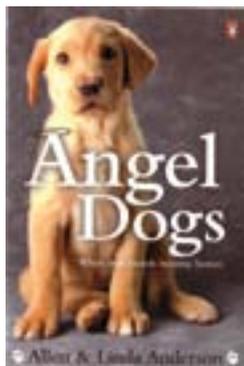


ADULT NON-FICTION  
VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

ANDERSON, Allen and Linda

**Angel dogs: when best friends become heroes.**- Penguin, 2009.



Allen and Linda Anderson are the co-founders of the Angel Animals Network that is dedicated to increasing love and respect to all life through the power of a story. They have written various books on the subject and have eagerly encouraged people to share their own spiritual experiences with animals for possible future publications.

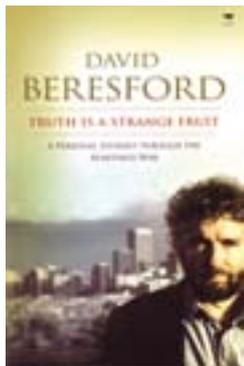
After a briefing about the history of the human-dog relationship, the authors move on to real life experiences where dogs serve as heroes, healers, friends and spiritual part-

ners. Like other titles that cover specific animals, these tales reveal unconditional love, devotion, courage and intuition that celebrate the deep-rooted connection between people and dogs - a testament to the most enduring and wonderful friendships on earth. Dogs reveal in their own specific way that we are not alone and indirectly allow us to connect with other people. People always tend to notice you if you take your dog for a walk, and a new addition such as a puppy always tends to draw a smile and even a friendly comment.

The sources of these stories are revealed at the beginning of each story, and a section at the end of the book allows for brief, interesting details about the contributors themselves. These absorbing first-person narratives are packed with vivid characters, zippy anecdotes and memorable moments. Some of the stories involve dogs returning from death to communicate with their owners that will especially appeal to New Age dog lovers. ....EB

BERESFORD, David

**Truth is a strange fruit: a personal journey through the apartheid war.**- Jacana, 2010.



A book that received a fair amount of attention in the local media is David Beresford's look at the years 1960 to 1994, referred to here by the author as the apartheid war. What originally started out as a work about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) ended up as a collage of observations, anecdotes, curiosities, letters and stories associated with that period in South African history.

The author was born in South Africa, but moved to the UK in 1994 where he joined *The Guardian* newspaper to

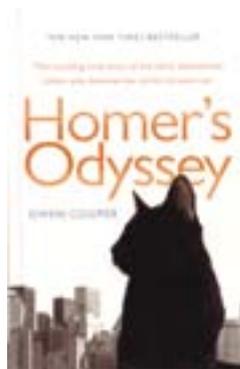
cover global conflicts. With the outbreak of rebellion in South Africa's townships, *The Guardian* promptly posted him back to South Africa.

At the centre of the book is the story of John Harris of the African Resistance Movement who was hanged in 1965 for planting a bomb

on the concourse of Johannesburg station, which killed one and injured some others. He was the first, and only, white person to be hanged for politically motivated crimes by the apartheid government. Beresford uses this incident as an example to reveal the incomplete nature of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which did not make an effort to investigate the station bombing for which Harris was executed. Together with events that date from those years, some key stories from the TRC, and deaths of ANC members in detention, the author has cleverly included details of his own life and his ongoing battle with Parkinson's disease. The book is not only a stunning memoir; but is well worth reading, especially for its treatment of the Harris story. ....EB

COOPER, Gwen

**Homer's odyssey.**- Bantam P, 2010.



Shortly after the break-up with her boyfriend, the author is approached by her local vet regarding a blind, three-week-old abandoned kitten that she wants her to adopt. Gwen, a young lady in her mid-twenties, already owning two cats, Scarlett and Vasti, is at the time sharing an apartment with a girlfriend in Miami.

To appease the vet, Gwen visits the surgery and falls instantly in love with the kitten. She adopts him and names him Homer after the ancient Greek author of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

Ignoring warnings from friends that this kitten could be a problem, Gwen is pleasantly rewarded with a tiny daredevil with a giant heart who eagerly makes friends with every human who crosses his path.

Cooper centres her life on caring for Homer and providing a safe haven for him. Homer in turn inspires the author to take up the challenge to accept a new life and a better job in New York. A dark moment is when Cooper desperately tries to get home to her three cats in lower Manhattan on 9 September 2001. Her home was just five blocks away from the World Trade Centre.

