ADULT NON-FICTION

COLLINS, Maureen

Straight talk: how to manage conversations that scare you.- Zebra P, 2011.

A local title about how to excel with difficult conversations, be they personal, family or work related. The book provides different scenarios on how tension can easily get out of hand and how to avoid it with just the minimum adjustments, for example, tone of voice, body language, emotions and clarity on what you want to say. After each scenario the author provides a list of straight talk tips that one can use. This is a straightforward book and very easy to use. ......................... LNG

GWYNNE, SC

Empire of the summer moon.- Constable, 2011.

Empire of the summer moon is a skilfully told, brutally truthful history of the Native American tribe commonly known as the Comanche. The author, who works for The Dallas Morning News, writes that no tribe in the history of the Spanish, French, Mexican, Texan, and American occupations of that land had ever caused so much havoc and death. While Gwynne chronicles the long tribal saga, Empire of the summer moon concentrates mostly on its last 40 turbulent years. The story of Quanah Parker is the thread that runs through Gwynne’s striking and illuminating book.

Parker, the last chief of the most dominant and influential tribe in American history, led his Quahadi band to surrender to the white victors in the 1870s.

Quanah was the son of Cynthia Ann Parker, who in 1836 was taken captive by Comanches in North Texas. She subsequently married the prominent chief Peta Nocona and bore him three children. Quanah was the eldest and by the age of 15 he was a handsome, full-fledged warrior. Over the years Quanah’s band grew in remote areas and transformed itself into a dominant power. Quanah’s people became the richest of all the plains people in the currency by which Indians measured wealth – horses, a wealth traced to the arrival of Spanish conquistadors in Mexico.

But this is more than the biography of the Comanche’s last, best-known chief. It is a clear-eyed look at a tribe that shaped American history in ways few of us today grasp.

The author’s novelistic skills and the unstoppable pace of the narrative together with the vivid portrayals of its historical characters strongly contribute to the strength of this powerful and extremely readable book. ............................... EB

HIBBERT, Christopher

The Borgias.- Constable, 2011.

Christopher Hibbert is a leading popular historian and the author of about fifty acclaimed books. Here he tells the fascinating story of Spanish-born Pope Alexander VI in an intriguing narrative that is far from being a dry academic retelling of his and his family’s exploits.

Rodrigo Borgia became Pope Alexander VI in 1492 by bribing the other cardinals after having served his predecessors – one of whom was his uncle – in high positions in the Vatican hierarchy, which he used to further his power and influence. Pope Alexander was probably the most notorious ‘sinner’ to have sat on the throne of St Peter as he did not keep his vow of chastity and had several children by various women. This he did not conceal when he became pope and made them part of his court, providing them with palaces and power. Two of his children, Cesare and Lucrezia, were infamous for their actions to further themselves and the Borgia family, even if it meant murder and marrying more than twice. Cesare Borgia is the model for Niccolo Machiavelli’s book, The Prince. He excelled at bribing, murdering, and soldiering, and he was notorious for his womanising, even during his time as a cardinal.

This first major biography of the Borgias seen in recent years brings the family and the vibrant world of Rome during the Italian Renaissance to life in a gripping tale of a dynasty’s dramatic rise from its Spanish roots to its occupation of the highest position in Renaissance society. This absorbing account of sensational material makes a fascinating read, much like a television soap opera. .......................... EB

Hughes, Heather


Hughes builds up a remarkably detailed and nuanced portrait of John Dube. She explores a wide spectrum of his activities: he was a school principal, newspaper editor, novelist, church minister, politician and farmer. Although the book’s title identifies Dube’s ANC presidency as a focal point, she is at pains to explain that there was far more to him . . . Hughes starts her account of Dube’s life by examining his childhood. In 1887, the
Lodge, Tom

‘White South Africa’s apartheid police shot dead 67 blacks and wounded 186 more at a protest on 21 March 1960 in Sharpeville, a township outside Johannesburg. The wanton slaughter rallied black South Africa’s liberation movement. It also rang an international anti-apartheid alarm, explains Lodge (Mandela: a critical life.-Peace & Conflict Studies, Univ. of Limerick). He investigates what was truly singular about the massacre in its national and international settings. He shows Sharpeville as no moment of revolutionary transformation, liberalisation, modernisation, or social disintegration. Rather, he argues, Sharpeville shone a glaring and timely spotlight on the fragility of apartheid’s power inside South Africa, and it focused international indignation in Europe and North America that increased empathy with black South Africans. Lodge’s brilliantly complex yet eminently readable analysis tops a list of works of more narrow scope to offer a comprehensive view with half-a-century’s perspective on the long-developing collapse of apartheid South Africa. This work is a must for libraries, scholars, and general readers interested in the place, period, or process of racialist South Africa’s unravelling.’ (Library Journal)

