

### ●●● VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR ADULT NON-FICTION

**BUCKMAN, Robert**

**Human wildlife that lives on us.** - Key Porter, 2002.

This is a most entertaining, well-illustrated popular science title that is informative too and can be enjoyed by the whole family. The author is a medical oncologist. In this book he discusses living organisms that live on or in our bodies - some beneficial, some neutral, some a threat to our wellbeing and some fatal. I can see children (especially older boys) delighting in the section on research into farting. Many of the full-colour photographs are of high magnification and often make horrifying viewing. I have become a trifle squeamish after looking at the pictures of bacteria, fungi, et cetera, on an ordinary kitchen sponge and average kitchen chopping board.

The book includes interesting information about a variety of things: the use of maggots in cleaning ulcerating sores (for example, on diabetic's feet), research into worms and the development of our immune system. Early findings seem to point to a correlation between exposure to worms at an early stage and the triggering of part of our immune system and somehow keeping it more stable. This really is a fascinating, if squeamish-making, book.

SG

**CONTINI, Mary**

**Dear Francesca: an Italian journey of recipes recounted with love.** - Ebury, 2003.

Mary, daughter of Italian immigrants, writes this book to her daughter, Francesca, as a way of keeping family traditions alive. She tells of her parents' poverty and hard way of life in a remote Italian village. They decided to look for a better life in Scotland and started off in one room, at the back of a jointly-owned shop, in the village of Cockenzie. Her mother's cooking drew in customers and the family eventually owned a number of restaurants and cafes in that village and the neighbouring one. Mary advises Francesca on food, ingredients and on how to shop, cook and eat healthily. She includes a number of family recipes for traditional Italian dishes. Included are anecdotes and photographs of the family's colourful history. This delightful combination of memoir and cookbook should appeal to biography readers and those with even an armchair interest in cooking.

DH

**Fantasy: the definitive illustrated guide.** - Carlton Bks., 2002.

Every aspect of the genre fantasy is covered in this comprehensive and informative title. It looks at its

development and offers an insight into the people, the characters and the worlds that make up the field.

This lavishly-illustrated title is divided into chapters that cover specific aspects of the genre. In the case of films, the reader receives details about landmark films in a year-by-year sequence. The chapter on television fantasy is similarly dealt with.

There is a chapter depicting important creators of fantasy in an alphabetically arranged sequence, while another chapter delivers the same treatment on fantasy characters. A final chapter covers fantasy games.

This well-presented title is not only an essential guide, but also a treat for those intrigued by the escapist world of fantasy.

EB

**IMAGO - the Federation of European Cinematographers**

**Making pictures: a century of European cinematography.** - Aurum, 2003.

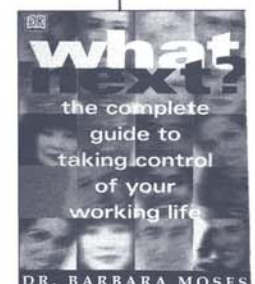
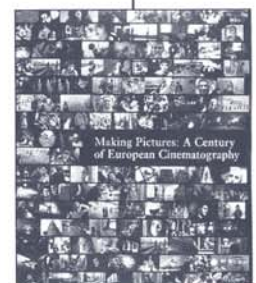
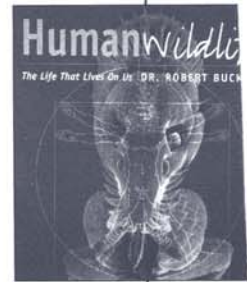
This is, without doubt, the most magnificent book on the cinema that I have come across in recent years. Created by IMAGO, The Federation of European Cinematographers, it presents a detailed analysis of the technical and creative role of the cinematographer in European cinema over the past 100 years. There are a number of introductory contributions by the likes of Jack Cardiff, Sven Nykvist, Giuseppe Rotunno, Bernardo Bertolucci and Marcello Mastroianni and this is followed by *A history of European cinematography* by Michael Leitch, which focuses on key movements (neo-realism, nouvelle vague, et cetera) in various countries. Then comes *Shooting from the heart*, by Cathy Greenhalgh, which deals with the aesthetic contribution cinematographers make to the production process. Thereafter a carefully selected 100 films are discussed in more detail, from the Italian *Cabiria* (1913) to the Dutch *De vliegende Hollander* (1995). In *Tools of the trade*, companies sponsoring the book describe their history and development, and finally there is a select bibliography and a glossary. Above all, it's the look of the publication that makes the first impression. It is extensively illustrated and the lay-out is beautiful. Incidentally, so far the Library Service has about half of the specially selected 100 films on video.

