

ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

FLEISCHER, Dolores

Sandra McGregor: 'onse artist' in District Six.- Print Matters, 2010.



'A South African-born artist, Sandra trained in England, Holland, France, and Italy in the 1950s. When she returned to Cape Town in 1962 she was practically penniless, the support from her father Lee McGregor, an eminent South African surgeon, having been withdrawn. "This is where I must paint!" Sandra exclaimed when introduced to District Six in 1962. For the next 18 years she worked among the people, growing to know and love them, to respect them; the warmth was returned. She lived her material.

The people of District Six and the destruction of their lives by a misguided social engineering experiment had great impact on a sensitive artist, but Sandra McGregor recorded it in remarkable and individual form. Principally a portrait painter, Sandra found a small studio in Kloof Street and began to paint the people and places in District Six. For a young, unaccompanied yet headstrong white woman, this was considered a highly dangerous if not foolhardy pastime, but the community - skollies included - welcomed and protected her, calling her "onse artist". Sandra painted in District Six from 1962 to 1980, both before and after the declaration. She witnessed the removals and the breakdown of a life and community that she had grown to love. Her story is at once inspiring and tragic. Living alone and desperately short of money, Sandra often sold her works on completion just to survive, or simply gave them away. Dolores Fleischer reveals how Sandra accomplished so much both as a painter and an individual but with little recognition. She records this remarkable artist's life and work in the context of South Africa's struggle for political freedom.' (www.theevent.co.za)

FRONTY, Laura

A passion for jewelry: secrets to collecting and caring for your jewelry.- Rizzoli, 2007.

Since prehistoric times people were making jewellery for many reasons. Some were worn as ornaments while others were used for utilitarian functions such as clasps to hold clothes together, or to serve as amulets or magical accessories with protective and ritual uses.

The author, who has had a passion and interest in jewellery from childhood, delivers a complete illustrated guide on how to appreciate, collect and care for all types of beautiful jewellery. The book begins with a detailed exploration and history of different materials that range from gold, silver and amber to the more unusual ones such as glass and cloth. The accessible text serves as a guide to recognise different stones and to estimate their worth. It also includes practical advice with regard to the cleaning, preservation and storage of your jewellery.

A dazzling array of amazing colour photographs show off the examples of jewellery featured to their best advantage.

This introductory and informative guide is full of useful ideas and tips and covers almost everything interested readers will ever want to know about jewellery.EB

MALHERBE, Stephen

Living with my X: the true story of one man and a rogue chromosome.- Zebra, 2010.



Stephen Malherbe, a sufferer of a rare disorder called Klinefelter's Syndrome, assisted by Christine M Coates, delivers a poignant account of his ordeals with this genetic condition that was largely unrecognised for most of his early life.

This syndrome affects only male children who are born with an extra X chromosome. Instead of being born with an XY chromosome as a man, or two XX chromosomes as a woman, sufferers of this syndrome are born with an extra X chromosome. These

boys do not develop the same way as normal boys because they do not produce enough testosterone, with the result that they are more sensitive and lack the ability to express themselves well.

Growing up in Johannesburg during the 1960s was not easy for a kid with learning difficulties, which made teachers label him as slow. Life at home was unstable with a mother mostly at work doing two jobs, a mentally unstable father and an older bully for a brother. It was up to an older sister and a group of supportive friends to help the young Stephen. When his mother finally realised that he needed help, she took him for tests. Once diagnosed, regular testosterone injections were administered. The result was that his body started to develop more normally.

Over the years the author has had to deal with various setbacks of his condition. He wrote this book to help others like him to deal with this chronic little-known syndrome.....EB

PARKER, Ruth and LOMBA, Brita

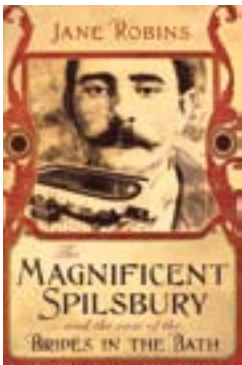
Renosterveld: a wilderness exposed.- LR Pub., 2009.

This is a most attractive illustrated local publication about renosterveld.

In the preface, Dr John Manning of the SA National Biodiversity Institute writes: 'Once this dominant plant covered nearly half of the Cape Floral Kingdom, but renosterveld shrub land has now been virtually eradicated from the south-western Cape ... Thriving only on soils most suited to agriculture, renosterveld is intimately bound up with the cultural history of the Cape ... Virtually unprotected by legislation, its survival still depends on individual farmers or landowners. For the first time and only just in time, the beauty of this forgotten vegetation and its tragic plight are fully exposed. The author of this remarkable tribute is the current owner of Altydgedacht, a farm on the slopes of the Tygerberg that has been in the hands of the Parker family since 1968. She and other enlightened landowners who are concerned to preserve renosterveld fragments on their land epitomise the concept of land custodianship ... They give hope that renosterveld may yet escape extinction ...' Filled with lovely colour photographs by Brita Lomba, this coffee-table book contains a great deal of information and detail in the interesting text. SCG

ROBINS, Jane

The magnificent Spilsbury and the case of the brides in the bath.- J. Murray, 2010.



