

●●● ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

FRANSEN, Hans

The new amidst the old: building in the Klein Karoo.- Simon van der Stel Foundation (Heritage S.A.) (S. Cape branch), 2006.

This slim 40-page publication is so jam-packed with information, advice and photos, that it puts glossier publications to shame. Hans Fransen is an acknowledged expert in the field of local architecture and he was invited by the South Western Cape branch of the Simon van der Stel Foundation to present guidelines for the general public and the property developer on being sensitive to the historic architecture and built environment in the Klein Karoo. This publication is the result and it contains the following: a discussion of local architectural styles from Cape Dutch to Edwardian (illustrated with examples from the wider Western Cape Province); information on the development and historic buildings of several towns in the Klein Karoo (Oudtshoorn, Calitzdorp, Ladismith, Uniondale, De Rust, Prince Albert); advice on what to consider when building so that one can be sensitive to what is around one, for example, the importance of scale. There is a bibliography, a list of historic old buildings in the Klein Karoo and town plans on the end papers.

For anyone interested in preserving our heritage, this is an essential publication.

JdeB

GLENMULLEN, Joseph

Coming off antidepressants.- Robinson, 2006.

For Diana, a professor at Cambridge University, the antidepressant Lustral seemed the only way out when she fell into a deep depression after her son was run down by a car. When she tried to stop using it, she suffered terrible side-effects - nausea, dizziness, headaches and depression. Her nightmare finally came to an end when she landed in the office of Dr Joseph Glenmullen, the author of this book. In this authoritative guide, Glenmullen, a psychiatrist at Harvard University Health Services, offers a five-step programme on how to come off antidepressants safely. He explains and describes possible withdrawal symptoms; how to identify when you are ready to come off your medication; and how to taper off the antidepressants without experiencing unpleasant and disastrous side-effects. The text also offers checklists and charts so that patients can monitor their symptoms. Written for patients on antidepressants, their families and psychiatrists this is an extremely useful resource.

EMW

LAMBERT, Angela

The lost life of Eva Braun.- Century, 2006.

A new biography of Hitler's secret mistress Eva Braun, a woman much neglected by historians and

considered as rather unimportant. In this thorough and very readable study the author bases her findings on never before seen family papers and interviews with Eva's only surviving cousin.

Eva Braun became Hitler's mistress at the age of nineteen, was twenty-three years his junior, and was much maligned by the top Nazis' wives. Born to a middle-class Catholic family from Munich, Eva left almost no personal material or documents, except for a diary and photograph albums. These reveal that her life was not happy. Her chauffeur referred to her as 'the unhappiest woman in Germany'.

Yet for all this Eva was to remain true to Hitler until her death at the age of 32.

An insightful read based on sound research providing new insight into a woman the world hardly knew until the last 24 hours of her life.

EB

MARAIS, Chris and DU TOIT, Julienne

Namibia space.- Struik, 2006.

Companion volume to the authors' previous title **A drink of dry land**, this title covers their six-week journey from the Fish River Canyon in the south to the end of the Caprivi Strip up north. Sponsored by the Namibian Tourism Board, this road trip took place during the spring of 2004. Where the previous title focussed more on personal experiences and a selection of entertaining stories, this title covers what the authors saw and experienced.

Readers who enjoy scenic travelogues will relish the scenic beauty of the environment revealed in exquisite colour photographs that truly capture the raw essence of the Namibian landscape.

A treat to read and an entertaining browse.

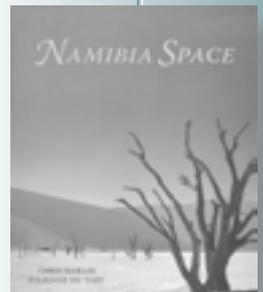
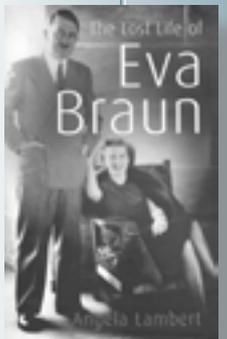
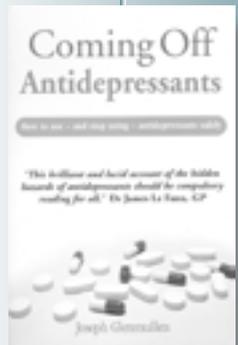
EB