FO

**MOSES, Barbara**

**What next? - Dorling Kindersley, 2003.**

This is a comprehensive, practical book from an author experienced in the human resources field. It shows you how to assess your motivational type and chose a career which expresses your talents and personal values. Questionnaires help you to assess your values, key competencies and find a fit in 10 sectors. Included is advice on compiling a CV, writing a job application letter, interview preparation, dealing with career malaise and burnout. Flexible work





arrangements and career options for older people are also covered. Attractively presented, with colourful illustrations, the approach is authoritative and reader-friendly.

DH

**SANDYS, Celia**

**Chasing Churchill: the travels of Winston Churchill by his granddaughter.** - HarperCollins, 2003.

Celia Sandys writes about her grandfather's travels. She reports on his many travels made during World War II, to places such as Algiers, Cairo, Quebec, Palm Beach, Moscow and Tehran, among others. She also describes his travels for pleasure, to his favourite holiday places, the Mediterranean and Morocco, the French Riviera, and cruises on Aristotle Onassis's yacht, Christina. The writing is appealing and there are a number of fascinating historical photographs.

DH

**To change reels: film and culture in South Africa / edited by Isabel Balseiro and Ntongela Masilela.** - Wayne State U.P., 2003.

This new book on aspects of the South African cinema consists of a number of essays by local and overseas academics, plus one relating the experiences of Ethiopian filmmaker Haile Gerima on encountering individuals involved in the South African film industry. The first two contributions deal with the early days of establishing a local film culture, particularly the concerns of the New African Movement (in which Sol Plaatje was involved) and the work of the American Mission Board. There are detailed analyses of a number of key films, namely *De Voortrekkers* (1916), two versions of *Cry, the beloved country* (1951 and 1995), *Come back, Africa* (1958), *Jump the gun* (1996), *Mapantsula* (1988) and *Fools* (1997). Finally there are essays on formulating a national cinema (which, amongst other, deals with the work of VNS and with the *Ordinary people* series) and one which explores the whole structure of the industry, especially the aim of making it more representative of the overall population. In general the emphasis seems to be on the films, rather than the filmmakers, with special reference to the ongoing sociological debate. What is particularly refreshing is that all the contributors write in comprehensible, non-academic English.

FO

●●● **VOLWASSE VERHALENDE  
LEKTUUR  
ADULT FICTION**

**DONOVAN, Anne**

**Buddha Da: a novel.** - Canongate, 2003.

This novel follows a year in the life of a working class Glaswegian family. Jimmy McKenna has become involved in a local Buddhist centre. His wife and

daughter can live around it, but as his involvement increases, they become less understanding. An underlying theme is the poverty of real connection in the Scottish family. Written in Glaswegian dialect, it is a very readable, beautifully written novel, with comic moments.

DH

**FORD, Jeffrey**

**The portrait of Mrs Charbuque.** - Tor, 2003.

Piero Piambo is the portraitist of choice among New York's nouveau riche society in 1893. The money is good and he lives well but is totally uninspired. Wandering home one night after unveiling his latest work, Piero is approached by a blind man with a rather bizarre and intriguing offer. He must paint the portrait of a Mrs Charbuque and in return will receive a hefty commission. The terms, however, are rather unusual - he is not to gaze upon his subject's form and can only converse with her behind a screen.

Bewildered and yet fascinated by this proposition, Piero accepts and learns to know his subject by a series of arranged meetings.

Piero is soon obsessed by the mystery surrounding his subject which seems linked to a series of murders and a strange parasite that causes bleeding from the eyes. Aided by his friends, Piero starts an investigation of his own and eventually completes the portrait.

The story moves slowly, building up tension to a chilling and unexpected climax in the manner of the traditional Gothic thriller.

