

# Cape Kaapse Librarian Bibliotekaris



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## editorial

Following the bestial epoch that was 2020, 1 January 2021 was meant to represent a new chapter. Then, as the New Year's bells tolled, instead we were confronted with the painful realisation of a seamless blending of last year into this one, as Covid-related restrictions continued, infections spiked and the fresh promise of a new year rapidly turned to dust.

Jobs have continued to be shed and households put under pressure as lockdowns squeeze the life out of our livelihoods. Hardly anyone has not either been impacted financially or through the loss of a colleague, friend or loved one.

At the end of January, the Western Cape Library Service has also had to wave farewell to one of its dearest. Thankfully, though, this departure was not owing to illness or death, but to retirement. After a career spanning 40 years; and touching the lives of those wherever she went, it is with the heaviest of hearts that the Library Service waves farewell — to Tessa Caroline.

Always ready with a smile, a sympathetic ear or a *skinner storie*, Tessa exerted a maternal air over the Library Service, and the void left by her absence is deeply profound. Just days after she's gone, walking past her vacated office already invokes a massive sense of loss.

One can be flippant about such matters, and throw jibes like 'How do you know it's time to retire? It's when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it!' Or get all philosophical by stating that retirement is the only time in your life when time no longer equals money; or to retire from your job, but never retire your mind. The truth lies somewhere in between: retirement isn't the end of the road, but just a turn in the road.

But while dishing out these platitudes, perhaps this moment — as we once again find ourselves at a crossroads amidst an uncertain tomorrow, as we did in 2020 — offers nourishment not for only the ones riding off into the sunset, but also to those left behind: to never stop dreaming; never stop doing and never stop believing.

Met die nare jaar van 2020 uiteindelik agter die rug, was 1 Januarie 2021 veronderstel om 'n nuwe hoofstuk in te lei. Maar net toe die Nuwejaarsklokke begin lui, is ons indeste gekonfronteer met die pynlike besef dat die twee jare bloot naatloos gaan saamsmelt; en die nuwejaarsbelofte blitsig tot niet is in die lig van voortgesette Coronainperkings en stygende infeksiesyfers.

Werksgeleenthede word steeds by die duisende verloor en huishoudings onder druk geplaas soos die grendelgreep ons lewensvooruitsigte aanhou doodwurg. Byna niemand is nog nié deur die virus geraak, hetsy op finansiële wyse of deur die afstaan van 'n kollega, vriend of geliefde nie.

Aan die einde van Januarie moes die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens ook totsiens sê vir een van sy geliefdes. In hierdie geval was die afskeid gelukkig darem nie vanweë 'n siekte of sterfte nie, maar aftrede. Na 'n loopbaan van meer as 40 jaar; en die aanraak van almal met wie sy te doen gekry het, groet die Biblioteekdiens vir Tessa Caroline — met 'n bitter swaar hart.

Tessa was altyd reg om te glimlag, reg om te luister en reg om te *skinner*, en laat sy as ma-figuur 'n onpeilbare leemte agter. Slegs enkele dae na haar vertrek voel dit reeds vreemd om verby haar leë kantoor te stap.

'n Mens kan óf koddighede oor sulke sake kwytraak, soos 'Hoe weet jy wanneer dit tyd is om af te tree? Dis wanneer jy ophou jok oor jou ouderdom en daarvoor begin spog!' Of meer filosofies — dat aftrede die enigste oomblik in jou lewe is wanneer tyd nie meer aan geld gelykstaan nie. Tree af van jou werk, maar moenie jou brein aftree nie. Êrens tussenin lê die waarheid: aftrede is allermens 'n doodloopstraat, maar bloot 'n draai in die pad.

Tog is hierdie oomblik — weer soos in 2020 waar ons voor 'n kruispad te staan kom — juis 'n geleentheid om verkwikking te put — nie net vir hulle wat na die sonsondergang wegry nie, maar ook vir dié wat agterbly: om nooit op te hou droom nie; nooit op te hou doen nie en altyd aan te hou glo.

*Braam*



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### Editorial policy | Redaksionele beleid

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Die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstelyste asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir 'n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.

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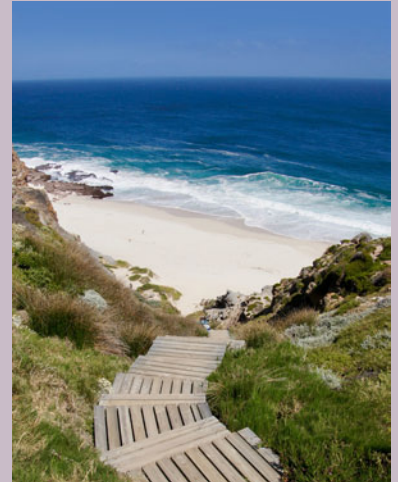
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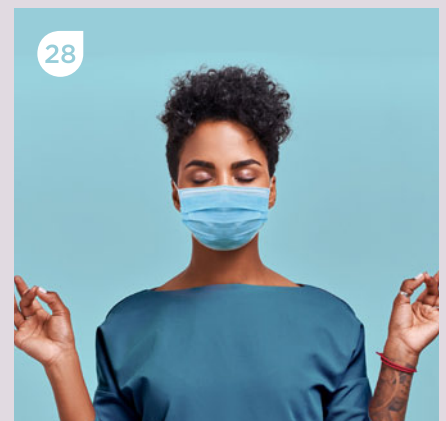
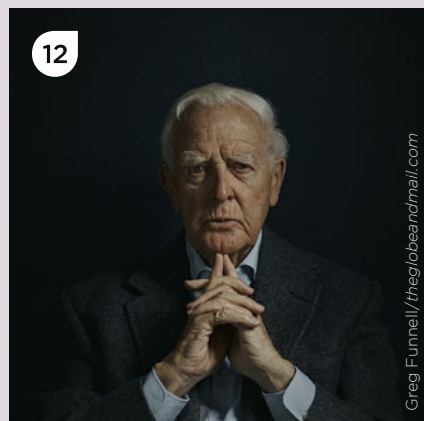
## on the cover



Wooden stairs going down to the beach at the Cape of Good Hope to reveal a deserted beach. To help combat the spread of COVID-19, most South African beaches were closed from 28 December 2020 to 1 February 2021.

Peter Scholten/*unsplash.com*

## in this issue



**Ons groet Tessa. Met 'n seer hart en lang trane**

Tessa Caroline het aan die einde van Januarie 'n marathonloopbaan van meer as 40 jaar by die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens vaarwel gegroet.

Na matriek het sy gaan studeer aan die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland, waar sy eers 'n BA-graad gevolg het en toe oorgeskakel het na Biblioteekkunde. Sy het ook vir twee jaar lank by Welverdiend Biblioteek op haar geboortedorp in Bredasdorp gewerk. Op 15 Desember 1980 sluit sy by die Biblioteekdiens aan en begin haar loopbaan as streekbibliotekaris van die Stellenbosch-streek.

Tessa het aangename herinneringe van haar eerste werk en onthou dit as 'n leerervaring, alhoewel dit plaasgevind het binne die konteks van 'n apartheidsbeheerde Suid-Afrika. Dit het sy eie uitdagings gebring, soos dat sy nie in 'n hotel kon slaap nie. Wanneer sy gereis het na dorpe soos Caledon en Hermanus, sowel as die Weskus, en met besoeke aan plekke soos Darling, Malmesbury en Saldanha, moes sy gevolglik oorslaap by familie van die plaaslike bibliotekarisse. Die apartheidsituasie was so bisar dat tydens die toere na Caledon of Swellendam, daar twee biblioteekbusse was wat die verskillende gemeenskappe op dieselfde dag bedien het.

Tessa se volgende pos was dié van streekbibliotekaris van die Blue



Tessa Caroline as destydse Steeksbibliotekaris: Atlantis, bestudeer dokumente op microfiche saam met Allegra Louw, Bibliotekaris: Bellville-Suid Biblioteek, in 1987

Downs-streek, wat biblioteke in die oostelike gedeelte van die Kaapse Skiereiland bedien het. In 1998 word sy bevorder tot Hoofbibliotekaris van die Kaapse Metropool Area en in 2003 word sy assistentdirekteur van die Keuringsafdeling. In 2008 word sy adjunkdirekteur van die Sentrale Organisasie — 'n pos wat sy tot haar

aftrede beklee het. As hoof van die Sentrale Organisasie was sy in beheer van die volgende seksies: Tegniese Dienste, Keuring, Finansies, Personeel en Publikasies. Hierdie omvangryke portefeulje het ook Rekenarisering ingesluit. G'n wonder sy was die ma van SLIMS, die gerekenariseerde biblioteek- en inligtingstelsel, nie.



'n Streeksvergadering van die Skiereiland-Beheerarea in die vroeë-1990s. (Lnr): Aisha Isaacs, Tessa Caroline, Alida Zandberg, Marleen Avgerinos, MaryAnn Hodges en Wouna Rabe



Tessa saam met Blanche Martin, Tessa en Stefan se assistent, in 2010



(Lnr): Elna Cecil, Theresa Caroline, Thurrah Behardien, Denise Petersen, John Pretorius, Maureen Olivier, Moreen September, Pandy Joerning en Aisha Isaacs

Tessa is en sal altyd 'n 'mens'-mens bly. Sy het elke oggend opgeruimd en vrolik met haar koffie wat sy so pas by 'n wegneemplek gekoop het, by die werk opgedaag; altyd gereed met 'n grappie of kwinkslag. Soos sy self sê, sy was *happy* om by die werk te wees. Sy het nou bande met openbare bibliotekaris in die Wes-Kaap gesmee en omtrent almal op hulle voorname geken. As assistentdirekteur was sy die voorsitter van die boekkeuringsvergaderings en as adjunkdirekteur die voorsitter van die SLIMS-vergaderings. Sy het uit haar pad gegaan om almal welkom te laat voel by die talle vergaderings wat

sy gehou het. (Sy was ook een van 'n handjiewol uitverkorenes wat kans gesien het om op 'n Saterdagmiddag vroualleen die Hospitaalstraat-depot se spoke te trotseer!) Bibliotekaris vanoor die hele Wes-Kaap het nie gehuiwer om haar te bel met hulle rekenaar- en SLIMS-probleme nie.

As mede adjunkdirekteur was dit 'n voorreg om saam met Tessa te kon werk. Ons kantore was neffens mekaar en die *interleading* deur was altyd oop. Haar opgeruimde lag was aansteeklik en haar talle, uhm, ongesensureerde staaltjies en oor mense en kollegas altyd aangrypend.

Tessa was vir my — en die Diens

— 'n onuitputbare bron van inligting. Soos dit 'n goeie bibliotekaris betaam, is sy 'n ywerige leser van boeke, tydskrifte, koerante en het sy ook aktief inligtingstegnologie gebruik om op hoogte van sake te bly. Haar verwysingsraamwerk was voorwaar baie wyd en indrukwekkend wat haar 'n aanwys vir haar werk gemaak het.

Haar toegewydheid teenoor haar beroep was ook uitsonderlik. Hoe sy dit reg gekry het, weet ek nie, maar sy het baie min siek geword. Die toegelate siekverlof oor 'n driejaarsiklus is 36 dae; en Tessa het gewoonlik meer as 30 dae na elke siklus oorgehad.

Sy noem dat boeke, asook die buitengewone uitdagings wat sy teëgekomp het, haar loopbaan so lonend gemaak het. En die belangrikste ding wat sy geleer het is dat 'n mens nooit aannames moet maak nie.

Haar advies aan die jonger geslag is 'wees *nice* met jou kollegas'. Dit uit die mond van iemand wat 'n toonbeeld van *nice* wees is.

Tessa, vaar wel en geniet jou welverdiende (*pun intended*) aftrede! En maak 'n plan om daai befaamde Camino-roete in Spanje saam met jou niggies te bewandel.

Die Bilioteekdiens — en almal wat die voorreg gehad het om paadjies met jou te kruis — gaan jou mis.

Sommer baie.

**Stefan Wehmeyer, Voormalige adjunkdirekteur: Streke**



Tessa en Bradley Meyer by 'n personeelvergadering in 2017



Tessa in haar kantoor, November 2020

### New state-of-the-art library on the way for Swellendam

The community of Swellendam is set to receive a brand-new state-of-the-art library. On 26 November 2020, Minister Anroux Marais together with Mayor Nicholas Myburgh, Municipal Manager Mr Anton Groenewald, Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) officials, municipal officials and councillors officiated the sod-turning marking the construction of the new library in Swellendam. The R12 million project is a partnership between the National Department of Arts and Culture, DCAS and Swellendam Municipality.

This new library will replace the current library which is 182 years old, the oldest library in the country. It will provide more space to serve the growing community in Swellendam. The new site is next to a school and alongside the main route connecting locals to the town centre.

In her speech Minister Marais said: 'Library services form an important part of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport outreach to educate and connect libraries. With more than 370 library centres currently affiliated



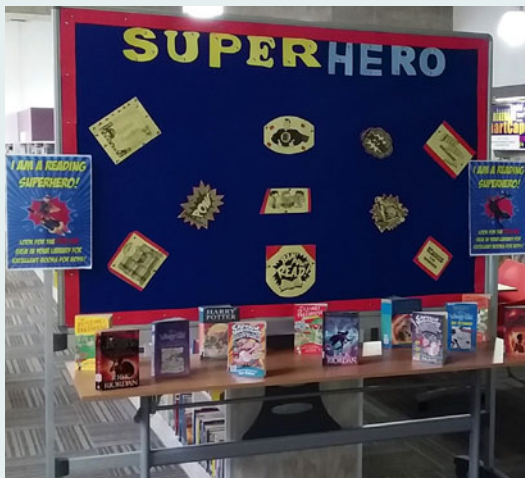
Minister Marais turns the first sod along with municipal dignitaries

to the Provincial Library Service and as new libraries are built and provided, this number will continue to grow. I look forward to return to experience a new Swellendam Library. Up until then I encourage communities to compile their personal stories to share with others as part of our Oral History Initiative which captures and preserve stories of communities which will eventually be exhibited at our museums.'

It is envisioned that the new library will become the innovative information hub of the area, creating the enabling environment needed to live healthier lifestyles in safe environments, more prepared for tomorrow's economy.

**Stacy McLean, Spokesperson for the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais**

### Reading display at Crossroads Library



### Happy holidays from Valhalla Park Library



## Protem se kersuitstallings



Protem Biblioteek se treffende kersuitstalling het besoekers op hol gehad tydens die feestydperk. Welgedaan!

## Minister Marais surprises libraries with unannounced visits

After kicking off her unannounced November 2020 visits to the Central Karoo with a stop at **Touwsrivier Public Library**, Minister Anroux Marais then visited Reinie and Janetta at the **Prince Albert Public Library**, proudly displaying their beautiful Prince Albert Heritage quilts, symbolic of the town's diverse interwoven tapestry and how they all come together as one. The works of art, friendly staff and exceptional library services sure is worth a visit if in the area.

Minister Marais then received a warm welcome from staff members

Juanita, Lilly, Jacoba, Doreen and Catherine at the **Bredasdorp Public Library** who shared how happy they are to welcome their valued members back to the facility.

To end off the tour, Minister Anroux Marais visited Jackie Keyster at **Troe Troe Library** in Vanrhynsdorp and was pleasantly welcomed into a fairyland as the library team was redecorating the facility for the new month.

**Stacy McLean, Spokesperson for the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais**



Prince Albert Public Library



Bredasdorp Public Library



Troe Troe Library

## Trots Suid-Afrikaanse navorsingskinderboek in Laingsburg geloods

Die Wellingtonse skrywer Engela Duvenhage het in November in Laingsburg haar navorsingsboek vir kinders, **Uitvinders, planmakers en ander slimkoppe van Suid-Afrika**, bekendgestel.

Hoewel Engela al bydraes gelewer het in, onder andere, **Die Melkweg het 'n ster laat val**, *Ons klyntji*, **Rympies vir kleintjies en kleuters** en *Eisteddfodpret 2*, is **Uitvinders, planmakers en ander slimkoppe van Suid-Afrika** haar eerste boek. Engela se ouers woon op die dorp en sy en haar twee kinders is gereelde besoekers aan die biblioteek.

Ek het tydens die bekendstelling met haar gesels en 'n paar vrae oor die boek gevra.

**Hoekom het jy besluit om so 'n boek te skryf? Dis lywig teen 375 bladsye, en bevat 102 stories.**

Ek het die voorreg om danksy my werk as wetenskapsjoernalis en wetenskapkommunikeerder byna daaglik met van die slimste en interessantste mense in ons land te werk. Dis mense wie se breinkrag ons land (en selfs die wêreld) op groot en klein maniere 'n beter, interessanter plek



Francisca Jansen, Bibliotekaris: Laingsburg Munisipaliteit (links) gesels met Engela Duvenhage



LAPA Uitgewers

maak. Hul doen hul dagtaak sonder te veel fanfare, maar volgens my behoort hulle heldestatus te geniet. Deur die skryf van die boek wou ek van hulle uitlig, en veral die werk wat hulle doen. Daar is boeke oor, byvoorbeeld Suid-Afrikaanse helde (onder andere deur Wendy Maartens), en soortgelyke boeke oor oorsese mense in die velde van STEM (*science, technology, engineering and mathematics*). Hierdie is egter die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse kinderboek wat verhalend te werk gaan met inligting oor Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskaplikes, medici, ingenieurs, geoloë, argeoloë, dierkundes, plantkundiges, ensovoorts. Noem hierdie my *#TrotsSuid-Afrika* poging. Ek wou hê my kinders (en ander mense s'n ook) moet van hierdie mense weet, hulle vier en deur hulle geïnspireer word — en kies om volgende keer 'n skooltaak of mondeling oor hulle te doen, eerder as altyd net oor iemand van oorsese!





Duvenhage (regs) saam met die Suid-Afrikaanse paleontoloog, Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

### Op watter ouderdomme is die boek gerig?

Ek skat tussen 10 en 16 jaar oud, maar dit klink my volwassenes geniet dit self ook baie! 'n Vriendin wat 'n Graad 3-onderwyseres is, lees elke dag 'n storie vir haar klas voor. 'n Ander vriendin lees soggens vir haarself 'n storie saam met haar oggendkoffie. Dis eintlik vir enigiemand wat meer oor sy land en mense wil weet. Dis verhalend geskryf, so dis nie net droë feite nie. Daar is genoeg feite in elke storie sodat 'n kind ook 'n mondeling of skooltaak daaruit kan doen, so dis ook 'n lekker verwysingsbron.

