

ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

AB Xuma: autobiography and selected works / edited by Peter Limb.-Van Riebeeck Society, 2012.



'... Xuma was the ANC's reforming president-general from 1940-1949, and this new book provides good insight into the man and his tumultuous times in his very own words. Self-aware, articulate and perceptive, with more than a dash of humour, his writings tell of his ascent from a humble peasant household in the Transkei to medical training in the US, and then of his return to South Africa in 1927 to become the first black medical doctor practising in

Joburg. His incisive letters and memoranda make clear why he was seen as a rising star in the black community and why he was elected president-general of the ANC. It was from this position that he supported the creation of the ANC Youth League in 1943 by those he called "my kindergarten boys", the militant young lions, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, at whose initiative, six years later, he was topped as president-general – a watershed event which may well resonate at Mangaung later this year.' (www.booklive.co.za)

BEZUIDENHOUT, Evita

Evita's Bossie Sikelela.- Umuzi, 2012.



This is the second cookery book by Evita Bezuidenhout, the alter-ego of South African satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys. (Her first book, **Evita's Kossie Sikelela**, appeared in 2010.)

Chef and painter Linda Vicquery is responsible for the imaginative design, artwork and dishes. The foreword is written by Charlize Theron.

The book features a selection of 200 recipes gathered by Evita on travels in South Africa and around the world.

Also included are useful tips for restoring beauty, treating illness and curing hangovers. Unlike most cookery books, the book is not illustrated with photographs of the dishes. Instead, Evita is revealed in various poses and locations, as well as photographed with other high-profile South Africans such as Helen Suzman, Desmond Tutu and Pik Botha. The flowing text is written in the usual Evita manner, and includes amusing stories that further add to the charm of this extremely entertaining and unique book.

The Afrikaans version is titled **Evita se Bossie Sikelela**.EB

BURTON, Tony

Paths to pubs: a guide to hikes and pints in the Cape Peninsula.- Struik, 2012.



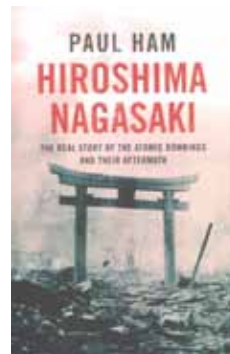
A friend of mine has been planning a Cape Peninsula mountain walk and pub guide for some years. It was to be a guide to morning hikes that are short enough to allow one to be in a pub by lunchtime. He enjoyed the research too much and now has been pipped at the post by this new book, **Paths to pubs**. While it's not quite the same thing he had planned, I don't think there'll be room in the local market for two such similar books.

This guide was reviewed in the *Sunday Argus* of 29/7/2012 as editor's choice: 'There is joy in doing and there is joy second time round when you sit back and talk about it ... this clever guide covers both bases. Tony Burton is a keen hiker and guide - he is hike leader for the Trails Club of South Africa ... But he also likes a pint and a yarn after a tough hike, and so he includes a guide to some great local pubs. The two don't necessarily match up - there isn't, after all, a pub at the end of a hike in Silvermine, but there are plenty not far away. The guide covers five hiking areas: Cape Point, Simon's Town and the Deep South, Silvermine and Kalk Bay, Hout Bay and Constantia, and Table Mountain. Each route, categorised as a walk, hike or trail, has a contour map (you'll need your reading glasses) and GPS points, and covers direction, grading, distance, duration, difficulty, exposure and gradient ... Each route lists several pubs nearby ... There is also a chapter on safety, another on what to pack, and, to add interest, a clutch of colour pictures and fact panels on flora, fauna, geology and history ...'

Paths to pubs complements Mike Lundy's very useful guides to local walks and hikes.SCG

HAM, Paul

Hiroshima Nagasaki.- Doubleday, 2012.



The atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945 respectively were the ultimate expressions of total war. These two cities were of little military value and were inhabited by large numbers of ordinary people, whose lives and properties were dramatically and cruelly destroyed. The reason supposedly behind this brutal and desperate deed was to shock Japan into agreeing to an unconditional surrender. The author questions

the motivation behind the decision to drop these lethal bombs, responsible for the deaths and suffering of thousands, as there were

already at the time visible signs of Japan's imminent defeat.

Ham, who spent years searching through Japanese and American archives and interviewing survivors, tells the story from several angles. Few readers realise that there were factions within the Japanese imperial government that were doing their best to surrender, while elements within the Allied governments, determined to use the atom bomb, come what may, were doing their best to ignore them.

The author argues passionately that the bombing was both inhuman and unnecessary. He criticises the decisions that led to the attacks, but reserves his greatest scorn for the hypocrisy and heartlessness that came afterwards.

