

In die somer

MARIETA SMITH

Langebaan Leeskring

Die skrywer

icolaas Georg Steytler is op 20 April 1922 in Ladybrand gebore. Hy sterf op 27 Augustus 1998 weens kanker op die ouderdom van 76.

Hy het in Harrismith grootgeword en in 1939 gematrikuleer. Stevtler het sy BA-graad by Wits en 'n graad in kuns by Kaapstad Universiteit voltooi. As joernalis het hy, onder andere, by

Die Vaderland en Die Transvaler

gewerk. Hy was ook redakteur van die Huisgenoot en Tafelberg Uitgewers en 'n deeltydse skrywer. Sy belangstellings was letterkunde, die teater, musiek en die mitologie.

Hy was getroud met die skryfster, Elsa Joubert wat ook onlangs oorlede is, en het twee dogters en 'n

Ander werke

*Man in die spieël, 1954.

*Die leeukuil. 1982.

*Die walvisman. 1986.

*In die somer van '36. 1990.

Kinderboeke *Die doodkis-spesiel, 1982.

Televisie

Zap zap. 1981

Dirk Hoffman. 1985.

* Beskikhaar in Wes-Kaanse

Opsomming van die verhaal

Die verhaal speel af op die Vrystaatse dorp, K. Dis 'n doodgewone rustige dorp, maar dan daag die nuwe apteekassistent, Dewwie Dykstra, op en die dinge begin 'roer'. Sy raak in verskillende verhoudings betrokke tydens haar kort verblyf op die dorp. Dit veroorsaak 'n kringreaksie op die ander karakters se lewe, sodat wanneer sy vertrek, daar baie veranderings plaasgevind het.

Milieu, tyd en ruimte

'In die breë suksesvolle dorp. Kwat in die somer van 1936 - min of meer tussen die Groot droogte van '33 en die Groot dood se begin in '39 - nie skaam hoefte voel oor die toonaard van sy lewe nie.' Daar heers orde en ordentlikheid. Elkeen weet waar hy hoort-kinders uit die voorkamers, vrouens uit die politiek, swartes in die lokasie en almal Sondae in die kerk

Tydsverloop

Die hele verhaal speel in een seisoen, naamlik die somer, af (sowat drie maande)

Verteller

Die verhaal word deur 'n anonieme persoon vertel. Hy is baie betrokke by almal in die dorp en praat met gesag en insig oor almal se lewens. Hy skep 'n afstand tussen hom en die karakters deur hulle formeel op hulle volle name aan te spreek. Die figuur van Loffie Alberts, redakteur van die plaaslike koerant, is in 'n sin die karikatuur van die verteller. Hy sê op bladsy 372 'hier lê 'n groot storie wat ek

nog gaan skryfen Sunday Times toe stuur'. Hy en die verteller is albei belus op die sensasie wat skuil onder die kleindorpse kalmte. Anders as Loffie, wat moet raai, het die verteller die vermoë om te onthul wat onder daardie kalmte skuil. Die vertelling kry mettertyd 'n meesleurende vaart en dit word algaande duidelik dat dié roman met groot planmatigheid afstuur op sy tragiese slot.

Klaas Steytler sê self 'die dorp is die boek se eintlike hoofkarakter'. Die inwoners van die dorp K speel almal 'n rol in die verhaal. Eerstens is daar Dewwie Dykstra. Die soel jong vrou van die Kaap. Sy is vir Sinclair soos 'n 'godin, wat ongemerk uit die lae, onderste grys wolke net voor die eerste groot lentereëns afgesak en het saggies agter Sinclair se apteektoonbank te lande kom'. Sy verpersoonlik verskillende eienskappe: verleidster en verleide, manipuleerder en slagoffer, vernietiger en lewegewer. Dié dubbele lewe word onderstreep deur haar doopname - Helena Dawida, Die vrou sowel as mansnaam hou verband daarmee dat sy een van 'n tweeling was, waarvan die seun by geboorte dood is. Die omruiling van haar name na Dawida Helena sinspeel op haar swak verhouding met haar pa (wat eintlik 'n seun wou hê) en is die motivering vir haar latere optrede teenoor mans. Dewwie se donkerheid lok aanvanklik heelwat reaksie by die vrouens van die dorp uit, maar sy word tog later deur hulle aanvaar. Die mans vind haar onweerstaanbaar. Sy knoop 'n verhouding met haar baas, Stefanus Sinclair, aan. Die dorp se dokter, Jannie Brand, is haar volgende teiken. Die uitvaagsel, Adderjaan Kruger, raak ook by haar betrokke en selfs ouderling Dippenaar spring haar aanslag nie vry nie. Dewwie het ook spiritualistiese talente en is in staat om met die geesteswêreld in verbinding te tree. Miss Underhill sê mense het haar nodig. Hulle moet deur haar gaan om hulself te word. Dié deel van Dewwie se karakter lê klem op die geestelike en haar kamermoleste op die vleeslike. Baie van Dewwie se eienskappe hou verband met die mitologie en daarom word die idee van haar bestaan met tye in twyfel getrek. Sy is soos 'n illusie wat verskyn en weer verdwyn

