

## ●●● ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

**ANDREWS, Maia**

**The groom's guide.**- Foulsham, 2006.

A fully comprehensive and accessible guide for the bridegroom covering all there is to know and consider for a wedding. The information is clearly presented in a colourful and attractive manner much like a glossy periodical. This is due to the fact that the editor of the British periodical *You and your wedding* delivers the goods in a practical and non-nonsense package.

It covers all the essentials from budgeting, making a guest list, the speech, buying a ring, what to wear, stag night and planning the honeymoon, plus other necessary considerations.

As our coverage centres mostly on the bride, this is a welcome and useful addition to our stock.

EB

**BEHR, Hans-Georg**

**Almost a childhood.**- Granta Bks., 2006.

Translated from the German text, the author tells of his childhood in Nazi Austria. He was born in 1937 to a Viennese former opera singer and a high-ranking German anti-aircraft artillery commander.

The reader rarely meets the father in this memoir, as he tends to be mostly in the background. There is a war going on and there is little time for family activities.

The book is written in the third person as the protagonist always refers to himself as 'the boy'. He spends most of his early life on the estate of his mother's parents who are landed gentry and disapprove of their daughter's marriage. The boy's grandfather is especially vocal in his criticism of the Nazis and treats his Russian prisoners-of-war working on the estate with compassion.

At school the boy has to be extra careful what he says as the teachers always encourage their pupils to report back on any derogatory statements made by families concerning the Nazis.

His mother fetches him to live in Germany but with the invasion of the Russian forces they return to the grandfather who gives the boy's mother a disused inn on the estate to run.

The Russians arrive and are billeted in a wing of the mansion of his grandfather's estate. Things do not go too badly for the family mainly due to the grandfather's knowledge of the Russian language and his Russian contacts before the war.

His father is tried and hung for war crimes, and the boy's mother has to fend for the family. Life in Austria is particularly different after the war as it falls under the Russian zone but the family adapts and survives.

Written much like a novel, the reader is totally gripped from the beginning. There has been a run of similar memoirs on growing up during and after World War Two, and this could very much be rated amongst the best of them.

EB

**BRADLEY, James and POWERS, Ron**

**Flags of our fathers.**- Pimlico, 2006.

This title centres on a memorable event during World War Two captured in the legendary photograph of 1945 where six helmeted marines work together to raise the American flag on Mount Suribachi after a fierce and bloody battle in the Pacific against the Japanese.

The author's father was one of these marines, and, together with his co-writer Ron Powers, he sets about reconstructing the lives and experiences of these men and the fighting on Iwo Jima.

The book is well researched and offers some riveting reading. This title has become an international bestseller and has been filmed due for release, if not by now already on the circuit.

EB

**HARRISON, Ronald**

**The Black Christ: a journey to freedom.**- D Philip, 2006.

In 1962 Ronald Harrison painted the then controversial and now famous **Black Christ**, a crucifixion scene that used Albert Lithuli as the model for Christ and depicted HF Verwoerd and John Vorster as Roman centurions. This enraged the authorities of the time and Harrison was arrested and tortured. The painting, however, was successfully hidden and smuggled out of the country. It was used for fundraising purposes for several years, but later disappeared from view. After the first democratic elections in 1994, Harrison started a search for the painting. It was found and triumphantly returned to South Africa in 1997. Here Harrison tells not only the story of the painting but also of his own life and of the political struggle in South Africa. There is sure to be interest, especially as **The Black Christ** has again been in the news. The painting is now in the collection of the SA National Gallery and there has been some controversy about why it was not put on permanent display.

MJI

**HENDERSON, Veronique en HENSHAW, Pat**

**Kies jou kleure en klere met selfvertroue: verander jou voorkoms, verander jou lewe.**- Lapa, 2006.

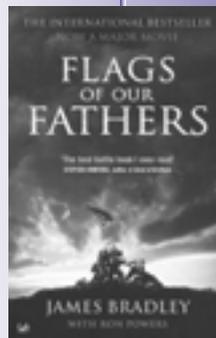
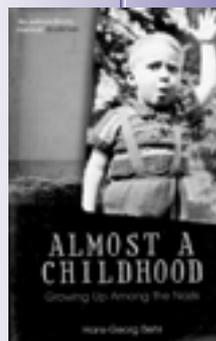
Die moderne vrou wat daarvan hou om op haar beste te lyk en probeer, maar sukkel soms. In **Kies jou kleure en klere met selfvertroue** wys die Colour me Beautiful span (hulle is internasionale voorkomskonsultante) hoe 'n vrou die beste uit haar voorkoms kan haal. Die teks wys watter kleure by haar sal pas en watter fatsoene en materiale haar sal vle. Lesers word ook gewys hoe om hul voorkoms af te rond met wenke oor geskikte haarstyle, grimering, skoene en ander bykomstighede soos brille. Daar is ook raad oor klerekasbeplanning en hoe om 'n unieke styl/persoonlikheid te ontdek en uit te leef. Die teks word geïllustreer met kleurfoto's van modelle. 'n Ware inspirasie.

