

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

**AYCKBOURN, Alan**

**The crafty art of playmaking.**- Faber, 2002.

The most widely-performed living playwright describes how he goes about playwriting and directing. He includes many examples and illustrations drawn from his own plays. He describes the steps he follows in writing a play and recounts his experiences and gives advice on directing. This is highly readable, very practical and full of wonderful advice. It should appeal widely, to anyone with an interest in theatre and especially to those who have seen and enjoyed his remarkable plays.

DH

**CRABTREE, Caroline and STALLEBRASS, Pam**  
**Beadwork: a world guide.**- Thames & Hudson, 2002.

This covers bead manufacturing centres in Europe and Asia and the history of bead trade routes. The main part of the book provides an overview of the history of beadwork in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Oceania, the Arabian Gulf and Europe. Illustrated with stunning colour photographs this is a wonderful browse and has information not readily available elsewhere.

DH

**DOMMISSE, Boet and WESTBY-NUNN, Tony**  
**Simon's Town: an illustrated historical perspective.**- Westby-Nunn, 2002.

A wonderful illustrated overview of the history of Simon's Town covering its development over the years.

The author makes good use of preserved archival material, with assistance from the Simon's Town Museum, to trace the development of the area. Special attention is given to historic buildings and other locations, showing changes by efficient use of archival and present day photographs.

Interesting anecdotes and bits of history, together with the artistic use of illustrations make this an extremely readable title.

EB

**HUNTFORD, Roland**

**The Shackleton voyages.**- Weidenfeld, 2002.

A tribute to famous polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922), comprising a magnificent collection of historical photographs, with text by Shackleton's biographer, Roland Huntford. This

large, beautifully-illustrated hardback is a wonderful browse as well as a source of information.

MJI

**IWASAKI, Mineko**

**Geisha of Gion: the memoir of Mineko Iwasaki.**- 2002.

Intimate revelations of a one-time geisha who relates details of her life over a period of four decades.

From the age of four, she had to undergo an intimate and demanding training and endure a rigid education programme. The reader is offered a glimpse of the author's progress over the years until her final initiation into the profession. Mineko, in her own right, became a famous geisha, mixing with the cream of society that would include the British Royal family.

Japanese tradition has to date shrouded the geisha culture from public view and this is the first time that anyone has 'spilt the beans'.

Readers who may have read the novel by Arthur Golden, **Memoirs of a geisha** (which we have in stock) will enjoy this as it clears up many misconceptions and delivers a real insight into the world of the geisha.

EB

**LEITCH, Thomas**

**Crime films.**- Cambridge U.P., 2002.

The crime film has remained a popular genre in Hollywood since the very beginning of the film industry.

The author, a professor of English and director of film studies at the University of Delaware delivers a well-researched and somewhat academic study of a wide range of crime films. This includes important sub-genres such as gangster movies, film noir, erotic thrillers, the victim film, the private eye film, and crime comedy.

Making use of ten selected films that span the range of the twentieth century he demonstrates and explains how they best reflect the above-mentioned genres.

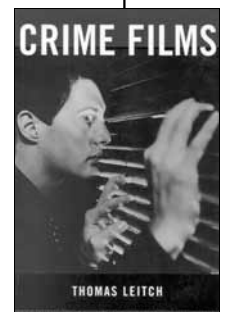
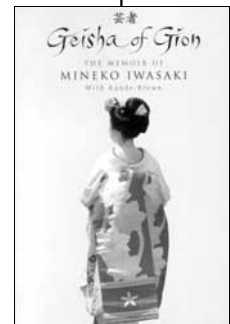
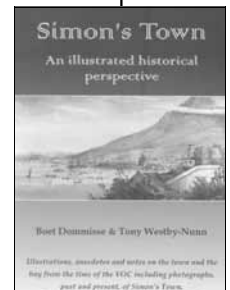
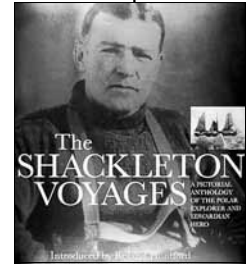
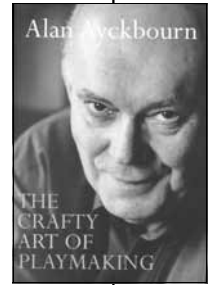
A comprehensive overview of the genre for the more serious film buff.