Tweedens is daar Stefanus Sinclair. Hy is die apteker en verantwoordelik vir Dewwie se koms na die dorp. Sy karakter word die volledigste beskryf. Hy het 'n obsessie met Dewwie (wat hom net gebruik en dan verstoot) en dit lei tot die verbrokkeling van sy huwelik en sy vernedering deur die dokter (volgens die toneel by die swemgat). Hy word deur die dorp verwerp, maar word deur die hele proses 'n vry man, 'n Sterk vriendskap ontwikkel tussen hom en die seun, Sagrys Kruger, wat ironies genoeg ook die oorsaak van die seun se selfmoord is (want hy wil nie sy belofte aan Sinclair verbreek nie). Met Sinclair kan die leser simpatiseer en sy toespraak aan die klein gemeente waartydens hy sy sondes van sy verlede bely, laat mens met deernis en 'n gevoel van: Sinclair het geval, baie verloor, maar sy selfrespek teruggekry en gaan voort met sy lewe.

Jannie Brand is die dokter op die dorp. Hy is so pronkerig en viriel soos sy perd en 'n vergestalting van die god, Zeus, en die mens se seksuele drifte. Hy manipuleer mense soos Dewwie en Adderjaan Kruger om sy doel te bereik. Hy lieg en bedrieg en kom ongeskonde anderkant uit. Tog het hy ook 'n goeie kant. Op p. 282 sê hy aan Dewwie: 'n Kwart van die mense wat ek op die dorp en in die distrik behandel, betaal nie. Ek speel hard en werk nog harder.'

Adderjaan Kruger (die dorp se nutsman) is onverfynd en geweldadig en verpersoonlik die donker en slegte deel van die mens se karakter. Sy aangetrokkenheid tot Dewwie, asook die uitbeelding van haar verkragting word gelykgestel aan die van 'n dier. Met die vrees wat hy by sy seun inboesem, is hy direk verantwoordelik vir dié se selfmoord en wanneer hy van sy verstand af raak en weggestuur word, is die leser saam met die dorpsmense verlig.

Daar word meer as een tema waargeneem. Die mitologie word by sommige van die karakters ingewerk. Die mens se reaksie en hoe hy reageer op verskillende dinge en gebeure soos seksualiteit, jaloesie, woede, versoeking, ensovoorts is nog 'n tema. Politiek word betrek deur nasionaal van partypolitiek en herinneringe van die Anglo-Boereoorlog melding te maak. Internasionaal lees ons van die gebeure in Europa deur middel van die briewe wat die loodse dokter. Mendel Baruch, gereeld van sy suster uit Tsjeggo-Slowakye ontvang.

Taal en styl

Klaas Steytler gebruik baie lekker woorde en stellings in die boek soos 'Die dood wat opdaag, 'n katterige gedagte oor 'n hond. Thys Dippenaar wat soms na geld lyk, 'n broderige glimlag, die tuin se hare wat netjies gekartel en gekap is en haar ogies raak vetergat'. Die boek lees maklik en is nie swaar leesstof nie. Die gesprek tussen Sinclair en sy skoonouers op p. 304 wyk af van die res van die skryfstyl. Die rede hiervoor is onbekend en nutteloos.