EMW

**MARTINE, Roddy**

**The secrets of Rosslyn.**- Birlinn, 2006.

The deluge of literature that has followed in the wake of Dan Brown's phenomenally successful **Da Vinci Code** has been overwhelming. Roddy Martine's book **The**





**secrets of Rosslyn** is refreshingly different.

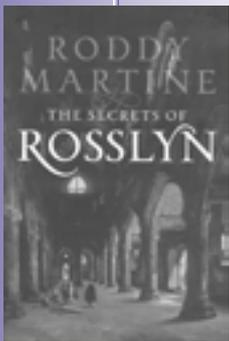
Most of the previous books on this admittedly fascinating and beautiful chapel have been overwrought with conspiracy and often far-fetched notions of occult legends.

The author stands back from this and instead explores the history of Rosslyn Chapel and the St Claire family who built it. The amazing legends and theories that have amassed around it over the centuries are treated with a clear-headed approach and a healthy sense of scepticism.

Although the sixteen featured colour and black-and-white plates of illustrations are undeniably impressive, the greatest success Martine achieves is the easy-to-read style of his prose and the coherence of the chronology of this awe-inspiring chapel.

This sober, well-researched study on a very popular topic has definite wide-ranging appeal.

EB



**MUNRO-HAY, Stuart**

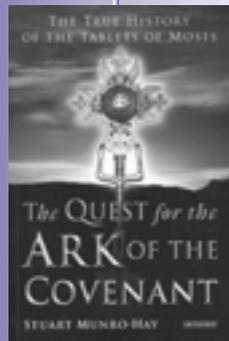
**The quest for the Ark of the Covenant: the true history of the tablets of Moses.**- IB Taurus, 2006.

Final book by the well-known Ethiopianist who died in 2004, investigating the traditional Ethiopian Coptic Christian belief that the legendary Ark of the Covenant was transported to Ethiopia during the ninth century BCE. It was claimed that Memelik, the lovechild of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, took the Ark from Jerusalem to Aksum in northern Ethiopia as a result of Solomon's marriage to the Queen of Sheba. By the 16th century, the Church of Mary of Zion in Aksum claimed to possess the Ark.

Munro-Hay, taking the role of a modern-day Indiana Jones, researches the legends of the Ark, mostly contained in local stories, from the Bible to the writings of sixteenth and seventeenth century Jesuits. He discovers that the legendary classic work, Kebra Nagast, origin to many of the stories of the Ark, offers more details about an altar stone than about a wooden box. The stone, a possible replica of the original tablets of Moses, served Ethiopian Christians as a connection to the Ark.

Readers who enjoyed the Graham Hancock popular title **The sign and the seal** covering the same subject, will enjoy this more detailed and thoroughly-researched account that reads like a detective story.

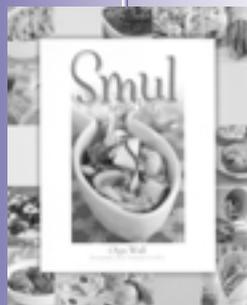
EB



**UYS, Isabel**

**Feitegids: 'n kernensiklopedie.**- Pharos, 2007.

Die titel bevat etlike duisende feite wat in elf afdelings verdeel is - Suid-Afrika, Die heelal, Die aarde, Lande van die wêreld, Geskiedenis, Vervoer, Die mens se liggaam, Gesondheid, Sport, Die kunste, Plante en Diere en Algemeen. Daar is ook inligtingskassies, tabelle, foto's, kaarte, 'n inhoudsopgawe en register. Die eerste afdeling behandel Suid-Afrika - die Volkslied, nasionale embleme, ordes, voetslaanpaaië, wêreldferisgebiede, ensovoorts. Die laaste afdeling bevat feite oor wetenskaplike, byvoorbeeld, edelstene, ontstaan van die verloffing, kaas en wyn, Griekse gode en godinne, uitvindings, ontdekkings, woorde uit vreemde tale. Die bron is by uitstek geskik vir vinnige naslaanwerk, blokraai- en vasvraspeletjies en skoolprojekte. Daar is min Afrikaanse naslaanbronne beskikbaar



en ek dink die bron sal beslis nuttig gebruik kan word.