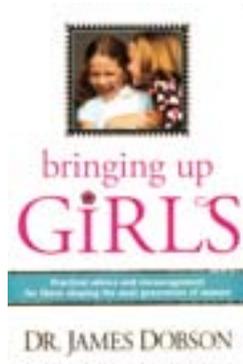
This memoir tells two stories, one about the energetic and engaging Homer; and one about Cooper's search for a satisfying career and partner. The book recounts a series of life lessons that Homer taught the people who lived with him. He never lets his lack of sight impede his joy for life and love for Cooper. What is most touching is how his courageous spirit teaches Cooper and readers that there are no limits to love or ability. And through twelve years, six moves, several boyfriends and a showdown with a burglar, this tender and poignant tale reveals Homer's lessons about love and acceptance - and how he transformed Cooper into the woman she had always wanted to be. This lovely human-feline memoir is sure to warm the hearts of all pet lovers. It certainly did mine. ....EB

DOBSON, James

**Bringing up girls.**- Christian Art, 2010.

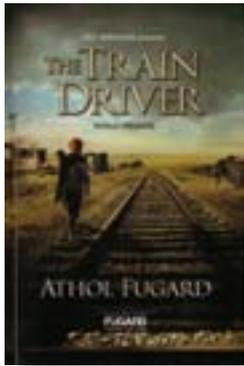
This is a companion to **Bringing up boys**. It is a guide for parents, teachers, and others involved in bringing up girls and answers those questions that seem easy yet so difficult to tackle. The information is based on the latest research done by the author. The aim is to equip parents to raise girls to be the young women God wants

them to be. The author's advice and encouragement is based on biblical principles. He first relates the physiological and psychological differences between boys and girls answering the question: what makes girls unique? He goes on to talk about the importance of both parents in a girl's life; he brings up some discussion on discipline and looks at modesty and why this is such an issue with girls today. He attempts to give parents a better understanding of why their little girls and big girls are the way they are. The book covers every aspect a reader can think of with questions and answers about puberty and adolescence. ....LN



## FUGARD, Athol

**The train driver.**- Fugard Theatre, 2010.

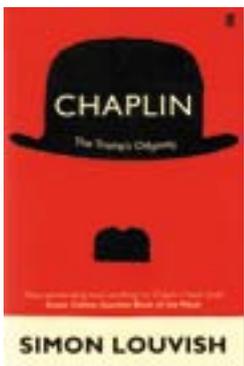


A train driver's life is changed after a mother and her three young children from the Cape Flats stood on the tracks in front of an oncoming train and died instantly. The play is based on a true story published by *Die Burger* in December 2000 and is about Roelf Visagie, the train driver who is depressed after the suicide as he was the last man to see them alive. He cannot walk away from the incident; he wants answers and is angry that the mother chose that particular time. His life changes as he suffers from

depression and his work and marriage also suffer in the process. He goes out in search of answers and during this search he meets Simon, the man that buries all the nameless people. It is during this time with Simon that he finally makes peace with what had happened and finally understands what Red Doek (that's what he called her as a red doek was the last thing he saw) must have been going through before her suicide. The story is told from the train driver's point of view. ....LN

## LOUVISH, Simon

**Chaplin: The Tramp's odyssey.**- Faber, 2010.



It is somehow difficult for people today to realise how famous Charlie Chaplin was in his heyday - a sort of global superstar when television and the Internet did not yet exist. This is Chaplin's most recent biography to appear more than three decades after his death. Charlie is best remembered for his famous creation of the character popularly known as The Tramp. Simon Louvish's new book, following on from his five major biographies of comedy's classic stars, from WC Fields to Laurel & Hardy and Mae West, aims

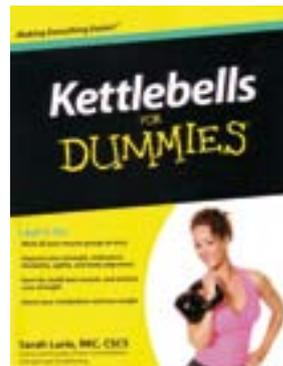
instead to bring us the story of his onscreen persona - not the story of the man behind the mask.