Jane Robins recreates and analyses the fascinating story of a 'real life' Sherlock Holmes, and how forensic science emerged into the world of the police. She introduces her readers to Dr Bernard Spilsbury, a forensic pathologist whose work on the Hawley Crippen case of 1910 helped to send Crippen to the gallows after his return from an interrupted escape to Canada.

Within the short space of three years, just as England was heading into World War I, three women, all of whom had married George Joseph

Smith (who used multiple aliases), died while taking a bath. Each individual death had been legally attributed to natural causes after a proper inquest, the doctors finding no evidence of foul play. The similarity of these recent deaths were brought to the attention of Detective Inspector Arthur Neil from the Kentish Town police station when he came across an official memo, attached to which were two newspaper cuttings covering the tragic deaths of brides in their baths. It seems that the father of one of the brides, Alice Burnham, who had married Smith in 1913 and died in the bath during her Blackpool honeymoon, had seen a news article about Margaret Lofty, a young, newly-married woman who drowned in her bath in Highgate, and brought the similarities between the death of his daughter and Margaret to the attention of the Aylesbury police. As official investigations proceeded and the story became public, another police department informed Neil of yet a third possibility, that of Bessie Mundy, who had also drowned in her bath.

The author takes the reader through the lives of the three victims, covering how they came to meet George Smith, and why they may have been drawn to him. Interwoven with their stories Robins sets the stage in terms of historical context by covering current events and police procedure, and traces the science of forensic pathology, which was still in its early stages as a tool for crime solving. She introduces Dr Bernard Spilsbury whose professional theories and opinions about what happened in the cases of the brides in the bath would lead the jury to a verdict of guilty and a death sentence for Smith.

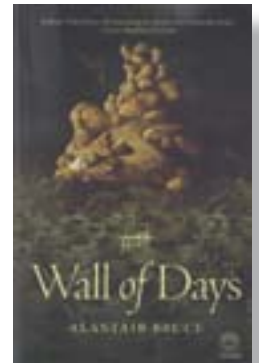
If it were not for the efforts of Detective Inspector Arthur Neil and his determination to solve these cases, it is most likely that George Smith would have carried on marrying and murdering women for their money for many years. Some of his victims had already been buried, but Arthur Neil and Bernard Spilsbury were able to piece together what had happened to these unfortunate women. Readers who are fascinated by historical crime are sure to enjoy this well-researched and well written title.EB

ADULT FICTION
VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

BRUCE, Alastair

Wall of days.- Umuzi, 2010.

'In a world all but drowned, a man called Bran has been living on an island for ten years. He was sent there in exile by those whose leader he was, and he tallies on the wall of his cave the days as they pass ... until the day when something happens that kindles in Bran such memories and longing that he persuades himself to return, even if it means execution. His reception is so unexpected, so mystifying that he casts about unsure of what is real and what imaginary. Only the friendship of a child consoles him as he retraces the terrible deeds for which he is answerable, and as he tries to reach back, over his biggest betrayal, to the one he loved. **Wall of days** is a moving parable about guilt, loss and remembering.' (*The Book Lounge Newsletter*, Sept 2010).



André Brink says this debut novel is 'one of the most magnificent stories to emerge from South African writing over the past twenty years. I have no doubt that not only has Bruce redefined the historical novel, but he may well become one of the most significant writers on the world stage.' Mervyn Sloman of the The Book Lounge in Cape Town says: 'It's one of those books that is going to create a buzz for months and years to come. You inhabit the world that Alastair has created and once you're in there, the rest of your life goes on hold until you've finished the book.'

Alastair Bruce was born in Port Elizabeth and studied at the University of Cape Town. He has been living in the United Kingdom for over ten years where he works in electronic publishing.SSJ

FALCONER, Duncan

Mercenary.- Sphere, 2009.