Die boek is vir die volwasse sowel as die jeugnaslaanafdelings aangekoop.

GT

**WALL, Olga**

**Smul sonder sukses.**- Lapa, 2006.

'n Kookboek met eenvoudige sakpasgeregte is altyd gewild. Olga Wall se resepteboek is geen uitsondering nie. Wall is 'n ervare spysenier in Pretoria en is die skrywer van **Bottel en bêre**. Die eg Suid-Afrikaanse resepteboek sluit voorgeregte, ligte etes, onthaalgeregte, heerlike soet poedings, gebak en so meer in. Die teks word aangevul met smullekker volblad kleurfoto's.

EMW

**YORK, Peter**

**Dictators' homes.**- Atlantic Bks., 2006.

York, a writer, journalist and broadcaster, has also been described as Britain's original style guru. Here he turns his attention to a batch of notorious dictators and some of the interior styles they favoured. He looks at Porfirio Diaz, Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, Tito, Franco, Juan Peron, Ceausescu, Mobutu, Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Idi Amin, Bokassa, Saddam Hussein, Noriega and Slobodan Milosevic. There are capsule biographies of each at the end of the book, which is illustrated with colour and black and white photographs. The tongue-in-cheek commentary is often witty and incisive and gives some vivid glimpses into the lives and generally terrible taste of some genuinely terrible people. It makes a fascinating browse.

MJI



**ADULT FICTION**

**VOLWASSE VERHALENDE  
LEKTUUR**

**FALLON, Jennifer**

**The lion of Senet.**- Orbit, 2005.

**Eye of the labyrinth.**- Orbit, 2005.

**Lord of the shadows.**- Orbit, 2005.

These three novels make up Australian author, Jennifer Fallon's wonderful new fantasy series called the *The second sons trilogy*. The first book, **The lion of Senet**, and the second, **Eye of the labyrinth**, should be in the libraries soon, but the third and final one, **Lord of the shadows**, will take a bit longer. Set on the world Ranadon, where there is no night because its two suns shine so brightly, these are absorbing, intelligent fantasies filled with plot and counterplot, political and religious rivalries, and a large cast of well-drawn characters. I devoured the first two books and then was most frustrated having to wait for the third. These entertaining, layered novels will be a great find for anyone looking for a new fantasy author and they certainly show that the science fiction/fantasy scene in Australia is thriving. Highly recommended.

SCG

**FRAZIER, Charles**

**Thirteen moons.**- Sceptre, 2006.

The author of the best-selling novel **Cold mountain** sets his second novel in early 19th century America. The story covers the life of Will Cooper who is sold as a teenage orphan by his aunt and uncle to serve as an



indentured servant to a tradesman from the South Carolina Mountains.

Now a grand old man, Will reminisces about his past. He tells of his running a trading station deep in the wilderness of the Indian Nation where he meets and falls in love with a half-breed Indian girl who will hold his interest for the duration of the whole novel.

At this run-down trading post Will establishes a friendship with an older Cherokee named Bear, who acts as a kind of foster-father. Will adapts so well to Cherokee life that the tribe honour him with a new name, 'White Chief'.

Hard working and ambitious, Will soon builds up a comfortable existence. When the federal government decides to move the Cherokee race to another reserve, Will unsuccessfully represents them in the ensuing debacle. Then calamity strikes through mysterious strangers who ride into town to collect their debts causing Will's fortunes to take a turn for the worst.

EB

### JUNGSTEDT, Mari

**Unseen.**- Doubleday, 2007.

This debut crime novel by a Swedish radio and television journalist is set on the island of Gotland, and is the first of a planned series. Gotland is a popular summer holiday resort and a peaceful place with few serious crimes, making the brutal axe murder of a young woman all the more shocking. The obvious suspect is the boyfriend with whom she had a violent quarrel the night before. But then there are more murders and it seems that a serial killer is on the loose. In charge of the investigation is Inspector Anders Knutas. As more than one published review noted, Jungstedt is not quite up to the standard of Henning Mankell. Nevertheless, this is a competently written and absorbing police procedural with an interesting setting and a likeable detective hero. It will be enjoyed by crime fiction fans.