Rabe, Lizette

‘Om die lewe van Rykie van Reenen, “briljante beat- en spesialisjournals, politieke en sosiale kommentator, essais, rubriekskrywer en resensent” en Suid-Afrika se eerste vroulike oorlogskorrespondent, omvattend te beskryf, is ’n onbegonne taak, het Lizette Rabe, outeur van Rykie: ‘n lewe met woorde, bevind. Daarom skryf Rabe in Die Burger dat haar boek nie ’n biografie is nie . . . Tog gee Rykie: ‘n lewe met woorde ’n deeglik uiteensetting van Van Reenen se werk as wat nog ooit vantevore beskikbaar was. In ’n tyd toe die meeste vroue 6f onderwyseres 6f verpleegster geword het, het Rykie van Reenen vir haar ‘n loopbaan oopgeskryf in die jurnalistiek. Sy het Suid-Afrika se eerste vroulike oorlogskorrespondent geword toe sy die Jom Kipper-oorlog in Israel gaan dek het. In die 1960’s het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is. Van Reenen se fyn onderwyseres 6f of verpleegster geword het, het sy naam gemaak as rubriekskrywer vir Van alle kante in Die Burger en in die 1970’s in Op die randakker in Rapport. Die rubriekie was sô gewild dat dit as ’n sirkulasieboer by Rapport beskou is en later ook gebundel is.

Schoeman, Karel
Riviereland; twee besoeke aan Nederland.- Protea Boekhuis, 2011.

‘Karel Schoeman se nuwe boek is ’n reisboek wat deur die skrywer se voorbekende kennis van Suid-Afrika en sy stamland Nederland se geskiedenis vervyf word: in Riviereland lewer Schoeman verslag van twee reise deur Nederland. In die eerste, korter deel skryf hy oor ’n besoek aan Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft, Haarlem en Leiden as deel van uitgebreide navorsing oor die VOC-tydperk, maar besoek ook kleiner plekkies soos Meppel en Hattem wat bande met sy eie grootouers het. Die tweede deel handel oor ’n langer verblyf in die provinsie Gelderland, die mees landelijke van die Nederlandse provinsies. Die reis het weer eens ten doel om navorsing te doen oor figure soos Jan van Riebeeck, Simon van der Stel en baron Van Reede van Oudshoorn, asook die gewone werklik wat in diens van die VOC was, soos die vryburger Jan van Herwerden en sy vrou Jannetjie Boddij. Terselfdertyd word die skrywer voortdurend getref
deur die skoonheid van die landskap in gebiede soos die Hoge Veluwe en die groot riviere die Ryn, die Maas en die IJssel wat deur die vlak land vloei. Die boeiende verslag van ’n verblyf in die buiteland word dus telkens verryk deur herinnerings aan en verbintenisse met die vroeë koloniale geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika en die skrywer se eie familiegeskiedenis. (protea. bookslive.co.za)

TEMPLAR, Richard

How to get what you want without having to ask.- Prentice Hall Life, 2011.
The author offers basic lessons and techniques on how to get people to give you what you want. The format is suitable for someone who wants a quick read, especially for those people who tend to be shy, stand-back or timid about what they really want in life. It can be used in the workplace or social environment. ................................................................. LNG

TEMPLE, Robert

Egyptian dawn: exposing the real truth behind ancient Egypt.- Arrow Bks., 2011.

Bestselling author of The Sirius mystery once again offers a fascinating look into the real history of the ancient civilisations, including revelatory new evidence that challenges accepted truths about the history of Egypt. By re-dating key monuments using a revolutionary new technique, together with stunning never-before-seen images which have been meticulously photographed and documented, Temple provides solid evidence to support his findings. Along the way he exposes those forgers who faked much of the data for Old Kingdom chronology, for example, the Great Pyramid that could not have been built by King Cheops. He also speculates on the possible true purpose and plan of the Giza Plateau and its three main pyramids, mentioning the locations of seven intact royal tombs of the Old Kingdom period which currently await opening at Giza.

Many may argue with Temple’s views, but the book will appeal to history buffs and those interested in controversial issues. The book has a powerful start from the first page, and presents highly researched and backed-up material. He presents the evidence of theories that will shock readers, and he tries to explain his theories and information as simply as possible. The book is well researched with loads of little stories thrown into the text. The material covered is captivating enough and presented to be readable to a wide audience. But first the reader has to plough through the first chapter where too much detail tends to bog one down. ................................................................. EB

WEIR, Alison

Mary Boleyn.- J. Cape, 2011.
The story of the Boleyn sisters and Henry VIII’s amorous adventures have long been a source of fascination. In the wake of the Hollywood film The other Boleyn girl and the TV drama The Tudors, it has become a global obsession, despite the huge historical inaccuracies in both. Readers might ask what made this period (when the Tudors reigned) so fascinating, and the answer is that it was an age that witnessed the growth of diplomacy and literacy. Thanks to international interest in Henry VIII’s marital adventures, no detail was thought too insignificant to be reported. For the first time, there were detailed insights into a sovereign’s private life.