McFARLANE, Anniéria

101 Maniere om jou kind van God te leer: koester jou kind se geestelike ontwikkeling.- CUM, 2006.

Vir die Christen ouer is een van die belangrikste aspekte van ouerskap om hul kinders meer oor die Goddelike te leer. 'n Maklike taak is dit egter nie. Anniéria McFarlane demonstreer in haar nuwe teks getiteld **101 Maniere om jou kind van God te leer: koester jou kind se geestelike ontwikkeling** hoe om die angel hieruit te haal. McFarlane is 'n ervare jeugwerker en het al verskeie boeke oor kinders en godsdiens geskryf. In haar nuwe titel demonstreer sy hoe ouers Christelike waardes deur middel van alledaagse voorbeelde aan kinders kan oordra. Sy gebruik items soos selfone, rugsakke, padtekens, radio's, rekenaarvirusse, speelklei, vlieërs, voëls en so meer, om geestelike beginsels aan kinders oor te dra. Die ideale hulpmiddel vir Christen ouers en Sondagskool-onderwysers.

EMW





Nature's medicines: a guide to herbal medicines and what they can do for you.- Reader's Digest, 2006.

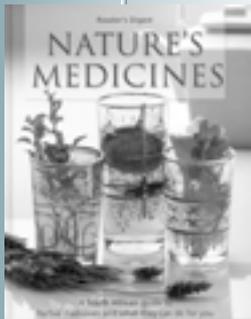
Reader's Digest has done it again with this new attractively-presented title for the local market covering the medicinal uses of various plants in the treatment of common ailments. After a briefing on herbal medicine, looking at the uses and cultivation of herbs, the focus shifts to methods of medicinal preparations delivered here in a step-by-step manner.

This is followed by an alphabetical arrangement of plants where each plant entry covers a full page and focuses on parts used, constituents, medicinal uses and cultivation. A highlighted section at the bottom of the page covers preparation and dosage as well as cautions.

The last section delivers an A-Z of ailments covering symptoms, plants to use and other measures to consider.

Throughout the book there are numerous colour illustrations of the plants/herbs used. This is definitely one of the best books on the subject, giving clear and useful details.

EB



TURNER, Steve

The man called Cash: the life, love and faith of an American legend.- Bloomsbury, 2006.

Author Steve Turner has researched his subject extremely well. Anyone who wishes to know anything about **The man called Cash** can do no better than read this candid, and very moving authorised biography.

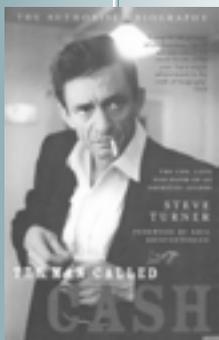
Johnny Cash was born into poverty, spent a very sad childhood in the cotton fields of Arkansas, and grew to be the most iconoclastic product of the American dream.

Beset by drug and alcohol problems, Cash rose to become America's most loved country singer. With top ten hits such as **I walk the line**, **Ring of fire** (written by wife June Carter) and his greatest chart success **A boy named Sue**, Cash elevated the Country and Western genre into a crossover style that appealed to a much larger audience. Indeed the almost unbearable honesty of his lyrics have inspired a legion of modern day artists as diverse as Kris Kristofferson and Bono of U2.

The intense love affair between Cash and wife June Carter is what really leaves a strong impression on the reader. Even Cash's work with legendary evangelist Billy Graham during the late 1960s and early 1970s pales in comparison to the impossibly beautiful love these two had for each other.

The book is by far superior to the excellent Oscar-nominated film **I walk the line**, as it covers much more ground and gives a true insight into the life, times and emotions of this iconic performer who became known as the Man in Black.

EB



●●● **ADULT FICTION**
VOLWASSEVERHALENDE
LEKTUUR

HICKS, Robert

The widow of the south.- Bantam, 2006.

This debut novel is based on real events that took place during and after the American Civil War. An important battle was fought in 1864 near a small Tennessee town called Franklin, and this battle is often regarded as the turning point in the war in favour of the Yankee northern states. It took place near the plantation of Carnton where Carrie McGavock lived with her Creole slave/close friend Mariah.

When the plantation house was requisitioned by the Confederate army to serve as a hospital, Carrie was still recovering from the tragic loss of several of her young children, but soon she and Mariah help out as nurses. She establishes an obsessive bond with one of her patients, a Confederate Sergeant Zachariah Cashwell, who guides her to her full potential and to overcoming her lingering depression.