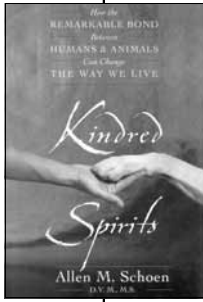
EB

**SCHOEN, Allen M**

**Kindred spirits: how the remarkable bond between humans and animals can change the way we live.**- Souvenir P., 2002.

An inspirational title exploring the wonderful bond that exists between animals and their owners. The author is a veterinarian who draws on his practice and the latest research on neurophysiology.





Dr Schoen describes how he came to respond to the animals' emotional state, and not only to their physical needs.

In the introduction, he relates the story of Megan, a stray golden retriever, who taught him that there was more to healing than drugs and surgery, especially where animals' feelings and emotions were concerned. While accompanying him on his visits, she revealed a care and concern for his animal patients, just like a canine Florence Nightingale.

A more holistic approach has revolutionised his practice, and in the tradition of James Herriot the author delivers some fascinating and moving stories showing how caring relationships between animals and their owners have enriched their lives.

EB

**SEDGE, Michael H**

**The lost ships of Pisa.-** ebooks, 2002.

During December of 1998, while digging for the foundation for a new station some 500 yards from the leaning Tower of Pisa, workers discovered the remains of a fully-preserved Roman ship. Since then more ships, dating from the third century BC to the fifth century AD have been uncovered. This is a story of a once prosperous port that flourished during ancient times and then vanished without a trace, now only to emerge with an enormous collection of well-preserved artefacts.

The reader is provided with detail of Roman shipbuilding techniques, which at times does get bogged down with much detail.

Nevertheless, this is an unusual read and unlikely to be found in any other source at present. As recently as December 2002 it was reported in the **Cape Argus** that another ship had been excavated in this area.

EB

**WHYMAN, Bill**

**Rolling with the Stones.-** Dorling Kindersley, 2002.

A well-illustrated guide to the musical career of this famous and popular British group that is often referred to as the world's greatest rock'n'roll band. The author who happens to be a founding member as well as a bass player delivers a candid and revealing account of the band's history, and includes previously unreleased photographs, memorabilia and personal journals.

Fans of the Stones will certainly enjoy reminiscing about their history and will be enthralled by the wonderful illustrations contained in this superbly-produced tribute. A copy has been bought for Central Reference Section (SN) and provision has been made to consider future copies in paperback.

EB

## ●●● VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR ADULT FICTION

**ARMSTRONG, Campbell**

**The last darkness.-** HarperCollins, 2002.

Middle-aged Glasgow policeman Lou Perlman is something of a maverick, but he has always been a good detective and an honest cop. Now a series of brutal murders with complex undercurrents is drawing him to a point where he may have to sacrifice either honesty or deep-seated family loyalties. This dark, atmospheric crime novel makes a gripping read.

MJI

**BOX, CJ**

**Open season.-** Hale, 2002.

Joe Pickett, rookie game warden of Twelve Sleep, Wyoming, has to contend with murders on his territory, including a death literally in his own back yard. Faced with what appears to be a cover-up, Joe doggedly pursues his own investigations. He soon finds himself and his family in mortal danger as evidence emerges about a proposed oil pipeline and attempts to exterminate a rare animal species that may stand in its way. This is pacy and action-packed, with an appealing hero. The background details are excellent and the setting vividly evoked, while the conservation issues are knowledgeably handled. The first in a proposed series, this debut thriller makes an engrossing read.

MJI

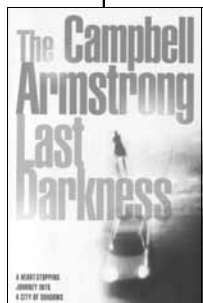
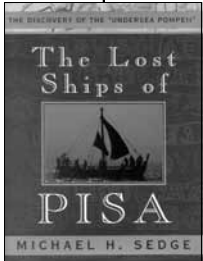
**KUNDERA, Milan**

**Ignorance.-** Faber, 2002.

The Franco-Czech novelist Milan Kundera is perhaps best known for his novel **The unbearable lightness of being**. His latest novel, **Ignorance**, was originally written in French and has been translated by Linda Asher. Kundera was born in Brno (Czechoslovakia), but has lived in France, his second homeland, for nearly 30 years.

Set against the backdrop of the 1969 Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, their quiet retreat in 1989, and the subsequent birth of the Czech Republic, and juxtaposed with the travels and fate of Homer in the famous Greek epic **The Odyssey**, a man and woman (Josef and Irena) meet by chance while returning to the homeland they had abandoned 20 years earlier when they became exiles. 'Will they manage to pick up the thread of their strange love story, interrupted almost as soon as it began and then lost in the tides of history?'