After writing about the final days of Anne Boleyn in The lady in the tower, the author decided to focus her attention on Anne’s older sister Mary. Very little up till now has been written on Mary, and Weir has strived to provide the most complete assessment possible, indulging along the way in some well-researched speculation to fill the gaps. Mary Boleyn was the mistress of two kings: Francis I of France and Henry VIII of England. Many rumours and misconceptions have been embroiled over the centuries, obscuring the truth about Mary. Due to a fictionalised perception of Mary Boleyn, the author was inspired to write a book, the first to explore Mary’s life in depth, and reveal strong evidence that Mary bore Henry VIII a child.

Mary was said to be by far the more beautiful of the Boleyn sisters. In 1514, she went to France in the train of Henry VIII’s sister, Mary Tudor, who was to marry Louis XII. Licentiousness reigned at the French court. There, Mary Boleyn briefly became the mistress of Louis’s successor, Francis I. Claims that she became free with her favours are overstated, for there is not a single contemporary reference to support them. After her return to England, Mary Boleyn disappears from history, overlooking the centuries, obscuring the truth about Mary. Due to a fictionalised perception of Mary Boleyn, the author was inspired to write a book, the first to explore Mary’s life in depth, and reveal strong evidence that Mary bore Henry VIII a child.

Contrary to popular belief there was no open scandal at the time. Mary bore two children: Katherine, in 1524, and Henry, in 1525. It is often claimed that the King was the father, but Henry never acknowledged either child. Later she would be banished from court for marrying a commoner, and would die in peaceful obscurity, happily married to the man she loved – the luckiest of the Boleyns. ................................................................. EB

BREYTENBACH, Kerneels

Piekniek by Hangklip.- Human, 2011.
Joshua Gumbo, ‘n lid van die Lucky Thirteen-sindikaat in Johannesburg, skiet Sonja Griessel se ouers dood wanneer hy
haar luukse 4x4 probeer kaap. In die proses strukke Sonja egter op ’n hoer as gebruiklike hak en plant ’n soen vol op haar kaper se lippe. In ’n poging om dié traumatische voorval te vergeet en weer haar voete te vind verhuis Sonja sak en voorval te vergeet en weer haar in ’n poging om dié traumatiese ’n soen vol op haar kaper se lippe.

die proses struikel Sonja egter op pak na die kaap. Joshua, wat glo dat van toevalle spoor Joshua Sonja eindelik op en hul paaie kruis verhaalwendings wat die sinne laat duisel. Deur die reinste ontwikkel ’n reeks avonture en maar ook uiters vrugbare gegewe dagtes agterna. Uit dié eenvoudige het, sit haar met allerlei wraakge- haar soen hom van sy mojo beroof en skreeusnaaks!’ (skandalig satiries, plek-plek sedeloos en sinnelik, maar áltyd slim

[Dit is] ’n leeservaring sonder gelyke: stilisties behendig, soms op hom wag óf op die vrypostige (en soms heerlik by Hangklip speurfoendi ten volle sal kan voorberei op dit wat in Piekniek by Hangklip op hom wag óf op die vrypostige (en soms heerlik onkulse) wyse daarop dit aan hom ooggedra gaan word nie . . .

[Dit is] ’n leeservaring sonder gelyke: stilisties behendig, soms skandalig satiries, plek-plek sedeloos en sinnelik, maar áltyd slim en skreeusnaaks!’ (www.beeld.com/Beoke)

FOURIE, SD

Die lanternswaaier.- Naledi, 2011.

‘Die lanternswaaier’ is ’n roman wat in die vorige eeu afspeel aan die Strandveldse kusgebied, rofweg vanaf Hermanus, seelangs verby Stanford, Gansbaai, Danger Point, tot by L’Agulhas. Sophie is die aanvallige plaasmeisiekind van Jakobus Lourens. Sy is as kind deur haar skarminkel van ’n pa gedwing om op stormnagte op die duine te staan en lantern swaai sodat die skepe ’n verkeerde rigting te staan en lantern swaai sodat die skepe ’n verkeerde rigting inslaan en strand. So kon hy eerste by wees om die uitspoelgoed te inslaan en strand. so kon hy eerste by wees om die uitspoelgoed te inslaan en strand. so kon hy eerste by wees om die uitspoelgoed te inslaan en strand.