### Watter van die stories tel onder jou gunsteling?

Onder die meer as 100 stories is al die bekende mense wat mens gewoonlik

kry as jy 'n Top 10-lys van Suid-Afrikaanse deurbrake en uitvindings sou Google, soos Professor Chris Barnard en die eerste hartoorplanting, Montgomery Pratley en Pratley Putty, die Nobelpryswenner Allan Cormack en die CAT-skandeerder, Dokter Percy Amoils en sy uitvinding om katarakte in oogoperasies te verwyder; en die storie agter dolosse en die Kreepy Krauly. Dit bevat ook die vyf Nobelpryswenners in wetenskappe wat almal Suid-Afrikaanse konneksies het. My gunsteling is egter die minder bekende stories uit vergange dae, of die meer hedendaagse stories oor onlangse ontdekkings of deurbrake. Van my gunsteling is daarom oor Mike Bester (mede-rekordhouer as die Suid-Afrikaner wat die meeste komete ontdek het) en Jotello Soga (die eerste Suid-Afrikaansgeborene wat in die 1880's as veearts gekwalifiseer het) en onder die hedendaagse stories

tel Buyisiwe Sondezi (die eerste vrou in Afrika wat 'n doktorsgraad in 'n spesifieke veld van eksperimentele fisika ontvang het), Richard en Morris Viljoen ('n tweeling wat saam-saam byna verdrink het voordat hulle as geologiese studente 'n nuwe soort rots, genaamd komatiiet, geïdentifiseer het), Professor Mashuda Tshifularo (die eerste om 3D-gedrukte oorbeentjies in te plant) en Professor Gerhard Steenkamp, 'n olifanttdants.

### Is daar interessante beroepe wat in die boek uitgelig word, waarin kinders dalk sou belangstel?

Ja, ek het doelbewus verhale ingeskryf van mense uit 'n verskeidenheid velde in die wetenskappe en ingenieurswese. Neem, byvoorbeeld, vir Professor Savel Daniels. Hy is 'n fluweelwurmkenner. Ek het ook gesels met Dokter Thembeke Nxele, wat met erdwurms werk, Professor Maureen Coetsee wat 'n muskietkenner is, daar's rekenaarfundi's, sagteware-ontwikkelaars, 'n boer, geoloë, dinosouruskenners, medici en 'n hele paar entrepreneurs in. Ek wil daardeur vir kinders wys dat as jy belangstel in iets, jy dit op die ou einde jou werk kan maak. Kry dus 'n stokperdjie! Dit kan dalk net jou werk word.

### Die boek is so half 'n stuk geskiedenis ook oor Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskap.

Ek't 'n punt daarvan gemaak om belangrike gebeure of projekte uit te lig, byvoorbeeld, die totstandkoming van die SKA-projek, die SALT-teleskoop by Sutherland, en die eerste hartoorplanting. Daar word verwys na Professor Glenda Gray se storie, byvoorbeeld, na die Treatment Action Campaign se stryd teen die destydse gesondheidsdepartement se hele aksie teen HIV-medisyne, ensovoorts. Ek het ook klomp mense ingesluit wat een of ander plant of dier eerste ontdek het — in sigself 'n stuk wetenskapsgeskiedenis.

### Francisca Jansen, Bibliotekaris: Laingsburg Munisipaliteit



| archives



# Scripts of a tempestuous storm

by Gustav Hendrich



The onset of the coronavirus as a worldwide pandemic was unpredictable and had a lasting impact on the lives of the people of the Western Cape with medical facilities being stretched to the limit. But if the Cape was not struck by such a dreadful disease, it constantly had the misfortune of being tempested by natural storms that caused much damage and loss of life.

Since Cape Town is notorious for the prevalence of adverse climatic conditions, with storms and raging winds not uncommon phenomena, it more often than not wrought havoc amongst ordinary citizens and particularly seamen especially in earlier times. Over the centuries these tempests resulted in more than 400 shipwrecks lying on the ocean floor in Table Bay. Henceforth, the Cape received the fitting nickname of the 'Cape of Storms'.

The tremendous storm of 5 November 1799 is illustrative of the destructive power of the weather on man and his creations. As the maritime authorities were unaware that a storm could occur so late in the year, no precautionary measures were taken to prevent shipping losses from such unexpected disasters.

As this was the time of the first British Occupation after the Cape was surrendered to the British in 1795, and with the Napoleonic Wars raging in Europe, many English ships were bound for the Cape as a means of securing its colonial territory.

The prestigious and large man-of-war British warship, *HMS Sceptre*, which was renowned for its victorious engagement with the French in the West Indies in 1782, was also directed to the Cape.<sup>1</sup>

The ship was rather old and although it had undergone several repairs due to her hull being corroded, it made her more vulnerable to damage.

M755, Wreck of *HMS Sceptre*



The wrecking of the *Sceptre* in Table Bay showing the *Jupiter*, the *Oldenburg* and other ships (Morrison Collection M754)

### Storm of biblical proportions

On the morning of 5 November the ship was decorated with bunting in preparation for a fireworks display to commemorate the foiling of the Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot. The joyous occasion, marked by the firing of a salute in honour of the other vessels in the bay, was quickly disrupted by an ominously strong wind that increased to gale force speed during the afternoon.

The day book entry of the archives of the First British Occupation (BO) group housed at the Western Cape Archives and Records Service described that a 'violent gale of wind from the Northwest increased in the evening to such a degree in Table Bay'.<sup>2</sup>

As the day went on 'the weather was still increasing, with the clouds rolling over the Bay, accompanied by heavy rain, and the sea was running mountains high'.<sup>3</sup>

At that stage every ship hoisted their maritime signal of distress. The turbulence created by the fierce waves caused the *HMS Sceptre* and

the Danish ship, *Oldenburg*, to lose their anchors and be swept ashore. The American brig *Hannah* fetched up against the Castle walls. Another American ship *Anubis*, on her voyage from India to Boston, was also swept mercilessly. Although the crews from the *Oldenburg*, the English whaler *Sierra Leone*, *Hannah* and *Anubis* were saved, the fate of those on the *HMS Sceptre* was to be tragic.<sup>4</sup>

Stranded on the shore near the vicinity of Salt River, the ship was now at the mercy of the tempestuous winds and waves that pounded against it relentlessly.<sup>5</sup> As a result of the violent movement of the ship a fire broke out, possibly due to an overturned lantern. The crew were helpless to save themselves and had the option of either burning to death or drowning. Fortunately a large wave splashed over the ship and extinguished the fire but in the face of the worsening storm the attempts of the sailors to swim to safety were futile.

Captain Valentine Edwards ordered his crew to starboard, but a huge wave swept over the stricken ship

and washed many, including Edwards, into the depths of the sea, never to be seen again. The worm-eaten hull was disintegrating rapidly and the poop deck collapsed with almost 80 sailors clinging onto it. Struggling sailors were killed by the massive amount of floating debris rather than by the waves. Except for some lucky survivors most of the crew perished, their despairing cries being heard by the astounded spectators on the shore. Bonfires were lit along the coast to give direction to the survivors, eerily illuminating the tragic scene. This storm, which was recalled as one of biblical proportions, continued throughout the night, until it finally abated.

On the shoreline appeared the dreadful sight of wreckage and dead seamen. The colonial secretary, Andrew Barnard, was stunned by the scale of the destruction and wrote the following in his report to the Colonial Office: 'Such a wreck [*HMS Sceptre*] I never saw before. I assure you, Sir, that if a thousand carpenters had been employed to break the ship up into the

smallest firewood, they could not have completely knocked her to atoms. Not a single plank, beam or knee, that is not broken to pieces and all in the space of hours (sic).'<sup>6</sup>

It was reported that during the following days three wagonloads of dead were removed, while hundreds of mutilated or unrecognizable bodies were interred in a single mass grave on the beach. The body of the captain's 12-year old son, with his prayer book still in his pocket, was also discovered. Although historians are uncertain of the precise death toll, it was accepted that from the 411 crew of *HMS Sceptre* only 42 survived. Today the wreck is entombed underneath the present Foreshore, near the Royal Yacht Club.

### Tragedy of a storm captured on record

The Western Cape Archives and Records Service are in the possession of primary archival records and sketches depicting the storm in Table Bay, the wreck of the *HMS Sceptre* and its aftermath. Informative handwritten records reveal the correspondence regarding the salvaging of cargo from wrecked ships, as well as communiqués

from the British to the Danish government concerning permission to dispose of goods retrieved from the broken *Oldenburg*.<sup>7</sup> Provision was also granted that the cargo from the latter ship 'provisionally remain in such buildings and with such limit' within authority regulations.<sup>8</sup> A military hospital was appropriated for those crewmen who suffered injuries.

For more than a week after the terrible storm constant discussions were held on the issue of salvaging the usable remains from the wrecked ships, since those ships resorted under the jurisdiction of the British authorities. The goods/stores from the *Anubis* was to be auctioned in public.<sup>9</sup> In *Records of the Cape Colony*, which is held in the reference library of the archives, the historiographer George McCall Theal also elaborated on the losses and surviving crews of the stranded vessels.<sup>10</sup>

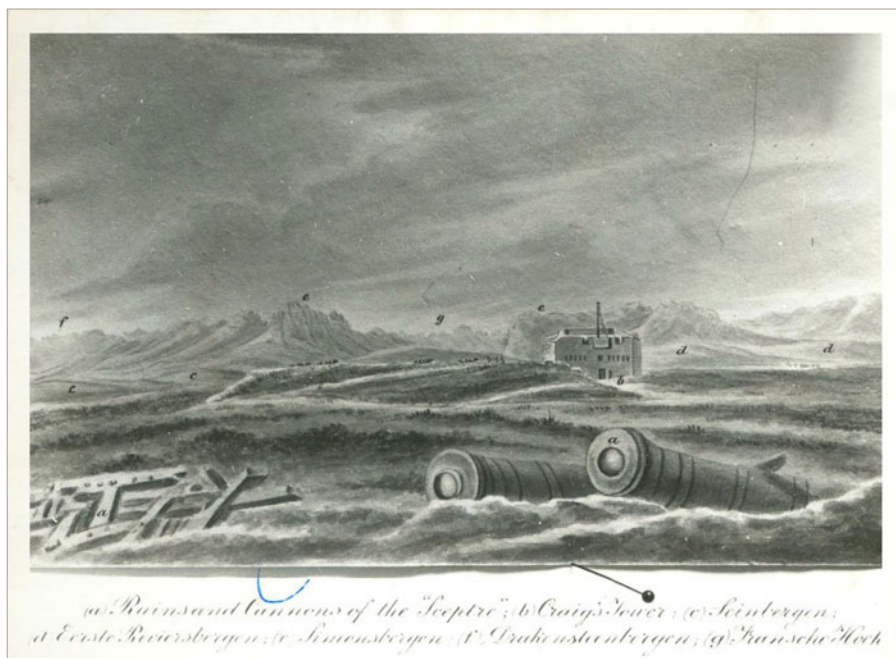
The severity of the storm of 1799 brought the British maritime and naval authorities to awareness of the dangerous impact of storms on vessels at the Cape, but at that time it was the only available sea route for transporting vital cargo to and from the East.

Fortunately for the existence and safekeeping of archival records, in this respect the British Occupation archival group, the tales of tribulations and hazardous weather and the destructive power of storms along the coast, has not fallen into oblivion. In modern times, it attests to the fact that these storms and its effect on shore/harbour areas in particular remain detrimental. In striking similarity to COVID-19's sudden unpredictable appearance, the citizens of Cape Town should likewise be cognisant of the possibility of unrelenting, and moreover unpredictable, storms.

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M756, The *Sceptre*'s guns



# John le Carré: The novelist who demystified Cold War spying

by Michiko Kakutani

John le Carré will be best remembered as the creator of the immortal Smiley — George Smiley, a spy portrayed not as a dashing James Bond but as a ‘breathtakingly ordinary’ Englishman, cuckolded by his glamorous wife, overshadowed by his domineering ‘cousins’ in the CIA, and beset with problems at home and work — a brave, brainy, fatalistic and somewhat sheepish bureaucrat whose authority, Le Carré once observed, sprang ‘from experience, ages of it, compassion, and at root an inconsolable pessimism which gives a certain fatalism to much that he does.’

With **The spy who came in from the cold** and his *Smiley* trilogy — **Tinker, tailor, soldier, spy**, **The honourable schoolboy** and **Smiley’s people** — the man born David Cornwell in 1931 reinvented the espionage genre and, in doing so, captured the real-life ambiguities of the Cold War era, those

decades conducted under the looming shadow of the Bomb.

Drawing on his own experiences in MI5 and MI6 in the 1950s and early ‘60s, Le Carré gave readers a gritty, realistic look inside the world of intelligence — a world demystified and made palpably real to us through his evocative descriptions of tradecraft and his nimble use of real and invented intelligence argot (bodyguards are ‘babysitters,’ specialists in watching and listening are ‘lamplighters’).

Many Le Carré novels were seeded by real events; Smiley’s hunt for a mole who has infiltrated British intelligence was inspired by the story of the infamous Soviet double agent Kim Philby. And the author would do copious background research for his books, traveling to dangerous parts of the globe like Beirut and Phnom Penh in then-Khmer Rouge-occupied Cambodia to get a feel for conditions on the ground and to search for people

Greg Funnell/[theglobeandmail.com](http://theglobeandmail.com)

who might flesh out characters starting to germinate in his mind.

But Le Carré was less interested in the protocols and pyrotechnics of the espionage genre than in the psychological dynamics that led his characters into the spy game to begin with: filial feelings of love and resentment, a craving for approval, an inability to commit to a single identity or what the author once called a longing to be 'all things to all men and nothing to himself.'

These emotions were rooted in David Cornwell's own life. As he recalled in his 2016 book of reminiscences, **The pigeon tunnel**, he grew up a 'frozen child', abandoned by his mother and

repeatedly humiliated and manipulated by his flamboyant conman father, Ronnie, who, Le Carré wrote, 'saw no paradox between being on the Wanted list for fraud and sporting a gray topper in the Owners' enclosure at Ascot' — an oblivious narcissist who gambled away his son's school tuition in Monte Carlo and did jail time around the world in Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich.

As a result, Cornwell learned the arts of 'evasion and deception' as survival tools during his boyhood and honed his storytelling skills early on, in an effort to 'cobble together an identity for myself', he wrote in **The pigeon tunnel**. Longing to belong to some legitimate, larger family, he became

a natural recruit as a spy. Joining 'the secret world', as he later put it, 'felt like a coming home.' Having written short stories and poetry in his youth, Cornwell started working on a novel while working at MI5, because he was 'going mad with boredom'. According to Le Carré's biographer Adam Sisman, he would write in small notebooks whenever he had spare time — on the train, during lunch, in the morning before going to work.

The themes of betrayal and competing loyalties — between friends and country, family and ideals — that fuel Le Carré's novels are not confined to the realm of espionage. They define relationships between colleagues and family members, fathers and sons, in works like **A perfect spy** (arguably the most autobiographical of Le Carré's novels) and **Single & single**.

For that matter, the author's spies often emerge as the very embodiment of the frailties of the human condition — given to duplicity, manipulation and hypocrisy, and feelings of isolation and loss. 'What do you think spies are: priests, saints, martyrs?' a character in **The spy who came in from the cold** asks. 'They're a squalid procession of vain fools, traitors, too, yes; pansies, sadists and drunkards, people who play cowboys and Indians to brighten their rotten lives.'

As the Soviet Union started to crumble, Le Carré began placing his characters in new situations — in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Middle East. The threat of communism gave way to international deals in guns and drugs, as greed replaced ideology as a motivating force. But if some of his later novels, such as **Absolute friends** and **The mission song**, feel overly schematic, they cannot diminish the galvanic achievement of Le Carré's great Cold War novels — novels that wed thriller conventions with the social detail of Charles Dickens and Honoré de Balzac, and the moral concerns of Joseph Conrad and Graham Greene. These books not only transcended and remade the spy genre; in retrospect, they will take their place among the emblematic novels of the late 20th century.

*This article was first published on politico.com on 26 December 2020.*



# Dit is 2020 se gewildste Afrikaanse boeke

deur Christiaan Boonzaier

*Die gewildste Afrikaanse boeke volgens verkope is in 'n nuwe verslag deur Nielsen Bookscan SA bekend gemaak. Christiaan Boonzaier het met 'n paar skrywers van verlede jaar se topverkoper-boeke gesels oor die druk wat prestasies oplaai, boeke wat sonder resensies presteer, en die opgang van Afrikaanse kinder- en jeugboeke.*

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**A**s jy gewonder het watter Afrikaanse boeke die meeste in 2020 opgeraap is, het Nielsen Bookscan SA (NBS-SA) vir jou 'n antwoord.

NBS-SA, wat sedert 2003 verkoop-syfers by algemene boekhandelaars en e-handelaars versamel en ontleed, het oudergewoonte weer 'n jaarverslag uitgereik wat die jaar se boekverkope in Suid-Afrika saamvat.

Dié verslag bevat onder meer 'n ranglys van die 100 Afrikaanse boeke wat boekvrate die meeste tussen

30 Desember 2019 en 3 Januarie vanjaar aangeskaf het. Die top-20 word in die grafika hieronder gelys.

Die misdaadskrywer Deon Meyer sê hy was daarvan bewus dat sy jongste spanningsroman, **Donkerdrif**, in die eerste paar weke ná die boek se uitreiking in November 'goed' gedoen het, maar nié dat die boek boaan die ranglys van Afrikaanse topverkopers is nie.

'Dit is uiteraard 'n lekker verrassing wat my diep dankbaar maak vir dié ondersteuning van Afrikaanse lesers en boekverkopers.

''n Mens hou maar altyd asem op, want elke boek is 'n onsekere sprong die onbekende in en jy weet nooit hoe dit ontvang gaan word nie.'

