

ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VERLEKTUUR



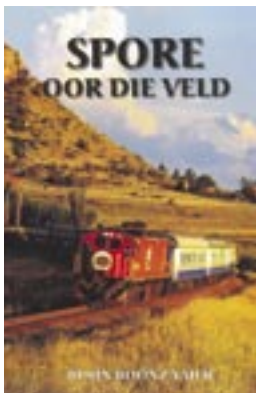
A-Z of African writers: a guide to modern African writing in English / compiled by Robin Malan.- Shuter, 2009.

A very useful and accessible reference work on modern African writing in English.

This has an alphabetical arrangement under the author's surname and entries contain the following: biographical information; list of titles published with an indication of whether they are novels, short story collections, et cetera; opening lines of

a well-known work to give a taste of the writing; a quote from the author; and sometimes there is an added extra like a quote from an interview. A small black and white photo and a book cover picture are also provided. There are two appendices - the one allows one to access the authors by country while the other lists the authors chronologically by birth date, from Olaudah Equiano to Helen Oyeyemi.

The writers included are mainly writers of fiction and naturally the selection is subjective for there were thousands of writers to consider. In his introduction Malan sets out his criteria plainly and simply. Thought and care have gone into the presentation with the use of icons and colour accents to make this very easy to use. This user-friendly reference work will be welcomed by a wide range of readers and students. JdeB



Boonzaaier, Boon
Spore oor die veld: 'n spoorweg-safari deur Suider-Afrika.- The Author, 2008.

Hierdie is 'n volledige geskiedenis van die ontwikkeling van die spoorweg-netwerk in Suid-Afrika, Namibië, Botswana en Swaziland. Toegelig met 670 kleurfoto's, 80 kaarte en tabelle, word plaaslike stories en legendes,

algemene spoorwegfeite, asook 'n lys met openingsdatums van alle trajekte, 237 tonnels (en lengtes) en ge-ëlektrifiseerde lyne, ingesluit. Hierdie waardevolle bron is gedruk op glanspapier en in Engels beskikbaar as **Tracks across the veld.**

'Boonzaaier was the owner of a fabulous business - a tour-train company whose trains rattled and rolled into the forgotten and remote parts of this country, on little branch lines that stretched across the Karoo or into the mountains of the Eastern Cape or up into the Lowveld's forested hills.' (*Sunday Times* [Travel & Food] 19/10/2008, p.5.) SSJ



BOOTH, Charlotte
The curse of the mummy and other mysteries of ancient Egypt.- Oneworld, 2009.

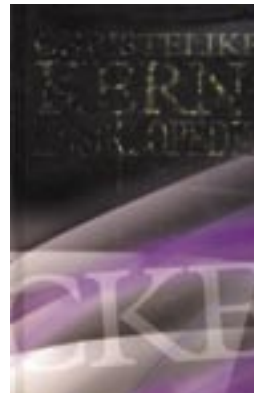
There are many mysteries associated with ancient Egypt that have perplexed scholars and laymen alike.

The author, an Egyptologist, was surprised to discover, after a lecture about pyramid construction, that one of her students firmly believed that these were built by aliens. This experience somehow unsettled her and started her wondering how many people with no real understanding

of available evidence believed such theories. This was her inspiration to set matters right, by investigating some of Ancient Egypt's main mysteries.

Selecting ten of these, the author explores recent theories and outlandish guesses put forth by leading archaeologists, scientists and historians, with the idea that readers can be the judge of what may have happened. Separating fact from fiction, the author provides cutting-edge archaeological evidence and forensic science to provide the truth about the Exodus, the real cause of Tutankhamun's death, and reveals a fascinating world of cursed tombs.

This thought-provoking book offers readers an enjoyable and informative read that allows for a better understanding of this engaging ancient civilisation which in most cases still remains a mystery. .. EB

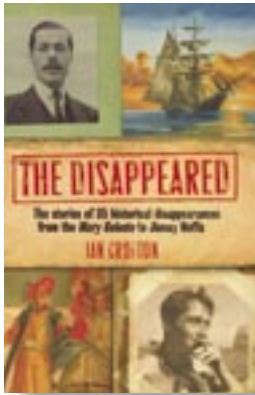


Christelike kernensiklopedie.- Lux Verbi.BM, 2008.

