

●●● ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

CARRUTHERS, Peter

Crashproof your business.- Aardvark, 2004.

This local author had a business which went under and he has turned this into a positive experience. He has for years been running workshops on the topic and has now produced this book. He maintains that using everything you own as surety is disastrous. If your business goes bankrupt what you put up as surety will quite likely be sold for a small proportion of its value. He puts forward a simple five-point plan to follow in chapters which discuss: business success versus business failure, compartmentalising your business risks, sureties and securities, business life without sureties, reducing surety damage, compartmentalising your personal assets, building cash resilience and creating an action plan. Written in conversational style, this is an accessible and practical book which will be helpful for small business owners.

DH

DANEMAN, Meredith

Margot Fonteyn.- Viking, 2004.

The author is a former dancer, who brings insight to bear in illuminating the life of her subject. She writes of Dame Margot's main love relationships, with Constant Lambert, the composer and conductor, who was unfortunately a drunkard and also promiscuous. The other was with her Panamanian husband, Roberto de Arias, also a notable adulterer. She also had important friendships with her dance partners, Michael Somes, David Wall and Rudolf Nureyev. The stories of these relationships are sensitively told. This is altogether a moving and well-told biography which makes an absorbing read.

DH

GREENFIELD, Susan

Tomorrow's people: how 21st-century technology is changing the way we think and feel.- Penguin, 2004.

Celebrity author, who is professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, director of the Royal Institute of Britain, presenter of radio and television programmes and author of five books on the human brain. She looks at what life is likely to be like, with future developments in nanotechnology, information technology, genetically modified foods, genetic manipulation of humans and terrorism. Robots are likely to be part of the domestic scene, humans will interface more with artificial systems and virtual lifestyles will be common. This is a wide-ranging and readable overview speculating about the effects of developing technologies on the future of the human race.

DH

HERBSTEIN, Denis

White lies: Canon Collins and the secret war against apartheid.- HSRC P., 2004.

This is the story of the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF) founded by Canon John Collins of St Paul's Cathedral in London. The author was a South African political exile who acted as Canon Collins' unofficial assistant in the IDAF which collected funds in Europe, especially from Sweden, and provided aid to needy victims of apartheid. The IDAF funded many activists' trials and provided financial support for the families of those who were imprisoned for anti-apartheid activities. The book makes a compelling read and documents an aspect of the Struggle which is perhaps not so well known.

DH

MAKEBA, Miriam

Makeba: the Miriam Makeba story.- STE Pub., 2004.

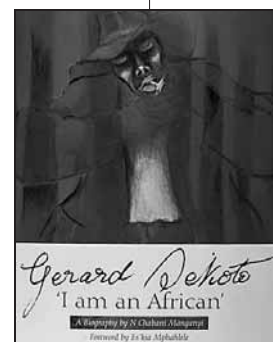
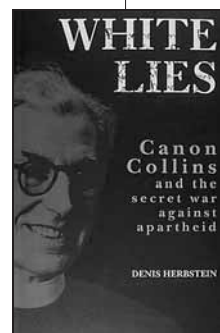
Miriam Makeba tells her story through interviews with Nomsa Mwamuka. It begins with her childhood days, when she sang along to her brother's records, danced and sang with Bapedi women in the neighbourhood and in school choirs. As a young mother she went to work in Johannesburg and her first singing job was with the Manhattan Brothers in the fifties. This led to other job offers and later her role in the huge hit, **King Kong**. When the Security Police started harassing her she went into a life of exile. Living first in London, and later New York, she married and divorced Hugh Masakela. Later, she married Stokely Carmichael, who was involved in the Civil Rights Movement in America. They went to live in Guinea and she continued to travel and perform all over the world. After the release of Nelson Mandela and 31 years in exile she returned to South Africa. This is a very readable and inspiring story. The format is in the style of a coffee-table book, illustrated with many colour and black and white photographs. There is a discography and list of awards.

DH

MANGANYI, N Chabani

Gerard Sekoto - 'I am an African': a biography.- Wits.U.P., 2004.