Lesers het 29,813 eksemplare van die boek gekoop, wat nie net vir Meyer die boonste plek op die ranglys van Afrikaanse topverkopers besorg nie, maar ook die boonste plek op 'n bykomende ranglys van die 100 boeke, ongeag taal, wat die meeste in Suid-Afrika verkoop is. Barack Obama, voormalige Amerikaanse president, se jongste memoire, **A promised land**,

is met verkope van 14,166 eksemplare tweede op dié bykomende ranglys.

'Dit is interessant dat ek vir meneer Obama die loef kon afsteek. Sy vrou, Michelle, het enkele jare gelede weer vir my nederig gehou toe **Becoming** my op die ranglyste uitgestof het. Dit is nou Meyers: 1, Obamas: 1,' sê Meyer grappenderwys.

'Ek lees terloops juis nou **A promised land**, en is diep onder die indruk van watter goeie skrywer hy is.'

Meyer sê ranglys-prestasies laat hom 'nie bloos nie, dit laat my net met groot dankbaarheid — en die bewussyn dat dit die druk laat oplaai om met die volgende boek lojale lesers nie teleur te stel nie. Boonop help Nielsen-syfers, soos literêre pryse, 'n mens net mooi niks wanneer jy weer voor die leë bladsy sit nie'.

Die skrywer Sophia Kapp beklee met haar eerste historiese roman, **Kanaän**, die tweede plek op die ranglys van Afrikaanse topverkopers.

Kapp sê dit is vir 'n enkelma wat universiteitsgeld moet betaal altyd goeie nuus as 'n boek goed verkoop,



maar **Kanaän** se gewildheid was vir haar meer spesiaal as net sy finansiële sukses.

‘Dit is ’n storie met baie nou verbin-  
tenisse met my eie familiegeskiedenis  
— nie die karakters en die plot nie, maar  
veral die plek kom uit my eie verlede.

‘My pa se herinneringe aan sy oupa  
se plaas was die sneller vir die boek, en  
ek kon baie sterk leun op sy mymering  
oor die verlede toe ek die boek geskryf  
het. Dit was ’n soort erkenning aan  
my familie en ’n vasskryf van hul syn,  
van hul deel wees van hierdie land en  
hierdie vasteland. My pa is intussen  
oorlede, en ek is dankbaar dat hy die  
geleentheid gehad het om die boek se  
sukses voor sy dood te sien.’

Boekvrata het 3,635 eksemplare  
van die boek opgeraap, ondanks die

stelling dat die boek nie wyd in die  
hoofstroommedia geresenseer is nie.

Jonathan Amid, ’n vryskuttaalprak-  
tisyen en resesent van Stellenbosch,  
het in die Facebook-groep *Lekkerlees-  
boekrak* geskryf **Kanaän** word ‘in  
die media en in terme van resensies  
afgeskeep’.

Kapp sê dit was nie vir haar  
verbasend dat dit die geval was nie.

‘**Kanaän** is ’n liefdesverhaal, en  
liefdesverhale is nog nooit as letter-  
kunde of deel van die kanon beskou  
nie. Dit is aan die verander, maar  
die opvatting is steeds maar eintlik  
dat liefdesverhale minderwaardige  
skryfwerk is. Ek skryf dus eintlik nie met  
die verwagting dat enige van my boeke  
geresenseer gaan word nie, en as dit  
gebeur, is ek altyd ’n bietjie verstom.

‘**Kanaän** is ’n liefdesverhaal,  
en liefdesverhale is nog nooit  
as letterkunde of deel van die  
kanon beskou nie. Dit is aan die  
verander, maar die opvatting  
is steeds maar eintlik dat  
liefdesverhale minderwaardige  
skryfwerk is.’

– Sophia Kapp

‘Maar ek dink ook die ‘plek’ van  
resensies in die boekewêreld is aan  
die verskuif. In die digitale omgewing  
waarin ons leef, het ‘gewone’ lesers ’n  
mening en ’n platform om dit te lug.  
*Lekkerleesboekrak* en *Goodreads*  
doen myns insiens baie meer vir

## Afrikaanse topverkoperboeke in 2020

PLEK	TITEL	SKRYWER	EKSEMPLARE	WAARDE (R)
1	Donkerdrif	Deon Meyer	29 813	R7 355 442
2	Kanaän	Sophia Kapp	3 635	R1 227 269
3	Kook en geniet	S.J.A. de Villiers	3 145	R1 070 111
4	Hans gee Herklaas horings	Rudie van Rensburg	4 761	R959 304
5	Vywervrou: Corali	Chanette Paul	2 729	R887 906
6	Asem	Jan Vermeulen	4 704	R880 964
7	Dit proe soos huis	Herman Lensing	2 889	R849 484
8	Hans steek die Rubicon oor	Rudie van Rensburg	3 959	R844 056
9	Merk	Rudie van Rensburg	2 998	R803 009
10	Suurlemoen!	Jaco Jacobs	4 020	R732 748
11	Ink en ander verhale	Marieta Nel	4 165	R727 859
12	Die brug	Deon Lamprecht	2 880	R661 725
13	Grensgeval	Marita van der Vyver	2 680	R599 778
14	Afspraak met moord	Jana Marx	2 068	R568 463
15	1 Recce	Alexander Strachan	2 017	R553 839
16	Braai- en burgers	Jan Braai	1 836	R547 075
17	Vis en tjips	Jaco Jacobs	3 526	R533 163
18	Die versoeking van Thomas Maas	Chris Karsten	1 937	R530 739
19	Boerekos met ’n twist	Annelien Pienaar	1 782	R500 512
20	Uit die Beek 2021	Barend Vos	2 721	R494 335

Bron: Nielsen BookScan SA

THEUNS KRUGER, Grafika24

boekverkope as resensies in die tradisionele gedrukte pers.

'Dit beteken glad nie dat boekresensies onbelangrik is nie, dit beteken gewoon dat dit 'n ander rol as bemarking vervul — dit plaas myns insiens 'n boek binne die Afrikaanse kanon — en 'n mens hoef jou nie te verkies daarvoor as jou boek nie geresenseer word nie.'

Sy sê **Kanaän** se mylpaal, ondanks 'die gebrek aan formele erkenning', verskaf haar tog 'n 'bietjie (baie) binnepret'.

'Die opvatting is mos dat 'n werk swarmoedig en polemies moet wees

voordat dit in Afrikaans as invloedryke skryfwerk bestempel kan word. Ek dink Deon het daardie opvatting met elke boek van hom al deeglik verkeerd bewys, maar hier is nou 'n liefdesverhaal wat dit ook doen. Ek kry sommer namens al die ander skrywers van liefdesverhale lekker.'

### 'Enige goeie nuus vir die boekbedryf is welkom'

Die skrywer Rudie van Rensburg sê ook hy is 'uiteraard verras' oor goeie verkope. Van Rensburg het nie net vier boeke onder die top-100 nie, maar drie daarvan — **Hans gee Herklaas horings** (vierde), **Hans steek die Rubicon oor** (agste) en **Merk** (negende) — is onder die top-tien. **Vloek** is in die 46ste plek.

'Elke skrywer strew seker daarna (goeie verkope),' sê hy.

'My ingeboude selftwyfel oor my boeke laat my gewoonlik nie vooraf sulke verwagtinge koester nie. Dit is dus elke keer lekker en bevredigend om te hoor 'n boek van my is gewild.'

Van Rensburg sê hy vermoed dit wat hy as joernalis geleer het — om sonder tierlantyntjies of mooiskrywery te skryf — asook 'n weldeurdragte storielyn, maak lesers verknog aan sy boeke. Die akteur Tobie Cronjé se voorlesings

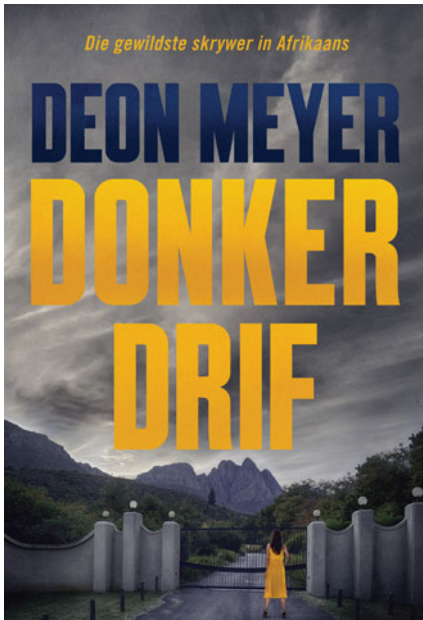
op RSG van sy *Hans*-boeke het ook 'n aandeel in die gewildheid.

'Tobie se skitterende voorlesings van albei my humoristiese boeke op RSG het beslis baie gehelp om die Hans-karakter gewild te maak. Tobie het Hans 'n eiesoortige stem gegee. En dié omie wat op eie terme oud word, vind nie net deur sy daade nie, maar ook deur Tobie se toedoen, aanklank by die luisteraars en uiteindelik lesers.'

Benewens Van Rensburg spog Channing Paul ook met vier boeke onder die 100 Afrikaanse topverkopers — **Vywervrou: Corali** (vyfde), **Vywervrou: Mirre** (24ste), **Droomvanger** (33ste) en **Vywervrou: Lira** (35ste) — terwyl 13 boeke uit die pen van die kinderboekskrywer Jaco Jacobs op die lys boer, die meeste onder al die skrywers.

'Dit is natuurlik wonderlike lekker nuus!' sê Jacobs.

'Laas jaar was, ook vir die boekbedryf, 'n ongelooflik uitdagende jaar, en skrywers, uitgewers en boekhandelaars is almal benoud oor die uitwerking van die pandemie, veral op lang termyn. Gewoonlik besoek ek in 'n jaar talle skole in die land, en dit kon natuurlik die afgelope jaar nie gebeur nie, wat ook 'n invloed op bemarking het. Enige goeie nuus is dus in dié stadium baie welkom.'





Die NBS-SA-verslag toon dat fiksie (vir volwasse lesers) die gewildste genre onder Afrikaanse lesers in 2017, 2018 en 2019 was. Afrikaanse kinder- en jeugboeke het egter in 2020 dié titel by volwasse fiksie weggeraap.

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en jeugboeke het egter in 2020 dié titel by volwasse fiksie weggeraap. Jacobs sê dit is moeilik om te sê wie die onbesonge helde is wat vir dié prestasie verantwoordelik is, maar hy vermoed die staat van inperking het iets met die opgang van Afrikaanse kinder- en jeugboeke te doen.

‘Ek is self ’n pa van twee dogtertjies – agt en ses jaar oud – en met skole wat lank gesluit was en kinders wat tuis moes onderrig kry, was ouers baie bekommerd oor hul kinders se akademiese vordering. So, as daar onbesonge helde in die bedryf is, is ouers waarskynlik onder hulle.

‘Dit is nie maklik om skielik jou kind tuis te moet onderrig nie, en ek haal my hoed af vir elke ouer wat dit tydens die pandemie moet of moes doen. Ouers het dalk in dié tye meer geld en tyd daaraan bestee om kinders te laat lees – altans, dit is wat ek hoop – en dit is fantasties. ’n Liefde vir lees en boeke bly die heel belangrikste instrument wat jy enige kind kan gee as dit kom by sy of haar akademiese vordering.’

*Hierdie artikel verskyn oorspronklik op netwerk24.com op 13 Januarie 2021.*



# Library Week 2021

by Neville Adonis



Alderman Marius Koen, Executive Mayor: Saldanha Bay Municipality, handed over books to staff and children of Paternoster Educare at the launch of South African Library Week, held at the Paternoster Community Hall on 16 March 2020

Every year in March, the Western Cape Library Service (WCLS), along with other role players in the Library and information science (LIS) environment, plays host to Library Week.

The annual celebration of Library Week, which always falls in the third week of March, forms part of a national drive to promote information services and resources as well as reading and the benefits of literacy. The event is made possible by the WCLS in partnership with local authorities and public libraries.

The purpose of Library Week is to market and promote public libraries to library users and potential library users. It also strives to encourage public libraries to highlight the

cultural, educational and recreational aspects offered by the library, which plays a vital role in the information and technological age we live in as much of the work we do has become information based. This year, Library Week will be celebrated nationally from 15–21 March and the theme is: *Libraries matter.*

The promotional material provided to public libraries will enable librarians to organise activities for the communities which they serve. Promotional material include the very popular recyclable plastic library bags, bookmarks and posters. Librarians are encouraged to purposely display the posters in venues other than the library; such as taxi ranks, churches, clinics and schools to specifically attract non-library users.

## Origin and development of Public Library Week through the years

The idea of a National Library Week for South Africa was aired for the first time at the Annual Conference of the South African Library Association, which was held in Kimberley, from 20–23 September 1965. It was only until 1985 when Public Library Day, driven by the Public Libraries Group of the South African Institute for Library and Information Science (SAILIS); and coordinated by Brian Paterson and Michael Barbour, was celebrated on 6 June 1985 for the first time. The objective of this project was to bring the many services offered by the public library to the attention of the community. In 1986 Public Library Day was celebrated on 8 October. In 1987 no official Public Library Day was held, but public libraries presented activities on an ad hoc basis. In 1988 the SAILIS declared that from that year onwards the third week of May would be celebrated as Library Week in libraries throughout South Africa each year.

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) had as its vision a celebration of a truly national Library Week, one that would embrace all types of libraries and all kinds of users and potential users. With this in mind, in 2001 LIASA embarked on a process of consultation with its membership and the following proposal, supported by the WCLS, was accepted: 'that the week within which 20 March falls should be National Library Week. In the event of this day falling within a weekend, the week preceding it should be celebrated as National Library Week.'

Consequently, 20 March is an important date in the history of South African libraries. The South African Public Library in Cape Town, now known as the National Library of South Africa, was the first library to be established in the country. This was done by a government proclamation on 20 March 1818. The South African Public Library started off as a true public library and has played an important role in South African library history ever since.

*Neville Adonis is the Assistant Director: Information, Research, Publication and Promotions of the Western Cape Library Service*

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# Book reviews Boekresensies

compiled by book selectors

## ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

### DE KOCK, Helene

**Die kind uit die wingerd.** - Human & Rousseau, 2019.

'In **Die kind uit die wingerd** staan 'n soeke na identiteit sentraal. Laurens Erasmus het as driejarige kind by die Erasmusse beland, maar niemand weet waar hy vandaan gekom het nie. Al het hy 'n gelukkige lewe by die Erasmusse en selfs al vind hy liefde by die bure se dogter, bly die onsekerheid aan hom knaag oor wie hy eintlik is. Laurens reis uiteindelik na Nederland om na sy regte moeder te soek en ontdek dat hy ook 'n suster het. Maar dit gebeur tydens die Tweede Wêreldoorlog en hy raak uiteindelik by die geheime Britse projek by Blechley Park betrokke, waar vyandelike kommunikasie onderskep en ontsyfer word. Dit is 'n konvensionele liefdesroman. Voor Laurens nie die raaisel van sy eie identiteit kan oplos nie, kan hy nie volkome aan sy liefde vir Carijn oorgee nie. En dan kom die oorlog tussenin en verhinder hulle om by mekaar uit te kom. **Die kind uit die wingerd** is 'n lekkerleesliefdesroman. Helene de Kock is uitmuntend met die vertel van hierdie soort verhale. Sy vervleg ook 'n stukkie boeiende geskiedenis oor die hoogs geheime Britse oorlogsprojek met die verhaal, maar die effek van geheimhouding,

die impak van die verskrikking en geweld van die oorlog word nie regtig ondersoek nie. Dit staan alles op die agtergrond, in diens van die eintlike liefdesverhaal. Baie lesers sal die karakters se innerlike wroeging en worstelings met die weë van die liefde geniet, maar vir ander sal dit tóg so 'n bietjie outyds aandoen,



met plaaswerkers wat naamloos op die agtergrond beweeg, bloedlose beskrywings van Londen in 'n bloedige tyd en maklike oplossings vir al die karakters se probleme.'