'n Alfabeties gerangskikte ensiklopedie wat meer as 3000 trefwoorde met kort artikels, honderde foto's en 'n aantal sketse bevat. Dit vertel die verhaal van die Christelike geloof van aanvang tot hede, dui die verskillende stromings, gedagterigtings, kerk- en algemeen-historiese gebeurtenisse aan wat 'n bepalende invloed op die Christendom gehad het, en laat lig val op draaipunte in die voorgeskiedenis, antieke en moderne geskiedenis. Dit verduidelik talle Bybelse en kerk-

like woorde en begrippe, weeg en oorweeg die bydrae van baie individue en groeperings wat ons gebring het tot waar ons ons in die eerste kwart van die 21ste eeu bevind.

'Hierdie naslaanbron, onder redaksie van Frits Gaum, Allan Boesak en Willie Botha, het 'n eg Suid-Afrikaanse tekstuur: 'n Keur van Afrikaanse skrywers, digters en selfs Tannie Evita en Nataniël skuur skouers met inskrywings oor Bybelfigure, -plekke, -diere en -boeke, asook 'n deeglike aanbod van teologiese begrippe, godsdienssoorte, filosofiese strominge, historiese gebeure en hervormers. Daar is ook vele nie-denominasionele interessantheite - op eie bodem is daar Siener van Rensburg, Angus Buchan, Mandela, Tutu, Boesak; PW kry 'n nogal simpatieke skets; Biko is daar; en in-die-nuus-kerkperde soos Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel, Piet Strauss en Christina Landman. Hierdie werk bied veel insig en hoort byval te vind by 'n groot gros Afrikaanse lesers.' (*Die Burger* 26/11/2008, p.19.) SSJ



CROFTON, Ian
The disappeared: the stories of 35 historical disappearances from the Mary Celeste to Jimmy Hoffa.- Quercus, 2008.

History is littered with many perplexing cases of mysterious disappearances. For some there are possible logical explanations while for others there are only speculations. This title examines thirty-five important incidents of missing people who have simply vanished into thin air.

The first incident covers the army of the Persian king Cambyses which just vanished in the Egyptian desert. It would seem that the whole army was consumed by a sandstorm and to this date has never been traced. However, in recent times (the year 2000) a team of geologists from a Cairo university, prospecting for petroleum just 30 miles from Siwa, found an area covered with the remains of arrow heads, daggers, bones and pieces of cloth which could in actual fact be the answer to this mystery - but this must still be verified.

The second incident also covers a missing army: this time of three Roman legions which vanished without trace in the swampy forests of the Teutoburger Wald in northwest Germany.

The focus later falls on important persons who simply vanished without trace: from historical personages such as Francois Villon (1463) and John Cabot (1498) to more modern counterparts such as Amelia Earhart, Glen Miller and Lord Lucan.

This thought-provoking title allows for some interesting reading and speculations for readers who enjoy escapist non-fiction literature EB



DENNE, William
Herbs.- Dorling Kindersley, 2009.

A colourful guide to cultivating herbs in the garden delivered in a user-friendly, accessible manner from experts at the Royal Horticultural Society. It guides the reader through inspirational tips and techniques with regard to the choice and planting of herbs.

The author not only discusses soil conditions for herbs, maintenance, dealing with pests and designs, but also suggests creative planting schemes in a step-by-step manner.

The simple effective text, accompanied by the striking colour photographs is a treat and although it is published overseas there is much here to inspire and delight readers who enjoy browsing through gardening titles. This title forms part of the visually pleasing *Simple steps to success* series and is published by Dorling Kindersley. More I need not say! EB



Dimond, John T
Wrecked under the Green Point light: the background to the Green and Mouille Point lights and stories of six shipwrecks in the area.- Historical Media, 2009.

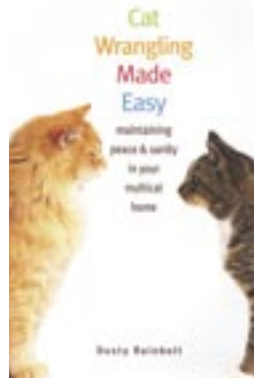
This book is the result of the dedicated research of the late John T Dimond whose original manuscript 'Under the Green Point Light' was discovered amongst items of the deceased's estate to be auctioned. It was due to his passion for the Green Point/Mouille Point area and shipwrecks nearby that this manuscript

came into being.