The author is concerned more about the mask and its creator's complex relationship with it. He wants to explore how this particular physical manifestation so gripped the imagination of nearly the entire world, as it would do in that silent epoch when cinema, not limited by spoken language, was the universal art form.

Louvish charts the tale of The Tramp himself through his films, from the early Mack Sennett shorts through the major features such as **The gold rush**, **City lights**, **Modern times**, et cetera. He sees Chaplin as the iconic London streetkid who carried the antics of early British Music Hall triumphantly onto the Hollywood screen. Chaplin mania gripped the country and soon The Tramp became one of the most memorable icons of the 20th century. This book is an epic journey taken by an author well suited to tackle and deliver an impressive portrait of one of Hollywood's most magnificent comedians. It will appeal to those interested in early film, the cult of celebrity, and the era of the 1910s to the 1930s. ....EB

## LURIE, Sarah

**Kettlebells for dummies.**- Wiley, 2010.



The aim of this book is to guide beginners through the proper and safe use of kettlebells via a selection of very basic introductory exercises. Kettlebells are weights resembling cannonballs with handles, and have been used effectively in exercise to combine strength training and cardio training into one workout. However, in more recent years they have been regarded as efficient in burning excess fat, resulting in building up a more

attractive physique.

Kettlebells have been gaining popularity over the last five or so years and they date way back to the 1800s when the Russians first used them for exercise.

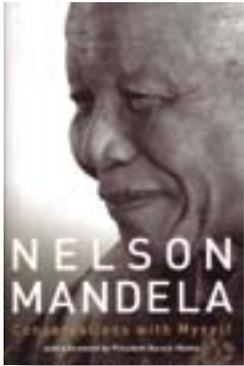
Sarah Lurie is a recognised Russian kettlebell expert and is the founder of Iron Core, the first kettlebell training studio in the United States. She states that a kettlebell exercise programme can be done in half the time of a regular workout with twice the results. Although written with the novice in mind, this title also contains plenty of information that more experienced users may have missed. All the moves are depicted in photographs with step-by-step instructions, and the book includes useful tips and warnings along the way.

Proper techniques are explored in various chapters, and there is an exercise programme for both young and old. All one has to do is to be willing to learn the exercises and be focused during the workouts. ....EB

## MANDELA, Nelson

**Conversations with myself.**- Macmillan, 2010.

This book has received lots of attention from the media nationally and internationally. **Conversations with myself** gives the reader an opportunity of looking into tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's



innermost thoughts through his diary entries, calendars, letters while he was still in prison, transcripts by Richard Stengel, ANC's Ahmed Kathrada reading the draft of **Long walk to freedom** and draft of an unfinished sequel to **Long walk to freedom**.

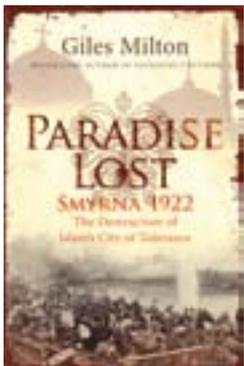
'... The book is intensely moving, raw and unmediated, told in real time with all the changes in perspective that it brings over the years, mixing the prosaic with the momentous. Health concerns, dreams, political initiatives all spill out together, to provide the fullest

picture yet of Mandela ...' ([www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)). It has hilarious, light, sad and serious moments and it is during these times that we see son, husband, father, lawyer, comrade, leader, scholar, friend, prisoner and tata Mandela the man. We see him as the son when his 76-year-old mother went to visit him on Robben Island. He wrote: 'At the end of the visit I was able to watch her as she walked slowly towards the boat which would take her back to the mainland, and somehow the thought flashed across my mind that I had seen her for the last time.' There are moments when we see him as the father but the most touching one is when his eldest son, Thembu was killed in a car accident 10 months after the death of his mother. When he requested to attend his son's funeral his request was denied.

It is a very interesting and personal book that one can read in sections without losing the flow of the story. ....LN

**MILTON, Giles**

**Paradise lost: Smyrna 1922: the destruction of Islam's city of tolerance.**- Sceptre, 2008.



Smyrna was known as the richest and most cosmopolitan city in the Ottoman Empire and embodied that empire's best qualities of religious tolerance - a mainly Christian city that was unique in the Islamic world. The city, now Izmir in Turkey, boasted some of the most luxurious department stores, cinemas and opera houses in the world. The trade in figs, raisins and opium made the city the richest in the Levant. Nowhere else did East and West mingle in such a spectacular manner.