The author is a psychologist and vice-principal of the University of Pretoria. He has also written an earlier biography of Sekoto. This new biography makes extensive use of letters, writings, musical compositions and private papers made available at Wits University in 1998, after Sekoto's estate was wound up. Gerard Sekoto grew up at Wonderhoek mission station, where his father was a teacher. He too, became a teacher, but at the age of 24, overcame his ambivalent feelings about teaching and decided to follow his passion for art. His experiences with racism drove him away from South Africa and he went first to London and later Paris. From 1947 until his death in 1993 he lived in Paris.





Illustrated with colour and black and white photographs of some of his works. This is a very readable account of Sekoto's life and work, based on secondary and primary sources.

DH

RETIEF, Francois

Reken af met allergieë.- Lapa Uitgewers, 2004.

In ons hedendaagse gejaagde lewe is allergieë glad nie meer so 'n ongewone verskynsel nie. Trouens, dit kom al hoe meer algemeen voor. Sowat een uit tien mense ly aan die een of ander allergiese reaksie soos hooikoors, asma, sinusitis, ekseem en allergieë vir sekere voedselsoorte. In hierdie titel verskaf die skrywers, beide medici, praktiese riglyne oor die voorkoming en hantering van allergieë. Volgens die skrywers is die volgende voorbeelde van reaktors wat allergiese reaksies kan veroorsaak: stuifmeel, muf, swamme, troeteldiere, huisstof, vere, kakkerlakmis en daarom moet hulle so ver moontlik vermy word. Die titel word hoofsaaklik in wit en swart geïllustreer, maar sluit ook kleurfoto's in van velallergieë. 'n Adreslys van plaaslike organisasies wat steun bied aan lyers met allergieë word ook verskaf. Beslis 'n praktiese, nuttige werk, wat verligting vir allergielyers kan bied.

EMW

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

CARVER, Caroline

Black tide.- Orion, 2004.

Black tide also features India Kane, the journalist from Carver's first novel, **Blood junction** (which won the CWA Debut Dagger). Although this is a sequel, it is not necessary to have read the first book.

Blood junction is a pacy thriller set in the Australian Outback. We first meet India Kane when she is traveling to the little one-horse town of Cooinda to meet her friend Lauren, but when she gets there she is accused of murdering a local policeman who was very popular in the community. The novel is fast paced, with a touch of romance and a strong sense of place. This sequel, **Black tide**, is an eco-thriller that begins with a Greenpeace ship being rammed by a 'ghost' vessel - with fatal consequences. India Kane was on the ship to write a story about illegal whaling operations in Antarctic waters and the role Greenpeace plays in trying to prevent whaling. Once safe on dry land, India investigates the tragic incident, and finds that she's not so safe after all, in fact, she seems to be in great danger. This is an exciting action adventure story. It is a bit over the top in some ways - very like an action movie where you don't really believe the hero/heroine could really do all the things they're doing, but

still thoroughly enjoy the story. Both these India Kane novels are entertaining reads. Recommended.

SG

CARVER, Caroline

Dead heat.- Orion, 2003.

Carver's second novel is also set in Australia, but this time in the Far North. Georgia Parish returns to the small Queensland town of Nulgarra to attend her grandfather's funeral. She is eager to leave again as soon as possible and return to the city, but a crash in a light aircraft puts paid to her plans for a quick departure, and then things start happening. **Dead heat** is an enjoyable read, with atmosphere, tension, crime, action, romance and a touch of humour. It will definitely be popular.

SG

HERBSTEIN, Manu

Ama: the story of the Atlantic slave trade.- E-reads, 2001.

This first novel took ten years to research and write, by a retired civil engineer, who grew up in South Africa, attended University of Cape Town (UCT) and now lives in Ghana. Published in 2001 as an e-book, it won the Commonwealth Writers' Award in 2002, for the best first novel of that year.

