

●●● **VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR**
ADULT NON-FICTION

GENGEMBRE, Gerard

Napoleon: history and myth.- Hachette, 2003.

An impressive new biography on the life and times of Napoleon Bonaparte, illustrated with artworks inspired by artists of the time, makes this a very visual and appealing work. One of its special features is rarely-seen works of art belonging to private collections.

An added bonus is the author's examination of how the Napoleon myth has been covered on screen from the first major Pathe production of 1903 to the series of four films produced by Yves Simoneau in 2002.

The author is a professor at the University of Caen and has written widely on the historical ideology of 19th century France.

EB

GLYN, Patricia

Off peak.- Tenacity, 2004

Well-known South African journalist and television personality, Patricia Glyn, accompanied Alex Harris's Everest expedition in 2003. This book is an edited version of her daily Internet diary giving her take on the expedition. She reports on their arrival in Nepal, the trek to Base Camp and minutiae of base camp life, the climbers' ascent preparation, the drama of the attempted ascent by the team, their turnaround and finally the successful ascent by Sean Wisedale. Illustrated with a few humorous sketches. Written in chatty, humorous style her observations make entertaining reading.

DH

JACKSON, Joe

A furnace afloat: the wreck of the Hornet and the 4,300-mile voyage of its survivors.- Weidenfeld, 2003.

A superb retelling of the ordeals and hardships suffered by the survivors of the clipper ship Hornet which was consumed by fire and sank in the middle of the South Pacific on 3 May 1866. Based on primary sources as well as the journals left by the captain and two survivors, the author also includes interviews with the survivors conducted by a young reporter named Mark Twain.

Thirty-one survivors embarked on three tiny life-boats on a gruelling 4 300-mile voyage to the Hawaiian Islands, lasting six weeks. En route they had to endure excessive heat, violent storms, starvation, the threat of cannibalism and possible mutiny.

Excellent narrative, offering a tragic but triumphant tale about man's limitations and the power of human endurance.

EB

PASELLA KOOK I.- Umtanezulu, 2003.

Beslis 'n meevalertjie vir alle Pasella aanhangers - dit is nou die nuwe kookboek, **Pasella kook I**, wat 'n versameling resepte wat op die bekende SABC 2 televisieprogram verskyn het, bevat. Net soos in die program, is die boek ook in temas ingedeel: romanse, familie, seisoene, Kersfees en allerlei soet en sout. Resepte wissel van varknek met soetsuur-sous, volstruisbobotie, waterblommetjiebredie en heerlikhede soos dekadente sjokoladefudgekoek, ricotta casatta, rum en sjokoladegâteau en 'n fees van koekies. Verder is dit propvol met interessantheite oor bestanddele, lekkerleesbrokkies en pasella wenke. En die lekkerste van alles is dit hou nie nou al op nie, want Pasella kook 2 verskyn binnekort op die rakke!

EMW

PATERSON-JONES, Colin

Kirstenbosch: a visitor's guide to South Africa's famous botanical garden.- Struik, 2004.

This slim, introductory title on Kirstenbosch touches on the historical aspect, Cape flora, the garden, Cycads and the Dell, the Erica and Protea gardens, the Rockery, the Restio garden, the conservatory, the Camphor tree avenue, the lawn, pond and forest areas. Also briefly covered are the seasonal flowerings, the mountain and its geology and bird-life in the garden. Attractively illustrated with colour photographs, a map of the garden and three walks - the Stinkwood, Yellowwood and Silvertree - is included. As there is little available on the subject, this new title, even though slight, is very welcome.

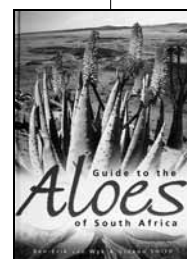
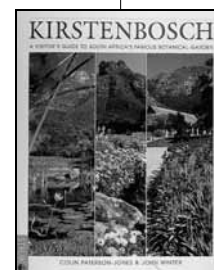
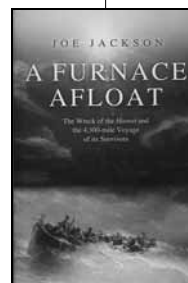
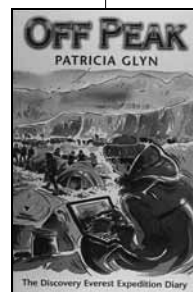
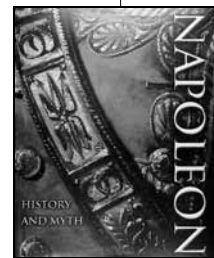
DH

VAN WYK, Ben-Erik and SMITH, Gideon

Guide to the aloes of South Africa.- Briza, 2003

This second edition of a title first published in 1996 has been revised to some extent. The text layout has been improved with the introduction of paragraph headings. The ten aloe groups are now arranged in colour-coded sections. Full scientific and author citations and more widely known alternative names for species have been included. Imperial measurements have been added in brackets and a new chapter on the use of aloes in gardening and landscaping has been included. It has a very attractive new cover photograph.