MJI

### KING, Jonathon

**Eye of vengeance.**- Orion, 2006.

Former crime reporter King is the author of four previous novels, all set in the Florida Everglades and all featuring cop-turned-PI, Max Freeman. His crime novel, **The blue edge of midnight**, won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel and was a *LA Times* best-seller. This new novel is something of a departure for him (not part of his Max Freeman sequence), its main character is Nick Mullins, an experienced crime reporter on the *South Florida Daily News*. There appears to be a sniper on the loose and Nick realises that there's a link between the shootings and the in-depth profiles of criminals he's written for the paper. The plot is concerned with the question of what happens when a journalist finds himself no longer simply a reporter observing and commenting but somehow becomes a participant as well.

**Eye of vengeance** is an intelligent and entertaining crime thriller with a realistic newspaper setting. I have a feeling that King may write another book featuring Nick Mullins - I certainly hope so because I thoroughly enjoyed this and have no doubt other readers will too.

SCG

### PENNY, Louise

**Still life.**- Headline, 2005.

**Dead cold.**- Headline, 2006.

Penny worked for many years for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. **Still life** is her first novel. The discovery of a dead body in the woods on Thanksgiving weekend brings Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his colleagues from the Surete du Quebec to the small Canadian village of Three Pines. The victim is an elderly woman, Jane Neal, who has lived in the village all her life. I enjoyed this novel and think it an impressive debut. It is both a detective story and a portrait of small-town life.

The police detective is an endearing character and Penny has painted an interesting picture of the village of Three Pines and its cast of quirky and often eccentric characters. However, I do think she overdid things a trifle: all the characters and relationships are a bit too quirky.

I feel that she tried to pack too much into this one novel. But, all in all, it is a delightful read and one which I can definitely recommend.

It has been well received: being awarded a 'very highly commended' for the CWA Debut Dagger, and since then winning both the CWA New Blood Dagger and the CWC Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. We have recently ordered her second novel, **Dead cold**, which is a sequel to **Still life**. Once again Gamache features and once again he must travel to Three Pines to investigate a murder. There is quite a bit about police politics in this new novel. Actually, I think it even better than her first, but both books are enjoyable. They both have a distinctly Canadian flavour - the tensions between French and English, the harsh Canadian winter, and so on.

I think this series will prove popular. I, for one, am looking forward to another instalment featuring the rather jaded but enormously appealing Gamache and the inhabitants of Three Pines.

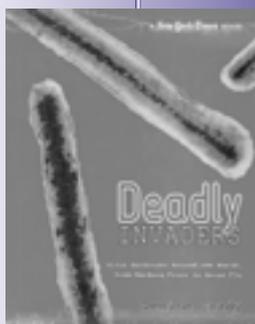
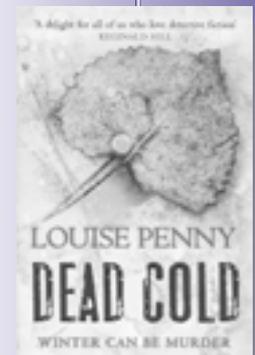
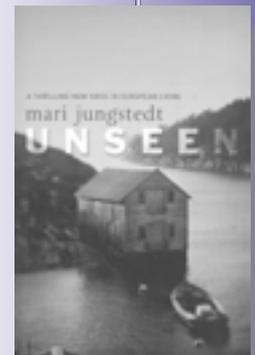
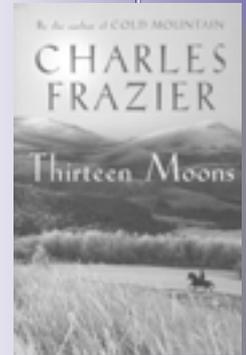
SCG

## ●●● JUVENILE NON-FICTION JEUGVAKLEKTUUR

### COOPER, Adrian

**Fair trade?**- F. Watts, 2005.

*World issues: a look at the way the world is today* is a new series that explains and explores a current issue that touches the lives of everyone in the world today. In this case it is the global nature of trade today and how it affects both rich and poor nations, fairly and unfairly. Chapters of three or four pages look at topics that regularly feature in the news. For example, the chapter on clothes discusses very briefly the movement of jobs in clothing production from the West to Asian countries where cheap wages and appalling working conditions mean that the clothes can be sold in the West for a greater profit; the situation of cotton farmers in Benin and the United States of America are compared where the United States (US) cotton subsidies mean that US farmers can sell their cotton cheaply without losing profits; the health problems associated with chemical dyes and pesticides. Other topics covered include the arms trade, free trade disputes, trade in currency, drugs, medicines, food, global corporations,



the Fair-trade movement. The treatment of the subject is thought provoking and the presentation interesting with a readable text and colour photographs.