Die story opens on New Year’s Eve of 1902, during the final days of the Anglo-Boer War. Susan Nell, a 17-year old inmate of the Winburg concentration camp is discovered by a Boer turncoat during a curfew wandering between tents looking for medicine for a sick friend. She is handed over to three bored British officers who label her a whore, then rape and abuse her, and leave her for dead. She is rescued by a Basotho man, and he and his wife secretly nurse her back to health. She is then smuggled out of the area to Bloemfontein where she finds her way to Cape Town with the help of a
photographer. There she is befriended by the well-known Marie Koopman-de Wet and finds herself dwelling in style at the home of the Koopman-de Wet sisters in Strand Street (now a famous museum).

The Koopman-de Wet sisters recognise her worth and secure a bursary for her to study in Holland. Susan becomes a psychiatrist of note and develops a gift for dealing with the traumatised soldiers of World War I. Along the way she comes across her former rapists who do not recognise or associate her with the unfortunate girl from so long ago.

Her expertise then takes her as a volunteer to Thailand to help with the rehabilitation of the victims of World War II. It is there, as an expert witness during the military hearings into the atrocities of the Japanese soldiers, that Susan becomes the champion of the women forced to work as comfort givers to Japanese soldiers. Her path does eventually lead back to South Africa where she will journey and recapture lost moments and say her farewell to those who played an important part in her survival. This poignant story is a mixture of many genres and is generously illustrated with a patchwork of archival photographs.

The inspiration for this story came from an reported eyewitness account Moolman heard while travelling in Thailand about an unknown incident at the Winburg concentration camp. This he combined with the stories told by his wife’s grandmother who too was an inmate of this concentration camp.

The end result is a gripping, moving story that will be long remembered after being read, covering a period very much forgotten. .................................................................EB

BULLER, Laura . . . [et al.]

This accessible and entertaining Dorling Kindersley title takes a fun and informative look at espionage. It lists reasons for spying as in espionage, briefly covering various well-known global intelligence agencies. Other sections cover the skills and experience needed to be a secret agent and mentions a selection of important figures. The book also looks at codebreaking, secret writing and spy technology, revealing different gadgets. The latter sections look at spying during the Cold War and modern trends with regards to the development of those sophisticated machines one associates with science fiction films. It is well illustrated throughout in colour photographs and artwork, and includes stories in a graphic comic format to highlight certain sections. Young readers interested in the subject will certainly discover much to enjoy. .................................................................EB

JUVENILE NON-FICTION
JEUGVALEKTUUR

DIESERICKS-HUGO, Carina
Permanentie ink.- Lapa, 2011.

Hierdie jeugroman is die naaswenser in Lapa se jeugromankompetisie vir 2011. Die Romeo-en-Juliet-reeks mooi en Johannes Harmse, haar kêrel, en inspekteur Liebenberg is moedeloos, veral as hy weer die belange van die vermoorde geskryf, kry. By Hoërskool Duivelspiek word vier graad 11 leerders deur die skoolhoof ingeroep, by name Robert, Werner Swart, Amir Pieterse en Zelda Krige. Hulle is om verskillende redes weer in die moeilikheid. Die hoofdeel hulle mee dat hy en dokter Burke, die skoolhoof, besluit het hulle moet gemeenskapswerk doen, wat beteken dat hulle die Ou Koshuis binne moet opknappos sodat dit vir liefdadigheidsorganisasies beskikbaar gestel kan word. Zelda reageer erg dramaties met die opmerking dat die Ou Koshuis die steler van siene is. Dit skep die regte atmosfeer vir die verhaal vol intrige wat gaan kom. Die groep besluit om die werk so vinnig as moontlik te probeer afhandel deur een naweek voluit daar te werk. Amir en Zelda begin in mekaar belang stel, en Robert word erg jal. Na die Valentynsdans word Amir aangerand, en dadelik besluit hulle Robert is hiervoor verantwoordelik. Die klop is dus redelik gespanne in mekaar se geselskap, en dit help ook nie dat dokter Burke Amir aknou nie! In die Ou Koshuis bereik die verhaal sy klimaks, en die spanning word vererger deurdat die leser reeds die identiteit van die reeksmoordenaar, ofwel Morfeust, ken.

’n Leker-lees spanningsverhaal met goeie dialoog. Die karakters word oortuigend geskilder waar die skrywer elkeen se persoonlikheid en agtergrond geloofbaar maak, en die polisie-inspekteur Liebenberg herinner ook aan ’n tipiese polisiebeaampte. Vir tieners. .................................................................LG

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

EB..................................................................................................................Erich Buchhaus
LG........................................................................................................Lona Gericke
LNG.....................................................................................................Linda Ngaleka
NNG.......................................................................................................Nomonde Ngqoba