There have been many books written about these events. Paul Ham's contribution to the literature on the subject, however, should not be ignored. Not only does the book evidence meticulous research, it is also a thought-provoking and fascinating read.EB

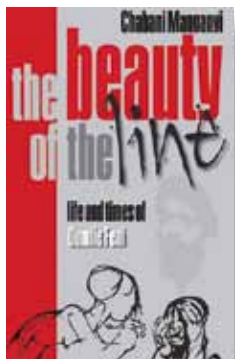
KALUMBA, Phumzile Simelane

Jabulani means rejoice: a dictionary of South African names.- Modjaji Bks., 2012.

'... Modern and particularly Anglo-Saxon naming forms have become unhitched from their original cultural and literal meanings, but names and naming are intriguing traditions, and their meaningfulness in Southern Africa is lovingly scrutinised by this Master's student of isiXhosa. Conceived in a personal story, birthed as her children grew, nurtured into resplendent being, Simelane Kalumba's research has produced a book of treasures, and it shimmers.' (*Cape Times*)

MANGANYI, Chabani

The beauty of the line: life and times of Dumile Feni.- KMM Review Pub., 2012.



'Zwelidumile Mhlaba Mgxaji was born in 1939 in Worcester, Western Cape. He had little formal education, but was destined for greatness... he met and befriended Ephraim Ngatane, an artist from Soweto. The two did some painting together and Ngatane introduced the artist who would become Dumile Feni to established artist Bill Ainslie. Ainslie became an important feature in Feni's life. The artist now widely known as Dumile Feni was launched into the wider world. His strong, fluid

lines and sculpture were immediately engaging. His art was about ordinary working people who were victims of state oppression. Feni left South Africa, lived unhappily in the UK and moved on to the US, where he continued to work as an artist. He died tragically in 1991, away from home, before he could share in his country's liberation. Feni, the subject of Manganyi's book, was no ordinary person. Manganyi interviewed more than 30 people who knew Feni intimately in order to tell the story of a man whose work was often difficult to understand... [the author] has examined some of Dumile's works and writings about him, [the] focus is not on the work per se;

it is on the coming together of life and work. The most substantial and intriguing part of this book, the part about memories of Feni, is possibly the most compelling from a human interest point of view. Those who knew him intimately will remember that he was often troubled, was very intelligent, politically astute and great company. He was also very close to many people who are prominent public figures in South Africa. Some of them such as Moeletsi Mbeki, Barbara Masekela, Albie Sachs, Wally Serote and Keorapetse Kgositse share their recollections.' (www.citypress.co.za)

MANGCU, Xolela

Biko: a biography.- Tafelberg, 2012.

'Nelson Mandela dreamed of meeting people too. In a tribute to Steve Biko run in this biography, he writes: "I never had the opportunity to meet him. From prison we followed his exploits... Well before they murdered him in detention, I realised that his stride was leaving indelible footprints in the struggles of our people against apartheid rule. In his short life he achieved what many would need a lifetime to accomplish." Reviewers describe this biography as a landmark in Biko studies, and "Xolela Mangcu has brought Biko back to our lives."' (*Cape Argus*)

MCKAISER, Eusebius

A bantu in my bathroom.- Bookstorm, 2012.

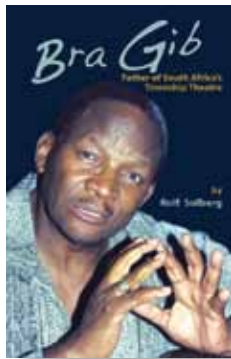
'Eusebius McKaiser writes like he talks on his different platforms of radio, television, academia and newspaper columns. And his new book of essays is a conversational work aimed at discussing uniquely SA "issues". In some essays, McKaiser loses this reviewer because he can become rambling, but in others he is clear and engaging talking about race, sexuality and culture, using personal stories "as tools and writing devices". Asked why his mother hardly features in his essays, McKaiser says it is because they had an incredibly simple, straightforward relationship. "When you write you focus on complications and that is why my father features more," he says. In the section on sexuality, McKaiser writes about his conservative father and his reaction to him coming out as gay. He argues that there is a lack of self-criticism in our private actions and personal choices and in intimate links between the different spheres in private and public life.' (*Cape Argus*)

SOLBERG, Rolf

Bra Gib: father of South Africa's township theatre.- University of KwaZulu-Natal P., 2011.