(vrouekeur.co.za, Willie Burger)

### GILROY, Sidney

**Klikbek.** - Human & Rousseau, 2019.

'Niemand wil 'n klikbek genoem word nie. Sekere dinge in die lewe moet egter uitgebasuin word, vroeër eerder as later. Sersant Sollie Mthembu by die Parkweg-polisiekantoor in Bloemfontein is ongedurig. Hy wil van 'n vervelige roetine wat administratiewe takies behels, ontsnap en sy eerste saak as volbloed speurder hanteer. Die megaboer Tillman Wagenaar verdwyn. Nie net is Wagenaar 'n vriend van die polisiekommissaris nie, maar die polisie in Bloemfontein benodig dringend 'n suksesstorie. Ná deeglike oorweging gee kapt. Maartin Brummels die dossier aan Sollie. Die dorpie waarheen Sollie hom moet haas, is immers net "'n kolletjie op die kaart" en Brummels vermoed dit is dalk net huismoles wat gou iets van die verlede sal wees. Sollie se ondersoek na die omstandighede waarin 'n vooraanstaande boer verdwyn het, word 'n kitskursus in motief, oorsaak en gevolg onderlê deur jaloesie en wraak as twee moorde die saak verder kompliseer. Die spil waarom



die drama draai, is die spogplaas Onverwacht wat “'n laslapkometers van ander mense se ongeluk en mislukking” is. Ek wil my verstout om te sê dat Bloemfontein en die Vrystaat as literêre ruimte nogal afgeskeep word in ons kontemporêre letterkunde. **Klikbek** is 'n welkome korrektyf. Wanneer Sollie die pad vat na die fiktiewe dorp Rhyneveld toe, ontvou 'n tipiese Vrystaatse landskap voor hom — die pad lê reguit voor hom uitgestrek met 'n wye niks op die horison. So onopgesmuk egter as wat die omgewing blyk te wees, so kompleks is die mense en interpersoonlike verhoudings waarmee hy gekonfronteer word. Met sy getemperde register en woorde wat voel soos 'n vars bries op 'n soel somersdag is **Klikbek** 'n teks wat sy leser van begin tot einde boei. Voeg hierby verrassende kinkels soos die raaisel oor die ontvoering en die moorde verdiep. Met 'n sterk storielyn en knap karakterontwikkeling is dit 'n verhaal, om by PG du Plessis te leen, met *narrative pull*. As karakter word Sollie Mthembu 'n prisma waardeur die leser kan sien hoe konvensies en sosiale kodes wat tot die verlede behoort, springlewendig is daar waar die kollig nie is nie. Sollie se lewensreis van Matatiele in die Oos-Kaap tot by die Parkweg-polisiekantoor is aangrypend. Die letsel aan sy gesig is

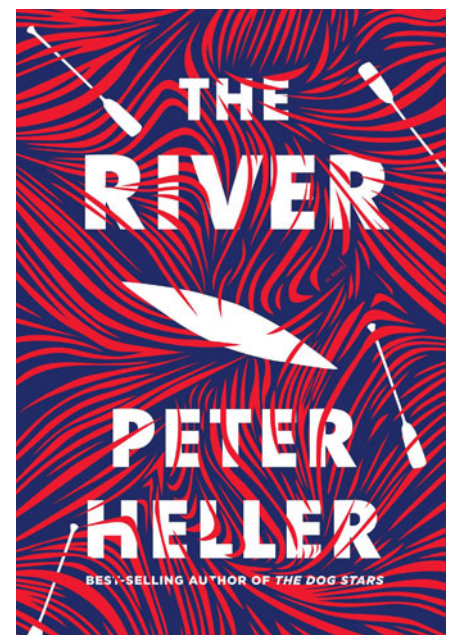
'n fisieke herinnering aan die geestelike pyn wat die verlede aan so baie mense in ons land besorg het. **Klikbek** is 'n onthutsende debuut waarin die psigiese letsels van die karakters pynlik en genadeloos blootgelê word.' (*netwerk24.com*, Francois Bekker)



**GOLDING, Melanie**  
**Little darlings.**- HQ, 2019.  
'The folklore surrounding witches and changelings is very much to the fore in Melanie Golding's first novel, **Little darlings**. Exhausted new mother Lauren Tranter is convinced that somebody is trying to steal her twin babies but nobody, including her obviously bad-egg husband, believes her. Detective Sergeant Jo Harper's intuition tells her that there's more to the situation than meets the eye and then the babies are taken during an outing to a park. This debut is atmospheric and very creepy indeed.' (*theguardian.com*, Laura Wilson)

**HELLER, Peter**  
**The river.**- Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2019.  
'Heller explores human relationships buffeted by outside forces in his suspenseful latest. The central friendship is between two young men, Wynn and Jack, students who have taken a leave of absence from Dartmouth to explore the Canadian

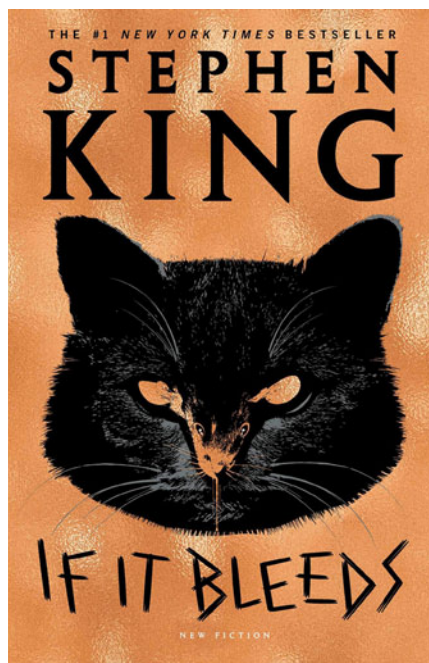
wilderness. Their late summer canoe trip, however, finds them pursued by two dangerous natural foes — a rapidly advancing wildfire and the equally swift approach of freezing temperatures. Their trip is further complicated when the two men's intervention in a domestic drama results in the addition of a deeply traumatised woman... to their traveling party. Short on supplies, racing against disaster toward civilisation, Jack and Wynn's loyalties to one another are repeatedly strained. Jack and Wynn — who are both effortlessly erudite while also seemingly adept at virtually every skill of the outdoorsman — may be too well-rounded to be entirely believable. Their motivations are convincing, however, especially when nature's violence rekindles Jack's memories of his mother's accidental death years earlier... with its evocative descriptions of nature's splendour and brutality, Heller's novel beautifully depicts the powers that can drive humans apart — and those that compel them to return repeatedly to one another.' (*publishersweekly.com*)



**HOROWITZ, Anthony**  
**Magpie murders.**- Orion Books, 2017.  
'Anthony Horowitz has ventriloquised Ian Fleming in **Trigger mortis**. He's taken on Arthur Conan Doyle in **The house of silk**. And very well too.

In **Magpie murders**, Horowitz tries something a little different: he pastiches the cosy country murder stories of Agatha Christie, setting his whodunnit in the sleepy 1950s English village of Saxby-on-Avon, where the widely disliked Mary Blakiston has been found dead at the bottom of the stairs in Pye Hall, the grand house where she worked as a housekeeper. Except he doesn't really do this at all. Blakiston's death is a story within a story, the work of a crime novelist, one Alan Conway, whose vintage tales of murders solved by the wonderfully unlabeled German detective Atticus Pünd regularly top the bestseller lists. Conway's editor, Susan Ryeland, is Horowitz's narrator as she settles down to read her author's latest: "You can't beat a good whodunnit: the twists and turns, the clues and the red herrings and then, finally, the satisfaction of having everything explained to you in a way that makes you kick yourself because you hadn't seen it from the start." Horowitz then gives us 200-odd pages of Conway's novel, stopping it just before Conway's big reveal and jumping back to Susan, who finds herself investigating a murder mystery of her own. "I've been an editor for more than 20 years and this must be the only crime ever committed that an editor was born to solve," she says, pleasingly. It's a lovely conceit, and Horowitz peppers his pages with clues and red

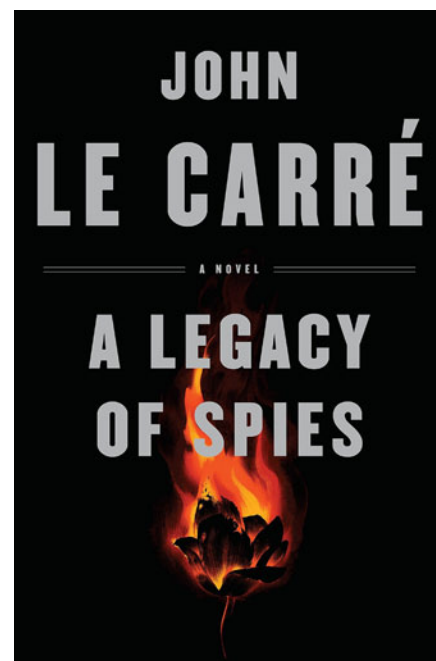
herrings aplenty. He's perhaps a little too good at ventriloquising his Christie rip-off novelist Conway, and the story takes a while to get going as we plough with Conway through the residents of Saxby-on-Avon and their potential guilt. But once it does, this is a fiendishly plotted crime novel, with a fabulous twist.' (*The Observer*, Alison Flood)



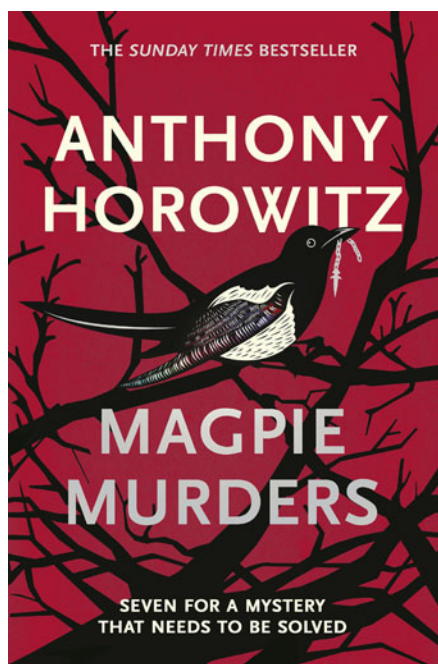
**KING, Stephen**  
**If it bleeds.** - Hodder & Stoughton, 2020.  
 'Stephen King's affinity for the novella form goes back to the early stages of his long, prolific career... King has produced three similar volumes that have allowed him to play with a wide variety of themes, scenes and settings. The latest of these, **If it bleeds**, contains four new, exceptionally compelling novellas that reaffirm his mastery of the form. King, of course, has made good use of virtually every mode of storytelling: short stories, screenplays, novels, multivolume epics... But the mid-length narrative suits his talents particularly well, permitting a degree of expansiveness while maintaining a controlled, disciplined approach to the material at hand. The results are stories that cover a surprising amount of emotional territory but can still be read in a sitting... The centrepiece of this volume is the title story. By far the longest story in the book... [it] is a fully

developed short novel with multiple ties to King's recent fiction. The protagonist — and true hero — is Holly Gibney, the damaged, savant-like young woman who first appeared in 2014's **Mr Mercedes... If it bleeds** is, in fact, a direct sequel to **The outsider**, though it contains enough relevant detail to stand on its own... Holly is that rarest of creations: a wholly admirable person. King's affection for her is evident on every page and adds a measure of emotional weight to the narrative. Holly has now appeared in five of King's novels, and I fully expect to see her again. Her latest appearance adds a welcome grace note to a collection filled with startling, sometimes unsettling pleasures. In **If it bleeds**, King continues to draw from a rich and varied reservoir of stories. At its best, his work remains deeply empathetic and compulsively readable. May the reservoir never run dry.'

(*washingtonpost.com*, Bill Sheehan)

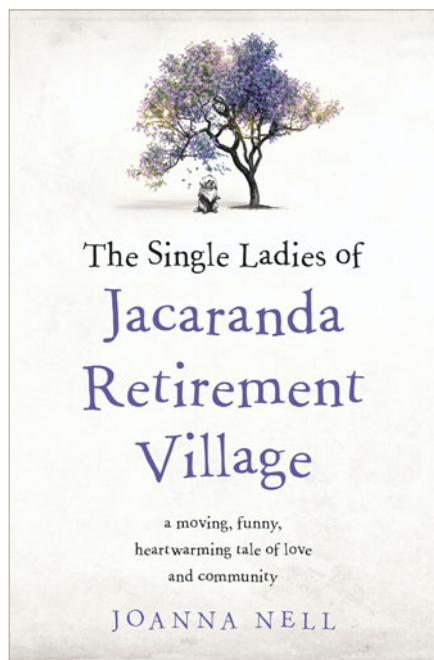


**LE CARRE, John**  
**A legacy of spies.** - Viking, 2017.  
 'Last seen in 1991's **The secret pilgrim**, George Smiley returns in this stunning spy novel from MWA Grand Master Le Carré, though it's Peter Guillam, Smiley's devoted assistant from MI6, who takes centre stage. Guillam, who's retired to Brittany, is summoned to





London to answer questions about allegations of malfeasance in Windfall, an old operation involving a particularly enthusiastic East German source who needed exfiltration to England. The case has reared up because a couple of descendants of Cold War casualties are threatening an expensive and public legal action against the British government. The story of Windfall comes out through interrogations, old files, and Guillam's memories. The result is both a riveting reprise of the Smiley novels and a new articulation of Le Carré's theme: spying is as morally bankrupt as the ideologies it serves. Readers familiar with Le Carré will recognise allusions everywhere; those who aren't won't be left out, given the power of the storytelling and Le Carré's inimitable prose. He can convey a character in a sentence, land an emotional insight in the smallest phrase and demolish an ideology in a paragraph.' (*publishersweekly.com*)



**NELL, Joanna**  
**The single ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village.** - Hodder & Stoughton, 2018.  
 'We've had **The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry**, **The little old lady who broke all the rules** and **The curious charms of Arthur Pepper**. Now it's time to let a new pensioner into your heart:

79-year-old Peggy Smart — widow, resident at the Jacaranda Retirement Village and a long-time admirer of the Residents' Committee treasurer, Brian. When she bumps into an old school friend, Peggy is sent on an unexpected journey of self-discovery that reminds her it's never too late to start anew or inject a little liveliness back into life. The friend in question is glamorous fashionista Angie — Peggy's oldest pal and secret rival who has a knack for making Peggy feel woefully inadequate. The two women might have grown up together but their lives drastically diverged as they became adults; conventional Peggy went down the safe route of secretarial college before settling down and having two children, whilst stylish Angie left Australia and travelled the world, marrying four times and maintaining the svelte figure of a twenty-something... What unfolds is a funny and uplifting tale about age, friendship, love and loss, with a lovely message at its heart and a cast of warm characters along for the ride. Peggy is an utter delight; she's your traditional grandmother type who's unconsciously fallen into the traps and routines of aging, and feels increasingly resentful towards her family for treating her like she's senile. Angie is the complete opposite... The other residents are like the Aussie equivalent of the retirees in the **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** — a quirky and diverse bunch of people who, like Peggy, aren't ready to accept old age. **The single ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village** is a funny and poignant exploration of growing old disgracefully and enjoying your twilight years. It might centre on elderly people and deal with issues typically associated with growing old, but it's the kind of light-hearted and wise book that anyone can enjoy. It's guaranteed to leave you with a big smile on your face.' (*culturefly.co.uk*, Natalie Xenos)

**WHITEHEAD, Colson**  
**The Nickel boys.** - Fleet, 2019.  
 'There were rumours about Nickel Academy, a Florida reform school, but survivors kept their traumas to themselves until a university archaeology student discovered the secret graveyard. Whitehead follows his dynamic, highly awarded, best-selling Civil War saga, **The underground railroad**, with a tautly

focused and gripping portrait of two African American teens during the last vicious years of Jim Crow. There is no way Elwood Curtis would ever have become a Nickel boy if he was white. Raised by his strict grandmother, Elwood, who cherishes his album of recorded Martin Luther King Jr. speeches, is an exemplary student who earns admission to early college classes. But trouble whips up out of thin air, and instead he is sent to Nickel, where the Black boys are barely fed, classes are a travesty, and the threat of sexual abuse and torture is endemic. As Elwood tries to emulate Dr King's



teachings of peace and forgiveness, he is befriended by the more worldly and pragmatic Turner, and together they try to expose the full extent of the brazenly racist, sadistic, sometimes fatal crimes against the Nickel boys. Whitehead's magnetic characters exemplify stoicism and courage, and each supremely crafted scene smoulders and flares with injustice and resistance, building to a staggering revelation. Inspired by an actual school, Whitehead's potentially concentrated drama pinpoints the brutality and insidiousness of Jim Crow racism with compassion and protest. After the resounding triumph of Whitehead's previous novel, readers will avidly await this intense drama, a scorching work that will generate tremendous media coverage.' (booklistonline.com, Donna Seaman)

## ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

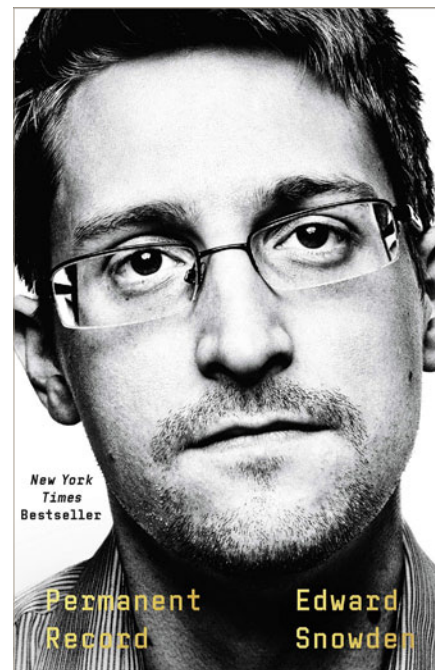
### FERREIRA, Gerhard Ons moet spoeg om te sien hoekom ons nie kan sien nie.

- Naledi, 2019. 'Die 71-jarige Gerhard Ferreira is sedert sy kinderdae blind vanweë retinitis pigmentosa, 'n siekte wat sig degenereer en blindheid veroorsaak. Hy was voorheen 'n rekenaar-programmeerder en is 'n bekende motiveringspreker. Ferreira het al die Comrades-, New York City- en vele ander maratonne voltooi. Kilimanjaro kon hom nie stuit nie en hy het al tot by Mt Amadablam-basiskamp in die Himalajas gestap. Ferreira skryf in sy outobiografie oor die uitdagings van siggestremdheid en vertel aan JB Roux in 'n onderhoud: "Ek dink nie gestremdheid haal noodwendig die beste uit iemand nie. Daar is baie gestremdes wat verkies om net rond te sit. Gestremdes wat wel iets uitdagends aanpak, moet dikwels harder werk en bykomende struikelblokke oorkom. My lewe is so vol en ek is deur wonderlike, positiewe, goedgesinde mense omring — soos my wonderlike vrou, Ina, my kinders en kleinkinders en vriende — sodat ek nie tyd en energie vermors deur te dink aan hoe my lewe sou gewees het as ek nie blind was nie. My kinders sê altyd hulle weet nie hoe dit is om 'n blinde pa te hê nie, want hul lewens voel normaal. As gesin het ons min of meer alles gedoen wat ander mense

doen. Ek het gewerk — ons het met 'n woonwa vakansie gehou; ek het die kinders se sport en kultuuraktiwiteite bygewoon. Ek kon nooit saam met my kinders met 'n bal op die grasperk of strandtennis speel nie, maar Ina kon dit doen." Ferreira sê: "Daar word verreweg nie genoeg gedoen om die lewe vir blindes in Suid-Afrika makliker te maak nie. Toeganklikheid bly 'n groot uitdaging. Inklusiwiteit en diskriminasie is steeds 'n probleem. Ten spyte van al die bewusmakingsveldtogte is mense nog oningelig. Ek ervaar daaglik dat mense my nie aanspreek nie. Dit is ook ontstellend om te sien hoeveel mense blindes hanteer asof hulle ook doof en verstandelik gestremd is. My raad aan kinders en jongmense wat blind is of swak sig het, is: Neem verantwoordelikheid vir jouself, jou optrede en veral jou mislukkings. Moenie ander mense vir jou optrede en mislukkings verantwoordelik hou nie. Stel kort- en langtermyn doelwitte vir jouself. Stel jou eie standaarde en maak regstellings as jy nie aan daardie standaarde voldoen nie, maar moenie jou doelwitte verlaag nie. Fokus op wat jy wil bereik. Moenie toelaat dat mense jou met leë beloftes en vals verwagtinge ontspoor nie. Fokus op wat jy het en wat jy kan doen. Wees eerlik met jouself. Erken jou andersheid, maar moenie jouself jammer kry nie: Daar is baie



mense soos jy." JB Roux sê: "Gerhard se boek is meer as 'n verslag oor die lewe van iemand wat nie kan sien nie — dit is regtig goeie skryfwerk." (Vrouekeur, 31/05/2019)