The book contains an index, a chronology of world trade, a list of addresses and web sites for related organisations and a glossary.

JdeB

**GRADY, Denise**

**Deadly invaders: virus outbreaks around the world, from Marburg fever to avian flu.**- Kingfisher, 2006.

Emerging viral diseases are new diseases that have appeared in the past few decades, and they pose serious health threats worldwide. Denise Grady, a medical and science reporter for *The New York Times*, went to Angola in 2005 to report on a major outbreak of the deadly Marburg fever; one of these emerging diseases. Here she gives a vivid, personal account of her experiences. She also provides the facts about seven emergent virus diseases: Marburg, avian flu, HIV and AIDS, Hantavirus, West Nile disease, SARS, and monkeypox. The book is illustrated with colour photographs. It is both readable and informative, and is a suitable level for older children or teenagers.

MJI

**ROMANEK, Trudee**

**Squirt: the most interesting book you'll ever read about blood.**- Kids Can P., c2006.

A title in Romanek's *Mysterious you* series of science books for children, this one looks at blood - in an amusing yet informative way. It really does contain an enormous amount of information and the presentation is both interesting and accessible, with a chatty style and cartoon-style colour illustrations by Rose Cowles. The emphasis is on how the human heart and circulatory system works but some interesting facts about other animals are also mentioned. Included too are some 'You try it' boxes which contain instructions for children to carry out some simple experiments of their own. This series provides a fun way for children to learn about the human body.

SCG

## ●●● JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

**CLARKE, Jane**

**G. E. M.**- Red Fox, 2006.

This picture book about jealousy and envy is presented in a futuristic, space-fiction style. **G.E.M.** obviously stands for 'Green-Eyed Monster'. GEMS accompany people around - on leashes like dogs. When the owner becomes jealous, the GEM opens its eyes and grows bigger.

If someone is consumed with jealousy, they, literally, are consumed by their enormous GEM. The bright colour illustrations are by Garry Parsons. This is an imaginative and clever treatment of the subject, and should appeal to children while at the same time teaching them about the potentially-destructive consequences of excessive jealousy or envy.

SCG

**FUGE, Charles**

**Swim, Little Wombat, swim!**- Gullane, 2006.

When Little Wombat first meets Platypus, he makes fun of his name and the way he walks. But then Little Wombat falls into the pond and Platypus has to rescue him from drowning. The two become friends as Platypus teaches Little Wombat how to swim. The colourful illustrations show endearingly comic Australian animals in a lush, green countryside setting. Little Wombat's expressive face is particularly appealing. There are two other titles featuring Little Wombat in stock, both illustrated by Charles Fuge but with different authors for the text. **Found you, Little Wombat!** was written by Angela McAllister and **Sometimes I like to curl up in a ball** by Vicki Churchill. Here Fuge has done both text and illustrations to produce an enjoyable picture book.

MJI

**NASH, Sarah**

**The cuddliest cuddle in the world.**- Gullane, 2006.

Little Leopard becomes lonely one day while his mother is out hunting, missing the comfort of her cuddles. He goes for a walk, meets a sympathetic bear who notices his dismal disposition and gives him a hug. Well this hug does not measure up to his mother's cuddles, as it is far too tight.

The next encounters are with a python whose cuddles only tickle him, a monkey whose cuddles are too airy and a hyena whose cuddles are too icky, while the crocodile's are far too snappy. A little spider's attempt is not even worth mentioning.

Forlorn and in despair, Little Leopard is overjoyed when his mother returns and he receives the much-awaited cuddle.

A story nicely told and imaginatively illustrated by Daniel Howarth in adorable, bright watercolour artwork that captures the humour and the poignancy of the situation.

EB

**SINGLETON, John**

**Angel blood.**- Puffin, 2006.

This is the author's third novel, after **Star** and **Skinny B, Skaz and me**. It is a thought-provoking and challenging read, and one which will not have popular appeal. There are only four children left in a kind of medical isolation unit they call the Bin. The book focuses on the four strange children with their strange names: X-Ray, Chicken Angel, Lights Out and Cough Cough. They accept their lot until events occur to make them question things and they decide that they have to escape. Interspersed with their story is the story of teenagers Nail and Natalie. Eventually they all meet.

It is hard to describe **Angel blood**, it is strange and disturbing, moving, and, in the end, unforgettable.

SCG

*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	MJI	Margaret Iskandar
GT	Gerda Theron (SN)	EMW	Ethney Waters