In alternating points of view, the battle is recounted by various witnesses, and the reader is overwhelmed by the horror of the ensuing massacre. Helping out at the hospital becomes an obsession for Carrie, and she takes it upon her shoulders to comfort the dying and contact their loved ones.

When Carrie discovers after the war that a moneymaking neighbour wants to plough and re-use the field where the dead soldiers were buried, she fights for the right to develop it into a memorial cemetery that she would tend until her dying day. It is said that Oscar Wilde paid Carrie McGavock a visit when he visited the United States. At the conclusion of the novel, the author's note provides the reader with historic details and includes a few photographs.

This novel, very different from any previous novels on the American Civil War, covers an extremely interesting bit of history, and is impressively researched and compellingly told.

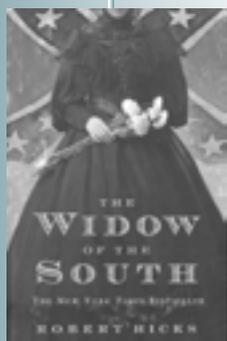
EB

MANFREDI, Valerio Massimo

Empire of dragons.- Macmillan, 2006.

Set in the year 260 AD, the story opens with Marcus Metellus Aquila, who insists on accompanying Roman Emperor Valerianus to discuss peace terms with the Persian king at a Roman outpost near the town of Edessa. This meeting arranged by Persian King Shapur is in reality a trap to capture the Roman emperor. In the ensuing scuffle, the wife of Metellus is killed after trying to warn her husband.

Now captured, Emperor Valerianus, Metellus and ten others are marched deep into the Persian Empire, and forced to work on a turquoise mine. But escape is very much on the hostages' minds, and



via a fellow prisoner they slowly plan a means of escape - an escape that only becomes a reality when Valerianus unexpectedly dies.

Journeying through the wilderness, Metellus and company meet an Indian trader who offers to help them get home in return for their services as personal guards for his client, a banished Chinese prince, Dan Qing, en route to reclaim his throne.

It is in China that Metellus is to re-discover love and enjoy many life-threatening adventures before finally venturing home.

EB

VAUGHAN-HUGHES, Pip

Relics.- Orion, 2006.

Brother Petroc, a naïve young monk, is the unsuspecting pawn in a fiendish plot to secure a holy relic by an unscrupulous bishop and his bastard son, Sir Hugh. Sir Hugh, a sinister ex-Templar Knight, ruthlessly kills an important church official, frames Brother Petroc for the crime, and forces him to flee the monastery with his best friend Brother Will.

Pursued by Sir Hugh, Petroc only just escapes but Will is fatally wounded and left for dead.

Petroc is advised by his former mentor Brother Adric to join up with a mysterious, but charismatic relic hunter and his band of outsiders who make a living from illegal sea trading very similar to smugglers.

This is the start of a completely new life for Petroc who now visits other lands, meeting and falling in love with an exiled Byzantine princess.

After many adventures dodging the pursuing Sir Hugh and his band of cutthroats, Petroc soon discovers the reason for his demise and of the part he has played in the plot to secure a certain much-wanted relic found on a small Greek island that will advance the scheming bishop's future.

This is a wonderful escapist historical thriller in the tradition of Umberto Eco's **The name of the rose**, but of course a far lighter and less demanding read.

EB

MEYER, ET

Waar's my tande? en ander verhale van ou Suidwes.- John Meinert Printing, 2005.

Geïnteresseerd in kontreiverhale? Indien wel, dan sal hierdie vertellings oor die vroeë Suidwes-Afrika beslis in jou skoot val.

Meyer se vertellings sluit aan by sy vorige bundel, **Die vlieënde Owambo en ander verhale van ou Suidwes**. Sy bundel is 'n weerspieëling van sy eie ervaringe sowel as die ervaringe van ander. Een van die vertellings wat ek in besonder geniet het was die volgende: 'Niklaas Tromp, was die oudste seun van oom Hansie Tromp, van die plaas Travenna, noord van Gobabis. Omdat daar destyds 'n groot behoefte aan garages was, open Niklaas een in 1932. Dit was ook gedurende hierdie tyd dat die destydse draadloos ingekom het. Niklaas skaf toe een aan en plaas dit op sy toonbank sodat almal kan hoor. Dis toe dat Oom Abel en sy vroultjie besluit om enetjie