### SNOWDEN, Edward J

**Permanent record.** - Pan Books, 2020. 'The notorious and celebrated whistleblower — who divulged top-secret documents revealing the mass surveillance of citizens' phone calls, emails, and internet activity by the US National Security Agency and other intelligence organisations — recounts his battle with the system in this impassioned memoir. Snowden, a former systems engineer and NSA contractor and now board president of the Freedom of the Press Foundation from his Moscow exile, presents himself as animated by a combination of idealism and covert nonconformity, someone who subverted the rules as a civic duty from middle school history class to his CIA training program. (As a teenager he hacked classified files at Los Alamos National Laboratory, then pestered lab officials into fixing the security flaw.) Snowden's well-observed portrait of intelligence work reveals spooky Langley night shifts, spies pilfering nude selfies from private online accounts, and his own intricate, suspenseful operation to steal

documents using byzantine encryption and tiny storage cards smuggled past guards. His somewhat paranoid brief against the surveillance state is less convincing... Still, Snowden's many admirers will find his saga both captivating and inspiring.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

## JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

**DAVIDSON, et al**  
**Forgotten fairy tales of brave and brilliant girls.**- Usborne Publishing, 2019. 'Our chapter book of the week is a gorgeous story anthology that reinforces the message that women can be every bit as brave, mighty, heroic and strong as their male counterparts. **Forgotten fairy tales...** comes with a foreword from Kate Pankhurst, author of **Fantastically great women who changed the world** and this sets the tone perfectly for the collected stories you'll find in this fabulous book. Various authors and illustrators pull together an amazing selection of traditional tales that were once very well-known but have been lost to history — overshadowed by stories about brave princes and damsels that need to be rescued rather than rescuing themselves. The sisters are definitely doin' it for themselves in this selection of tales where heroines outwit mighty giants, fight against evil magical



forces, awaken sleeping princes and live happily ever after. It's the perfect gift to give your own mighty girls, a book that they can claim as their own, and that is full of positive and empowering stories that are inspirational and grounded despite their often fantastical settings. Sum this book up in a sentence: Truly something for all mighty girls in here and not a whiff of Disney in sight!' (*readitdaddy.blogspot.com*)

'We've all read those stereotypical fairy tales where the princess is rescued by a knight or some such. There are so many of these stories that we — meaning mostly guys like myself — often lose sight of the fact that girls and women very rarely get to be the ones doing the rescuing. Not so with Usborne's **Forgotten fairy tales...** Collecting eight largely forgotten yet empowering fairy tales from around the world, these beautifully illustrated stories feature smart and adventurous heroines who don't sit idly by while things happen to them — they're the ones who make things happen... This will make a lovely addition to any parent's bedtime story collection and yes, that includes those who only have sons.' (*toolsandtoys.net*, Chris Gonzales)

### DURANT, Alan

**Quill soup/illustrated by Dale Blankenaar.**- David Philip, 2019.

**Quill soup** is available in eleven South African languages. The Western Cape Library Service has bought the English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa editions.

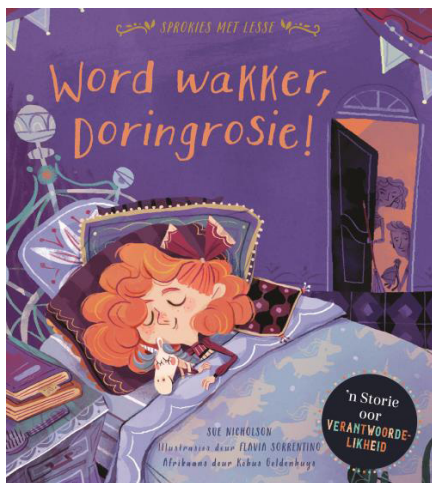
'This retelling of the traditional *Stone soup* tale stars a porcupine named Noko, hungry, tired, and seeking hospitality in a small village; and features animals of South Africa — monkeys, meerkats, aardvarks, and warthogs, who refuse to share their obvious plenty. Noko plucks three of his quills and sets about making soup, "just how His Majesty likes it." The text is engaging and readable, albeit with few of the structural hallmarks of an oral tale. It is South African artist Blankenaar's imagery that pulls readers into the story. Stylised shapes in strong colours spill off every page. The illustrations, with the texture of block prints, are bold and flat. The animal homes, seen in a cutaway side view, are an intriguing jumble of natural and human-made elements (for instance, rabbits live underground in warrens but



use electric light fixtures and ladders). Opening endpapers, in black, white, and shades of grey, set the stage for Noko's hunger and isolation. The book closes with colourful endpapers when "with a full tummy and a happy heart, Noko the traveller went to sleep at last". Birds, snakes, tree branches, and animals' tails twine together, creating an interconnected world in which animals will eventually — even if they have to be tricked — accept a needy stranger into their community.' (*hbook.com*, Maeve Visser Knott)

### NICHOLSON, Sue

**Sneeuwitjie, die sokkerster: 'n storie oor spanwerk; Word wakker, Doringrosie!: 'n storie oor verantwoordelikheid; Aspoestertjie se balletskoene: 'n storie oor omgee; en Jan breek die boontjierank: 'n storie oor eerlikheid/illustrasies deur Flavia Sorrentino; Afrikaans deur Kobus Geldenhuys.**- Human & Rousseau, 2019. Hierdie vier prenteboeke in die *Sprokies met lesse*-reeks, is uit Engels



vertaal deur Kobus Geldenhuys. 'Karakters wat bekend is in feëverhale word ingespan om kinders te leer oor spanwerk, verantwoordelikheid, omgee en eerlikheid. Dit sorg vir 'n heel oorspronklike benadering tot stories, en omdat geliefde karakters in 'n eietydse omgewing geplaas word om 'n boodskap oor te dra, behoort die boeke sukses te behaal. **Sneeuwitjie** is mal oor sokker, maar sy speel selfsugtig en nie as deel van 'n span nie. Gouelokkies, Repelsteeltjie en die goeie feë Esmeralda help haar om beter as spanspeler deel te neem. Op die laaste bladsy word besprekingspunte vir onderwysers en ouers gegee, en selfs hoe om 'n klaskoerant te maak. **Doringrosie** was nogal lui, en toe sy 'n ponie vir haar verjaarsdag vra, is haar ouers nie seker dat sy reg vir hom sal sorg nie. Prins word aanvanklik goed versorg, maar mettertyd skeep Doringrosie

hom af. Prins besluit om weg te loop, maar met Esmeralda se hulp, lok Doringrosie hom terug. Sy onderneem om voortaan 'n verantwoordelike eienaar te wees. Kinders word hier aangemoedig om sade te plant en daarvoor te sorg. **Aspoestertjie** is lief vir dans, maar toe daar 'n dansskool op die dorp oopmaak, het sy nie geld om balletskoene te koop nie. Aangesien sy altyd die ander sprokiesvriende help, skenk Sneeuwitjie vir haar skoene, maar hulle is te groot. Doringrosie se skoene is te klein. Die goeie feë Esmeralda is siek, maar onthou uiteindelik van haar ou balletskoene wat natuurlik vir Aspoestertjie perfek pas. **Jan** is vreeslik lief vir boomklim. Op 'n dag waarsku sy ma hom om nie teen hulle jong boontjieranke op te klim nie, want hulle kan breek en dan is hulle sonder boontjies. Maar Jan luister nie. Hy breek die ranke en vertel eers nie vir sy ma die waarheid nie. Toe hy later tot inkeer

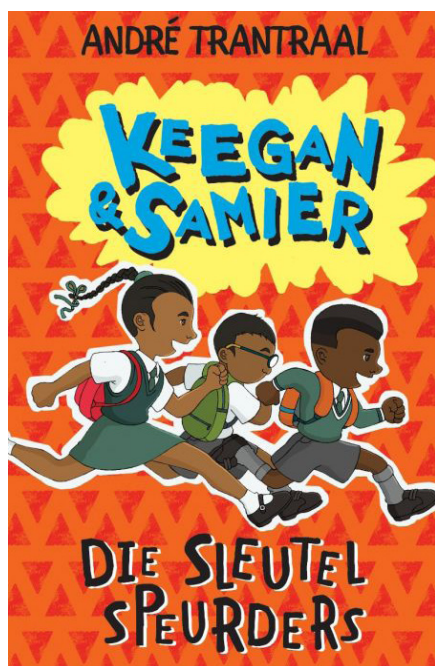


kom, gee die goeie feë Esmeralda vir hom 'n towerboon wat hy plant, sodat hulle lekker boontjebredie kan maak. Kinders word aangeraai om ná besprekingspunte 'n brief te skryf, soos hoe Jan sy ma om verskoning vra oor sy aanvanklike leuen. Ek sien uit daarna om te hoor hoe die boeke ontvang word deur die publiek.' (lonareviews.blogspot.com, Lona Gericke)

**TRANTRAAAL, André Keegan & Samier: Die sleutelspeurders.** - LAPA, 2019.

André Trantraal is 'n skrywer, illustreerder en vertaler. Sy strokiesprent-werk, geskryf in beide Kaaps en Engels, het in *Beeld*, *Die Burger*, *Rapport*, *Cape Argus* en *Cape Times* verskyn en was in Hamburg, Amsterdam en Kaapstad uitgestal. Hy en sy broer, Nathan Trantraal, is pioniers in die bevordering van Kaapse Afrikaans. **Keegan & Samier: Die sleutelspeurders** is die eerste titel in 'n nuwe kramgebnde reeks gemik op beginnerlesers van sewe jaar en ouer, met volkleur-tekeninge deur Trantraal. Die reeks handel oor beste vriende Keegan en Samier wat op die Kaapse vlakte woon. Saam met hulle is Samia (Samier se tweelingsussie), Jenni-Lee (Keegan se klein sussie) en Keegan se slim en streng ouma. Die klasboelie, Brent Petersen, is alomteenwoordig en gereed om hulle lewens te versuur. 'Een Vrydagmiddag ná skool kuier Samier en Samia by Keegan totdat hulle pa klaar gebid het by die moskee. Op pad huis toe tel Jenni-Lee 'n bossie sleutels op. Ouma besluit om hulle te wys hoe vingerafdrukke werk en saam doen hulle 'n bietjie speurwerk. Sal hulle kan uitvind aan wie die sleutels behoort?' LAPA bemark die reeks as eenvoudige, identifiseerbare stories, 'geskryf met 'n lekker pas wat lesers se aandag sal hou. Dit vul 'n belangrike gaping in die mark vir diverse en verteenwoordigende stories vir beginnerlesers'. (litnet.co.za)

In 'n onderhoud met Elna van der Merwe in *Huisgenoot* in 2020, sê Trantraal: 'LAPA het my genader oor 'n reeks vir kinders wat in 'n bruin gemeenskap afspeel. Ek wou hê dat dit nie net generiese stories moet wees en dan is die hoofkarakter toevallig 'n bruin kind nie. Dit moes stories wees wat vir enige leser 'n prentjie skep van die alledaagse lewe in die gemeenskappe wat ons nooit in Suid-Afrikaanse



kinderboeke sien nie. Die illustrasies vul die teks aan. Die kinders gaan speel in die parkie, maar in die illustrasie sien ons dat die glyplank geroes is en graffiti op het. Dit is vir my belangrik dat 'n bruin kind wat die storie lees hom- of haarself in die boek herken, maar net so belangrik dat enige kind die storie kan lees. Deur boeke leer ons mekaar se wêreld ken en dan is ons minder vreemd vir mekaar.'

Die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens het onlangs ook die tweede boek in die *Keegan & Samier*-reeks aangekoop, **Die sokker-fiasko** (LAPA, 2020), terwyl lesers kan uitsien na nog twee titels later, **Die strokiesprent-kompetisie** (LAPA, 2021) en **Die nuwe vriend** (LAPA, 2021). SJ

#### WALLIAMS, David

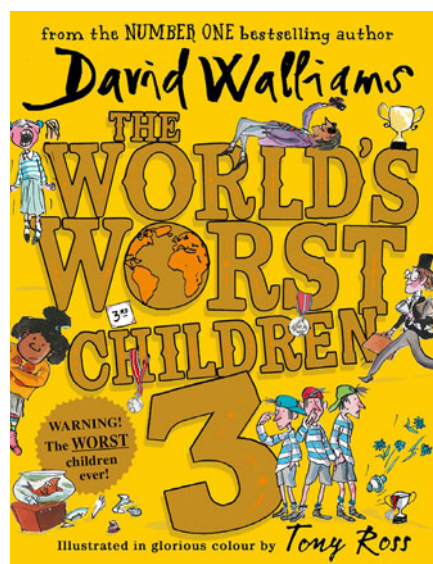
##### **The world's worst children 3/**

illustrated by Tony Ross.- HarperCollins Children's Books, 2018.

'David Walliams has done it yet again, he's managed to find even more disgusting, vile and horrid children, lurking in shadows, hiding under rocks, living in streets like yours and mine. Walliams is like a collector, a Roald Dahl Indiana Jones — venturing far and wide to bring us the most horrid children in the world and this book is the most repugnant of them all — the pages even smell a little icky. **The world's**

**worst children 3** is quite remarkable — the previous two books set the bar very high, I didn't think that there was anywhere else Walliams could take this series — but he has created a collection of fabulous stories about the most detestable children in the world and it's gruesomely wonderful reading, where each story has a moral to it... children, you should really take notice, you certainly don't want to end up like some of these children... or do you?' (*storgykids.com*, Ross Jeffery)

The previous titles in this brilliant series, all published by HarperCollins, are **The world's worst children 2** (2017). Kobus Geldenhuys translated the first two titles for Protea Boekhouse into Afrikaans: **Die aardigste kinders op aarde** (2019) and **Die aardigste kinders op aarde 2**.



#### JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

##### JACOBS, Jaco

**Rondomtalie: rympies en liedjies/** illustrasies deur Karen Ahlschläger en toonsettings deur Anna Davel.

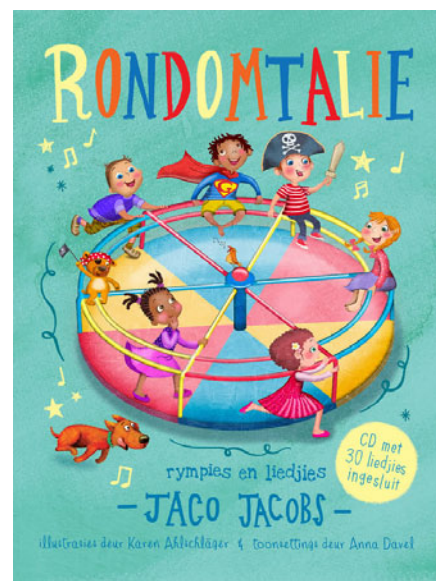
- LAPA, 2018.

Hierdie pragpublikasie bevat altesaam dertig rympies met toonsettings.

'Dis 'n prettige keur uit die gewilde en bekroonde kinderrympie-koning Jaco Jacobs se kleuterversies, pragtig deur die talentvolle kunstenaar Karen Ahlschläger geïllustreer. En om als te kroon bevat die boek ook 'n

kompakskyf waarop die veelbekroonde toonsetter en sangeres Anna Davel haar fantastiese toonsettings van al dertig versies sing. Dit belooft ure se vermaak vir kleuters en is 'n trotse toevoeging tot enige kleuter se boekrak en musiekversameling' (*lapa.co.za*).

Die rympies sluit in: *Kielie-kabouter; Bambino, die reus van Bitterbos; Grootmeneer; 'n Dag by die dieretuin; Voëltjies hou van sing; Spat in die bad; Dinosaurspret; Slaap, Sibongile; Skoppelmaai; Padda op 'n klip; Klop, klop, klop; Tande borsel; Teddie se wiegelied; Tien pikkewyne; Wilde perd; Spring; Winkel toe; Hande klap; Kattermaai; Trapsoetjies; Die teddiebeerbus; Blokkies; My klere het gekrimp; Blou ballon; Wolke; Goggas; As jy mooi vra; Voor die spieël; Daar's 'n beer in my bed; en Kussinggeveg.* Die rympies is gekies uit Jacobs se vorige bundels wat deur LAPA uitgegee is: **Die teddiebeerbus en ander rympies** (2008), **Oempa-kadoempa: rympies vir pret en plezier** (2010) en **Holderstebolder: rympies vir rakkers** (2014). SJ



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

SJ Stanley Jonck

# Coping with Corona and other crises

compiled by Ayanda Majola



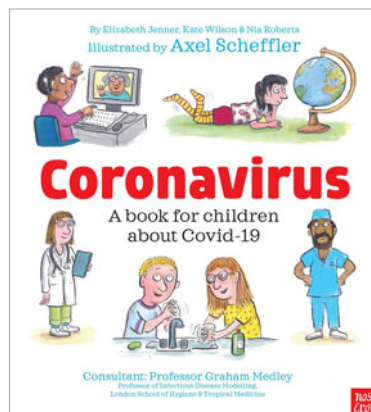
Whether physical, financial, emotional or spiritual — the impact of COVID-19 on all members of society over the past year need hardly be overstated. All around the world people lost loved ones, jobs, their sanity and their hope. With little prospect of improvement in 2021 and no quick fix to the lasting effects of this devastating virus, a wealth of books have been written on the art of self-sufficiency, before and during 2020, and go some way towards taking the reader by the hand and acting as a roadmap for the future journey of self-understanding and ultimately, self-healing.

These cover a myriad of topics such as the need for adaptability, coping with uncertainty, loss and change; self-improvement through improved dietary and meditative practices; and a reimagining of the future by South Africa's most prominent thinkers as well as hints on how to Corona-proof your small business. What follows is a selection of some of these titles.

**JENNER, Elizabeth**  
**Coronavirus: a book for children about Covid-19** illustrated by Axel Scheffler.- Nosy Crow, 2020.