EB

**JAMES, PD**

**The murder room.** - Faber, 2003.

Three siblings inherit a private museum, the Dupayne, on Hampstead Heath. One of the rooms, the Murder Room, displays exhibits from notorious murder cases of the early 20th century. When renewal of the museum lease comes up the signatures of all three Dupaynes are required, but Neville Dupayne has said that he will not sign. There are two murders and then a third attempted murder. Commander Dalgleish of Scotland Yard investigates. This is traditional style crime writing, with a realistic background and convincing characters.

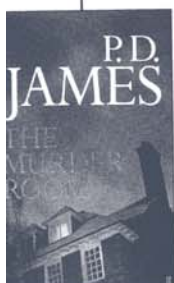
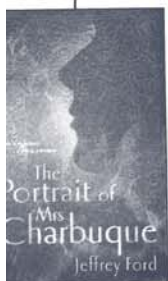
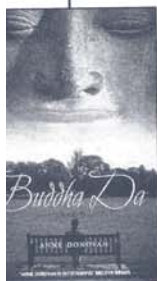
DH

**KOWALSKI, William**

**The adventures of Flash Jackson.** - Doubleday, 2003.

Returning to the area which featured his best-selling novel *Eddie's bastard*, Canadian author Kowalski's latest tells a coming-of-age story about an all-American girl who lives in an unusual, backwoods village situated on Lake Erie.

The narrator of the story is seventeen-year-old tomboy Haley Bombauer, who prefers to be called Flash Jackson. One summer after falling off the roof of a barn and breaking her leg, she is sent to her grandmother to recuperate. Her grandmother, a strict Mennonite, who lives a semi-recluse existence in a cabin in the woods, is far odder than Haley could



ever have imagined - she is a witch and is nearly four hundred years old. Slowly Haley is initiated into the craft and becomes an occult healer.

Different small-town types drift in and out of the story, and soon Haley comes of age and settles down happily with the birth of her son.

A slightly bizarre novel with a supernatural twist that is maybe not so compelling as **Eddie's bastard** but it is certainly a page-turner.

EB

**MATTHEE, Dalene**

**Toorbos.** - Tafelberg, 2003.

Nog 'n bosroman uit die pen van Dalene Matthee. (Matthee sweer dis ook haar laaste bosroman.) Soos haar vorige romans speel **Toorbos** af in die Knysnabos.

Dit vertel die verhaal van alleenkind Karoliëna Kapp. Haar verhouding met haar ma is by tye gespanne en na haar pa se dood sluit Karoliëna haar al hoe meer af in die bos. Sy geniet haar wandelings in die bos met Mr Fourcade, die plantkundige wat dan ook later die vaderfiguur in Karoliëna se lewe word. Karoliëna is 'n slim kind en die dominee raai haar aan om haar as onderwyseres bekwaam. Haar ma sien egter nie kans nie, want dit gaan te swaar in die bos. En toe winkelier, Johannes Stander, vir Karoliëna begin ogies maak, is sy in haar noppies. Die mooie jong Karoliëna trou toe voor sy twintig is en gaan woon saam met haar man op die dorp.

Haar nuwe lewe is vir haar 'n geweldige aanpassing en ondanks Miss Ann, die dame van die losieshuis se hulp, verlang sy terug na haar lewe in die bos. In Karoliëna ontwikkel so 'n tweestryd: 'n stryd tussen haar nuwe lewe met haar man en haar lewe as boskind. Dit is hierdie tweestryd wat die spanning in die boek tot die einde laat voortduur.

Matthee wys weereens watter fenomenale skrywer sy is: sy slaag daarin om 'n lewensgetroue uitbeelding van Karoliëna en die houtkappers in die Knysnabos te gee. Hierdie roman sal beslis dieselfde soort byval vind as haar vorige romans.