'... account of the life and work of Gibson Kente fondly known to many as Bra Gib widely recognised to be the foremost black playwright and one of the leading cultural icons of his time. His prolific musical productions, staged between the mid-1960s and 2004, were enthusiastically received by township audiences throughout South Africa. Kente's touring township shows came to define South African township theatre and provided the base from which much black and other South African theatre was later to flourish. His work to date has been poorly documented and the records of all but one of his plays were lost in a fire. As the first definitive work on this talented,

influential and controversial man, Solberg's **Bra Gib** comes to fill a gap that needed urgent addressing. Presented in two parts, it gives a chronological overview of Kente's plays and the popular and critical reaction to them, and also includes anecdotal insights into the famous Kente's working methods from those who knew and worked with him. Overall, **Bra Gib** offers a fascinating portrait of the multi-faceted man who was playwright, teacher, musician and entrepreneur and does not shrink from engaging the controversies that surrounded the later part of Kente's career.' (www.booklive.co.za)



VENTER, AI J

Shark stories.- Protea Book House, 2012.



Internationally known mostly for his war writing, Al Venter now turns his efforts on highlighting the importance of sharks to the world's ecosystems. The waters around South Africa have a far greater variety of sharks than any other coastline in the world. This has attracted universal attention, and over the past twenty years, many overseas tourists. The result was a growth in shark-viewing operations near Gansbaai off the Cape coast.

The author, who has a diving history of about forty years in shark-infested waters, once again delivers a fascinating account of his experiences. He also includes contributions from experts and notables such as Willie van Rensburg who survived an attack by a great shark.

With the help of others, Venter has produced a sympathetic book on sharks that is not only instructive but also allows for some fascinating insights into the world of sharks and their behaviour. It features some incredible photography both in colour and black and white that captures the majesty of these creatures. This is one of the most informative as well as the most readable titles on the subject that I have recently seen, and will be enjoyed by those who have a love of the ocean and its creatures.EB

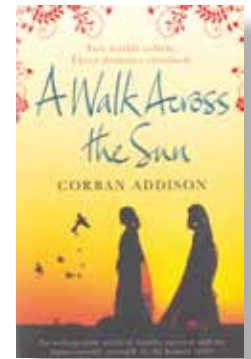
ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

ADDISON, Corban

A walk across the sun.- Quercus, 2012.

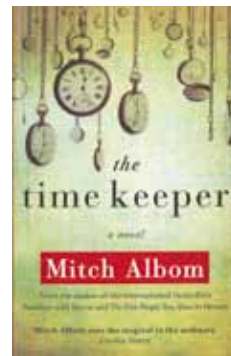
'This chilling, suspenseful, and powerful debut weaves fictional characters into the reality of contemporary slavery. The novel opens

on the serene shores of Tamil Nadu, India, as a tsunami rips apart the coastal towns. Two survivors, orphaned sisters who have lost nearly everything, are thrown into the havoc and are immediately sold into the sex trade. The teenage girls are passed from one criminal to the next, experiencing horrors that span the globe. Meanwhile, an American lawyer caught up in a midlife crisis takes a sabbatical to India and helps prosecute human traffickers. His work becomes entwined with the plight of the two sisters, and he sets out to rescue them from the international trade. The story is compelling, but the message is greater and will leave an impact on everyone who picks up the book. Readers will mourn the injustices depicted and celebrate the triumphs long after the last page is turned.' (*Library Journal*)



ALBOM, Mitch

The time keeper.- Sphere, 2012.



'Albom displays his usual flair for plumbing the emotional depths of the human spirit in this cleverly constructed fable. After Dor, the first man to measure time, becomes so obsessed with the philosophical concept and the practical mathematics of his discovery that he loses sight of what is truly important in life, he is banished to a cave and condemned to listen to the mind-numbing din of the time-centric pleas and prayers of the masses throughout

the centuries. Granted a chance to redeem himself by rescuing two floundering contemporary souls, he brings together Victor, a dying business mogul determined to unlock the secret of immortality, and Sarah, a lonely and depressed teenager on the brink of suicide. Morphing into wise Father Time, Dor grants Victor and Sarah equally bleak views of the futures they are forging. Elements of the supernatural abound as invaluable life lessons are learned in this heartrending morality play reminiscent of both **A Christmas carol** and **It's a wonderful life**. In his latest morality play, Albom strikes a familiar emotional chord that will resonate with a wide cross-section of readers and translate into bestselling gold. [It is] an inspiring tale that will please his fans and newcomers alike.' (*Booklist*)

CAMERON, W Bruce

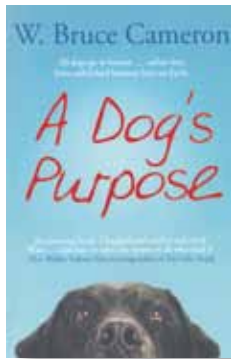
A dog's purpose: a novel for humans.- Pan, 2012.