Although I'd read Falconer's non-fiction book, **First into action**, I'd not read any of his fiction and hadn't been planning on reading this, the fifth action thriller featuring British Special Services operative, John Stratton. The description on the book jacket just did not appeal to me: 'Stratton carries out a small task in Central America as a favour to a CIA officer, but it leads him to become embroiled in a national rebellion. Against his own principles, the special operative becomes emotionally involved and decides to join

the popular uprising. However, he is unaware that the fight is not just against the local government - the CIA are very much involved. As events spiral disastrously out of control, Stratton must face up to his biggest and most treacherous challenge yet.' However, I took this book home one weekend by mistake and ended up reading it and, to my surprise, enjoying it. It's action-packed, tense and, even though the reader knows the story's ending from the first pages of the book, gripping. It doesn't matter if you've read previous Stratton books or not - anyone who enjoys action adventure thrillers will enjoy this story of revolutionaries, guerrilla warfare and betrayal in the mountains and jungles of Central America.SCG

HYDE, Catherine Ryan

When I found you.- Doubleday, 2009.

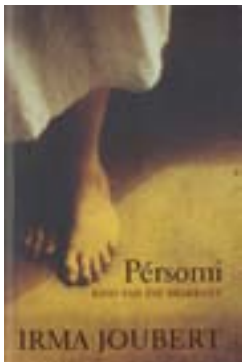


When I found you is another lovely novel about love and relationships from the author of **Love in the present tense** and **Pay it forward**. Like her others, it is simply written and easy to read. One early morning in 1960, while out duck shooting with his retriever, Nathan McCann finds and rescues a newborn baby abandoned and left to die in the woods. He and his wife of almost 30 years have no children. Nathan, surprising even himself, feels a strong bond with the baby and wants to adopt him, but

the authorities find a family member and the child is given into the care of his maternal grandmother who names him Nat after Nathan. Nathan asks her to promise that one day she will introduce the boy to Nathan. She agrees and many years later, when she finds that she can no longer cope with taking care of a wayward 14-year-old, she takes Nat to Nathan. The story follows the relationship that develops between the two through the years. Warm-hearted and sad, this is a novel well-worth reading. SCG

JOUBERT, Irma

Pérsomi: kind van die brakrant.- Tafelberg, 2010.



'Wanneer 'n mens eers Irma Joubert se historiese romans begin lees, kan jy eenvoudig nie weer ophou nie. Haar nuwe boek is geen uitsondering nie. **Pérsomi** sluit aan by haar vorige roman, **Anderkant Pontenilo**, en is die verhaal van Pérsomi, dogter van die brakrant, die middelste kind van Lewis en Jemima Pieterse wat as bywoners op mister Fourie se plaas in die Bosveld woon. In die Groot Huis, anderkant die rivier en lemoenboord, woon mister Fourie en sy vrou, antie Lulu, en hul vier kinders: Boelie, De Wet, Klara en Irene. Hulle

is régte mense wat elke aand vleis eet, elkeen op hul eie bed slaap en mooi klere dra net soos op die prentjies in *Die Huisgenoot*. Aan hierdie kant raap en skraap die Pieterses in 'n lamlendige huisie langs 'n droë mielieland met geen vooruitsigte nie behalwe die ellende wat daaglik net meer word. Dankie tog vir die grot, Pérsomi se skuilplek hoog bo in die berg. En dankie tog sy is slim en staan eerste in haar klas. En dan is daar haar kosbaarste kleinood: die briewe wat haar liefingbroer Gerbrand van die oorlogsfront af stuur. Daar is nog briewe, Boelie s'n. Die lang, forse Boelie wat met haar gesels asof sy 'n régte mens is en haar altyd gaan soek wanneer sy die pad gevat het. Boelie, die man van haar hart. Die roman speel ook af teen die agtergrond van sensitiewe onderwerpe wat families uitmekaarskeur en verhoudings verniel omdat mense deur hul vooroordeel en kortsigtigheid verblind word. Die fokus val op die Afrikanerpolitiek van die 1940's en die apartheidswette en gedwonge verskuiwings van die 1950's. Irma meng geskiedkundige feite en ware verhale met fiksie sodat 'n mens later voel jy ken werklik self die mense oor wie

sy skryf. **Pérsomi** is 'n storie oor geloof, hoop en liefde - waarvan die grootste die liefde is. Want die liefde bedek alles, glo alles, verdra alles.' (*Huisgenoot Boeke*, 11/11/2010.)

KRISTIAN, Giles

Sons of thunder: the second Raven adventure.- Bantam P., 2010.



Sons of thunder picks up where the previous title **Blood eye** ends and continues at the same breakneck pace. Raven, our hero, part of the band of Vikings known as the Wolfpack, starts the second book in pursuit of the English noble, Earldred, who cheated him and his comrades out of promised loot and who brought about the death of his own son. Raven, in old age, still narrates the story as in the previous volume.