Stemming

Die verhaal lyk op die oog af lig en humoristies en is geskryf met die doel om te skok en vermaak. Daar is egter 'n dieperliggende erns en donkerder kant wat nie misgelees moet word nie. Dit is waar die boek se'angel' eintlik lê. 'n Onskuldige kind boet met sy lewe sodat die grootmense se geheime nie op die lappe kom nie. Ons kom om te lag en bly om te huil.

Die titel word dikwels herhaal in die boek. Die seisoen somer is beskrywend van die volheid en rypheid van Dewwie se lyf (p. 357). Sy het in die vroeë lente gekom en na 'n vol en vrugbare seisoen verlaat sy die dorp, laat in die somer van 1936. Somer is ook die voorganger van winter. Vir baie van die karakters het daar na die somer 'n tydperk van winter gewag. Byvoorbeeld, Dewwie wat swanger was, Sinclair wat baie verloor het, die Joodse dokter wat sy suster verloor, die Kruger-gesin verloor hulle pa en seun. Die jaar 1936 plaas die verhaal in 'n presiese tydvlak, sodat die leser 'n duidelike beeld het van hoe die huise, motors, meubels en klere lyk. Die beskrywing van dinge en gebeure speel 'n belangrike rol in die verhaal. Dit verwys ook na die naderende oorlog en sluit die boek af met die sin, 'Op K het die dorpsbewoners die herfs en winter van 1937 ingewag en sonder om te weet, ook die volgende oorlog'.

Voorblad

'n Skildery deur Jan Vermeiren. Die voorblad is sprekend van die verhaal en drie van die hoofkarakters. Dewwie lyk afsydig, maar sensueel en maak dansgebare met haar hande. Die mans is gefassineer deur haar. Die twee rose is 'n teken van die liefde, maar onthou rose het ook dorings aan.

Daar is te veel karakters in die boek en aanvanklik voel 'n mens verdwaal (maar dis hoe dit in 'n regte dorp gaan). Die sekstonele mag aanstoot gee en onrealisties voorkom. Dewwie en Sinclair se vertrek stel teleur en daar is te veel los drade wat pla. Klaas Steytler raak nie betrokke by sy karakters nie en hulle verdiep nooit, behalwe Sinclair. Die doel van die bonatuurlike en spiritisme word nooit werklik duidelik nie en die verhaal kan daarsonder op sy eie bene gestaan het. Dewwie verander te gou van 'n onskuldige vrou tot 'n siniese manipuleerder. Die leser word uitgesluit van haar gedagtes en gevoelens. Al die resensente is dit eens, dat dié boek nie 'n groot letterkundige werk is nie, maar wel 'n lekker storie met baie fyn humor en goeie Afrikaans.

Kaapse Bibl., Jul | Aug 2003 Cape Libr., Jul | Aug 2003

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Compiled by DENISE HARRIS

Book Selector

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Unieke musiek uit SN

DALENA LE ROUX

Bibliotekaris, Sentrale Naslaan

s leners by hul plaaslike openbare biblioteke instap met die doel om na die musiekversamelings te kyk, kry hulle soms nie wat hulle soek nie. Dikwels verwag hulle spesifieke tipes musiek, komponiste of instrumentaliste se weergawes wat dan lyk of dit nie in voorraad is nie. Dis op sulke tye dat Sentrale Naslaan (SN) die bibliotekarisse tot hulp kan kom, want 'n baie groot persentasie van hul versameling is nie algemeen beskikbaar op biblioteekrakke nie - wat nie te sê is dat dit glad nie beskikbaar is nie, o nee! Die SN-versameling van CD's is tot almal se beskikking - dis net vir vra!

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Om leners se aptyt 'n bietjie op te wek word 'n aantal van hierdie CD's nou kortliks bespreek. Die lewens van 'n aantal minder bekende komponiste word bespreek met 'n aanduiding van hul werke in ons voorraad.