What makes this novel unique is that it is told from a dog's perspective – and it is not a story where at the end of the book the dog dies. Instead he just keeps being reborn, remembering each life and

learning lessons from each life experience that help him with the next one. In the end he has to conclude that there must be a purpose, a reason for him to be reborn, and until he has figured out that purpose, he'll keep being reborn.

Toby the feral dog is merely the first incarnation of a single dog, who we follow through a number of lifetimes – the same doggy soul in several different bodies. With each reincarnation, the dog begins his life in a different way – feral, a puppy mill captive, a German Shepherd chosen to be a police dog, and then as a purebred black Labrador sold at a bargain price. The dog remembers his past lives and builds upon them. In the end he realises his most important purpose in all of his lives was to love and stay beside one particular owner who holds his heart.

The more the reader gets into the book, the more difficult it is to put it down. It's deeply emotional in a way one could never have anticipated. It makes a powerful statement about the proper care of dogs and how much love and joy a well-cared-for dog brings to his or her owner's life. This well-written, nicely paced book is highly recommended for pet lovers, everywhere.EB



ill woman. The woman is sitting there serving afternoon tea to the corpse. The police need help in finding out who the dead man was and how he came to be in that flat. That's where Frieda comes in.

She is an interesting character and the stories are filled with suspense and plot twists. Actually, the plots stretch credulity a bit, but that doesn't stop both novels from being absolutely riveting. This is a brilliant series, great entertainment. I'm eagerly waiting to

see what **Wednesday** will bring.SCG

FRENCH, Nicci

Blue Monday.- Joseph, 2011.

Tuesday's gone.- Joseph, 2012.



Writing as Nicci French, this popular husband-and-wife duo has provided us with much entertainment. Their psychological thrillers are all real edge-of-the-seat page-turners. With **Blue Monday** they went off in a slightly different direction, beginning a crime series with a psychotherapist as lead character. While the books still have the psychological thriller element there is more emphasis on crime investigation.

In the book that introduces Frieda Klein, the news media is full of the story of the abduction of a five-year-old boy, Matthew Farraday. When the dreams of a new client seem to closely resemble the description of the missing boy, Frieda is faced with an ethical dilemma. She decides to breach patient confidentiality and report what she hopes is just a strange coincidence to the police. Although sceptical, Detective Chief Inspector Malcolm Karlsson acts on her information and interviews the client. Later, the detective asks Frieda for her insights on various aspects of the case which seems to be growing more and more complicated.

In the sequel, **Tuesday's gone**, Karlsson again asks Frieda for help in solving a difficult case. A decomposed body is found by a social worker while making a routine home visit to the flat of a mentally-

MIYENI, Eric

The release.- Umuzi, 2012.



'Actor and controversial social commentator Eric Miyeni's new book **The release** is a stark reminder that the legacy of the past runs deeper than we are prepared to acknowledge in our new politically correct democracy. The timing couldn't have been more opportune as it follows hard on the heels of *The Spear* painting by Brett Murray, and the racial tension that erupted as a result. The author has stuck to his pet subject, digging out the dirt beneath the nails of our society. This book exposes

the issues that we in our political correctness choose to turn a blind eye to, hoping they will go away. Miyeni tells the story of cultural misunderstandings within South Africa through his main character Jeremy Hlungwani, a young man growing up in apartheid South Africa who has now escaped the shackles of his former oppression, yet still feels trapped by something that he can't quite put his finger on. The story is beautifully told using humour that is heavily laced with sarcasm.' (www.witness.co.za)

SAULE, Ncedile

Intaka yobusi.- Bard, 2011.



Umbhali apha usibalisela ngoBhekilifa owaye engunyana wenkosi, uMaseko phofu engengonyana wakhe ngokuzalwa. UBhekilifa ukuva oku xa kuzakufuneka athabathe isihlalo sikayise njengenkosi, ekuva oko ngonina oway' esel' elukhukweni lokufa. Kukwa lelivesha kanye unina akwamxelela ukuba oyena yise wakhe nguTshawe othile waseMzantsi. Ngokungathi azonelanga ezi zinto zisentlokweni kaMaseko, naku ekwaxelelwa ukuba

najengeNkosi ikhona intombi asel' eyikhethelwe ukuba ibengumfazi wakhe ngokusesikweni. Inqondo kaMaseko ithath' ibeka kuba kaloku ukhona intombi ancuma nayo nasel' eyithembisile. UMaseko ufikelwa nakungamthembi unina ngoku ngoba kaloku ukutsho konke oku xa elishiya eli. Kungoba ufanele enze njani uMaseko, abuncame ubukhosi bamaSwazi, alibale ngoThandi wakhe? Zivele mfundi kolu ncwadi lalo mbhali uphum' izandla.NNG

STAMATÉLOS, Pat

Madeliefies van staal.- Kwela, 2012.