DH





●●● **VOLWASSE VERHALENDE
LEKTUUR**
ADULT FICTION

ADICHIE, Chimamanda Ngozi

Purple hibiscus.- Jonathan Ball, 2004.

First novel from a Nigerian writer whose short stories have been selected for Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and BBC awards. Set in Nigeria, with a coup d'état taking place in the background. The story is told by Kambili and concerns her family, her brother Jaja, their mother and repressive father. The wealthy family live in a compound and their controlling father is a fanatical devotee of Catholicism. Any departure from the schedules he draws up for each family member results in severe physical punishment. When the children spend a holiday with their father's sister, a lecturer at the University of Nigeria, they become aware of a happier, healthier lifestyle. This somewhat harrowing novel, which has an unexpected ending, is a memorable read.

DH

DRYANSKY, Joanne and Gerry

Fatima's good fortune.- Hutchinson, 2004.

Debut from an expatriate husband and wife team based in Paris. When her sister, maid to the Countess Poulais du Roc, is killed in an accident, Fatima leaves Tunisia to take her place. Fatima's daily routine includes the countess's daily espresso order, walking her beloved dog, Emma and buying the groceries. Unable to read, Fatima bumbles many of the tasks and is on the verge of being sacked by her employer, but when she saves Emma's life things get onto a better footing. Taught to read by Hadley, the American would-be poet, and helped by new friends Victorine, a Senegalese housemaid and her cousin, Samuel, Fatima copes with her situation. The tongue-in-cheek writing makes this a very amusing read.

DH

FLETCHER, JH

The Cloud Forest.- Weidenfeld, 2003.

A childhood magical moment experienced in a remote temperate rainforest on the summit of Mount Gang Gang in tropical North Queensland, Australia by a ten-year-old boy called Colin, is carried down as a treasured memory through three generations.

The story opens in 1892 when a young couple, recently bereaved of their baby boy, adopt a two-year-old boy found lost in a forest. They are members of a wandering circus group, and it is during his travels with his adopted parents that Colin, years later as a boy of ten, experiences his uplifting spiritual experience on Cloud Mountain.

During WWI Colin volunteers and is sent to France. There he falls in love with Sanette, a local girl, only to die in the war, leaving Sanette with a son

called Charles. Told of his father's spiritual experience, it is Charles's intention to return to Australia, which he does.

The forest weaves its lingering spell over the child and his descendants, where members each have their stories to tell. A hundred years later another child enters the Cloud Forest and, through her actions, brings the saga to its satisfying conclusion.

EB

GOLDEN, Christopher

The boys are back in town.- Bantam, 2004.

When reporter Will Jones returns home for the 10th high school reunion, he has no idea of what awaits him. Neither for that matter does the reader. This fascinating novel delivers shock after shock, and bizarre twists to already bizarre events.

Someone is changing the past for unimaginable reasons and Will finds himself fighting in a race against time to save those close to him from disappearing off the map of history. It is the pursuit of these answers that provides the thrills in this imaginative and horrific page-turner.

Combining real life with fantasy elements and magic, **The boys are back in town** provides hours of exhilarating adventure and exciting reading. This is a well-grafted horror novel by an award-winning author.

EB

JACQ, Christian

Beneath the pyramid.- Simon, 2003.

First title in a new series (*The Judge of Egypt* trilogy) set in Ancient Egypt during the reign of Ramses the Great. The story revolves around a dedicated young judge, Pazair from a rural village outside Thebes, who is appointed to the prestigious post of judge of the city of Memphis.

Incorruptible and diligent in his job, Pazair treads on the toes of a few high officials, causing some disconcert, but is nevertheless called upon to investigate the mysterious deaths of five soldiers who guarded the Sphinx and the adjoining great tomb of Kheops. This investigation sets off a chain of unexpected life-threatening events and a trail of deaths.

Enlisting the aid of Suti, Pazair's best friend serving in the army and his love interest, the beautiful Nefertet, a gifted healer, Pazair sets out to uncover a conspiracy that threatens Pharaoh's life and the well-being of Egypt.