The story follows the life of Nandzi, who is captured at a young age, from a small West African country, and is then sold as a slave. She is renamed Ama, and is sold several times over. Throughout her life as a slave she is raped and brutalised. At one stage she is owned by the director of the Cape Town Castle, Pieter de Bruyn. She lives as his consort, he loves her, and arranges for her to be taught to read and speak English. Unfortunately he dies, his will is not acknowledged and Ama once again, falls on hard times. She is sold again and finds herself on board a ship going to Barbados and later Brazil.

This sweeping novel about the slave trade, is full of violence, hardship, sex and drama in the depiction of the life of Ama and the brutalising of her spiritual and physical being. It is a readable and imaginative tale which makes compelling reading.

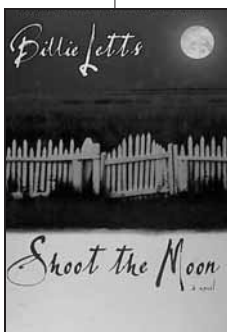
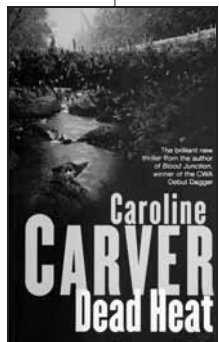
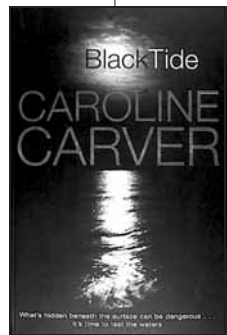
DH

LETTS, Billie

Shoot the moon.- Warner, 2004.

The setting is the small town of DeClare in Oklahoma. Thirty years previously, in 1972, Gaylene Harjo was murdered and her baby son, Nicky Jack, was abducted. The town sheriff, Oliver Daniels, also known as 'O Boy', blamed local preacher, Joe Dawson, but people in the town felt differently. Now thirty years later, Nicky Jack, who was brought up by a Los Angeles couple, comes to DeClare to find out more about his origins. He encounters hostility among the odd cast of local characters as he unearths the past. This suspenseful novel will appeal especially to those who have enjoyed her previous novels.

DH



WAKLING, Christopher

Beneath the diamond sky.- Picador, 2004.

This young British author's **Cape Three Points** was set in the corporate world. **Beneath the diamond sky**, his second novel, is something a bit different: set in Kashmir, it concerns a group of young Western backpackers trekking in the foothills of the Himalayas. They are taken hostage by separatist militants. Wakling shows how the different individuals react to this extreme situation, not only the captives themselves, but also their families back home. The main focus is on a young English couple, Ethan Hughes and Kate Cox. Wakling is spot on in his portrayal of the backpacking culture (if one can call it that), especially travellers in the East. This novel is scary, believable, well written, and, above all, compulsively readable.

SG

●●● YOUNG ADULT FICTION
TIENERLEKTUUR

BRINDLEY, John

Amy Peppercorn: starry-eyed and screaming.- Dolphin, 2003.

Amy Peppercorn: living the dream.- Dolphin, 2004.

We first meet the very likeable Amy Peppercorn in **Starry-eyed and screaming**. She is 16 years old and interested in music. She knows that her school-work is deteriorating as her home life becomes more chaotic. Her twin baby sisters (14 years younger than her) were a surprise to everyone, and her parents aren't really coping at all. When Amy becomes involved in a rock band, things begin to change. Her story continues in the sequel, **Living the dream**. Both books are readable, entertaining and moving, and will be hugely popular.

SG

COOPER, Patrick

I is someone else.- Anderson P., 2003.

15-year-old Stephen is to spend part of his school holidays in Paris staying with a French family and learning the language. En route to France he meets a couple who know his elder brother Rob, whom he closely resembles. Rob had left home a while back, and after the initial few postcards, nothing more had been heard of him. The couple say Rob is in Istanbul, and offer Stephen a lift there in their van. On the spur of the moment and being uncharacteristically impulsive, Stephen heads off with them. His search for his brother takes him to Turkey and through Afghanistan to India. It is an absorbing, and in parts disturbing, story. The author successfully evokes the feel and atmosphere of the early sixties and the 'hippie trail' to Asia. **I is someone else** is an engrossing novel but it won't have wide appeal, so only a few copies were bought.