Arensky, Anton Stepanovich (1861-1906)

Arensky is in Novgorod gebore en was in sy 45 jaar een van die mees suksesvolle komponiste en pianiste in pre-revolusionêre Rusland, Binne die kort 25 jaar van sy professionele bestaan het hy drie operas, 'n ballet, etlike orkestrale werke (waaronder 'n klavierkonsert, 'n vioolkonsert en twee simfonieë), kamermusiek, baie liedere en koorwerke, sowel as 'n uitvoerige lys van werke vir sy spesialisinstrument, die klavier ge-

Benda, Jiri Antonin (1722-1795)

Hierdie Boheemse komponis is in Staré Benátky gebore, vanwaar hy in 1742 saam met sy ouers en familie na Potsdam getrek

het om as violis in die paleisorkes van Hertog Friedrich die Derdevan

Saxe-Gotha te dien. Sy talent vir melodrama en die skepping van sulke operas soos Ariadne

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auf Naxos, Medea en Pygmalion het van hom een van die voorste komponiste van sy tyd gemaak.

Cartellieri, Antonio Casimir (1772-1807)

Hy word beskou as 'n komponis op die drumpel van die vroeë Romantiese periode. Om verskeie redes is hy egter nie so bekend soos Beethoven (sy tydgenoot) nie. Sy operas, orkestrale werke en kamermusiek sal heelwat meer gespeel moet word voordat sy uitsonderlike talent na waarde geskat kan

Kuhlau, Friedrich (1786-1832)

In die vroeë 1800s was die meeste belangrike Deense komponiste hoofsaaklik van Duitse oorsprong - soos Kuhlau ook, wat in Uelzen in Duitsland gebore is en die meeste van sy musiekopleiding in Hamburg geniet het voordat hy in 1810 na Denemarke geëmigreer het. Hoewel hy tans meer bekend is vir sy fluit- en klavierkomposisies is sy meer dramatiese werke (byvoorbeeld, sy operas Roverborgen en Trylleharpen) nogtans van belang in die Deense musiekwêreld. Hy word dikwels beskou as die man wat 'n meer moderne aanslag in die redelik outydse Deense musiekoeuvre ingebring het.

Rott, Hans (1858-1884)

Rott se kort lewe (hy is reeds op 26-jarige leeftyd oorlede) was gekenmerk deur ongeluk en terugslae. Die enigste vaste posisie wat hy ooit beklee het was as orrelis van die Piaristekerk in Wenen tot in 1878. Daarna. hoewel 'n gunsteling-leerling van Bruckner, kon hy nooit weer daarin slaag om professionele sukses te behaal nie. Sy komposisies het die een na die ander misluk, en die depressie waarin hy verval het as gevolg hiervan het gelei daartoe dat hy uiteindelik in 'n sielsiekegestig opgeneem is, waar hy in 1884 oorlede is. Eers ná sy dood het sy Simfonie in E Majeur onder die aandag van Gustav Mahler gekom, wat sodanig beïndruk was hiermee dat hy Rott beskryf het as die

skepper van die Nuwe Simfoniese Bewe-

Weiss, Silvius Leopold (1686-1750)

Een van die mees bekende luitspelers van die 17e eeu was Silvius Weiss, gebore in Breslau. hoofstad van die destydse Silesië (tans Pole). Die sterk invloed wat die Italiaanse luit-komponiste soos Corelli en die Scarlatti's op Weiss gehad het, kom tot uiting in sy meer as seshonderd solostukke vir die luit, sowel as etlike ander luitwerke en sy kamermusiekensembles. Sy sukses met hierdie instrument, as komponis sowel as speler, maak van hom een van die hoogs betaalde instrumentaliste in Dresden waar hy tot sy dood in 1750 in die paleis van Augustus Die Sterke speel.

Die luisteraar wat belangstel daarin om te luister na die musiek van enige van hierdie komponiste kan gerus by SN aanklop vir die volgende CD's:

Arensky, Anton Stepanovich

Suites for two pianos / Stephen Coombs and lan Munro, pianos. I compact disc (68 min).

Benda, Jiri Antonin

Sinfonias, nos. I-6. Prague Chamber orchestra; Christian Benda, cond. I compact disc

Cartellieri, Antonio Casimir

Wind concertos. 2 vols. / Dieter Klöcker, clarinet; Sandra Arnold, clarinet; Kornelia Brandkamp, flute. The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. I compact disc (60 min).

Kuhlau, Daniel Frederik

Overtures. Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Michael Schonwandt, cond. I compact disc (69 min).