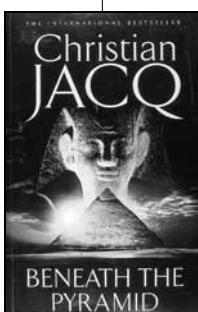
Latest gripping title by the established best-selling French Egyptologist / author of popular series set in Ancient Egypt. This first instalment leaves the reader eager and impatient for the next exciting sequel.

EB

LAYMON, Richard

The lake.- Headline, 2004.

A tragic incident from the past returns to haunt single-parent Leigh and her 18-year-old daughter, Deana.



It was during a summer vacation with her aunt and uncle at a lake resort that Leigh's love affair with a local boy called Charlie ends in his tragic death. He dies, plummeting to his death in a derelict beach house after making love to the then 18-year-old Leigh.

Charlie's mother happens to come on the scene shortly after it happens and accuses the distraught Leigh of murder. Leigh's name is cleared of course, and Deana is her reward.

Now, years later, the past returns to haunt Leigh in the form of a police officer investigating death threats to Leigh and her daughter by a disgruntled employee who has recently been dismissed from Leigh's up-market restaurant.

Once again the author has delivered a page-turning horror narrative that tends to turn everyday, harmless things into something sinister.

EB

LEVACK, Simon

Demon of the air.- Schuster, 2004.

Levack's first novel is set in Mexico in 1517, in the last years of the Aztec empire under Montezuma. Yaotl, slave to Montezuma's Chief Minister, finds himself embroiled in a puzzling and dangerous mystery, which involves deception, violence and murder, as well as power struggles and a personal vendetta. This is an outstanding blend of crime and historical fiction, with its unusual setting vividly evoked.

Scenes of cruelty and bloodshed are balanced by depictions of human warmth and affection; there is a sympathetic main character and it is all seasoned with black humour. An engrossing read and a winner of the Crime Writer's Association's Debut Dagger Award.

MJI

SANDERS, Annie

Goodbye, Jimmy Choo.- Orion, 2004.

First novel, from two journalists, Annie Ashworth and Meg Sanders. Londoners, Maddy and Izzie, have been uprooted to a country village, because of their husband's jobs. They are both dubious about fitting in with the locals. Izzie is continuing with her book editing and Maddy is redecorating the beautiful old house the family has moved into. Their initial empathy becomes a great friendship when Maddy's husband is killed in an accident and they start a home-based business making herbal cosmetics. A light, romantic, woman's read.

DH

WATSON, Jules

The white mare.- Orion, 2004.

Thrilling first title in an epic trilogy set in Celtic Britain at the time of the Roman invasion.

It opens in the year 79 AD when Agricola, governor of Roman Britain has his eyes on the unconquered lands to the north.

Rhiann, a beautiful princess and priestess of the Epidii tribe, is horrified to discover that after the death of her uncle the king, she is to be married to whoever the tribes thinks fit to be her husband. As all heirs have died in a plague, it is up to Rhiann to supply an heir to the throne.

Eremon, a fugitive Irish prince, happens to arrive on the scene at the king's burial ceremony and makes a favourable impression on the local people. He even gains the approval of Gelert, the head druid, who has plans of his own. It is a time when the Romans are threatening to invade and unity amongst the tribes is of utter importance. Eremon ends up being the chosen husband for the reluctant but duty-bound Rhiann.

This is a gripping and satisfying historical read with a touch of magical fantasy that will not disappoint.

EB

●●● **TIENERLEKTUUR**
YOUNG ADULT FICTION

GIBBONS, Alan

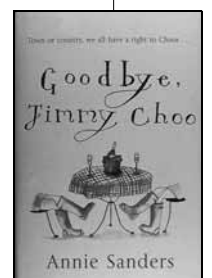
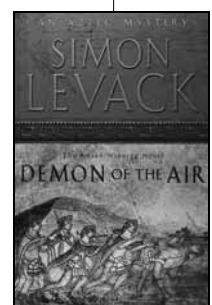
The dark beneath.- Dolphin, 2003.

Sixteen-year-old Imogen is spending the long school holidays working as a waitress at the village inn. She is a bright attractive girl with a pleasant personality - and over the course of the summer she has a life-changing effect on several males she befriends. The first is Anthony, the bullied fourteen-year-old stepson of the innkeeper who suffers from albinism and always seems to lurk in the shadows. After an innocent display of friendship by Imogen, Anthony becomes obsessed with her, stalking her like a paparazzo - secretly taking photographs of her and using them to create a shrine in his bedroom.

Then there is the group of men who are staying at the inn as they are contracted to work on a construction site nearby. They tease her mercilessly in the dining room, displaying that degree of obnoxious chauvinism that men think is innocent, but which is particularly irritating and sexist and which many young women have to fend off as best they can. Their foreman, Gordon, is a moody young man who does not join in with his co-workers, who dismissively call him 'Professor' as he always has his nose in a book.