SG

EARLS, Nick

After summer.- Walker, 2004.

Nick Earls, an Australian doctor, is also an award-winning novelist. We have two of his books in stock: **Bachelor kisses** and **Perfect skin**, both adult novels which broadly fit into the 'lad-lit' category. **After summer** is a teenage novel, about the summer holiday Alex spends at his mother's beach house after his final year at school. He is anxious about his exam results and also rather bored as his usual holiday companions are absent this year - but that all changes when he meets a local girl and her unconventional family. **After summer** is perhaps a bit quieter in tone, but just as readable and enjoyable as Earls' adult novels.

SG

GOING, KL

Fat kid rules the world.- Corgi, 2004.

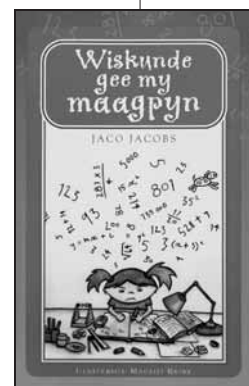
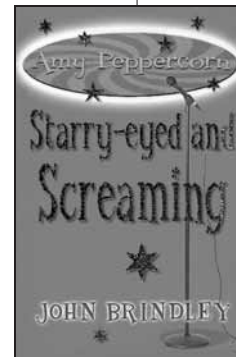
This is a wonderful, irreverent and fast-paced punk type of teenage novel. It is narrated by Troy Billings, the 'fat kid' of the title. He is only 17, but very fat (he weighs over 134 kg), so that his size colours his whole life. He is lonely and depressed, and contemplating suicide. When the story opens, he is standing on a New York subway platform trying to decide whether to jump in front of a train or not. The only thing holding him back is the thought of newspaper headlines like 'Fat kid kills himself' or 'Fat kid jumps under train'. While he is vacillating, he is 'rescued' by Curt McCrae. Although Curt is from the same school, his attendance is sporadic, and Troy only knows him by reputation: as a punk-rock guitarist and one of the coolest people around. Troy finds it hard to believe that someone like Curt would want to be his friend, but slowly a relationship develops between the two and Curt persuades him to be the drummer in his band. Troy hasn't played drums since seventh grade but Curt convinces him that that's irrelevant - it is a punk-rock band, after all. Troy is an appealing narrator, candid, realistic and very funny. The whole novel has an authentic feel to it: the characters, the music, and, especially, the dialogue. It is edgy and honest, and extremely funny. I was completely hooked from the first page.

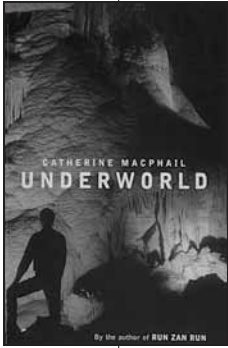
SG

JACOBS, Jaco

Wiskunde gee my maagpyn.- Lapa Uitgewers, 2004.

Baie jongmense sal sekerlik kan identifiseer met klein Mia, die hoofkarakter in Jaco Jacobs se nuutste jeugverhaal: **Wiskunde gee my maagpyn**. Hulle het in alle waarskynlikheid ook al deurgeloop onder 'n kwaai wiskunde onderwyser. Wel, hierdie titel is voorwaar nie 'n uitsondering op die reël nie: klein Mia en haar klasmaats kry behoorlik swaar onder hul wiskunde onderwyser, Meneer Vermaak. Mia en haar vriende se verdriet kom egter gou tot 'n einde toe Mia 'n boek oor hipnose onder oë kry en Meneer Vermaak haar slagoffer word. Nog 'n lekkerleesverhaal met 'n interessante intrige uit die





pen van 'n jeugs krywer wat in voeling is met die pols van die lewe.

