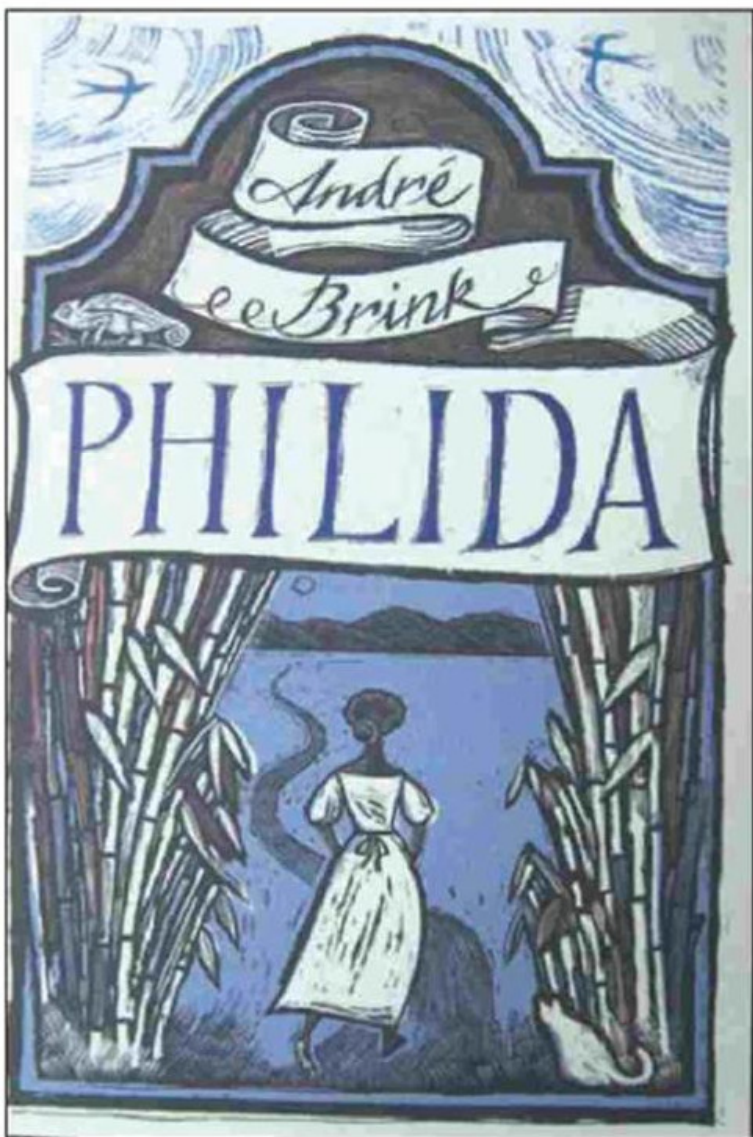


Philida

ANDRE BRINK



IF you have ever cursed your lot in life, felt trapped or pulled down, Philida will show you that you know very little about suffering compared to a slave in 1832.

Philida is one of many slaves on a wine farm deep in the Cape at a time when slavery was close to abolishment.

She is young and lovely, and has a love affair with the owner's son, Francois Brink. She has four children with him – of whom only two survive.

Philida is promised her freedom by Frans, but then reneges on his promise when his family wants him to marry a young white woman of prominent birth.

Our heroine risks her whole life by lodging a complaint with the government about Frans, which leads to a string of events that ultimately lead her to a better life.

Philida's is not an easy place – to love Frans, knowing that even though he cares for her, he will never break the mould so they can be together.

Brink tells this story with a depth of feeling and empathy that is extremely moving. He paints a vivid picture for the reader – you can see the chickens scratching in the dust and feel the coolness of Frans and Philida's special bamboo copse.

Make sure you have lots of time if you pick up "Philida", you won't be able to put it down!