The original featured eight shipwrecks, but chapters featuring two of these were missing from the manuscript. With the exception of a final chapter that its editors thought not necessary and slight adjustments to the text, this title is as close to the original as possible. As it seems to have been written during the 1970s some of the landmarks do not exist anymore but alterations have been made to make it more accessible.

The first chapter covers the history of the two lighthouses followed by chapters covering the more famous wrecks from the *Juliana* (1839) up to the *SA Seafarer* (1966). Included is a list of wrecks in the area dating from 1780 to 1966. The illustrations are well-selected and capture the essence of the text.

This is another well-produced, informative and entertaining book published by Historical Media who never disappoint and always supply the goods. EB



RAINBOLT, Dusty
Cat wrangling made easy: maintaining peace & sanity in your multicat home.- Lyons P, c2008.

Easy to use and illustrated throughout, this is a useful book that caters for cat owners who have more than one cat.

The author guides readers through the chaos that engulfs those in a multicat home. It is written to help you avoid the pitfalls that most multicat owners have fallen into. For those that are already in the pit, this title can serve as a lifeline to set matters

right. The information provided comes from the author's personal experience as well as that gained from others in similar situations.

The author is a member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and is constantly upgrading her knowledge to stay current. Practical advice is delivered with amusing snippets of humour throughout the book.

The readable text is made even more accessible by interesting bits of information provided via the use of sidebars under headings like *reality bites*, *tails from the trenches*, and *feline fact or fiction*.

This is somewhat different to the normal cat book on care as it approaches the subject from a different angle and cat owners will certainly miss out if they do not read it! EB

ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR



Barry, Brunonia
The lace reader.- Harper P, 2009.

It is no surprise that this wonderful first novel which is filled with suspense has already won several prizes. Set in Salem it is the story of emotionally damaged Towner Whitney. Towner shares with her family the ability to read the future in lace patterns but, ironically, is unable to deal with her own past. Towner's connections with Wiccans and the frightening leader of an aggressive religious cult in Salem cloud rather than illuminate the reasons for the

turmoil in her life.

The central mystery in the book is hidden in Towner's background, making it difficult to discuss her relationship with her family without giving away what is concealed by the author until the final pages. Suffice to say the revelation, when it comes, will be a complete surprise. Then it is as though with the pull of a single thread the lace curtain between the reader and the mystery is unravelled. PD



Ebersohn, Wessel
The October killings.- Umuzi, 2009.

Fourteen years after South African writer Ebersohn's last novel comes **The October killings**, in which thriller and police procedure, action and social commentary are deftly combined. Abigail Bukulu, a brilliant lawyer in the South African Justice Department, receives a visit from Leon Lourens. Many years ago when she was only fifteen years old, he saved her life when he was one of a group of South African soldiers sent to attack an ANC safe house

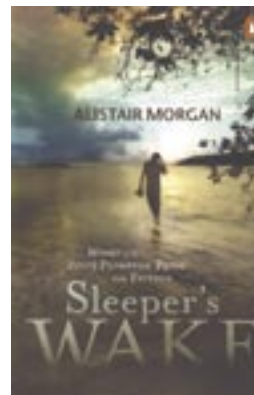
in Lesotho. Having paid the price for his rebellion, Leon now needs Abigail's protection. On 22 October each year, the date of the Lesotho attack, another member of the SADF squad is killed. Now that the date is approaching again, only two of them remain: the squad commander, who is serving his sentence in C-Max, and Leon. In a rush against time, Abigail forms a fiery partnership with the eccentric prison psychologist Yudel Gordon, a veteran from three earlier Ebersohn novels. **The October killings** is intelligent entertainment that also draws an honest picture of the ills of South Africa today. (*Protea Bookshop Newsletter* 168, 24/06/09).

McCall Smith, Alexander
Die No. 1-Vrouespeuragentskap.- Maskew Miller Longman, 2009.