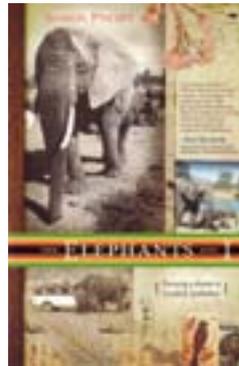
While Greeks predominated, the city also housed sizable Armenian, Jewish, Turkish, European and American populations. The Levantines were by far the richest community, closely associated in every commercial activity. They were of British and European descent and had lived in Smyrna since the reign of George III. In the course of the late 19th century, the Ottoman Empire lurched from disaster to disaster and backed the wrong side during the First World War. Yet through all this, Smyrna flourished, protected by Rahmi Bey, its liberal governor.

Then quite suddenly, four years after the end of the war, the Turks, seemingly shattered and in total disarray after the end of the First World War, rode triumphantly into the city on 9 September 1922. Smyrna was snuffed out in a single week of mass murder, rape, looting, pillage and one of the greatest acts of arson of the 20th century.

Giles Milton's engrossing account of the events leading up to the destruction of the city in 1922 is based largely on the previously unpublished letters and diaries of the Levantine dynasties. Milton has gone where biographers of Ataturk and historians of Turkey have feared to tread. He also includes reproduced accounts by individual Armenian, Greek and foreign eyewitnesses, as well as British sailors' and consuls' accounts. It is a much needed corrective to official history and allows for some interesting, yet disturbing reading. .... EB

**PINCOTT, Sharon**

**The elephants and I: pursuing a dream in troubled Zimbabwe.**- Jacana, 2009.



The author, an information technology (IT) specialist from Australia, dramatically changed her life after an unplanned visit to South Africa's Kruger National Park. This former high-flying specialist now dreamed of working with Africa's wildlife. She decided to leave her old life of leisure and ease in carefree Australia, and moved to politically unstable Zimbabwe to work among elephants on the land bordering Hwange National Park. These elephants, affectionately referred to as the Presidential Elephants, were

protected by presidential decree, when, in 1990, President Robert Mugabe decreed that these habituated elephants should never be sport-hunted or culled, and that they should symbolise Zimbabwe's commitment to responsible wildlife management. The Presidential Herd began as 22 elephants in danger of elimination by hunters. By the time Sharon arrived these elephants were under protection yet, although the herd had grown to 400, no formal record of them existed. Despite legal protection they were occasionally being hunted and were horribly mutilated as result of being caught in snares.

The tragic death of a beloved friend, a wildlife enthusiast who had introduced her to the subtleties of the African bush, exerted a powerful pull in the author's decision to live and study the Presidential Elephants. Forging remarkable relationships with these wild, free-roving creatures, she earned the name MaNdlovu (Mother Elephant) among the locals. After returning to Zimbabwe from Australia to sort out things for permanent residence, Sharon was rudely informed that the area where the elephant herd lived had been claimed by the governor of the province for sport-hunting. She started making representations to the highest officials of the land, even though aware that her work permit could be revoked. It seemed that few people in Zimbabwe truly cared about the plight of wildlife. However, in time, this persistent vigilance and ongoing perseverance would prove vital to the survival of Zimbabwe's elephant herd and other wildlife.

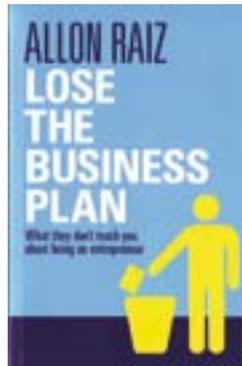
The author is regarded as the 'Joy Adamson of Zimbabwe' and this memoir serves as a heart-breaking insight into the ongoing threats faced by nature conservationists on the African continent. .... EB

**RAIZ, Allon**

**Lose the business plan: what they don't teach you about being an entrepreneur.**- Bookstorm, 2010.

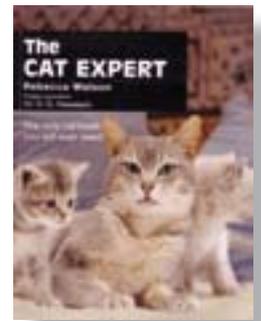
The focus of this book is on small businesses who want to grow.