vir hulle aan te skaf. En so ry die oom en tante met Niklaas se drywer, Paul, terug plaas toe. Nadat hy sy roomroete voltooi het, besluit Paul om 'n weer 'n draai by die oom en tannie te maak. Verbaas, vind hy hulle hoogs ontsteld. Die tannie sê: "Die ding praat Engels, Tromp weet mos ons verstaan nie Engels nie." Paul, 'n groot gekskeerder, sê: "Tromp het vir julle 'n Engelse battery gegee. Ons moet dit terugneem winkel toe." Met dié is die spulletjie terug winkel toe. Tromp speel toe saam met Paul en ruil kamtig die "Engelse battery" om. Wat die omie en tannie nie weet nie is dat die twee ouens maar net die knoppies verstel het. Die egpaar was maar alte bly toe die draadloos weer Afrikaans speel! Fred Mouton se humoristiese sketse sorg natuurlik vir verdere vermaak.

EMW

WAGNER, Jan Costin

Ice moon.- Harvill, 2006.

This is a translation of **Eismond**, the first novel by this German writer. It is a psychological crime thriller set in Finland.

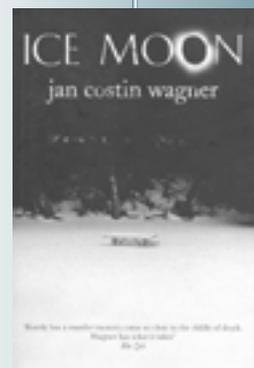
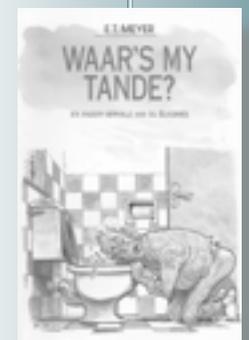
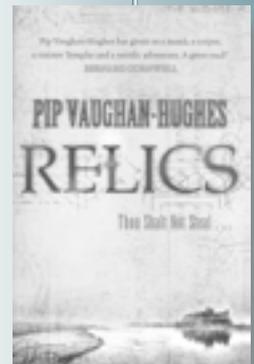
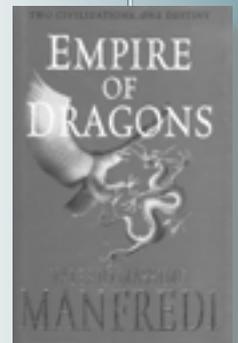
Although written in German, it has a strong Scandinavian feel to it. The reviewer in the **Times Literary Supplement** (TLS) 24/2/06 p.21, said of it: 'It combines the gloomily introspective detective and the acute sense of place - and social context - which have marked out the "Scandinavian school".' The central character is Kimmo Joentaa, a policeman with the Finland CID. He is investigating a serial killer who apparently sits by the bedsides of his victims watching them die. Kimmo himself, has been sitting watch at a deathbed, that of his beloved young wife, Sanna. **Ice moon** is a haunting novel but thoroughly enjoyable - the writing is compelling and the detective, Kimmo, a complex and attractive character. I hope he will appear again in future books. Wagner is a great find; I would recommend this novel to readers who have enjoyed the fiction of Scandinavian authors like Mankell, Hoeg, Karin Fossum, Kerstin Ekman, and Amaldur.

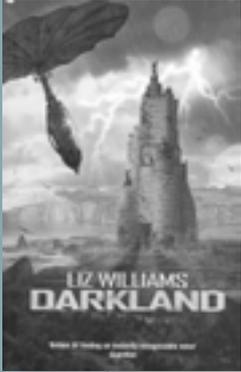
SCG

WILLIAMS, Liz

Darkland.- Tor, 2006.

This is dark, gothic science fiction where the story moves between worlds and communities which are not only very different physically but have very different systems of organisation and government. Vali, an assassin who works for the Skald, is sent on an undercover mission to the planet Nhem, a bleak, unhappy place ruled by a fundamentalist patriarchal militia. She only just manages to escape with her life. Her horrible experiences there are amplified when she discovers that she has been betrayed by Frey, a man who was both mentor and lover to her. The main plot of the novel is Vali's quest: to find Frey and to find out the reasons for his betrayal. In the book there is quite an emphasis on politics and society, gender issues and feminism, ethics about the





treatment of animals, and so on, but, even though she raises all these questions and issues, the story moves at a rapid pace and is filled with action. **Darkland** is a gripping, inventive novel that showcases the author's considerable world-building skills. I can recommend this highly, but it is not for the fainthearted - even with its intellectual and thought-provoking dimension this is still scary stuff (often nightmarishly so) and it is very violent with lots of blood and gore and rough, even brutal, sex. We have a few other books by Liz Williams in stock, but this is the first I've read, and it certainly won't be my last. I have a feeling there will be a sequel to this.