The thematic essence of this unusual and subtle novel is a philosophical exploration of the dilemma



of being an emigrant and then realising, on return to the homeland, that one's life, the very essence of one's being, is now lying outside that country and that one's memories and experiences of the previous life are uniquely individual, with nobody, not even a loved one, to share them with.

Beautifully written, atmospheric, meditative and very intellectual, **Ignorance** encapsulates the collective emotional experiences of exiles on their Great Return. A moving meditation on memory, nostalgia, absence and loss. Recommended for modern fiction sophisticates only.

LS

**KUREISHI, Hanif**

**The body and seven stories.**- Faber, 2002.

A novella and seven short stories by the British playwright, screenwriter and novelist, noted for his depictions of cross-cultural life in the United Kingdom (UK), and for his insights into pop-culture.

Our precociously-talented author faces middle age! Common themes in this collection are the difficulties of preserving a sense of identity that one can live with in mature life, and how other people's expectations sap one's sense of self. In *The body* the middle-aged main character has an operation allowing his brain to be transplanted into a youthful body of his choice. Initially he revels in the hedonistic pleasures his fine body offers him, but his dislocated brain is less easy to deal with, especially when circumstances arise that will prevent him from transplanting back into his old body. In *Face to face*, the couple who move into Ed and Anne's block of flats are mirror images of themselves - and they are horrified by what they see. In *Goodbye mother* a man who has used his career to measure his success finds that this no longer works. He is terrified by his wife's attempts to embrace new and meaningful interests in middle life, and is oppressed by the burden of parents who have given everything in their lives to enable him to be a success.

Kureishi is a writer of note, and has turned his perceptive gaze onto the world of middle-aged, middle-class privilege that is his milieu; these too are the type of people who will appreciate this collection. Though of uneven quality, the stories develop a brooding and disturbing sense of how fulfilment eludes even those who appear to have everything that is meant to lead to this state of being.

BK

**LE GUIN, Ursula**

**Tales from Earthsea.**- Orion, 2002.

Readers who enjoyed the epic *Earthsea* fantasy series will be delighted by this latest rendering by the award-winning author. It consists of five short

stories which range from a few hundred years before **A wizard of Earthsea** (first in the series) to just before the most recent **The other wind**.

Some of Le Guin's most popular characters feature in the gripping stories covering the history of Earthsea. Readers who have enjoyed Tolkien will find a worthy substitute in Le Guin as revealed here in the imaginative scope of the author's enchanting epic series.

EB

**SLOAN, Susan R**

**Act of God.**- TimeWarner, 2002.

A Seattle clinic, well-known for its enlightened attitudes to abortion, is bombed with great loss of life. Dana McAuliffe is the defence lawyer for the alleged culprit, a young naval officer called Cory Latham, whose wife had an abortion while he was away at sea. The action follows the course of the trial, with digressions into various machinations within Dana's law firm and Corey Latham's marriage, and the public exposure that Dana too had an abortion without consulting her husband.

Some moments of high melodrama, but a page-turner that will appeal to readers wanting ongoing dramatic development rather than realism. Not Scott Turow level by any means, but will attract readers.

BK

**SMITH, Rebecca**

**The bluebird café.**- Bloomsbury, 2002.

Lucy and Paul are trying to resolve relationship issues. Are they truly committed to each other, or is habit keeping them together? A nearby shop-owner finds Lucy appealing and she teeters on the edge of changing direction. The setting is Southampton and Lucy starts a restaurant for which she makes delicious vegetarian dishes. This is an unusual, humorous and delightful first novel.

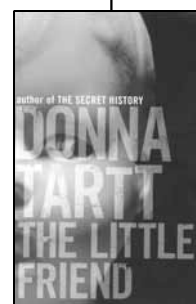
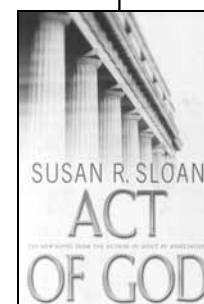
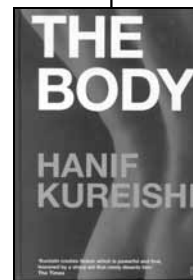
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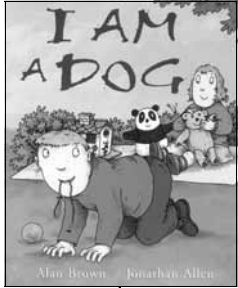
**TARTT, Donna**

**The little friend.**- Bloomsbury, 2002.

This long-awaited second novel from the author of the acclaimed debut novel **The secret history**, is set in a small town in Mississippi. It centres on precocious twelve-year-old Harriet Cleve and her family. She and her sister have been raised mainly by their grandmother and aunts. Their father left and their mother withdrew after the murder of her nine-year-old brother. Harriet decides she will uncover the murderer and what ensues is a revelation of Southern ethos. The author's gift for story-telling and her ability to observe morality, create suspense, develop characters and integrate with social background are evident in this impeccably-written work.