Na haar pa se afsterwe gebruik Precious Ramotse haar erfposie om haar eie besigheid te begin - die No. 1-Vrouespeuragentskap, wat haar die enigste vroue-privaatspeurder in Botswana maak. Al is sy 'n onwaarskynlike persoon om privaatspeurder te wees, is

sy innemend en geliefd. Mma Ramotse is uitgeslae en gebruik haar gesonde verstand en natuurlike aanvoeling en kennis van mense om 'n verskeidenheid van kleiner probleme/sake aan te pak (soos vermiste eggenote, eiewyse dogters, bedieërs en swendelaars). Na haar vertrek op die spoor van 'n vermiste kind beland sy halsoorkop in etlike vreemde en gevaarlike situasies. Die verhaal vermeng humor en patos om te vertel van die hoofkarakters, mense van Botswana en misdaad/opsporing.

Hierdie is die Afrikaanse vertaling van McCall Smith se gewilde **No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** en is Boek 1 in die reeks. Die vertaling, deur Erna du Toit, is goed gedoen en die bekroonde Jaco Jacobs sê 'dit is 'n lekkerleesroman wat ek sonder enige voorbehoud kan aanbeveel'. Aangesien dit deur Maskew Miller Longman uitgegee is, het hulle 'n aantal vroeë en aktiwiteite oor die verhaal agterin die boek ingesluit wat gemik is op skoolleerders in 'n klaskamersituasie. SJ



Morgan, Alistair
Sleeper's wake.- Penguin, 2009.

This is the first novel from Johannesburg-born Alistair Morgan (1971-) who now lives in Cape Town. He has had some short stories published in American anthologies and in 2009 he became the first non-American to win the Plimpton Prize, awarded by *Paris Review*. This is the story of how 46-year-old John Wraith got over the grief that immobilises him after his wife and young daughter are killed in the car that he was driving on

their way back from holiday in Mozambique. He had a massive head injury and after he comes out of hospital, his sister comes to care for him at his home in Durban. She offers him a stay in her new husband's cottage at Nature's Valley on the Garden Route. It is here that he is for the first time forced outside of himself when he meets and forms a sort of relationship with a family who have escaped to their holiday house to help them cope with the violent attack on them in their home in Johannesburg which left the mother dead. Now Roelf and his two teenage children are having to cope with what is left of their lives and find their feet once more, and from what we see they are not succeeding - 17-year-old Jackie seduces John and Simon disappears. There is not really a story here - what we have is the description of the phases in one man's recovery from grief and trauma, and another traumatised family plays a part in this.

Many unanswered questions remain, as they do in life. Written in a realistic style, this is a male book in that it is about a very male response to grief. In his acknowledgements Morgan refers to the memoir of Nigel Fairhead whose family was killed.

In the text he also refers to a theory about sleepers - a capacity for extreme violence that is latent within violence-prone people and under extreme conditions, where normal people can act on these tendencies in violent and very aggressive ways. In the climax to the

novel, this is what happens with John and Roelf. I was impressed with this debut - it feels very real, is intelligent, is rooted in South Africa and shows us a new writer of great promise. JdeB



Wyngaard, Bettina
Troos vir die gebroekenes.- Umuzi, 2009.

Drie geslagte vroue se wel en weë is verweef in hierdie verhaal van hoop waar hoop soms wil beskaam. Dit is hierdie vroue, en 'n hele gemeenskap in die Overberg, se verhaal. Daar is Lilly, met die voorkindjie, en die pastoor wat sy oog op haar het. Sy probeer 'n skuiling vir die dakloos oprig, maar teen groot weerstand in. En haar ma, Frieda Daniëls: 'n raakvatter, voorvrou by die appel-fabriek, by die gebedsgroep en met

liefdadigheid betrokke. Maar sy het blou kolle en gekraakte ribbes op haar. Frieda is 'n sterk vrou, maar hiervoor moet sy verskoonings uitdink. Frieda se grootmaak-ma, Antie Mina, moet magtelooos toekyk, maar net tot op 'n punt. Een nag tree sy op, sy wat Frieda se beskermengel is, sonder om die gevolge te ontsien. Hierdie boek gee 'n sonderlinge binnekyk op 'n plattelandse bruin gemeenskap en die onvergeetlike karakters wat ten spyte van alles die lewe vol in die oë kan kyk.

