

Acclaimed author heads home to launch new book

Khanyi Ndabeni

HERALD REPORTER

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed author and former Weekend Post and Evening Post journalist Jo-Anne Richards has released her fifth book, *My Brother's Book*.

"It is a novel which tells a story of betrayal and atonement that spans the lives of two siblings from their nomadic childhood in the Eastern Cape in the 1960s to their adulthood in 2004 in Johannesburg," said Richards, who is to launch the book in Port Elizabeth next week.

"I'm very excited about launching this book in my hometown," she said.

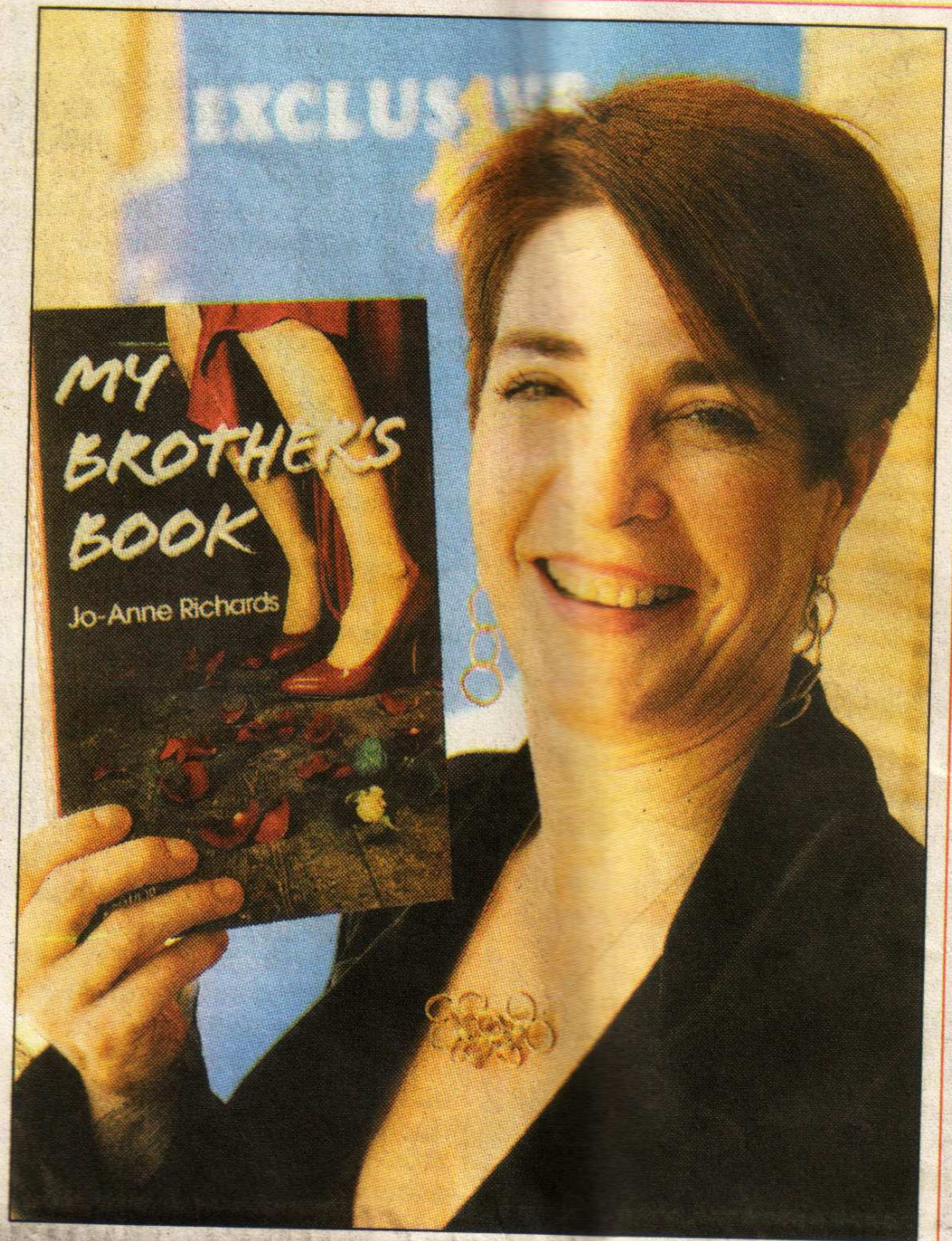
Born and bred in Mill Park, Port Elizabeth, Richards – who is the younger sister of Nelson Mandela Bay municipal manager Graham Richards – matriculated at Collegiate High School. She studied journalism at Rhodes University before joining the former Evening Post and Weekend Post as a journalist in the 1980s.

She became an author in the early 1990s. "All my books are novels and they tell true stories of South African people. Most of the books are set in the Eastern Cape even though I left in the late 80s," she said.

Her first novel, *The Innocence of Roast Chicken*, topped the South African bestseller list in 1996 in the first week it was released and remained there for 15 weeks. It was chosen as a Dillons' Debut Novel in Britain and showcased for a month as an "outstanding first novel". The book was also nominated for the international Impac Dublin Literary Award in 1996.

Richards is a journalism lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand.

My Brother's Book will be launched at Exclusive Books in Walmer Park on July 2.



WRITE ON . . . Former Port Elizabeth journalist Jo-Anne Richards will launch her fifth book, *My Brothers Book*, in Port Elizabeth on July 2.