'Kids around the world have a lot of questions right now. Like, why is school closed? And why can't they visit their grandparents? And why is everyone so grumpy all the time? A new book **Coronavirus: a book for children** answers those questions and more in a language kids can understand. And it

does it with the help of illustrations by Axel Scheffler, the artist behind Julia Donaldson's beloved children's book **The Gruffalo**. "Families and children are worried. They're scared and they want some good facts about the virus," Scheffler told *As it happens* host Carol Off. "I don't know what kids hear, but there's so [much] wrong information and rumours and fake news about the virus, I think it's very important to give them something they can rely on."



This children's book is based on advice from experts in the fields of medicine and child psychology. The book is available to download for free from publisher Nosy Crow in 45 different languages... It was written by Nosy Crow staff members Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts with the guidance of experts in the fields of infectious disease and child psychology.' (*cbc.ca*)

**EWINS, Charlotte**  
**Masiyoyise i-Coronavirus noFlip, noFlippie neeTshomi/illustrated by Riaan Retief and Lindsey van Heerden.**

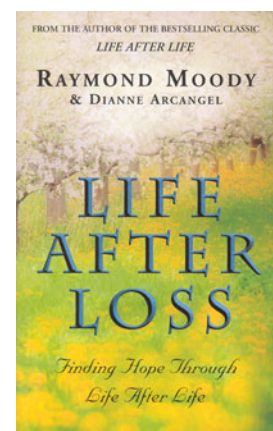
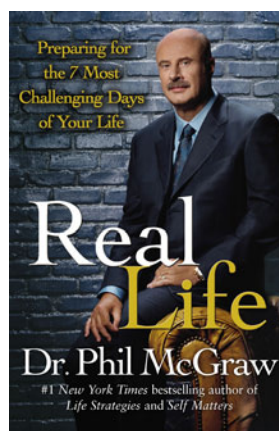
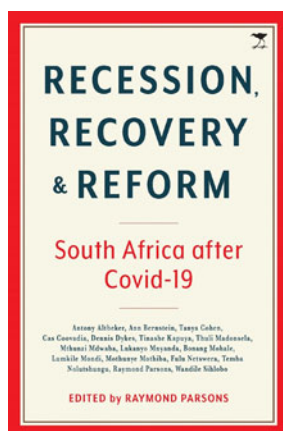
- Copycat communications, 2020.  
 This is an isiXhosa picture book in the *Flip no Flippie*-series. It is an informative book with colourful and engaging illustrations which show Flip, Flippie and friends learning about the coronavirus and ways to protect themselves against the virus.

**PARSONS, Raymond**  
**Recession, recovery and reform: South Africa after Covid-19.**

- Jacana, 2020.  
 'Edited by prominent economist, Raymond Parsons, the book comprises a fascinating collection of essays by some of South Africa's top intellectuals and thought leaders. While covering a wide range of topics, from labour market and land reform to economic empowerment, fiscal policy, productivity and the role of business in policymaking, the book's core message is this: South Africa needs to reimagine a better future by using lessons from the past to craft and implement bold reforms that will pave the way for a more just and resilient society.'  
 (*polity.org.za*)

**MCGRAW, Phil**  
**Real life: preparing for the 7 most challenging days of your life.**

- Simon & Schuster, 2008.  
 'On his television show, McGraw (known to audiences as Dr Phil) can seem either sensitive to those in psychic pain or exploitive of them in his quest for ratings or both simultaneously. However, in his latest self-help book, McGraw puts down the microphone and gets back to the business of helping people. Written in



his signature tough-love style, the book tries to assist the average person in the throes of a severe crisis. He labels seven such crises as challenging days, such as the day you lose a loved one to death or divorce, the day you have an adaptability breakdown and all your coping mechanisms fail, and the day you finally admit an addiction problem. In each case, McGraw tells you what to expect (divorce, for example, may leave you with feelings of shock, rejection, and anxiety) and then offers suggestions on how to manage your feelings and turn things around. Still, McGraw never sugarcoats things. He warns those in the midst of grief that others may find their predicament inconvenient. His overall message is one of self-reliance and self-compassion.' (*booklistonline.com*)

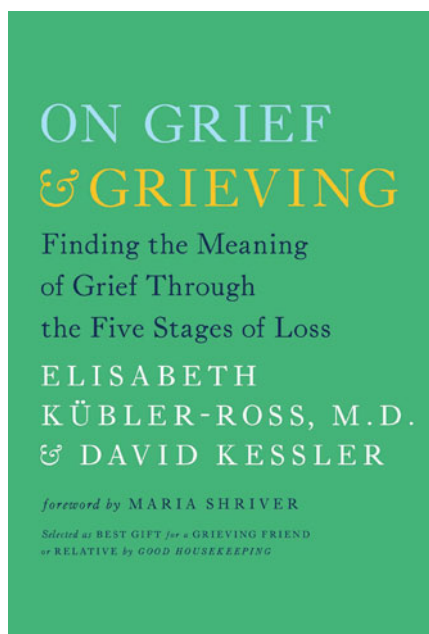
**MOODY, Raymond and ARCANGEL, Dianne**  
**Life after loss: finding hope through life after life.**- Rider Books, 2002.

'Author of the seminal 1975 *Life after life* and renowned expert on near-death experiences, Moody teams up with grief counsellor Arcangel to provide a comprehensive and compassionate manual for the bereaved. Personal stories illustrate the short- and long-term effects of the death of a loved one, an event considered life's most stressful. With a clear and empathetic understanding of grief, Moody and Arcangel move beyond Kübler-Ross's stages of mourning to explore the variations in individual experience as influenced by such specific factors as the bereaved's personality and the circumstances

surrounding the death, as well as more general factors, like cultural pressure. Arguing that "Grief is not an emotion but a process with a host of emotions", and that "each person is the expert for his or her grief alone", the authors emphasise the fallacy of assigning set timetables and linear phases to grieving. Offering plenty of helpful advice — how to cope with stress, how to get sympathy, etc. — Moody and Arcangel gently guide mourners through the four tasks of healthy grief (and here their debt to Kübler-Ross is clear): accepting the reality of the loss, working through the emotional pain, adjusting to the changed environment and moving forward. Going beyond loss can lead to "a spiritual rebirth" through increased appreciation, humility, tolerance, passion, clarity, sensitivity, spirituality and love.'  
 (*publishersweekly.com*)

**KÜBLER-ROSS, Elisabeth and KESSLER, David**  
**On grief and grieving: finding the meaning of grief through the five stages of loss.**- Simon & Schuster, 2005.

'Shortly before her death in 2004, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler, her collaborator, completed the manuscript for this, her final book. *On grief and grieving* is a fitting completion to her work. Thirty-six years and sixteen books ago, Kübler-Ross's ground-breaking *On death and dying* changed the way we talk about the end of life. Now *On grief and grieving* will profoundly influence the way we experience the process of grief. *On death and dying* began as a theoretical book, an interdisciplinary



study of our fear of death and our inevitable acceptance of it. It introduced the world to the now-famous five stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. **On grief and grieving** applies these stages to the process of grieving and weaves together theory, inspiration, and practical advice, all based on Kübler-Ross's and Kessler's professional and personal experiences, and is filled with brief, topic-driven stories. It includes sections on sadness, hauntings, dreams, coping, children, healing, isolation, and even the subject of sex during grief.' (*books.apple.com*)

**PELZER, Dave**

**Moving forward: taking the lead in your life.**- Orion books, 2008.

'... [The author] strives to help readers become successful against the odds, touting a common sense yet compelling message: believe in yourself, let go of the past, take responsibility, and have faith. The mostly three-part chapters elaborate on his philosophy, share anecdotes from his life, and feature a list of questions for readers to ask themselves about the chapter's teachings. Pelzer's writing style is a long way from elegant. Conjuring the military man he was, it is straightforward and commanding, reflecting the years Pelzer has spent analysing his past in

order to clear it away. The strength of this book is his character: his ability to overcome and imbue others with hope.' (*libraryjournal.com*)

**DELPORT, Alette**

**Hope: consolation for the inconsolable.**- MzansiMedia, 2016.

'A guide for those who have to navigate the most unimaginable route to rebuild one's life after losing a loved one especially in a shocking and unexpected way. An inspirational guide book of hope which provides useful information about grieving, practical advices and recovery tips. "**Hope: consolation for the inconsolable** is a guide for those who have to navigate the most unimaginable route: to rebuild one's life after you have lost a loved one, especially, as in the case of these four authors, in a shocking and unexpected way. The book will also give family and friends insight into the trauma of loss and the harsh reality of those who have to navigate through the eye of the storm — there is no detour or short cut — and is therefore of value to a larger circle. The word *hope* threads four women together who have not previously known each other, but who became part of a circle of consolation — a flock of cyber angels. They share the most painful loss that exists: they have lost their loved ones to the cruelest cause of death: suicide, the fatal result of humankind's still most incomprehensible biological disease, depression and its related diseases. In this book these four women attempt to make sense of what happened to their loved ones and their families. Together they write another chapter in

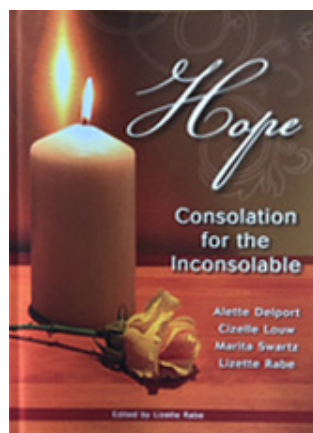
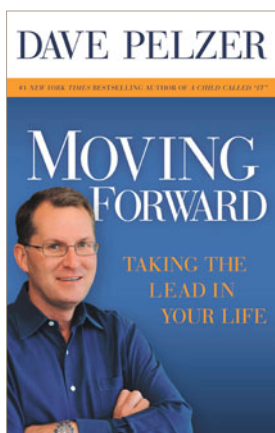
their own life story and reflect on the whys and wherefores of a life journey that nothing could prepare them for. It is a book of consolation for mourners and those who assist mourners in their loss. In addition to the four stories of hope, this book also provides valuable information about the what and how of *practical grieving*. The book consists of three sections. The first contains practical advice on how to survive the first traumatic days and weeks; the second tells the four authors' stories of their survival, and the last section contains tips on *recovery*, the therapy of writing, with practical advice on writing, as well as a reading list, and a list of contact numbers of institutions that can provide support".'

(*Publisher description*)

**MUNROE, Myles**

**Overcoming crisis: the secrets to thriving in challenging times.**- Destiny Image publishers, 2015.

'The current season of global crisis has led to countless personal crises. Economies collapsing. Nations shaking. Natural disasters bringing desolation. Unemployment, foreclosures, threats, and fears loom — and Christians are not exempt. However, Scripture does not simply focus on darkness covering the Earth; it also reveals a people who carry God's glory and solutions into the chaos. You were never meant to just make it through life, surviving. As a citizen of God's Kingdom, you were destined to thrive in the midst of crisis. In this expanded edition of **Overcoming crisis**, Myles Munroe teaches how to overcome any crisis by applying the sure wisdom and the

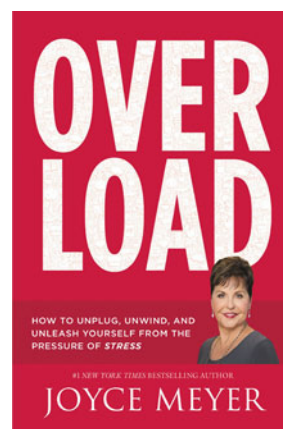
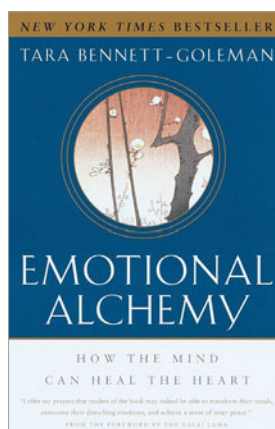




time-tested principles of the Kingdom of God. Powerful topics include; what it takes to overcome a crisis, seven ways to manage a crisis, thriving in times of crisis, discovering life beyond your job, maximising the benefits of crisis and ten ways to rise above crises.' (*norimediagroup.com*)

**HEATH, Chip and HEATH, Dan**  
**Switch: how to change things when change is hard.**- Random House, 2010.  
 'The Heath brothers (co-authors of **Made to stick**) address motivating employees, family members, and ourselves in their analysis of why we too often fear change. Change is not inherently frightening, but our ability to alter our habits can be complicated by the disjunction between our rational and irrational minds: the self that wants to be swimsuit-season ready and the self that acquiesces to another slice of cake anyway. The trick is to find the balance between our powerful drives and our reason. The authors' lessons are backed up by anecdotes that deal with such things as new methods used to reform abusive parents, the revitalisation of a dying South Dakota town, and the rebranding of megastore Target. Through these lively examples, the Heaths speak energetically and encouragingly on how to modify our behaviours and businesses. This clever discussion is an entertaining and educational must-read for executives and for ordinary citizens looking to get out of a rut.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

**BENNETT-GOLEMAN, Tara**  
**Emotional alchemy: how the mind can heal the heart.**- Three Rivers Press, 2001.  
 "'We all desire happiness and do not want suffering". The Dalai Lama introduces Bennett-Goleman's first book with this trademark refrain, adding the deceptively simple Buddhist truth that much suffering is caused by our "disturbing emotions." Bennett-Goleman, a psychotherapist and long-time student of Buddhist meditation, draws on decades of experience to elucidate how the Buddhist practices of non-judgmental awareness or mindfulness and the cultivation of compassion can unclasp the grip of the most addictive and deeply entrenched emotional patterns. What sets Bennett-Goleman's work apart from other

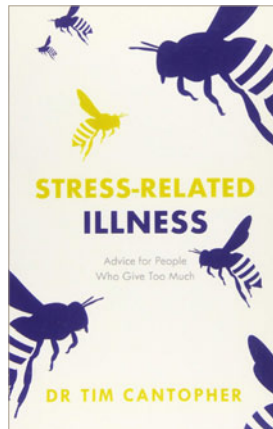
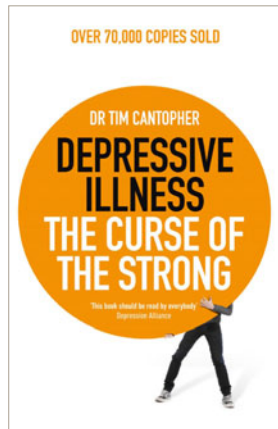
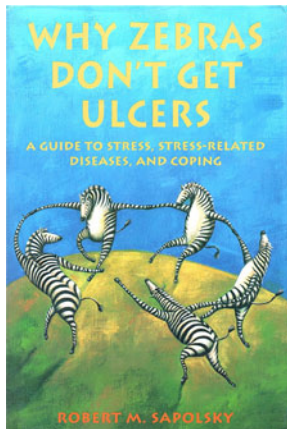


contributions to the emerging field of Buddhist-oriented psychotherapy is her particular expertise in "schema therapy", which applies the consciousness of thought patterns that characterises cognitive therapy to the deep-seated emotional habits that are formed in childhood. Thus she shows readers how our habitual fears and defences get triggered again and again in our relationships, mechanically perpetuating old pain and obscuring reality. The author offers anecdotes from her clinical work and from workshops she conducts with her husband, Daniel Goleman, author of the mega bestseller **Emotional intelligence**. While Bennett-Goleman will undoubtedly benefit from the huge interest in her husband's book and from the burgeoning market for applied Buddhist wisdom in general, her distinct power flows from her sincerity. She is not given to neat formulations, yet her stories have the persuasiveness of experience, of transformation drop by drop. "In Western psychology it is often said that one needs a strong ego," writes Bennett-Goleman. "But in the Buddhist sense what we need is strong confidence." Many readers will trust the path that she forges here.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

**MEYER, Joyce**  
**Overload: how to unplug, unwind, and unleash yourself from the pressure of stress.**- Faith Words, 2017.  
 'Bible teacher, speaker, and bestselling author Meyer uses personal anecdotes, observations, research, and scripture to guide readers through deconstruc-

ting the causes of stress and learning how to release oneself from external and internal stressors. Each chapter includes bullet points and checklists with helpful tips on dealing with various types of stress. Meyer also ends each chapter with an interesting factoid about stress and a summary of major points from the chapter. She approaches dealing with stress in an understanding, empathetic manner, sharing her experiences and encouraging readers to give themselves some grace when life becomes too overwhelming. Written in a calming, sympathetic tone, the book will help readers who feel overburdened, overwhelmed, or overloaded and will undoubtedly resonate with a broad demographic.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

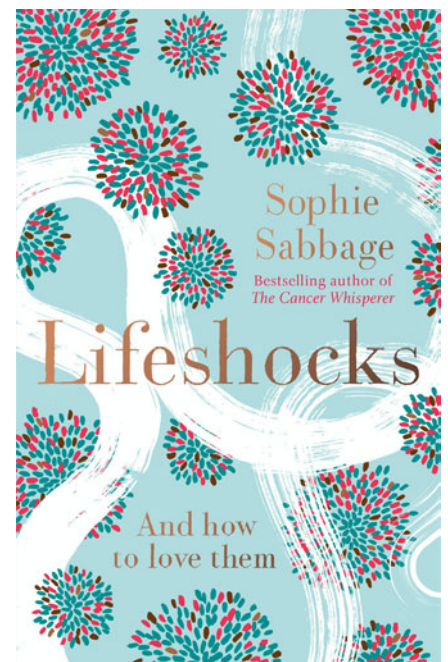
**SUPOLSKY, Robert M**  
**Why zebras don't get ulcers: a guide to stress, stress-related diseases and coping.**- WH Freeman, 1994.  
 'Entertaining explanation of how stress affects the body and what we can do to counteract its effects. Sapolsky (a MacArthur Fellow who divides his time between teaching biological sciences and neuroscience at Stanford and conducting stress research on baboons in Kenya) makes a much-discussed topic seem fresh and new. Using humour, unexpected analogies, and offbeat examples (to illustrate how the brain sends messages to other parts of the body, he slips in a steamy passage from **Lady Chatterley's lover**), Sapolsky covers how the stress response affects the cardiovascular, digestive, reproductive, and immune



to extensive psychological and physical suffering, but there are choices you can make that will reduce your stress and improve your ability to cope. This book offers not just the facts but a message of hope. [It] looks not only at the causes of stress but also at the manifestations and psychological conditions, such as physical illness, anxiety, panic disorder, OCD, phobic states, and depression. It offers information on both acute treatments and longer-term management in avoiding stress and its ill effects. "Stress will always be with us, and we will continue to suffer — unless we choose to change," says Dr Cantopher. "The good news is that this is possible — stress-related illness is avoidable, and if you change, you will attain happiness".' (*Publisher's description*)