SCG

●●● JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

ABRAHAMS, Peter

Down the rabbit hole: an Echo Falls mystery.- Walker, 2006.

American author, Peter Abrahams, has written a number of popular suspense thrillers for adults. His novel, **The fan**, about a baseball fan, was made into a movie starring Robert De Niro. **Down the rabbit hole** is his first book for children and I think he has managed the change of audience successfully. Set in the small community of Echo Falls, this is an exciting and very readable murder mystery featuring a 13-year-old Sherlock Holmes fan as sleuth. Ingrid is an appealing heroine; she is a likeable teenager, an enthusiastic soccer player and, at the beginning of the book, successfully auditions for the lead role in the local production of **Alice in Wonderland**. The small-town setting is believable and interesting, the characters well drawn, and there is enough tension to make this a suspenseful read. Humour and a bit of romance just add to the enjoyment. The first chapter of the sequel, **Behind the curtain**, is included here. I don't know if there will be more *Echo Falls* mysteries but I certainly hope so.

SCG

MAGONA, Sindiwe

The best meal ever! / illustrated by Paddy Bouma.- Tafelberg, 2006.

Sindiwe Magona has told an inspirational story that will bring tears to the eyes of anyone who reads or hears it. It is a very powerful story that has been simply and plainly told and it needs no embellishment whatsoever. Bouma's realistic paintings are an absolutely perfect match. Siziwe is a high school pupil who is looking after her four younger siblings while her mother has gone to see to their sick grandfather. She is sole custodian as their father is away at sea as well. One night she is at her wit's end as there is no more food left and the children need to be fed. She can't go to their neighbour, Mama Manala, as she is nowhere to be found either. Siziwe just can't bring herself to tell the children that there is no food, so she puts a pot of water on the stove,

and as it boils, there is the promise of food to come. She is the only one who knows that there is no food in that pot. One by one her siblings drop off to sleep and she carries them to bed. And she eventually goes to bed too with an empty stomach, but not before saying her prayers, thanking God for the gift of hope, that she had prepared for dinner that night.

The next morning she is woken by Mama Manala who brings bags of groceries and money to keep the family going. To her siblings, the breakfast she prepares that morning is the best meal ever, but to Siziwe, the meal of hope the night before was the best.

This is also available in Afrikaans as **Die heel, heel lekkerste kos!** and isiXhosa as **Esona-sona sidlo!**

JdeB

VAN WYK, Chris

Ouma Ruby's secret / illustrated by Anneliese Voigt-Peters.- Giraffe Bks., 2006.

In 2004 Chris van Wyk's memoir of growing up in Riverlea in Johannesburg, **Shirley, goodness and mercy**, was published and the story in this book is taken from that one. He has rewritten, for a young audience, a story about his beloved grandmother Ruby. He loved visiting her house in Coronation because there were always lots of aunts and uncles and cousins there and fruit trees in her yard. One day he is told to meet his Ouma in town and he takes the bus in to meet up with her. There is a surprise in store, but he doesn't know what it is. He loves reading and his Ouma takes him to a bookshop where he is allowed to select two titles for himself and they both meet with her approval.

Two weeks later it is her birthday and as he has no money to buy her a gift, he writes a letter in which he expresses his thanks and his love for her. He wants her to read it out loud in front of the gathered family. He urges her to, and at first she says 'Later' and then 'I don't have my glasses with me'. It is then that his mother takes him aside and quietly tells him that his Ouma can't read - her illiteracy is the secret of the title.

In South African children's literature some of the very best picture books are about children and their grandmothers and this is another fine title to add to this sub-genre. Voigt-Peters, who illustrated **Die rooi rok** by Dux van der Walt, has produced really fine watercolour illustrations which capture the essence of Johannesburg and the extended Van Wyk family.

This is available in several language versions, including Afrikaans **Ouma Ruby se geheim**, isiXhosa **Imfihlelo ka makhulu u-Ruby** and isiZulu **Imfihlo kaGogo Ruby**.

JdeB

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

EB Erich Buchhaus	JdeB Johanna de Beer
SCG Sabrina Gosling	EMW Ethney Waters