Rott, Hans

Symphony in Emajor. Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Leif Segerstam, cond. I compact disc (65 min).

Weiss, Silvius Leopold

Sonatas for lute vol I. / Robert Barto, Baroque lute. I compact disc (72 min).





ADUIT NON-FICTION **VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR**

COTTERELL. Maurice

The terracotta warriors: the secret of the Emperor's army.- Headline, 2003.

After the spectacular 1974 discovery of over 8 000 life-size terracotta warriors found buried near the pyramid tomb of the first emperor of a unified China over 2 000 years ago, many have been perplexed as to why these were buried there. This has led to various speculations and here the author, who has delivered fascinating research into the mysteries surrounding the ancient Egyptians and the Maya, gives his interpretation.

Once again best-selling author Maurice Cotterell has provided readers with some engrossing, speculative food for thought.

GARDNER, Laurence

Lost secrets of the sacred Ark: amazing revelations of the incredible power of gold.-Element, 2003.

In this latest speculative title by the author, he looks at the sacred Ark of Biblical times, trying to probe the long outstanding mystery surrounding it and the awesome powers allegedly associated with it.

To assist him in his venture, the author turns to ancient Egypt where he explores the secret metaphysical importance of gold from the time of the pharaohs and takes it right down to modern times.

This is the latest in Gardner's cycle of books tracing the messianic dynasty of Jesus and a history that abounds in alchemy and sacred science.

Readable controversial information written with conviction which is certainly thought provoking.

LAHR, John

Prick up your ears.- Bloomsbury, 2002.

A re-issue of the previously banned biography of the British playwright Joe Orton, first published in 1978. Orton is best remembered for plays such as What the butler saw, Entertaining Mr Solane and Loot. A best-seller at the time when it first appeared, it is candid, shocking, at times funny, but tragic, based on Orton's diaries.

O'CONNELL, Robert

Soul of the sword: an illustrated history of weaponry and warfare from prehistory to the present.- Free Press, 2002.

A classic study by a noted military historian covering the history of weapons from ancient times up to the present. Extraordinary weapons of the past are unearthed and discussed, revealing the major impact they had on changing mankind's history, and

the important relationship that exists between weapons and the societies that produced them.

This entertaining and informative study is tastefully illustrated by artwork from a leading illustrator of aircraft and military images. Readers will be surprised by the interesting material discussed where the author reveals some fascinating facts on subject matter very seldom covered or mentioned.

PFEIFFER, Lee and WORRALL, Dave The essential Bond: the authorized guide to the world of 007.- Boxtree, 2003.

A visually-attractive title highlighting the twenty official lames Bond films. It offers critical reviews of each film, featuring the cast, background and production of the films. It is superbly illustrated, making use of over 250 photographs of stills of the films, the cast and posters. This title includes the latest Bond film and will be enjoyed by Bond lovers who can leisurely browse through the contents and reminisce on some of the past productions.

PRFLLER, Martie

Eendag was daar 'n storie!.- Tafelberg, 2003.

In Eendag was daar 'n storie! gee Martie Prellen aan die leser 'n verwerking van haar suksesvolle Internetskryfkursus. Preller, 'n ervare aanbieder van skryfwerkswinkels gebruik hier haar uitgebreide kennis en ondervinding om aspirant skrywers in te lei in die wonderwêreld van skryf. Sy gee voorts raad, wenke en inspirasie, tesame met nuttige inligting oor die skryfproses en die uitgewersbedryf. Die teks bevat ook inspirerende verse uit 'n verskeidenheid bronne asook prettige sketse deur Vian Oelofsen. Ter afsluiting sluit Preller ook haar curriculum vitae in (vir diegene van julle wat wonder wat sy alles op haar kerfstok het). Aspirant skrywers sal dol wees hieroor.

FMW

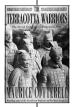
SINCLAIR, David

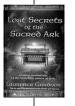
Sir Gregor MacGregor and the land that never was: the extraordinary story of the most audacious fraud in history.- Review, 2003.

A fascinating but a tragic tale of one of the greatest hoaxes in history where Scottish immigrants were encouraged to start a new life in the New World during the early nineteenth century. They were under the impression that they could invest their livelihood in a prosperous land called Poyais situated somewhere in South America.