The author argues that a business plan should not be the main focus when making decisions about lending money to small businesses. The final decision should be about the person and not about how good the business plan is. He brings about debate around the importance of the business plan as a measure of predicting business success. He shares his beliefs that the qualities of the entrepreneur should be the focal point when deciding whether to finance his/her business. The author is not against business plans as such but believes that a business plan does not give room for flexibility as sometimes business circumstances can change, making it impossible to follow the business plan down to the last dot. He argues that an entrepreneur needs to develop soft skills, for example, practical thinking, attitude, desire, vision, self-discipline, focus, self-confidence, resourcefulness and seeking opportunities. ....LN



gardening manuals.

The cat can be regarded as our favourite domestic pet, although there are those who would think differently. For dog lovers Expert Books has published a similar title called **The dog expert**.

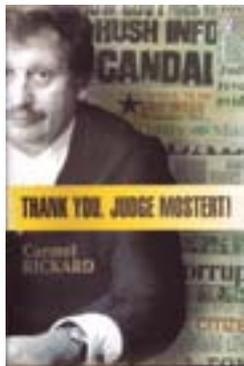


Cats are sure to reward its owners with entertaining and comforting companionship if given a happy home in a safe environment, and a balanced diet. This title offers useful advice with regards to the choice of cats and how to create the ideal environment inside or out. It also covers nutrition, exercise, travelling with the cat and how to determine when there is something wrong with your cat and the best way to deal with it. The well-illustrated script is brief, informative and very accessible.

Readers cannot but win with the reliable, easy-to-follow advice offered and will find much to recommend it. ....EB

## RICKARD, Carmel

**Thank you, Judge Mostert.**- Penguin, 2010.



This biography documents the life of Judge Anton Mostert and was written by his daughter-in-law. He was South Africa's youngest judge to be appointed to head a commission of inquiry into the exchange control regulations in 1978.

The results of this inquiry would unearth what came to be the greatest political scandal in the history of South Africa. The National Party was at the head of the government at the time and the results of the inquiry revealed much corruption in the Department of Information. Warned at the time

not to disclose his findings publicly by the then Prime Minister, PW Botha, Mostert regardless went ahead to expose some of the big heads in government. The result was that the governing party lost face with its supporters and credibility with the rest of the world.

Readers learn about his family and the important role played by his grandfather who supported Jan Smuts during the Second Anglo-Boer War and in the years thereafter. He was a very virtuous and upright man who infused the strong principles and individualism revealed in the young Anton in later years. This is a history that needs to be retold to remind those who have forgotten what courage it took to confront the Afrikaner executive at a critical juncture in South Africa's history. Mostert bravely fought for the independence of the judiciary and the Rule of Law in South Africa - something that once again could well be threatened in the future! The title of this book was taken from the inscription that appeared overnight on bumper stickers all over South Africa in the weeks following the revelations of the Information Scandal. ....EB

## WATSON, Rebecca

**The cat expert.**- Expert Bks., 2010.

This book seems to be the first in a new series on pet care and is published by Expert Books, renowned for their bestselling

## ADULT FICTION

### VOLWASSE VERHANLENDE LEKTUUR

## Aspe, Pieter

**Die vierkant van die wraak** / vertaal deur Daniël Hugo.- Lapa, 2010.



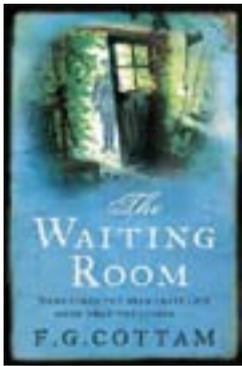
'Pieter Aspe is al 'n handelsnaam in Vlaandere en Nederland. Met 27 boeke agter sy naam, verskeie vertalings en verkoopsyfers van meer as 1,5 miljoen het hy daár geen bekendstelling nodig nie, maar in Suid-Afrika is Aspe onbekend. **Die vierkant van die wraak** is sy eerste boek in die *Van In*-reeks (benewens vyf wat buite die reeks val, fokus al sy ander boeke op kommissaris Pieter van In en die mooie Hannelore Martens, verteenwoordiger van die vervolgingsgesag). Die verhaal speel