**SABBAGE, Sophie**  
**Lifeshocks: and how to love them.**

- Coronet, 2019.  
'This is a book about all the unwanted and unexpected moments in our lives. They surprise us, they blindside us. They shock us. They command our attention. Some bounce off us, other strike deep into our being. These moments are collision points between how we see life and how life actually is. These are lifeshocks. Sophie explains how lifeshocks awaken us.



systems; the body's perception of pain; growth; and the aging process. He concludes with some words on how to cope with psychological stress — the type of stress that humans (unlike zebras) experience most often. He also cautions against the oversimplification of stress-reduction manuals, asserting that many suggested strategies — such as developing a sense of control, finding an outlet for your frustrations, and building a system of social support — can backfire. As a first line of defence against stress-related disease, Sapolsky recommends prevention — learning to recognise the signs of the stress response and to identify the situations that trigger it. His lucid text and not-to-be-overlooked footnotes are filled with delightful twists and turns, personal anecdotes, and nuggets of odd information — for instance, on voodoo death, Peter Pan, and the hunting skills of hyenas. Possessed of a lively intelligence, wide-ranging curiosity, and love of science, Sapolsky writes as though his readers share these traits. First-rate science for the non-scientist that's certain to reduce stress — at least during the time spent reading it.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

**CANTOPHER, Tim**  
**Depressive illness: the curse of the strong.** - Sheldon Press, 2003.

'In contrast many books on depression, this text takes the view that those most susceptible to depression are people with strong personalities. Being naturally conscientious and reliable, they tend to carry on under great stress, where weaker people would simply give up. In the end the burden

becomes too much and they succumb to depression rather like a rubber band which will snap if stretched too far. The work attempts to explain the cause of depression and how it can be treated — by looking after yourself, antidepressant treatments and talking therapies.' (*goodreads.com*)

'Dr Cantopher provides a comprehensive, accessible overview of depressive illness, which affects many people. Guiding the reader through the nature of depression, its history, symptoms, causes, and treatments, as well as myths about it along the way. Warm and supportive, this edition, which also includes the latest on medications, stresses that sufferers should not blame themselves but can take hope from the fact that there is meaning in their illness and that getting better is a real option. Generously supplied with illuminating anecdotes and insights, this book has specific advice about what to do if you are currently unwell, as well as valuable information for caregivers, medical professionals, or anyone interested in this destructive illness, which is set to become the second biggest health burden in the world after heart disease.' (*scribd.com*)

**CANTOPHER, Tim**  
**Stress related illness: advice for people who give too much.** - Sheldon Press, 2007.

'An informative self-help and reassuring book in the darkest times of depression, anxiety and other mental issues. It is full of wise guidance on how to minimise the degree to which stress can affect you. "Stress can lead

She offers her own deeply personal story as well as other case studies as a vehicle for bringing the theory and teachings to life. She focuses on three kinds of lifeshocks we all receive: limiting lifeshocks which challenge our arrogance and appetite for control; exposing lifeshocks which challenge our affectations and pretences; and evoking lifeshocks which challenge our closed-heartedness. This ground-breaking new book reveals how these lifeshocks can bring healing, transformation and peace.' (*lindasbookbag.com*)

**HAIG, Matt**

**Notes on a nervous planet.** - Canongate, 2019.

'He was having a panic attack in the middle of a mall. At 24 years old, Haig had first had an attack the previous month, filled with pain and terror. And now he was crying in the middle of a shopping centre, with his girlfriend, Andrea, trying to talk him through it. Years later, Andrea, now Haig's wife, would try to help him again, this time preventing him from getting caught up in a fight on the internet. And soon he would have another bout with anxiety. But as he disconnected from technology to try to recover, Haig began thinking about writing a book to address how to handle the constant demands of modern life. **Notes on a nervous planet** contains lists, imagined conversations, essays, and personal stories that critique the damage that worry about the environment, politics, the news, and everything else that demands our attention on a daily basis wreaks on our ability to live a full life.

Haig artfully, powerfully counters these challenges with battle-tested advice from his own hard-won experience.' (*booklistonline.com*)

**HOLFORD, Patrick and LAWSON, Susannah**  
**The stress cure: how to resolve stress, build resilience and boost your energy.** - Piatkus, 2015.

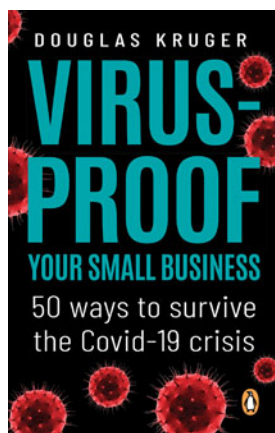
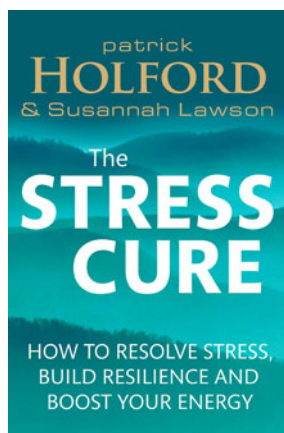
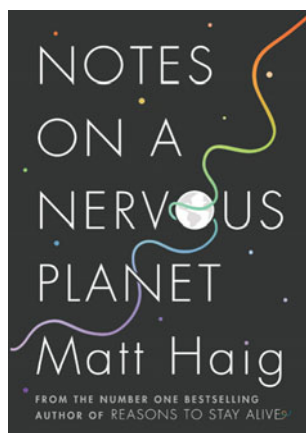
'Holford and Lawson, who previously co-authored **Optimum nutrition made easy**, examine the damaging physiological changes triggered by sustained stress while providing a 30-day plan to reverse them in this ultimately useful but densely written guide. The authors cite the increased instance in today's general population of diabetes, infertility, dementia, and other health issues linked to stress, and they posit that reclaiming optimal health through improved nutrition, sleep patterns, lung capacity, and physical activity can dramatically decrease stress as well as driving up energy and immunity. They provide restorative breathing and relaxation techniques, detox tips, recommendations for nutritional supplements, healthy recipes, and other helpful resources. Indeed, there's a wealth of information here, but much of it has been heard before, and the level of detail will discourage some readers. However, one could skip to the chapter summaries, practice the stress-reducing *HeartMath* system outlined in the book, and jump right into the 30-day *Stress cure* programme (referencing earlier sections when necessary) and still launch a sound attack on this debilitating condition.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

**KRUGER, Douglas**  
**Virus-proof your small business: 50 ways to survive the COVID-19 crisis.**

- Penguin books, 2020.  
 A local title with tips for virus-proofing a small business. Author and professional speaker Douglas Kruger's book collated by a variety of industry professionals, professors, and entrepreneurs, offers some valuable advice on steps small businesses can take to see the other side of the pandemic. 'There are always silver linings. There is always hope. There are always smart ways forward, and we should never lose hope. Growth may be just around the corner, both for you and for the nation. Now let's explore the practical things you can do to keep your own profit-over-cost ratio as healthy as possible, for as long as possible. Here are 50 ways to survive the COVID-19 crisis. The past two decades were among the most prosperous in history, with over a billion people lifted out of extreme poverty. Then 2020 hit, and along with it the coronavirus pandemic. The effect on economies will be extreme. What can small businesses do to survive the COVID-19 crisis? Business coach and author Douglas Kruger provides actionable answers, with a list of 50 practical ways your business can survive — and even thrive — during this time of uncertainty. Business survival entails a simple formula. You must achieve and maintain profits over costs. There are a remarkable number of creative things you can do to stay on the right side of this equation, provided you don't lose your head. Do these things well and you'll be able to keep your staff employed, continue to serve your customers, grow awareness of your brand, and even come out of this difficult period positioned for growth. An absolutely essential read for any small business owner in this challenging time.' Stanley Jonck

**JOHNSON, Spencer**  
**The present: the gift that makes you happy and successful at work and in life.** - Bantam books, 2003.

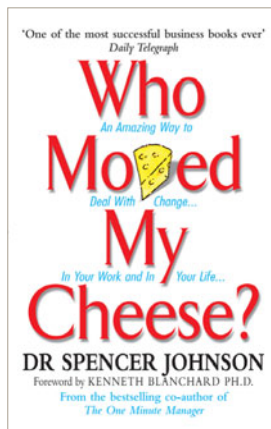
'Johnson's mega-selling **Who moved my cheese?** helped readers cope with changes beyond their control. The author now proffers another easily digestible parable encompassing a related, but broader, topic: how to





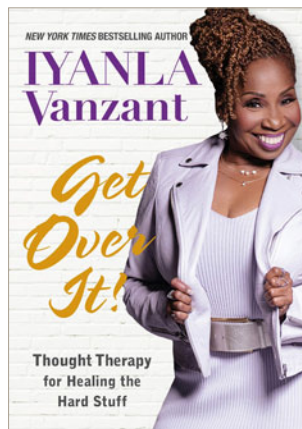
attain happiness and success in life. In large type that's easy on eyes both old and young (and that stretches this brief book past 100 pages), Johnson lays out a bare-bones tale of a man who learns a valuable lesson about living in the present from a wise old gent. Stuck in a rut in his job and personal life, the younger man learns about *The present*, a three-fold way of living and working. Bit by bit, the old man explains how it works: in order to achieve bliss in life, it's important to pay equal attention to the past (learn from mistakes), the present (live in the moment) and the future (plan for it as best as possible, but don't "lose yourself in worry or anxiety"). The common-sense knowledge and concentration on living in the now lend a Zen feel to the story, and while Johnson's approach may border on the corny (everything runs smoothly for his characters, and they share with each other such titbits as, "*The present* is a gift you give to yourself. Only you have the power to discover what it is"), it's undeniably sound. Despite some awkward phrasings, Johnson's latest brims with good ideas for those feeling frustrated, stagnant, depressed or overwhelmed, and is bound to be embraced by the self-help-loving masses.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

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**Who moved my cheese?: an amazing way to deal with change in your work and in your life.** - Vermilion, 1999.  
 'This is a brief tale of two mice and two humans who live in a maze and one day are faced with change: someone moves their cheese. Reactions vary from quick



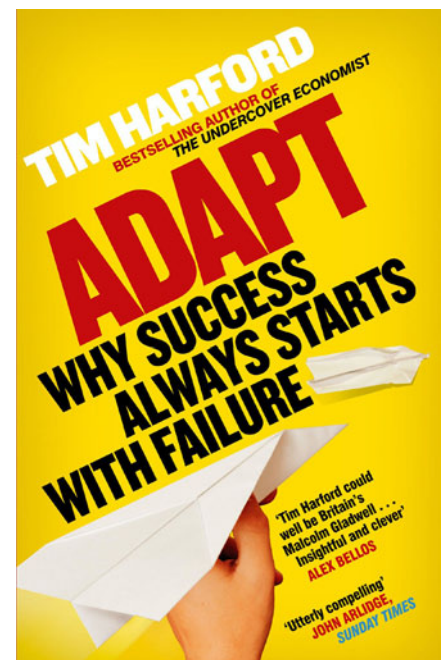
adjustment to waiting for the situation to change by itself to suit their needs. This story is about adjusting attitudes toward change in life, especially at work. Change occurs whether a person is ready or not, but the author affirms that it can be positive. His principles are to anticipate change, let go of the old, and do what you would do if you were not afraid.' (*Library Journal*)

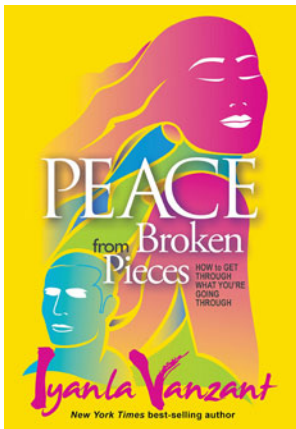
**VANZANT, Iyanla**  
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 'Today many of us face unprecedented fears about the future, struggle with unspeakable life tragedies and sink under the belief that certain lives do not matter in our society. Others confront our epidemic of anxiety with fierce resistance, or "the fight to be right," criticising anyone and everyone just to end up stuck. In the face of such pervasive human suffering, *New York Times* best-selling author and legendary life coach Iyanla Vanzant challenges us: What if it's not them — what if it is you? What if you need to "get over it" — and get over yourself? Because no matter how much we would like to blame people and circumstances beyond our control, the truth is staggeringly simple: anything and everything we experience is a function of what and how we think. In *Get over it!* Iyanla offers a unique spiritual technology called "thought therapy", a process that harnesses proven spiritual tools with the science of neuroplasticity. The 42 prayers and affirmations, and complementary energy-clearing tools at the heart of the thought therapy process are



designed to neutralise and eliminate the unconscious, unproductive, soul-destroying dominant negative thought patterns and discordant emotional energies, allowing you to get to the root cause of your personal suffering, and make life-affirming choices.' (*books.apple.com*)

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 '... A look at the concept of adaptation, both evolutionary and business-oriented. The author examines everything from the lives of colourful guppies to the complex inner workings of oil companies with the desire to understand all aspects of successful innovation. Using a style reminiscent of *Freakonomics*, Harford burrows through examples from within the US military, the financial world and most other key industries looking to pinpoint exactly what does and does not work in business today. More importantly, Harford emphasises the interconnectedness of society. Harford's style manages to be accessible while thoughtfully conveying complex ideas. A truly talented writer with an innovative mind, Harford should get some well-deserved attention for this.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

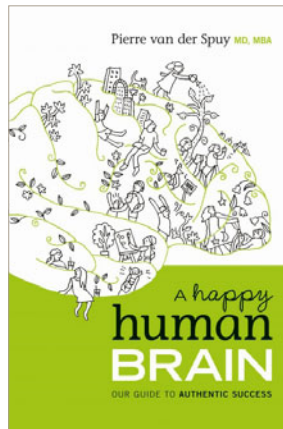




**VANZANT, Iyanla**  
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- Hay House Inc, 2010.  
 'Part metaphorical teaching story, part wrenching personal chronicle, this phoenix-rising-from-the-ashes tale is about men and money, love and work, mothers and daughters, and life and death. Her husband wanted out of their fairy-tale marriage. Her meteoric rise uncovered a debilitating personal lie. Her daughter was diagnosed with colon cancer. The only thing that sustained her was her commitment to know and serve God. Iyanla's journey from being broken, damaged, and desperate offered her newfound knowledge that you can implement whatever your personal situation. Discover why everything you need to learn is reflected in your relationships. Gain a new understanding of the patterns and pathologies that families unconsciously pass down through the generations — until someone finally breaks through. Learn how to put your personal puzzle together and dare to claim the peace that you truly deserve.'  
 (newsfromnowhere.org.uk)

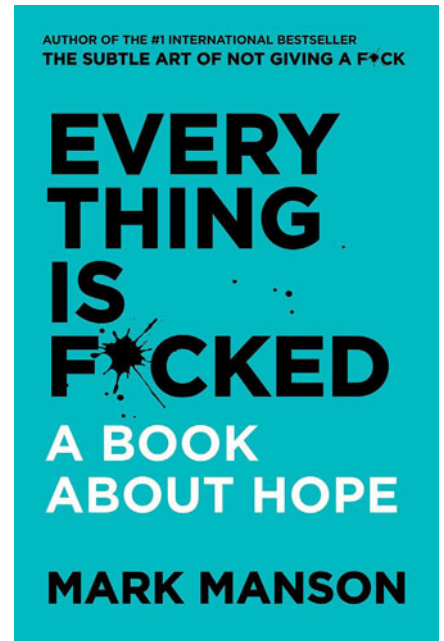
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 'A self-help, motivational book about finding happiness written in an interesting, readable style. The author includes a great deal of anecdotal material from his own life. "People who remain happy whether they enjoy enormous success or face painful disasters, possess, in their brains, a core of stability and optimism.'



This book will shatter many of your convictions on what makes us human, happy and authentically successful. It addresses three main questions: What steps can we take to be happier today? Why does an obsession with material success rob us of our happiness and humanity? How will parenting in early childhood and our culture influence our happiness and humanity?''  
 (Publisher's description)

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 'A local memoir — a Cape Town woman writes about the death of her child and her Christian faith. Her son, Nicholas, died after a car crash on Ou Kaapse Weg in 1999 when he was just 19 years old. Some colour photographs are included. This is a very personal account of her grief and how she copes with the loss, but she hopes this book will help other bereaved families.'  
 Sabrina Gosling

**MANSON, Mark**  
**Everything is f\*cked: a book about hope.**- Harper, 2019.  
 'The popular blogger and author delivers an entertaining and thought-provoking third book about the importance of being hopeful in terrible times... With an appealing combination of gritty humour and straightforward prose, the author floats the idea of drawing strength and hope from a myriad of sources in order to tolerate the "incomprehensibility of your existence". He broadens and



illuminates his concepts through a series of hypothetical scenarios based in contemporary reality... The author establishes this harsh sentiment early on, creating a firm foundation for examining the current crisis of hope, how we got here, and what it means on a larger scale. Manson's referential text probes the heroism of Auschwitz infiltrator Witold Pilecki and the work of Isaac Newton, Nietzsche, Einstein, and Immanuel Kant, as the author explores the mechanics of how hope is created and maintained through self-control and community. Though Manson takes many serpentine intellectual detours, his dark-humoured wit and blunt prose are both informative and engaging. He is at his most convincing in his discussions about the fallibility of religious beliefs, the modern world's numerous shortcomings, deliberations over the "Feeling Brain" versus the "Thinking Brain", and the importance of striking a happy medium between overindulging in and repressing emotions... Clever and accessibly conversational, Manson reminds us to chill out, not sweat the small stuff, and keep hope for a better world alive.'  
 (kirkusreviews.com)

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# The reference interview

by Yvette Herbst

In all forms of reference services, the success of the interaction is measured not only by the information provided, but also by the impact on the patron. The positive or negative behaviour of the reference staff member becomes a significant factor in perceived success or failure. The librarian's courtesy, interest and helpfulness are crucial in providing a successful reference service.