EMW

MACPHAIL, Catherine

Underworld.- Bloomsbury, 2004.

A rather motley group of teenagers are taken (some of them unwillingly) on a school trip to one of the wild islands off the west coast of Scotland. Five of them get trapped underground in some caves after a rockfall. This adventure survival story cum modern horror thriller is a real page-turner, but at the same time gritty and realistic in its characterisation and social background. Recommended.

SG



MARSHALL, Anita

Township tales.- Progressive Minds, 2002.

The author is a South African who has been working in the field of child abuse and child neglect for some years, and has been trained as an adult educator. This book contains two stories which she is aiming at teenagers, and which are intended for use in education (in the classroom, or in more informal situations). They are not well written, in fact both are rather clumsy and awkward with a very obvious agenda, yet at the same time they are gripping. I read every word. Both are set in Parkwood, here in Cape Town. **Safe blue light** is about a teenage girl who is gang raped. The narrator of the second story, **Children of fire**, is also a teenage girl. She enters a creative writing competition and is awarded a bursary to study at the Technikon. The book also contains extracts from the Domestic Violence Act and the South African Constitution. There is a section of questions about each of the stories and a few blank pages for notes. I feel that this book needs some promotion, to bring it to the attention of the people that could use it in their work.

SG



PETTY, Kate

Summer heat.- Dolphin, 2004.

Summer heat is an omnibus edition of the four books in the *Girls like you quartet*. Four close friends spend their summer holidays apart - each book tells the story of one of their holidays. The titles are the names of the girls. **Hannah** is the first book. She doesn't go away but, instead, attends a residential music programme for a couple of weeks. The other three are **Maddy** (who spends a holiday in Barbados with her father), **Sophie** (who goes on a family camping holiday at a French resort) and **Charlotte** (who visits her aunt and cousins in the Lake District).

They are all readable teenage romances, pleasant and light but not superficial, perhaps because Petty doesn't stint on her characterisation, particularly that of the minor characters. **Summer heat** is an ideal beach read for teenagers and older children (the girls are all 14 and 15).

SG



ROBERTS, Mark

Tomorrow belongs to me.- Andersen P., 2004.

This new teenage novel from the author of **Night riders** and **12-day jinx** is a really scary psychological crime thriller. 15-year-old Danny runs away from home, heading for London. When his bus stops at a service station, his sports bag (which contained his savings book) is stolen from the cloakroom. Hungry and penniless, he is befriended by an older youth who has money and a car. Luke says he is making a video documentary about being on the road and invites Danny to accompany him. Not knowing what else to do and quite flattered at the invitation from the confident and sophisticated Luke, he accepts the offer. At the beginning things are fine and Danny enjoys the journey, but then things start to happen and he becomes suspicious of Luke. The story has a realistic, everyday feel to it, but slowly becomes more and more nightmarish. This is not a novel that one can forget easily.

SG

WITTLINGER, Ellen

Zigzag.- Schuster, 2003.

This coming-of-age novel takes the form of an American on-the-road story. 17-year-old Robin is a clingy kind of girlfriend, perhaps because she thinks her boyfriend, Chris, is too good for her. He is not only clever and good-looking with rich parents, but also thoroughly likeable. He is also more mature than Robin. She is looking forward to enjoying the long summer holidays with him before he goes off to college, but her plans fall through when he decides to attend a summer school in Rome. Her divorced mother has just started a new relationship, so Robin is feeling doubly abandoned and very sorry for herself. She accepts an invitation from her recently-divorced Aunt Dory to accompany her and her two young cousins on a meandering road trip from Iowa to California. The main part of the book follows their zigzag journey - the different places they visit, the characters they meet, the situations and relationships. Along the way, Robin learns more about the world and about herself. The author is a children's librarian and in **Zigzag**, she has given us an appealing and enjoyable teenage read.

SG

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

EB Erich Buchhaus

SG Sabrina Gosling

DH Denise Harris

EMW Ethney Waters

2005