af in die hart van Brugge. Kommissaris Pieter van In kry opdrag om 'n inbraak te ondersoek by die ryk en invloedryke Degroof-familie se juwelierswinkel. Niks is gesteel nie. Die diewe het slegs al die juweliersware in 'n bak koningswater (suur) opgelos. 'n Nota op die toneel dra 'n raaiselagtige Latynse spreuk en ook die kentekens van die vierkant van die Tempelridders wat uit die Middeleeue dateer. Van In vermoed dadelik dat hy hier eerder met 'n wraakaksie te doen het. Maar die Degroof-despoot, Ludovic, sorg dat die saak vinnig onder die mat ingevee word. Hy wil onder geen omstandighede mediablootstelling of slegte reklame vir sy seun Ghislain se winkel hê nie. Dit verander baie vinnig wanneer Ludovic se kleinseun ontvoer word. Die ontvoerders se eis is só bisar dat Ludovic moet toegee, hoe teësinning ook al, dat Van In moontlik reg is. Te midde van 'n media-raserny begin Van In met die hulp van Hannelore stadig die saak ontrafel. Die karakters is anders as ons eie mense. Hulle neem langer as die Suid-Afrikaanse eweknie om die skanse vir 'n leser te laat sak. Hulle hou hul afstand, is minder familiër met mekaar. Dit neem jou langer om 'n gevoel te kry vir Van In, 'n

kettingroker met 'n voorliefde vir Duvels, en die mooi, ambisieuse Hannelore wat polities slim en slinks is. Omdat die boek 'n vertaling is, is die leser geneig om uit die oog te verloor dat 'n mens hier ook te make het met 'n internasionale skrywer vir wie daar ander reëls geld. Met Hugo se vertaling het lesers die voorreg om nou die misdaadtradisie van die Lae Lande te betree - met die groot luukse dat dit in Afrikaans is. Die verhaal is beslis nie so grusaam en bloederig soos Amerikaanse verhale nie. En wat die Britse tradisie betref, is daar nie heeltemal dieselfde terughoudendheid nie. Aspe se styl neem 'n tydjie om aan gewoon te raak. Die vertaling hou dit eg Vlaams en poog nie om dit te verafrikaniseer nie. En dit werk. Aspe het sy plek tussen ons Afrikaanse misdaadskrywers.' (www.litnet.co.za)

**COTTAM, FG**

**The waiting room.**- Hodder, 2010.



FC Cottam has a very particular style of constructing and writing about the supernatural. Readers who have read some of his previous titles, like **The house of lost souls** (2007) and **Dark echo** (2008) will recognise this in his latest novel.

Martin Stride is a retired rock star, enjoying the quiet life with his young family on their beautiful estate. On the edge of his grounds lies a derelict Edwardian railway station waiting room once used to transport troops during The Great War. Overgrown

with vegetation and in a state of disrepair, the Stride children enjoy using the waiting room as a playroom, until strange phenomena begin to materialise. These include sounds such as those made by steam trains, the singing of soldiers, and worst of all, the ghost of a malevolent-looking soldier, reeking of decomposition.

It is due to these strange occurrences that Martin is led to seek the help of a TV psychic called Julian Creed. Creed's psychic ability is, however, a fabrication to gain viewers. He doesn't believe in the paranormal, until he spends a night in the waiting room.

Cottam spins a very unusual yarn in **The waiting room** which is quite different from most other books in this genre. He deftly combines the usual elements of eeriness, rich in atmosphere, with elements of diabolic magic and unusual horror. Furthermore, the author has a way of describing the scenes with clarity, and a beautiful use of the English language. This allows the reader to truly become involved in the characters and events in the story. The imagery is so rich that one often gets the sense of watching a film. The characters are believable, and for the most part sympathetic. The surprise, if somewhat downbeat, ending provides the final touch to this worthy addition to the world of modern ghost stories. ....EB

**EASTLAND, Sam**

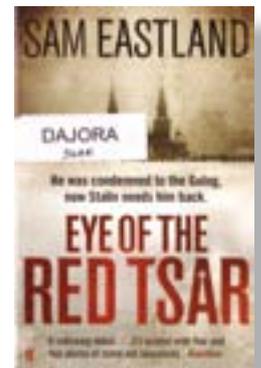
**Eye of the Red Tsar.**- Faber, 2010.