EW

**PIENAAR, Vincent**

**Jo'burg, die blues en 'n swart Ford Thunderbird.** - Kwela, 2003.

Vincent Pienaar se verhaal speel hoofsaaklik in die laat sestigerjare af. Dit vertel van ordentlike, stil Willie de Jager wat dol verlief is op die wulpse, Martie Santjie van der Welgemoed. Om haar in hom te laat belangstel, koop hy vir hom 'n Vee-Eight Ford Thunderbird, wat hy dan in sy agterplaas regmaak. Willie en Martie Santjie se verhaal weerspieël die lot van baie stedelike Afrikaanse mense wat tot die werkersklas behoort het, finansiële vooruitgang beleef het en later deel van die wit middelklas geword het. Willie bereik uiteindelik die kruin van sukses: hy vorder van 'apprentice motor mac' na voorman in die boubedryf, en uiteindelik boukontraakteur. Willie en Santie Martjie se lewe word verder verweef met dié

van Piet Wieletjies, die rood vulture, wat 'n baie hoë dunk van homself het. Piet word later die pa van Martie Santjie se kind. Pienaar se vertelling boei deurgaans: daar is heelwat skandes en intrige in die verhaal. En hy vertel alles op die man af: geen doekies word omgedraai nie. Die teks is 'n mengelmoes van Afrikaans en Engels en sy karakters is gewone mense wat swaarkry ken. Beslis genotvolle leesstof.

EW

**STRAUSS, Pieter**

**Fluitwiel: ware lag- en liegstories uit my dourie wêreld.** - Lapa, 2003.

As jy lus is om so bietjie jou lagspiere in te span, dan is Pieter Strauss se **Fluitwiel: ware lag- en liegstories uit my dourie wêreld** net waarna jy soek. Pieter, 'n boorling van Kenhardt in die Boesmanland neem die leser op reis na 'n streek wat gevul is met 'n skatkis vol pittige sê-goed. Een van my gunsteling stories in die bundel is die van *Klein Jakkalsie in die nagmaalwingerd*.

Een Sondagmôre besluit sy moeder, tant Liewenja, dat dit hoog tyd is dat sy klein Jakkalsie die binnekant van die kerk wys. Sy was jare laas kerk toe, sedert haar oor-die-tou-trappery met Jakkalsie se pa (wat ook sederdien pad gevat het!). Die kerk is stampvol en dominee begin met sy diens. Hy lees 'n paar verse uit Genesis en Eksodus, en hamer op die sondvloed. Tant Liewenja voel of Dominee al na haar kant toe mik. En sy sien hoe raak klein Jakkalsie al hoe meer onrustiger.

Uit die bloute byt die knapie aan haar ringvinger. 'n Gil weergalm deur die kerk en die gemeente begin giggel. Dominee gee 'n streng kyk en tant Liewenja besef dat haar kans op geestelike versoening met die dorp se mense finaal daarmee heen is. Sy gryp Jakkalsie aan die arm, klem haar Bybel en gesangboek vas en maak dat sy wegkom. Toe hulle die sydeur bereik, klou hy aan die deurkosyn vas en weier om te laat los. Kort daarna weergalm sy skril, smekende stem deur die kerk: 'Bid vir my o broers en susters! ek herhaal, bid tog asseblief vandag vir my!'

Kontreileesgenot vir liefhebbers van hierdie genre.

EW

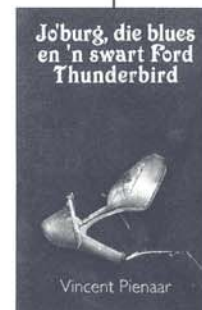
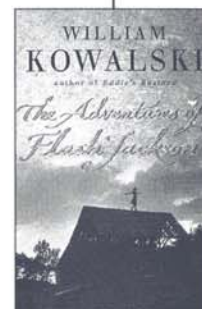
●●● **JEUGLEKTUUR**  
JUVENILE FICTION

**BLATHWAYT, Ben**

**Ben's big book of cars.** - Red Fox, 2003.

Blathwayt gives us a non-fiction picture book for young car enthusiasts. The simple text and colour illustrations cover a wide variety of car types: racing cars, vintage cars, sports cars, classic cars, as well as parts of the car, the garage, a Grand Prix racing track, and much more. Car lovers will have fun with this, and, at the same time, learn something too.