Odin-marked Raven and the Wolfpack are accompanied by a group of several unlikely companions that also include CyCynethryth, Earldred's daughter; out for revenge on her father; an English monk, Egfrith, interested in converting Raven and Sigurd to Christianity, and an English knight.

Their passage is set for Paris to reclaim a stolen relic and to set right a wrong done to them. On route Raven and his companions experience the usual happenings one would expect from a typical good historical adventure. Even Charlemagne makes an impressive cameo appearance. Sigurd, leader of the Vikings, is impressive as the battle-hardened warrior with a fearsome reputation, and Raven soon emerges as his second in command. However, Raven's origins are still a mystery but we will have to wait for a later instalment of this engaging and pacing series.

There is a life and energy to Kristian's writing that ensures its place as a good, escapist example of adventure historical fiction today. EB

LE ROUX, Mariël

Die naamlose.- Tafelberg, 2010.



'Mariël le Roux het in 2007 met **Wilhelmina, kampkind op Java** gedebuteer. **Die naamlose** is haar tweede roman, een wat beslis sy (tweede) plek onder die wenners van Sanlam se Groot Roman wedstryd vanjaar verdien. In hierdie plaasroman skenk Carli Botha se ma die lewe aan 'n anensefaliëse baba. Lena, die huishulp "van anderkant die grootsloot", noem die breinlose wesentjie "'n katkoppie" want hy het 'n plat kop en groot ronde uitpeuloë.

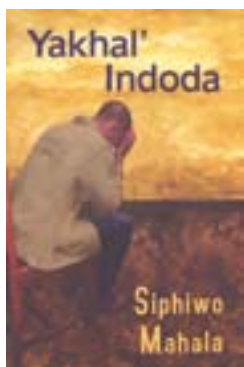
'Die geboorte in die plaashuis op Grootvlei verloop problematies. Daarby laat die "ontydige reën, die kloof en die drif deur die rivier" vir Ma Bella in die steek. Hulp bly buite bereik. Sy sterf en word saam met die katkoppie in die plaaskerkhof begrawe. Later lê arme Lena ook daar. Carli se pa, Wilhelm, gee hom oor aan drank en los vroue, maar sy klou vas aan die stories wat haar ma vir haar by die rivier vertel het. Eendag-op-

'n-reëndag, het sy gesê, gaan ons vir my familie kuier, tante Sophia en neef Allesandro. Hulle is in "annerland wat soos 'n stewel lyk". Carli se pa mishandel haar emosioneel en sy word die kind van Dora, wat ook in die huis werk. Oudominee en "die vrou van die Welfare" kom haar later haal om in die pastorie te woon. Hier kom Carli gou agter "die Gesalfde" se oë en hande dwaal. Oudominee se vrou is depressief weens menopause, en Evelyn wat in die pastorie werk neem Carli se versorging by Dora oor. Vakansies kuier Carli op Grootvlei. Haar pa is steeds dieselfde, maar sy kyk met nuwe oë na Wimpie, haar speelmaat uit haar kinderdae. Die apartheidswette geld nog en Wimpie is Dora se seun. Teen almal se waarskuwings in duur hul verhouding voort. Die twee word dopgehou en agtervolg. Wimpie en Carli se laaste dag by die rivier bring 'n wending in die verhaal. Sy weet ook dan dat sy haar drade met Grootvlei moet knip, maar nie met al die inwoners nie.

'Wanneer 'n mens **Die Naamlose** optel, dink jy dalk ag, nee! nie nog 'n storie uit die apartheidsjare en oor armoede nie. Wie wil ook weer aan die dopstelsel herinner word? Maar die verhaal is so aangrypend en word met soveel deernis vertel dat jy ingetrek word. Die karakters lewe, so geloofwaardig is hulle. 'n Mens wonder net of Carli se pa nie net soms sy menslike kant kon toon nie. Niemand is tog net sleg nie. Le Roux kry dit wonderbaarlik reg om die leser in die kop van die kinder karakter, Carli, te laat klim. Jy kan jou net indink wat in haar kop gebeur wanneer sy glo dat Liewe Jesus haar ma en hond letterlik uit die grond sal kom haal. Of wanneer sy "'n meisie word" en nie weet wat haar tref nie. Die plaas word as't ware nóg 'n karakter. Jy kan die omgewing en die gebeure daar ruik, voel, proe en sien. Le Roux se skryfstyl is gestroop, die kuns lê juis daarin om met min, maar goed gekose woorde so baie te kan sê. Die verhaalstruktuur is goed deur dink en verloop vol verrassende wendings vlot na die einde toe.' (Die Burger 18/10/10.)

MAHALA, Sipiwo

Yakhal' indoda.- Univ. of KwaZulu-Natal P., 2010.