Inspector Pekkala is living in a gulag in extreme conditions. He had been the most trusted detective in the Tsar's secret police, and was previously known as the Emerald Eye, a person of considerable powers. During the 1917 Russian Revolution he is sidelined, and thought by many to be dead. He survives the revolution but is

exiled to Siberia where he lives alone in a forest, marking trees for labour gangs to cut down.

The years that follow are uneventful until 1929 when Pekkala is approached by a young commissar of the Red Army, Lieutenant Kirov, who informs him that Joseph Stalin would like Pekkala to find out what happened to the Romanov family. Stalin wants Pekkala to determine which men killed the Tsar and his family, and if any of the children are still alive. Unfortunately, as it turns out, they're not alone in their search and Pekkala finds himself re-united with his long-estranged brother. Stalin also believes that Pekkala knows the whereabouts of the Tsar's missing treasures.

Much of the book is flashback - as virtually everything Pekkala sees or touches reminds him of something similar from his old life. Eastland's weaving of fact and fiction, of real and invented characters, is brilliantly achieved, and Pekkala makes an unusual, captivating hero. This intelligent and compelling historical novel is the start of a promising new series by a debut author and should appeal to readers of novels such as **Gorky Park** and **Child 44**. .....EB



**HILL, Reginald**

**The woodcutter.**- HarperCollins, 2010.

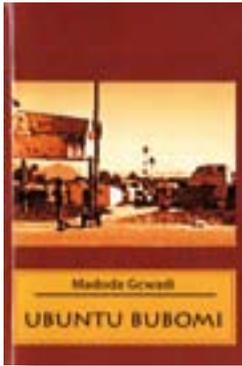


This is a new standalone psychological thriller from the award-winning author of the *Dalziel and Pascoe* series. Wolf Hadda rises from humble origins as a Cumbrian woodcutter's son to become a prosperous businessman and is the proud recipient of a knighthood. His marriage to the girl of his dreams, daughter of the local squire, is happy, and it would seem that good fortune smiles upon him. But this fairytale existence ends one fateful morning with an unexpected call from the local police. His computers are scoured

for signs of fraud and turn up child pornography. Being the kind of self-reliant loner he is, Wolf attempts to slip the bonds of the law and prove his own innocence, but a freak head-on collision with a bus puts a stop to that, leaving Wolf's body a wreck. Accused of a crime that he is not guilty of, he is thrown into prison. Although he pleads innocent, he is deserted by his wife and friends.

Still eager to clear his name, Wolf awaits his time which arrives some years later in the guise of Alva Ozigbo, the 28-year-old new prison psychiatrist who is determined to break through his state of denial and force him to face up to his paedophilic urges. Initially resistant to her efforts, Wolf eventually starts to feed her chapters of a handwritten autobiography, and it is the relationship between these two strong, sparring characters that is at the heart of the novel. Although the revelations at the end are underwhelming, it is a thriller to recommend due to the human element and a quality of writing that far surpasses the basic standard demanded by the genre. ....EB

## Ubuntu bubomi.- Logic Bks., 2010.

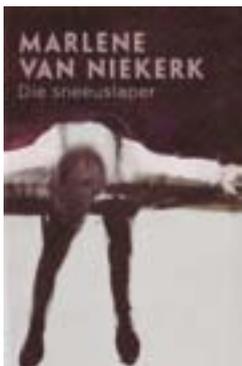


Kolu ncwadi umbhali ubhala ngamahl-andenyuka obomi bosapho lukaSabelo. USabelo lo uhlala nenkosikazi yakhe uNodumo owaye efudula engutitshalakazi odumileyo kodwa ke ngoku ebesele esidla umhlala phantsi nomyeni wakhe ngokunjalo. Apha emzini wabo bahlala nentombi yabo engunoNozizwe engumabuy' ekwendeni. UNozizwe akazange ayamkele into yokuchithakala komtshato wakhe, nto ke leyo yamenza wasoloko enongcwangu de waphelwa nayimbeko ebazalini

bakhe. Ngaminazana ithile unina wafumana indaba zokuba omnye wentombi zakhe uyacelwa. Yayiyimincili kubazali kuba kwakuza kungena iinkomo apha ekhayeni. UNozizwe kwelakhe icala wafunga wamunca intupha ukuba soze udade wakhe endele 'kwikwerekwere'. Umbhali kule ncwadi uxininise ikakhulu kwimeko uluntu oluphila kuzo, ingakumbi indlela abantu bomZantsi Afrika ababaphatha ngayo abanye abantu abaNtsundu abavela kumanye amazwe. ....NNG