SG





**DALY, Niki**

**Once upon a time.** - F. Lincoln, 2003.

Daly's latest picture book is set in the Karoo where Sarie, who lives on a farm and has to walk a long distance to school, has problems with her reading. She especially can't stand having to read aloud in class when she is mocked by her classmates, with the exception of Emile, who, it becomes clear, has reading problems of his own. On Sundays, Sarie likes to play in an old abandoned car on the farm and there she is joined by Ou Missus. She is a wise kindly old woman who helps Sarie with her reading by purposefully leaving an old copy of **Cinderella** on the back seat for the child to find and pick up. Over a couple of Sundays she helps Sarie with her reading and the two 'girls', for Ou Missus has a child-like quality herself, engage in the fantasy of the Cinderella story.

All ends well with Sarie reading perfectly well aloud in class, now that she has more confidence and had more practice. She brings Emile along to meet Ou Missus the following Sunday and there is the promise that she will help him too.

JdeB

**DONALDSON, Julia**

**Conjurer Cow.** - Puffin, 2003.

Donaldson and Sharratt have hit the mark with this humorous picture book about a magic show performed by Conjurer Cow. Unfortunately, although she tries her best, Conjurer Cow has little success with any of her magic tricks. Children can lift up the half-page flaps to discover how each trick goes wrong. An amusing story by Donaldson combined with Sharratt's bright, bold, colourful illustrations make this picture book a delight for any child.

SG

**JAGTENBERG, Yvonne**

**The first day at school.** - Cat's Whiskers, 2002.

This rather quirky picture book about a little boy's first day at school was originally published in the Netherlands as **Een bijzondere dag**. Young Leo feels very uncertain and timid until he is asked to don a wolf's mask and play the part of the wolf in the Little Red Riding Hood enactment. This charming picture book is unlikely to have wide appeal, but I can see some children finding it interesting and reassuring.

SG

**O'NEIL, Dave**

**Raised by Frank.** - Lothian, 2002.

Due to unexpected circumstances, Frank, the family cat finds himself looking after two children while their parents are away on business and their rather horrible babysitter is reduced to ash by a freak bolt of lightning.

The children are quite happy with this arrangement and all goes well for a time. But the neighbours start to talk and they have to put up a front and bluff their way out any further complications. The three cope surprisingly well and soon the parents return, and are surprised that Frank did so well.

The bold and vivid colour illustrations are a treat and blend in with the amusing text. Young readers will certainly enjoy this!

EB

**WILSON, Jacqueline**

**Lola Rose.** - Doubleday, 2003.

In her latest novel Wilson tackles the issues of physical abuse and neglect within the family as well as cancer. But more importantly, the central issue is that of the mother-daughter relationship where the overly responsible eldest child parents the mother, who, while loving and caring, is unable to be the strong responsible person who the daughter needs to know she can rely on at all times.

When Jayni's mother wins 10 000 pounds in a scratch card competition, this is her ticket out of a bad marriage - she is regularly beaten up by her husband, a moody jealous man with a terrifying temper, who frightens his daughter. When he punches Jayni, it is the last straw and mother, daughter and younger brother Kenny flee in the night to London. But the money doesn't last past several treats and soon they are installed in a grotty flat which they redecorate and Victoria gets a job at the local pub and the children are placed in a new school. They all give themselves new names for the new life they have created for themselves and Jayni becomes Lola Rose.

Victoria is a real blonde bimbo - she was a glamour model before her marriage and can't live without a man and so before long an eighteen-year-old art student has moved into the flat. When the problems in the Luck family become too great, he moves out. Victoria develops breast cancer and is hospitalised for treatment. She leaves the children on their own, for what she hopes will only be one night. Of course it isn't and poor Lola Rose is so desperate that she phones the only person she can think of to call on for help. Auntie Barbara arrives immediately and takes control of the situation - she is just the kind of parent figure that Lola Rose needs.

Everything ends well, but not before Victoria has attempted a reunion with her husband, which ends with a huge fight and Barbara kicking him out of the house. Wilson's characterisation is perfect and the reader really feels Lola Rose's emotions, her fears and the stress she is under trying to look after her demanding brother and mother. Each member of this family obsessively clings to some idea or object or activity in an attempt to cope with the stresses of their lives. Once again Wilson depicts a very real child in a very real world, coping with a crisis. But as always in her novels she injects humour and hope.

JdeB

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

DH	Denise Harris	EB	Erich Buchhaus
EW	Ethney Waters	FO	Freddy Ogterop
JdeB	Johanna de Beer	SG	Sabrina Gosling