Ibali eli lingoThemba owaye uzalwa ngabazali ababe ngathath' intweni. Abazali bakhe babengabasebenzi basezifama. UThemba lo akazange ahlale ixesha elide nabazali bakhe ngenxa yokuba kwafuneka ayokuhlala eRhini kumalume wakhe khon' ukuze akwazi ukuqhubekela phambili nezifundo zakhe. Kuthe ekuhambeni kwethuba nabazali bakhe bafudukela eRhini ngenxa yempatho eyaye imbi yasezifama. Ngelishwa abazali bakhe batsha bangqungqa kwityotyombe labo abehlala kulo, uThemba engekalfumani ithuba lokuphucula imeko ababehlala

kuyo. Ubomi bukaThemba nabo abukhange bube lula ngenxa yempazamo awathi wazenza ephantsi kwempembelelo zotywala. Kuninzi okuqulwatho kule ncwadi, umbhala ubonakalisa imeko abaphila kuzo abantu abaNtsundu, amahland' enyuka asemshatweni, ukungathembeki ngoluntu, ingxaki zoluntu ezibangelwa kukusetyenziswa kotywala, usomashishini abanyolukele imali. Le ncwadi ifundeka ngukulula ikwachukumisa nentliziyo.NNG

RASMENI, Nonkqubela Evelyn

Kuhla ngamqala mnye.- Rasmeni, 2010.

Le ncwadi iqulathe ingqokelela yamabali amafutshane anika umdla.

Kwibali lokuqala umbhali usibalisela ngenenekazi egama linguNompithizelo owaye efudula eyi nkosikazi kaZalisile. Wathi efika emzini nje waba yingxaki uNompithizelo de uZalisile wancama wawuqhawula umtshato wabo. Kuthe kanti esenza sonke esi siphithi-phithi unekrexe analo unkabi. Kuye kwabamndi ke kwesisibini ukuhlalalana. Ngelishwa uNompithizelo khange aqonde ukuba umfana lo naye akanyanisekanga njengaye lo, eve xa kusithiwa umfana uyatshata. Nanko uNompithizelo esiya ezinkudleni zomthetho kuba ebanga ukuba naye wayethenjisiwe ngomtshato ngumfana lo. Umfundi uyakuthi awonwabele lamabali kuba isikakhulu agxininisa kwindlela abantu abaphila ngayo.NNG

STRACHAN, Alexander

Dwaalpoort.- Tafelberg, c2010.



'Die roman sluit aan by die tradisie van plaasromans deurdat dit afspeel op die Vrystaatse plaas Dwaalpoort ('n naam wat verdwaaldheid en dwaling suggereer). Rentia het die plaas geërf van haar pa, Ludwig, wat landdros en boer was. Die plaas is 'n evokatiewe ruimte: Dit is dikwels mistig, honde blaf onrustig op die werf, poue skreeu en daar is 'n ongerepte kloof waarin 'n trop wit hartbeeste hou. Een van hierdie hartbeeste, die bul Mhlophe, is deur Rentia met die hand grootgemaak. Oorkant die distrikspad groei die *township* Mine

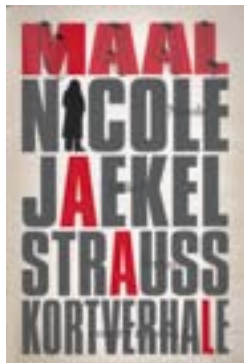
Own met rasse skrede aan. Rentia en haar man, Henning, boer op die plaas, maar Henning bied ook trofee jagte aan waartydens bokke verdoof word sodat die onbeholpe jagters hulle kan raaksiet en meisies beskikbaar gestel word as die klante dit wil hê. Henning is krielwrig omdat hy nie titelaktes op die grond besit nie, terwyl Rentia dele van die grond aan swart werkers oorgedra het. Die soldaat en wildvanger Bullet, wat 'n jeugliefde en dalk selfs 'n halfbroer van Rentia is, het ook 'n belang by die jagbedryf op die plaas, maar verdwyn net so maklik as wat hy daar aankom. Seksuele spanning en ongedurigheid oor grondbesit is dus deel van hierdie driehoekverhouding. Gebeure word op die spits gedryf met die aankoms van 'n eertydse regsdosent van Henning, regter Jurgens van der Beul, en sy veel jonger vrou, Anne, wat vroeër 'n ontkleedanser was. Hy kom om 'n hartbees vir sy trofeekamer te jag terwyl haar teenwoordigheid die driehoeke laat vermenigvuldig. Henning reageer soos 'n seun wat Jurgens as vaderfiguur wil beïndruk én vernietig deur by sy vrou te slaap; hy wedywer ook met Bullet om Anne se seksuele guns. Die slot is rokerig en apokalipties. Veldbrande kruip oor die plaas en die finale konfrontasie tussen man en dier vind plaas in 'n afgebrande stuk veld met 'n spesifieke groepie omstanders wat toekyk. Die laaste hoofstuk van die roman word, soos die eerste, vertel uit die gesigspunt van die hartbeesram Mhlope wat die vernietiging van Dwaalpoort bekyk uit 'n bykans bo-tydelike perspektief. In 'n sekere sin is die slot van die roman 'n herhaling van wat met die plaas gebeur het in die Anglo-Boereoorlog (ABO), sodat dit duidelik word waarom die verhaal van Rentia se voorouer Henriëtte uit die ABO ingeweeft word. Dit gaan dus in hierdie roman oor universele kwessies (die dierlikheid van die mens, die menslikheid van die dier, argetipiese manlikhede en vroulikhede, seksualiteit, oorlewingsvermoë en sterflikheid) wat binne