## Van Niekerk, Marlene

### Die sneeuslaper: verhale.- Human, 2010.



'Die sneeuslaper' bestaan uit vier langer kortverhale met 'n sterk essayistiese inslag. Trouens, die openingsverhaal, *Die swanefluisteraar*, is die intreedende wat Van Niekerk as professor in kreatiewe skryfwerk by die Universiteit Stellenbosch gelewer het. Ook die slotverhaal, *Die vriend*, is 'n lesing in verhaalvorm waarin sy as 'n fiksionele karakter optree. Só sluit sy aan by 'n tendens in die wêreldletterkunde wat inhou dat skrywers as karakters in hul eie werk 'n verskyning maak. Hierdie

tegniek bied aan Van Niekerk die geleentheid om metafiksioneel oor die literatuur en haar ambag as skrywer te besin.

In *Die swanefluisteraar* ontvang die gefiksionaliseerde Van Niekerk 'n lang brief van Kasper Olwage, 'n mislukte skryfkunststudent. Tydens sy studieverblyf in Amsterdam word die eksentrieke Olwage van sy skryfwerk weggerokkel deur 'n boemelaar wat die talent besit om met swane te kan kommunikeer. Hy bied aan die swanefluisteraar 'n heenkome, maar ná die verdwyning van die fluisteraar word Olwage self 'n swerwer op die voetspore van sy verlore vriend. Sy word aangegryp deur die verhaal... mentor en student ruil plekke en dit is nou die professor wat haar skryfwerk wy aan 'n rekonstruksie van Kasper Olwage se nagelate skryfsels en bandopnames.

Die skrywer se obsessie met sy karakters is ook die tema van *Die slagwerker*. Willem Oldemark raak telkens verlief op die manlike karakters oor wie hy skryf. Hy koester uiteindelik 'n voyeuristiese liefde vir 'n jong perkussiespeler in sy woonstelgebou, maar soos

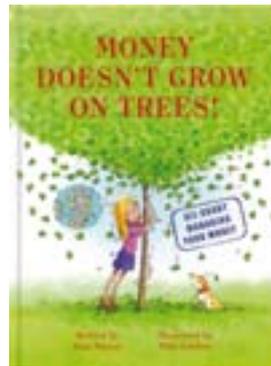
elders in *Die sneeuslaper* vorm dié verhouding die basis vir verdubbelings: Daar is minstens nog twee soortgelyke verhoudings in *Die slagwerker* waar grense tussen vriendskap, liefde en die maak van kuns vervloei.

Die verhale in *Die sneeuslaper* sluit bymekaar aan deurdat sommige karakters in meer as een verhaal opduik. Elke verhaal bied egter 'n vars perspektief en verruim of ontwig die leser se interpretasie wat nie tot ruste kan kom binne die grense van 'n enkele verhaal nie. Van Niekerk skryf dus verhale oor die maak van verhale, 'n tradisie wat skrywers soos Koos Prinsloo en Johann de Lange in die 1980's gevestig het. *Die sneeuslaper* is nie bedoel vir lui lesers nie. Van Niekerk sleur jou kompromisloos mee in 'n bestekopname van haar kunstenaarskap. Dit is 'n opwindende reis waarvan sy self sekerlik nog nie die eindpunt kan voorsien nie, maar haar geding met betekenis en taal, spesifiek liriese taal wat die verbeeldingloosheid van alledaagse taalgebruik teenwerk, vind goed neerslag in die bundel! (*Die Burger*.)

## JUVENILE NON-FICTION JEUGVAKLEKTUUR

## MASON, Paul

### Money doesn't grow on trees!- Wayland, 2010.



### Money doesn't grow on trees!

will teach children and teenagers how to take control of the income they have and get the most out of it. It teaches them money skills to make sure that they will not fall into the money traps and troubles that are common today. It teaches them the value of money in ways that are easy to follow. It provides examples on everything from responsible budgeting to understanding the difference between 'want'

and 'need' which even adults have a problem differentiating between. The information and advice is accessible and clear. ....LN

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

EB.....Erich Buchhaus  
LNG .....Linda Ngaleka  
NNG.....Nomonde Ngqoba