Research skills are just a small part of being an effective librarian. Transferring calls, changing the toner, and fixing the paper jam in the printer are examples of the many practical skills that, although frequently done by librarians, are not necessarily taught in library school.

The reference interview is a conversation between a library staff member and a patron. The goal is to ascertain the patron's information needs and take action to satisfy those needs using available information resources.

The goal of the reference interview is to gain the trust of the patron as well as establish a full understanding of the context and purpose of the question and reach the result where the patron is happy with the response and assured

that the librarian will be able to assist him or her further with help in the research if needed.

The reference interview includes many aspects of interaction between the librarian and the patron. How do we make it clear that we are available to help? How do we find out enough about what the patron needs to know so that we can work on the question? How do we know whether we are helping?

## **What they want is often not what they want**

What a patron says they want is not always what they want. Why? It is hard to know what you 'really want' unless you know the choices. Since the patron might not be entirely informed about the topic, they often do not know what they really want.

## **Lost in translation**

The patron thinks and works in *ordinary* language, while the library is organised by classification and indexing in *technical* language. It is therefore the role of the librarian to *translate* the patron's ordinary language into the library's technical language and organisation of

knowledge. This is the essence of the reference interview. As the interview proceeds the patron's understanding becomes 'clearer', ie, able to express a want in terms that the librarian can understand.

One way to assist in this situation is the *reference interview*.

## **The steps of the reference interview**

### **Approachability**

Everyone who lives and works in your community needs information. Discovering the needs of everyone who comes into the library necessitates some people skills. Patrons must be able to identify that a reference librarian is available to provide assistance and must also feel comfortable in going to that person for help. Sometimes the first question some patrons ask is just to establish if you are approachable and friendly. These questions may range from 'Do you work here?' to 'Where are the books about dogs?' So, your job is to go from that initial contact with the patron to finding out their needs.



Approachability behaviours, such as the initial verbal and non-verbal responses of the librarian will set the tone for the entire communication process. At this stage of the process the behaviour of the staff member should serve to welcome the patron and make them feel comfortable in a situation that may be perceived as intimidating, risky, confusing or overwhelming.

To be approachable the librarian establishes a 'reference presence' whenever a patron looks for it, this includes having Reference Services in a highly visible location and using proper signage to indicate the location and availability of a librarian who can assist.

Be self-confident and ready to engage approaching patrons, be aware of the need to stop all other activities when patrons approach and focus attention on the patron's needs.

Employ a system of question triage to identify what types of questions the patrons have when more than two patrons are waiting. Frequently asked questions (Where can I find the newspapers?), directional questions (Where is the bathroom?) and referrals (Who else writes like Deon Meyer?) can be answered quickly, allowing more

time to devote to in-depth reference questions.

Establish initial eye contact with your patrons, smile and present an attentive and welcoming body language. Acknowledge the patron with a friendly greeting to initiate conversation, by standing up and moving closer.

'Rove' through the shelves helping whenever possible. Librarians should make themselves available to patrons by helping at their point-of-need rather than waiting for the patrons to come to you. To 'rove' successfully a librarian should:

- Be mobile. Get the patron started on the initial steps of the search, then move on to other patrons.
- Address the patrons before addressing the computer screen. Patrons are more likely to confide in librarians and discuss their needs if they do not perceive the librarians to be 'policing' the area.
- Approach patrons and offer assistance with lines such as, 'Are you finding what you are looking for?' 'Can I help you with anything?' or 'How is your search going?'
- Check back on a patron's progress after helping them start the search.

- Check back periodically to see if there are patrons waiting for assistance.

### **Interest**

After the patron has initiated the reference interaction, it is your responsibility as a librarian to show interest in the research topic. This assures the patron that their research or question has value. While not every query will contain stimulating intellectual challenges, the librarian should always be interested in each patron's information need and should be committed to providing the most effective assistance.

Librarians who demonstrate a high level of interest in the inquiries of their patrons will generate a higher level of satisfaction among their patrons.

To demonstrate interest a librarian should:

- Face the patron when speaking and listening.
- Maintain or re-establish eye contact with the patron throughout the transaction.
- Signal an understanding of the patron's needs through verbal or non-verbal confirmation, such as







nodding the head or brief comments or questions.

- Treat all patrons as equally important.
- Focus complete attention on the patron and their information needs
- Get the patron started on initial steps of their search, then move on to other patrons and provide more assistance later if needed.

### Listening

*Listen, do not just hear.*

Strong listening and interviewing skills are necessary for a positive interaction. A good listener gives patrons a chance to tell you what they want. Listening to a patron without interrupting or jumping to conclusions is a necessary skill for successful reference service. Allow the patron to fully state their information needs in their own words before responding. Interrupting a patron's train of thought may cause the patron to become unsure or insecure, ending the interview.

Paraphrase in your own words to demonstrate understanding without adding any thoughts or questions of your own. Ask clarifying questions if you are not sure about the request, such as 'Do you need black and white photos or colour photos?' Clarifying the request can help you make sure you have all the details you need.

As a good communicator a librarian should:

- Communicate in a receptive, cordial and encouraging manner.
- Use a tone of voice appropriate to the nature of the transaction.
- Allow the patron to fully state their information needs in their own words before responding.
- Rephrase the question or request and ask for confirmation to ensure that it is understood.
- Seek to clarify confusing terminology and avoid excessive jargon.
- Maintain objectivity. Do not interject judgments about the subject matter or the nature of the question.

### Interviewing

Once a dialogue has started, the librarian should interact with the patron and clarify the question posed by the patron. First repeat the question to ensure that the question posed by the patron is the same as understood

by the librarian. Then the reason for which information is sought and what the patron has already done about it. Depending upon the patron's response, the search strategy can be worked out. It is often observed that the first question by the patron does not describe what the patron really wants.

The format of the librarian's questions can be classified as closed, open, or neutral.

*Open-ended questions* are an effective way to give your patrons the freedom to express their information needs in their own words. Open-ended questions cannot be answered with just a yes or no. They are useful, particularly at the beginning, to determine the patron's topic, scope, and the context of the question.

Examples of open-ended questions:

- 'Can you tell me more about what you are looking for?'
- 'What kind of information on France are you looking for?'
- 'Can you describe the kind of information you would like to find?'

*Close-ended questions* are those that start with 'Can', 'Did', 'Will' or 'Have'. They are usually simpler than their open-ended counterparts, allowing respondents to answer quickly.

Examples of close-ended questions:

- 'Do you want examples of actual paintings or a biography?'
- 'Do you need a travel guide?'
- 'Is this what you were looking for?'

*Neutral questions* are a strategy for asking questions during interviews where the librarian needs to find out what the patron really wants.

The term 'neutral questioning' was first used by Dervin in 1981 to describe specific communication techniques taught at workshops for practicing librarians. The essence of the strategy is that it enables the librarian to understand the query from the patron's point of view.

Neutral questions are a subgroup of open questions. Open in form, they guide the conversation along dimensions that are relevant to all information-seeking situations. A neutral questioning strategy directs the librarian to learn the nature of the underlying situation from the patron; the gaps faced, and the expected uses.

In all cases, neutral questions are open in form and structured in content terms that invite the patron to talk about specific elements: *situation*, *gaps* and *uses*.

To assess the *situation*, the librarian would ask questions like:

- 'Tell me how this problem arose?'
- 'What are you trying to do in this situation?'
- 'What happened that got you stopped?'

To assess the *gaps*, the librarian would ask:

- 'What would you like to know about X?'
- 'What seems to be missing in your understanding of X?'
- 'What are you trying to understand?'

To assess the *uses*, the librarian would ask:

- 'How are you planning to use this information?'
- 'If you could have exactly the help you wanted, what would it be?'
- 'How will this help you?'

### Searching and answering

The search process is the part of the transaction in which behaviour and accuracy meet. Without an effective search, not only is the desired information unlikely to be found, but patrons may become discouraged as well.

Before you begin searching for sources, ask what the patron has already tried and encourage patrons to contribute ideas. A competent and complete search strategy involves the selection of search terms that are most related to the information desired.

Verify spelling and other possible factual errors in the original enquiry. Identify the sources that have the highest probability of containing the relevant information related to the patron's query.

If possible, conduct a search with the patron watching (the computer screen turned toward the patron). Use the performed search to give guidance as to the use of the databases or other index tools, how one uses controlled vocabulary and how one can consult and browse different material types (journals, books, internet resources, and so on).

When searching, explain the search strategy to the patron, offer pointers, detailed search paths and names of resources to find the answer(s); this way a patron can answer similar questions on their own when appropriate. Work with the patron to narrow or broaden the topic when too little or too much information is identified.

Offer the patron multiple strategies. Recognise when to make a referral. Making a referral does not mean you have failed the patron. In fact, it means you are providing more resources to the patron and fostering a relationship

between them and a subject specialist.

Always give the patron a clear answer, even if you are referring them to someone or somewhere else. Speak clearly and distinctly.

Always cite the source. Check with the patron to be sure the information offered matches the information needed and the information is understood.

Lastly, check with the patron to be sure that the method of access can be followed.

Ask the patron if you have fully answered their question and ask if additional information is needed. Offer to accompany the patron in the search for more items. Attempt to conduct the search within the patrons' allotted time frame.

### Follow-up

The reference transaction does not end when the librarian leaves the patron. The librarian is responsible for determining if the patron is satisfied with the search results and is responsible for referring the patron to other sources. If the sources are not available in the library the librarian is responsible to provide the patron with an Inter Library Loan (ILL) option.

For a successful follow-up, the librarian should:

- Ask the patron if all their questions were completely answered.
- Encourage the patron to return if they have further questions by asking 'If you do not find what you are looking for, please come back and we will try something else'.
- 'Roving' is an excellent technique for a follow-up.
- Consult other librarians or experts in the field when additional information on the subject is needed.
- Make patrons aware of other reference services such as ILL for example.
- Make an arrangement with the patron, if necessary, to research the question further even after the initial reference transaction has been completed.
- Make sure the patron is satisfied with the answer.
- Take care not to end the reference interview too soon. Seek closure when the patron is ready.

### Six pieces of evidence

At the conclusion of a good reference



interview, you should have six pieces of evidence. You can use paraphrasing, open-ended questions, clarifying and verifying to prompt patrons to volunteer this information.

You might need to ask for some information directly (such as a deadline), but most information will come naturally during a good reference interview.

**Purpose:** Why is the information needed? What does the patron plan to do with it? To find out the purpose, it is alright to make assumptions and verify them. For instance, if the patron is of school-going age; ask 'Is this for a school project?' Even if you guess wrong, the patron will likely inform you of the purpose.

**Deadline:** Is there a date after which the information will no longer be useful to them? Ask 'What is the last day we can provide this information and still meet your needs?' If the patron has a deadline, you need to know what it is to make a realistic commitment to provide the information. Examples would be finding/selecting a title for a book club or teachers gathering resources for a lesson plan. This piece of evidence, while relevant, may not come into play unless the information/items are unavailable at the time of the reference interview.

**Type and amount:** How much information is needed? In what format will it be used? Some material may be best understood as picture, chart, or video, or even in a different language. The amount of information is entirely dependent on the patron's needs. For example, a patron who asks for information on butterflies and wants a picture (for which a Google image or a book with butterfly pictures might be the best option). Finding out the type and amount of information a patron needs can be done by asking questions such as 'What kind of information about WWII are you looking for' or 'We have a lot of resources on gardening. Is there something more specific you're looking for?' Some patrons can be averse to information found online, or have some other preference when it comes to the format their information comes in.

**Who:** Who is the patron and how much information on the topic do they already have? Is the patron an expert or a beginner? What information does the patron already have? A person

asking for information about a disease might be a doctor, nurse, student, or patient. Each of these individuals will have different information needs.

**Where:** Where did the patron hear about this? What is the source? What prompted the question? If all else fails, you usually can contact the original source to find more information on a specific topic. This is especially true for new book requests and for requests generated by television or radio shows.

**The basic question:** What does the patron really want to know? This is, of course, the heart of the reference interview. It can be the initial question the patron brings to the desk, or it can be what you discern through the discovery of the six pieces of evidence. If you do not understand, ask!

Use your reference interviewing skills to get to the basic question.

#### Skills to practice:

- Friendly manner
- Objectivity
- Poise
- Active listening
- Empathy
- Calm tone of voice
- Plain speaking
- Directing the conversation
- Concentration
- Eye contact

#### Qualities to cultivate\*:

- Sense of humour
- Dedication and commitment
- Genuine liking of people
- Good memory
- Imagination and creativity
- Patience and persistence
- Energy and stamina
- Ability to shift gears
- Curiosity

The reference desk of a library is truly one of the most interesting of places. From completing homework to applications for college or university, to supporting jobseekers and those looking to better understand nutrition or a disease — libraries help people find the information that they need to live informed and productive lives.

And some days, it is just really entertaining! Here are some members of *Web Junction* that shared their most interesting patron questions: <https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/interesting-patron-questions.html>.

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*Yvette Herbst is the assistant director of the Cape Winelands and Overberg regions at the Western Cape Library Service*



# Five tips to get reading again if you've struggled during the pandemic

by Alexandra Paddock and Kirsten Shepherd-Barr

Like many people, you may have resolved this New Year to read more in 2021 and spend less time on your screens. And now you may be wondering how to find the time to do it, especially in lockdown conditions, with different time constraints and anxieties pressing on us.

One solution is to go with shorter bursts of reading. Our Summer 2020 pop-up project, Ten-Minute Book Club, was a selection of ten excerpts from free literary texts, drawn from a wide range of writing in English globally.

Based on our larger project, LitHits, each week the book club presented a 10-minute excerpt framed by an introduction from an expert in the

field and suggestions for free further reading.

We found that the top two things people responded to were the core idea of brevity — one of the most common terms in tweets about the project was 'short' — and the quality and diversity of the literature. Our analytics showed that readers dipped in and out of the project over the 10-week span rather than regularly following along. One possible reason for this is that finding regular time for reading literature is not easy, especially right now.

Perhaps surprisingly, then, this article contains no advice about time management or habit-building. Instead, our five tips for reading are about

fragments: literature interrupted.

This is nothing new. It is sometimes easy to forget that the 19th-century novel developed by the likes of Charles Dickens, Wilkie Collins, George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell, which appear so dauntingly thick in book form, were first read in magazine instalments featuring a chapter or two at a time. Brevity was a significant part of their original appeal.

## 1. Don't start from zero

Begin positively by noticing how much you are already reading in your life without even thinking about it. Even if you have not opened a book in over a



GoodStudio/Shutterstock

year, remember that we are in an age of hyper-literacy and our days are saturated with words. You can harness this.

You probably flex your reading muscles all day long without giving yourself credit for it. Recognising that is a step towards choosing different content, if that's what you want, or simply considering how you engage with the texts you already read (even if they're often 280 characters or fewer).

## 2. Quality, not quantity

Prioritise the quality of the attention you are paying to words. Reading well is the practice of noticing carefully and with an informed perspective — it's not so much what you read as how you do it.

Throw away your inner 'reading activity tracker' and enjoy curious and provocative engagements with whatever you're reading, without worrying about racking up the literary miles. This will also dispel that sense of guilt about not reading 'enough' that can make reading seem like yet another chore, akin to 'not getting enough exercise'.

In his introduction to *Sudden Fiction International* (1989), an anthology of very short stories or 'flash fiction', American novelist Charles Baxter made the point that the duration of our attention is not as important as its quality: 'No-one ever said that sonnets

or haikus were evidence of short attention spans.'

## 3. Lose track of time

As well as not keeping a count of books read, try to note how different the time spent reading feels. Many people assume that reading takes time, the very thing most of us lack. Yet there is another, more subtle temporal element to reading that has more to do with the cognitive experience of the text itself.

Centuries can flash by in seconds and moments can roll out over aeons. Jia Tolentino captures this brilliantly in her characterisation of reading the work of Margaret Atwood: 'nothing was really happening, but I was riveted, and fearful, as if someone were showing me footage of a car crash one frame at a time'.

## 4. Be opportunistic

You can find pleasure in a few snatched moments of reading, and these are just as worthwhile for the immersive experience they bring through the encounter with language, images, and ideas. There is no ideal environment or place to read — just do it wherever you can and whenever you have some spare moments.

## 5. Connect and take control

Choose what you read and find ways to try texts out for yourself to help your search, rather than relying on recommendation sites. Such sites are usually not as objective as they claim. For instance Goodreads, the social site where people can compile books they've read or would like to read, as well as find recommendations, is owned by book-selling behemoth Amazon.

Recognise, too, the difference between buying a book and reading more. In her 2019 book, *What We Talk about When We Talk about Books*, Leah Price emphasises that every reader finds the text through their own journey, in the conversations, forums and different devices that could have brought them to it.

Rita Felski too, in *Uses of Literature*, talks about the ways that texts need to connect with us, and 'make friends' — surviving history necessarily because they make connections with people again and again.

So, will you be reading more in 2021? Reader, you already are.

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# Book review index 2020

## Boekresensie-indeks 2020

compiled by Braam Peens

This index includes book reviews. Entries are alphabetical under the main catalogue entry, in most cases that of the author; giving the page number, month of issue and year.

Hierdie indeks bevat boekresensies. Inskrywings verskyn alfabeties onder die hoofkatalogusinskrywing; meestal onder outeur, met die bladsynommers, maand van uitgawe en jaar daarby.

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compiled by Braam Peens

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Articles are indexed under author and subject as well as under the column in which they appeared. The entries are alphabetically arranged. Subject entries are given in English only. Articles on authors, artists, composers, et cetera, are indexed under the heading relating to the person and followed by their name, for example:

**Authors: Elizabeth Eybers.**

**D**ie indeks tot die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** word slegs in Engels saamgestel, aangesien 'n tweetalige indeks die werk verbonde daaraan en die lengte daarvan verdubbel. Artikels word volgens outeur en onderwerp geïndekseer, asook die rubriek waaronder dit verskyn het. Die inskrywings word alfabeties gerangskik. Onderwerpinskrywings word slegs in Engels aangedui. Artikels oor skrywers, kunstenaars, komponiste, ensovoorts, word onder die opskrif wat betrekking op die persoon het, byvoorbeeld, **Authors: Elizabeth Eybers**, ingeskryf.

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| parting shot



Barbara Steele: Senior Librarian, Cape Town, 1963

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