'n akuele konteks geplaas word. Deel daarvan is vraagstukke soos gekommersialiseerde jagtogte, grondhervorming, die oorwoekering van landelike gebiede deur dorpsontwikkelings en die vernietiging van 'n ouer bestel. Deur die dominante rol wat die hartbees Mhlope in die slot speel, suggereer die roman dat dié veranderinge deel is van 'n onvermydelike natuurkrag wat onbewoë sy gang gaan terwyl geslagte uitsterf en politieke stelsels mekaar vervang.

'Strachan se vakmanskap is duidelik. Hy is behendig met die skep van 'n web van kruisverwysings in die roman en die lê van leidrade wat deur die leser ontrafel kan word. Die simboliek word meestal subtiel gehanteer en is slegs in enkele gevalle oordrewe. Die prosa is hier minder gestroop as vantevore. Karakters soos Bullet en Anne word lewendig herskep deur die spreektaal van hul eie vertellings. Die beskrywings van die jag- en vegtonele is vol besonderhede soos in ou jagverhale; dié van die sekstonele suggestieryk en poëties. In die geheel beskou is die roman toegankliker as sy vorige werk waarin ook oor die skryfproses besin is. Lesers wat Strachan se werk ken en volg, sal dit met 'n gevoel van herkenning eerder as verrassing lees. Diegene wat die eerste keer met sy werk kennis maak, sal die genot hê om 'n goedgeemaakte en onderhoudende roman met verskillende betekenislae te lees.' (*Die Burger* 15/11/2010.)

STRAUSS, Nicole Jaekel

Maal: kortverhale.- Queillerie, 2010.



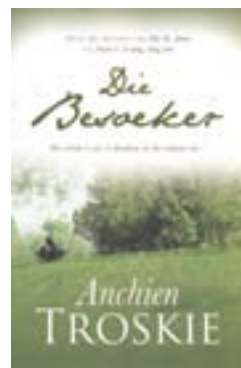
'In hierdie debuutkortverhalebundel van Strauss word die leser blootgestel aan die wedervaringe van 'n groep uiteenlopende en interessante karakters wat hoofsaaklik in verskillende Europese stede woon. Waar 'n karakter soos Bea haar kind se dood probeer verwerk deur elke dag in die park te gaan piekniek hou en haar lewe saam met haar kind rekonstrueer; is daar Hilde van Gent, wat maar te bly is dat haar kinders groot is en sy die stilte van die huis vir haarself kan hê. Dikwels kom dieselfde karakters in

meer as een verhaal voor; soos die begaafde jong pianis Klaudia. Deurgaans is daar sprake van ont-nugtering en verslingering in die verhale. Dit beeld 'n groep karakters uit wat weens omstandighede ontwortel word en 'n ander heen-kome moet vind of wat die slagoffers is van manipuleerders. So het ons in die verhaal *Bestemmings* drie karakters wat onder meer uit Suid-Afrika, Oos-Europa en Spanje kom en hulle in Rome bevind. As gemarginaliseerdes beweeg hulle op die rand van die samelewing en moet hulle maar tevrede wees met die krummels wat na hul kant toe kom. Of die meisie Alile uit Malawi (twee verhale speel in Afrika af) wat ná 'n lang busrit in die Kaap aankom op soek na 'n beter lewe, net om gekonfronteer te word met familieleden wat haar nie wil sien. In die openingsverhaal *Die konsert* kry die leser met 'n ewe interessante verteller te make wat haar in Wene bevind. Sy kikker haar besondere alleenbestaan op deur mense in koffiehuise af te luister of om die memento's te versamel wat hulle agterlaat. In die verhaal *Het begin* word die afhanklikheid van die jong dwelmverslaafde Peter (hy kom ook in die verhaal *Witbroodjie* voor) uitgebuit deur 'n vrou wat heelwat ouer as hy is. Soos die titel te kenne gee, vorm maaltye en die bereiding van voedsel die sentrale handeling in die meeste verhale en dis veral in die fyn beskrywing hiervan dat Strauss uitblink.