'Madeliefies van staal is, soos sy voorganger **Vier begrafnisse en 'n troue**, 'n diep menslike roman wat met werklike insig in die psige van die karakters geskryf is. Hoof- sowel as newekarakters word deurgaans met deernis en humor uitgebeeld, asook met meer as 'n tikkie ironie. Die lesers kry dikwels die gevoel dat hulle 'n treetjie kan terugstaan, na hulself en hulle sterk punte en swakhede kan kyk en so 'n bietjie vir hulleself lag. Dis die verhaal van Cheryl en Lucy, onderskeidelik die dogter en

schoondogter van die formidabele Dulcie, wat ons in **Vier begrafnisse en 'n troue** ontmoet het. In 'n groter verband is dit egter ook die verhaal van talle voorheen benadeelde mense wat kon voortbeweeg na beter finansiële omstandighede, maar steeds nie hulle wortels kan of wil vergeet nie ... Die titel slaan heel moontlik op die 1989-film **Steel Magnolias**. Soos die verhaal van hierdie groep vroue in die suide van Amerika, is Lucy en Cheryl se verhaal ook 'n viering van die innerlike krag wat vroue dikwels openbaar, veral wanneer hulle dierbares in die gedrang kom ... **Madeliefies van staal** vorm saam met werk soos dié van Pamela Jooste 'n kosbare kroniek van die bruin mense van Suid-Afrika binne verskillende tydvakke in die land se geskiedenis en verdien daarmee 'n ereplek in die Afrikaanse letterkunde.' (www.litnet.co.za)

JUVENILE FICTION
JEUGLEKTUUR

ANGUS, Sam

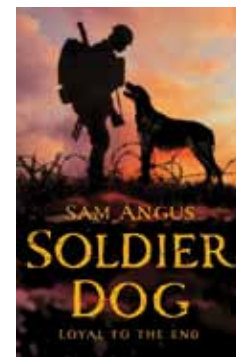
Soldier dog.- Macmillan, 2012.

Soldier dog is a beautifully written, epic tale of unexpected friendship in the extremes of war. It is the story of a fourteen-year-old boy soldier, set during the dreadful times of World War I around 1917.

The story starts with the subject character, Stanley, at home in Lancashire. The reader is given an overview of his life there and, as the story unfolds, the reasons Stanley has for wanting to join the British Army and to fight in France. Stanley's natural love and understanding of animals leads him to the army Messenger Dog Service, where he is teamed up with a loveable and loyal Great Dane called

Bones. An unbreakable bond forms between them, one that will be tested to the limit once they reach the frontline of war. There he confronts the horrors of war and discovers the immense courage and loyalty of man's best friend.

Based on the true stories of messenger dogs used in World War I, Sam Angus paints a vivid picture of life in the trenches to the point where you feel your heart racing as you hope for Stanley to make it through the war and be reunited with his family. Readers will be drawn to the brilliant atmospheric cover, and will be unable to put the book down.



This poignant story is powerfully told with some very harrowing moments. Although it is aimed at children or young adults, it can be enjoyed by readers of any age. **Soldier dog** is a warm, sincere and emotional read, perfect for fans of **War horse** and similar Michael Morpurgo wartime animal stories.EB

LATIMER, Alex

Penguin's hidden talent.- Picture Corgi, 2012.



'Penguin doesn't have a talent to hone for the upcoming community talent show, so instead he helps organise the event. As a result of Penguin's involvement, all goes well at the show, but when each of his friends wins a trophy or a medal, Penguin feels left out. In an attempt to cheer him up, Penguin's friends try to throw him a party, but it is so poorly planned, it appears to be headed for disaster.

Of course, Penguin himself comes to the rescue, making the party fabulous and discovering where his talents lie: as a party planner. 'I don't need a medal. I need a telephone', he says before ordering a bevy of ridiculous decorations. The colourful cartoon illustrations perfectly convey the goofiness of Penguin and his friends displaying their quirky talents (such as burping the alphabet and juggling household appliances). This packs in plenty of chuckles, and its supportive and nurturing message makes it worthy of repeat visits.' (*Books & Leisure*)

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

- EB.....Erich Buchhaus
- SCG.....Sabrina Gosling
- SSJ.....Stanley Jonck
- NNG.....Nomonde Ngqoba