And lastly, there is Farid, an asylum seeker from Afghanistan, whom Imogen meets through a refugee support group. She is instantly attracted to him, but keeps their relationship a secret, especially from her liberal parents who are over-protective.

There are plans to establish a refugee centre in the town and most of the locals are violently opposed to the idea. Gibbons includes letters to the local press on the issue to convey differing opinions on the subject by community members. As tensions mount over the refugee issue, Farid is forced to go into hiding, with the help of Imogen.





All the events over the summer collide and Imogen is attacked one night in the woods, with the reader left guessing the identity of her attacker. Gibbons's pacing is brilliant in this hugely satisfying novel. But it is not the clever and convincing way he resolves the plot, or the big issues that he deals with in such a humane and realistic manner that stays with the reader - it is the character of Imogen who lives with you while you are reading the book and long afterwards as well.

JdeB

PAOLINI, Christopher

Eragon.- Doubleday, 2004.

An exciting new fantasy novel by 15-year-old Christopher Paolini, first in a series of books called the *Inheritance* trilogy following the adventures of the eponymous hero, Eragon.

The story opens with young Eragon discovering a polished blue stone while out hunting. He takes it home, but the stone is really an egg that hatches overnight to yield a dragon hatchling that claims our unlikely hero as her rider.

Strange events in the village, the appearance of mysterious and menacing creatures, and the death of his uncle set Eragon off on an adventure of a lifetime.

With the aid of a companion, Brom, Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, encounter frightening Shades, kindly witches and the ever-threatening Ra'zac, who will eventually lead the party to their destiny.

The incredible evocation of a complete fantasy world with malignant leaders, menacing creatures, elves, dwarves and giants, is where the true magnificence of this novel lies. Eragon grips and captures one's imagination in an unadulterated adrenalin rush, making the book difficult to put down.

No wonder it sat at number three on the **New York Times** bestseller list for children's books, outselling all but the most recent of the *Harry Potter* adventures.

It has been compared with the works of Tolkien and is likely to be filmed in the future.

EB

●●● **JEUGLEKTUUR**
JUVENILE FICTION

BRIGHT, Paul

Quiet!- Little Tiger P., 2003.

Ma Lion wants baby Leo to take his morning nap, but it is too noisy in the jungle. Pa Lion asserts his authority as king of the beasts. 'Quiet!' he yells, and then threatens to eat anyone who makes enough noise to wake Leo. Various animals do break the silence, but baby Leo sleeps on. Meanwhile Pa Lion is getting hungrier and hungrier and is very disgruntled that he may not eat anyone for waking the

baby. To his intense embarrassment, it is his own loudly rumbling tummy that finally wakes Leo. The lively text works well and makes good use of rhythm and repetition. Guy Parker-Rees's bright, colourful comic illustrations are energetic and full of entertaining detail. An enjoyable and amusing picture book.

MJI

VEGTER, Onne

Whitney's kiss.- Voices in Africa, 2004.

What a pleasant surprise this book is - a very real book about a thirteen-year-old grade five girl's experience with HIV/AIDS. It is the first local title I have come across that deals with the topic in such a readable way - convincing, realistic and written in an effortless way that makes for an enjoyable quick read.

Whitney is excited when a high school boy called Lucky shows a real interest in her and so she readily agrees to go with him to a shed on the school grounds. Luckily for both of them, her teacher Mrs Pillay interrupts them just after she has started to enjoy his kisses. Whitney really needs someone to take a special interest in her for her mother is so busy and worried, now that her father is sick at home. She later learns that he has AIDS, but is warned to tell no-one for her parents know that anyone associated with the disease is shunned. But she has trouble keeping this secret and shares it with two people she thinks she can trust - Lucky and Mrs Pillay.

After her father dies, it becomes public knowledge that her father had AIDS and she initially suspects Mrs Pillay of betraying her confidence. But it was Lucky who in the meantime has put her in a situation where he is 'going to prove his love to her', by having sex without a condom. Whitney has the good sense to escape from the situation and goes to Mrs Pillay for help, the most understanding and caring of teachers, who helps her to deal with what has happened to her. And in return she gives a class talk where she speaks openly about what she has been through, including coming within a hair's breath of contracting the HIV-virus herself.

The publisher plans to bring out Afrikaans and isiXhosa translations later this year.

JdeB

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

DH	Denise Harris
EB	Erich Buchhaus
EMW	Ethney Waters
JdeB	Johanna de Beer
MJI	Margaret Iskandar