Die feesmaal wat Katinka in die verhaal *Katinka kook* berei, dien as agtergrond vir die ontboeseming aan die einde; net soos Hilde haar alleenskap vier met die fynere bereiding van witloof vir aandete. Die woord "maal" in al sy betekenisfasette kom ook ter sprake, want inderdaad word die karakters in hierdie verhaal deur 'n meul gemaal, maar sonder dat dit swaarwigtige, wroegende en melancholiese verhale is. Strauss se verhale is meesleurend. Dit werk in op al die sintuie... Soms word die leser ook getref deur 'n onverwagse slotmoment soos die dooddruk van 'n troetelhamster uit woede oor die dood van 'n geliefde kinderoppasser; of die vankantmaak van 'n geliefde brak. Dit dien egter nie bloot as skokeffekte nie, want in albei gevalle word die diere metafore vir hul vasgevangene eienaars... Strauss se bundel verdien om gelees te word. Dis heg geskryf en dit bied vir die leser 'n fyn waargenome inkyk op die lewens van 'n baie interessante groep karakters.' (*Rapport Weekliks* 31/10/10.)

TROSKIE, Anchien

Die besoeker.- Kwela, 2010.



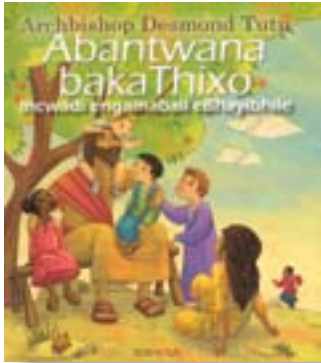
'Emmie Engelbrecht is 'n 23-jarige sekretaresse by 'n Oos-Kaapse spogskool wat in haar vrye tyd dwelms aan die rykmanskinders verkoop. Aanvanklik doen sy dit net om uit haar geldelike verknorsing te kom, maar mettertyd suig die geheime lewe haar heeltemal in. Uiteindelik, wanneer Emmie in lewensgevaar verkeer; vlug sy na 'n plaashuis. Hier sal sy hopelik vir 'n rukkie veilig wees teen haar dwelmibaas, Jake, en sy sadistiese trawante. Maar in plaas van Jake word Emmie ingewag

deur Migaël, wat beweër hy is haar beskermengel. Migaël het nie net gekom om Emmie te beskerm nie, maar ook om vir haar verlossing te bring van die vretende skuldgevoel wat sy met haar saamdra. Na haar aanvanklike agterdog, begin Emmie stuk-vir-stuk haar donker lewensverhaal aan haar engel vertel. Deur middel van hierdie teruglitse word die leser ingetrek by die wêreld van dwelmhandelaars, waar verslaafdes die klere aan hul lyf sal verkoop vir 'n *fix*, waar dwelmbase nie net hul werknemers terroriseer nie, maar ook hul gesinne en geliefdes. Op 'n tegniese punt is daar nie veel fout te vind met *Die besoeker* nie. Die verhaal beweeg teen 'n flink pas, terwyl die hede en verlede vernuftig saamgeveg is. Dis 'n boeiende verhaal met heelwat verrassings onderweg na die slot. Troskie se beskrywing van 'n tipesie rykmanskool dreig soms om te veralgemeen, maar bied heelwat stof tot nadenke vir sowel ouers as skoolkinders. Pleks daarvan om te preek, stel sy die ware feite rondom dwelmverbruik en laat die leser self besluit. Die morele dilemma waarmee Emmie worstel, is eg en tasbaar. Die karakter van Migaël kom egter nie heeltemal tot sy reg nie. Die boek se slot is gewaarborg om lesers te verdeel. Gelowige lesers sal die laaste hoofstuk aangrypend vind. Myns insiens doen dit egter afbreuk aan die roman en kon die storie netsowel by die vorige hoofstuk geëindig het. Wat tot dusver 'n fassinerende blik op 'n werklike maatskaplike probleem was, word nou gereduseer tot 'n *The Shack*-agtige fantasieverhaal wat op Oprah se boekrak hoort. Maar; soos jy aan die begin van die verhaal gewaarsku is, hierdie roman is eintlik bedoel vir mense wat in engele glo.' (www.beeld.com 29/08/2010.)