DH





●●● **JEUGLEKTUUR**  
JUVENILE FICTION

**BROWN, Alan**

**I am a dog.**- Red Fox, 2002.

A little boy pretends to be a dog, though his parents won't always play along and his mother often seems too preoccupied with his baby sister. However, when he's offered the chance of having a real dog of his own, the young narrator is quite happy to go back to being a boy. The colour illustrations by Jonathan Allen feature sturdy, simplified forms and a strong element of humour. This indirect take on sibling rivalry makes an appealing picture-book.

MJI

**DONALDSON, Julia**

**Is daar plek op jou besem?-** Human & Rousseau, 2002.

Julia Donaldson se oorspronklike titel, **Room on the broom** word op 'n merkwaardige wyse in Afrikaans deur Philip de Vos weergegee. Hy slaag daarin om met sy rymteks die essensie van die oorspronklike verhaal vas te vang. **Is daar plek op jou besem** vertel die verhaal van 'n heks wat vir 'n paar diere 'n saamrygeleentheid op haar besemstok gee. Maar o wee, hul rit is van korte duur: die besem breek van die hewige vraag en heks se kind beland kniediep in die moeilikheid. Hierdie boekie word aanbeveel vir die ouderdomsgroep drie tot vyf jaar. Dit is 'n prettige verhaal met rymteks en pragtige kleurillustrasies deur Axel Scheffler wat geskik is vir voorlees en storietyd. 'n Oulike prentboek wat definitief aanklank sal vind by die jong leser.

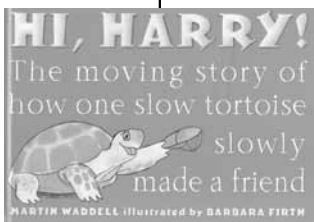
EW

**WADDELL, Martin**

**Hi, Harry!-** Walker, 2003.

Another title from the well-established team of Martin Waddell and illustrator Barbara Firth. Subtitled *The moving story of how one slow tortoise slowly made a friend*, this tells of lonely Harry Tortoise's failed attempts to get fast-moving Buster Rabbit, Stan Badger and Sarah Mouse to play with him. His problem is solved when slow Sam Snail invites him to play. Appealing, simple, soft illustrations and simple fluid text combine to create a picture book with charm, appeal and reassurance despite the thin story-line.

MM



**WARD, Helen**

**The cockerel and the fox.**- Templar, 2002.

A retelling of a traditional tale found in a twelfth-century French work and perhaps best known from the version in Chaucer's **Canterbury tales**. Chanticleer, the farmyard cockerel, is outwitted and captured by the fox, but in the end manages to turn the tables on him. The moral of the story is to beware of false flattery. The beautiful colour illustrations were drawn in ink and painted in watercolour and gouache. They show the farm animals and the fox in realistic detail, but are also lively and expressive with a good sense of design. A key at the back of the book shows the various rare breeds depicted in the illustrations, which may be interesting to adults although it is above the level of the picture-book reader. This is a quality work and most attractively produced.

MJI

**WARING, Richard**

**Wanted! Have you seen this alligator?-** Gullane, 2002.

Tina has a pet alligator called Alberto, and they love to do the tango together. One day Alberto is accidentally flushed down the toilet. Initially he enjoys himself swimming and playing and cavorting with the sewer rats, but when he wants to go home he cannot find the right bathroom. He keeps popping up in the wrong toilets to the consternation and horror of the householders, who all phone the police. Soon there are stories of a thousand alligators on the loose, and a great alligator hunt is launched. However, Tina finds a way to guide Alberto back home, using his love of tango music. The colourful, exuberant comic illustrations are by Holly Swain. This picture-book variation on a typical urban legend is clever and funny.

MJI

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

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<b>EB</b>	Erich Buchhaus
<b>JdeB</b>	Johanna de Beer
<b>DH</b>	Denise Harris
<b>MJI</b>	Margaret Iskandar
<b>BK</b>	Brenda Kyle (City Libraries)
<b>MM</b>	Mary-Anne Maurice (City Libraries)
<b>LS</b>	Louise Schreuder (City Libraries)
<b>EW</b>	Ethney Waters

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