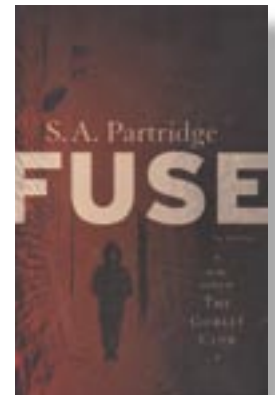
'Bettina Wyngaard van Pineview in Grabouw wou graag lees oor mense in wie sy haarself kon herken, oor 'n werklikheid waarmee sy haar kon vereenselwig. Of stories oor die kleinste wat ondanks smaad en onreg groter as die eie ek kon word. Hulle wat gewoonlik ongesiens en onbesonge die helde in hul gesinne, families en gemeenskappe is. Daarom het sy hierdie debuutbundel geskryf. Dit is in die sosiaalbetrokke-tradisie van Amerikaanse skrywers soos Toni Morrison, Alice Walker en Maya Angelou. Fyn waarneming vind hier neerslag in beeldende taal, vlees-en-bloed mense wat jou laat voel jy ken hulle en in tonele wat jou ruk, soms jou hart laat tuimel en elke nou en dan die lag in jou laat opborrel. Sy wil hiermee 'n boodskap van hoop oordra, dat daar tog 'n groot stuk goedheid in die lewe is, dat 'n mens selfs te midde van pyn en nood nog kan stilstaan en lag. 'n Mens kan dan amper die paar slordighede in hierdie boek van hoop vergewe.' (*Rapport* (Boeke) 5/07/09, p.10.) SSJ

a front against their brutal father and ineffectual mother; at school they keep their distance. Craig is a new boy in the school and an outsider too. When he befriends Kendall the boy can hardly believe his luck. But Craig is an extremist who wants to blow up the school, Columbine-style. Kendall goes along with his plans, but when he sees that Craig is serious he backs out.

The police arrest Craig and his bomb-making kit and it is then that Justin comes up with a plan to protect his brother whom he knows to be innocent. This plan goes awry and the boys run away to the city from the suburb of Parow. There they live on the streets until they scrape enough money together to travel to Pretoria to stay with their uncle. He is a drug addict who lives in squalor and who wants the boys to sell dagga for him. So even though they have a roof over their heads, their lives are as precarious and dangerous as when they lived on the streets. Eventually the law catches up with them, with Kendall being arrested for bomb-making and Justin for shop-lifting at the supermarket where he is a packer. Their father comes to collect them, but with an airline ticket for only one son!

I thoroughly enjoyed this and read it in one sitting - but the novel is fast-moving, exciting, realistic and moving in parts, clichéd and improbable in others. It is very easy to read with no extraneous descriptions. One identifies with the characters and it is good to see the changing and developing relationship between the two brothers and their deep love for one another. Each boy has their faults - Justin is prone to crime and also controlling, Kendall is a bit of a wimp. I really liked the part where they go to a Goth club in Pretoria and it is there that Kendall feels part of a group for the first time in his life. For me, the writing here is the strongest. Partridge does not shy away from the ugly aspects of life and a lot of what she writes about here is not nice at all. But it is real and above it all there is the brotherly love which gets the boys through the tough times. As I have said, the writing is a bit uneven, but I think that this writer shows promise and I look forward to her next novel. JdeB

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



YOUNG ADULT FICTION JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

Partridge, SA.
Fuse.- Human, 2009

SA Partridge is a young South African woman whose first novel, **The Goblet Club** won the MER Prize for Best Youth Novel in 2008. Her second teen novel is very readable and will, I hope, gain her a wider readership.

The publisher is to be commended on giving this such an appropriate and appealing cover. It tells the story of two brothers: Kendall in Grade 11 who was adopted. He is the typical outsider, friendless and bullied at school, while the older Justin is good-looking and popular with the fairer sex. Although at home they are close and form

EB..... Erich Buchhaus
JdB Johanna de Beer
PD Penny Dommissie
SSJ..... Stanley Jonck

'If you wait for tomorrow, tomorrow comes. If you don't wait for tomorrow, tomorrow comes'

Mali proverb