JUVENILE NON-FICTION JEUGVAKLEKTUUR

TUTU, Desmond Mpilo

Abantwana bakaThixo: incwadi engamabali eBhayibhile.- Lux Verbi, 2010.



Le yincwadi yamabali eBhayibhile angaphaya kwamashumi amahlanu. Umbhali uphinda amabali aqhelekileyo nanemiyalezo egxininisa kumnqweno kaThixo wokuba bonke abantu mabathandane iintliziyo zabo zibe noxolo noxolelo. Ibali ngalinye linomfanekiso omabalabala yaye liphela ngomthandazo omfushane. Ngalo ndlela umfundi uyakuthi agcine nto ngebali ngalinye. Isakhono sombhali

siqaqambile futhi umyalezo wakhe wokuba 'uThixo usithanda sonke' ucacile. Ngokuqinisekileyo umfundi osakhulayo uyakuthi awonwabele la mabali.NNG

JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

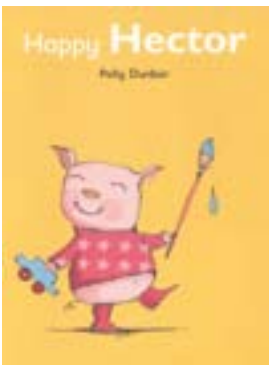
DUNBAR, Polly

Tilly and friends series.- Walker Bks., 2010.

The *Tilly and friends* series consists of six picture books of which we've seen four namely: **Hello Tilly, Pretty Pru, Happy Hector** and **Where's Tumpy**. Tilly lives in a yellow house together with her friends who are all animals, and the books are all about their escapades. The illustrations are done in water colour in soft pastel colours. The books are all A4-size and pictures are humor-

ous and easily comprehensible. In all the stories some kind of conflict is dealt with. The issues are all gently resolved and everybody is happy at the end. The books are charming and nice for story times as well as for bedtime.

Tilly is a girl with golden curls, dressed in red knee-socks, a green jumper and a red polka-dot blouse. One day Tilly is sitting quietly, reading her favourite story when each of her friends in turn asks that she plays with them. Tiptoe has a drum, so Tilly jumps on her chair and plays the trumpet. Hector the pig dances to the music. Doodle announces a feast and while they are enjoying the food they realise Pru is hiding under the table. After the feast they march to the music when they bump into Tumpy, who invites them for a ride. After the loud music and prancing to the music, Tilly suggests that she reads them a story.TGS



Happy Hector

In this title Hector is sitting on Tilly's lap feeling 'the happiest I have ever been'. This quiet moment is interrupted when the other friends all want Tilly's attention. They all decide to sit on the chair and Hector gets squeezed out. He goes to sit in a corner and sulks. He announces that 'I'm the unhappiest I have ever been'. His friends try to cheer him up with offers to paint his nose and comb his ears, but Hector is having none of it. In great big letters, he cries, 'I WANT TILLY!' But when he sees that Tilly is painting a picture of him it helps him regain that happy feeling, and he even consents to letting Tiptoe paint his nose blue. He joins Tilly in the chair, while the friends gather around. Everybody is smiling and happy.TGS

Pretty Pru

Pru is a bird with a penchant for jewellery and make-up. Tumpy asks her for some make-up so that he can be pretty like her, but she refuses. While she is trying on her favourite lipstick she does not notice when someone borrows her handbag. When she realises that her bag with her make-up is missing she asks Tilly to help her find it. Hector's eyes are full of mascara, Tiptoe's cheeks are a pretty shade of pink and Doodle's toenails are painted red, but they all deny seeing the bag. Then they see Tumpy with the purse on his head and a necklace around his neck. Tumpy returns the bag to his rightful owner and apologises for taking it. Pru accepts the apology and offers to put lipstick on everybody's lips.TGS

Where's Tumpy

Tumpy the elephant likes to play hide-and-seek, but has difficulty in finding anything big enough to hide him. He tries to hide without success under a cardboard box with his eyes tightly closed, behind a pot plant as well as upside down behind the pot plant. His friends laugh at his efforts because he looks silly trying to hide. When he disappears, his friends search with Tilly to try to find him. Eventually he jumps up from behind the sofa to surprise them all. Afterwards they all enjoy tea and biscuits while sitting on their favourite chairs.TGS

Note: At the time of going to press some of these titles were still on order.

EB.....Erich Buchhaus
SCG.....Sabrina Gosling
SSJ.....Stanley Jonck
NNG.....Nomonde Ngqoba
TGS.....Theresa Sass

'That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all lessons that history has to teach'

Collected Essays (1959) 'Case of Voluntary Ignorance'