This territory was ruled by a successful Scottish soldier, General Sir Gregor MacGregor who had been made a prince after serving in Simon Bolivar's army.

He and his beautiful wife became celebrities when they visited London to promote their fictitious country and even started a development loan, which was floated on the London stock market. It was only later that the scam was discovered and Poyais was









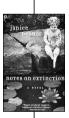














revealed to be nothing but the swamp-infested Mosquito Coast in Central America.

VON DÄNIKEN, Erich

The gods were astronauts: evidence of the true identities of the old "gods".- Vega. 2001.

The author, well known for his international bestselling titles such as Chariots of the gods, once again offers the reader some interesting, speculative material. In much the same context as his previous titles, Von Däniken sets out to prove that the gods associated with early myths and belief structures were in reality extra-terrestrials who left their mark on earth and on man's history.

They can be seen, in many cases, as representing the winged angels populating the Bible, Koran and other religious texts from cultures from all over the world. Readable and controversial as ever, the author does allow for some interesting observations on which to reflect.

WASON, David

Battlefield detectives: what really happened on the world's most famous battlegrounds.-Granada, 2003.

A fascinating new title based on recent research, at what really took place at seven well-known battle sites. Here the combined effort of a selection of 'battlefield detectives' which include archaeologists, forensic scientists, military experts and metal-detectorists, reveal that there is more to history than just broad outlines. The results of their research enable the reader to understand why events turned out the way they did. Famous battles covered are Hastings, Agincourt, the Spanish Armada, Waterloo, Balaklava, Little Big-Horn and Gallipoli.

This title accompanies a major television series and allows for some riveting reading.

EB

ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE I FKTUUR

DEANER, Janice

Notes on extinction.- Plume, 2003.

Will Mendelsohn's life's work has been a huge book on world extinction of species. When his wife accidentally sets fire to their home and destroys the book, Will leaves her and sets off to write another book - an eyewitness account. In Assam, India, he meets Grace Tagore, an American screenwriter married to a wealthy Indian merchant and they begin a passionate affair just as political violence erupts.

A lyrical and compelling novel that explores the drive towards extinction and loss, along with the possibility of recovery and hope that is bound up with love. A strong opening to the novel is followed by seamless and elegant prose.

DUNANT, Sarah

The birth of Venus: love and death in Florence.- Little Brown, 2003.

Dunant's latest novel is set in Florence during the time of the fundamentalist Savanarola. Alessandra Cecchi is almost fifteen; intelligent, independent, and an artist, none of which are attributes either desired or valued in a woman in Renaissance Italy. When her wealthy merchant father brings home an artist to paint the family portrait as well as the chapel, Alessandra becomes fixated on him and what he can teach her. Times are changing and Savanorola has created a city filled with suspicion and violence in which wonderful art of the era is destroyed.

Alessandra makes a marriage of convenience to a man in love with her brother. She must ride out the period of fundamentalist destruction and hope for a return of the luxury, learning and art that is present in other Italian states of the time. She must also create her own unique and unconventional life without upsetting the social structures of the time.

A wonderfully evocative and atmospheric novel. Dunant's soulful, inaginative writing brings alive the Renaissance, Florence and its people. Her heroine is a sympathetic character and the tension and pace of the novel are well judged, making the reader reluctant to put it down. Well researched, this is a vividly portrayed period in the history of Florence and will appeal to anyone who enjoys a good historical novel.

KENEALLY, Thomas

The office of innocence.- Sceptre, 2002.

The latest novel from this acclaimed award-winning author is set in wartime Australia. In an outlying Sydney suburb, James Darragh is a newly ordained Catholic curate, working zealously to maintain the faith amongst his parishioners who are anxiously awaiting the Japanese invasion. When a young woman, whom Darragh has been counselling is murdered, the Church's first reaction is to send Darragh on retreat, out of the way of the police and the press. On his return, an American serviceman, in the secrecy of the confessional, admits to the murder. Darragh is precipitated into a classic conflict between his faith and his conscience, obedience to the Church against his personal feelings of grief and revenge, and crippling personal doubts about his fitness for his calling.

A multi-layered novel, tension-filled and entertaining, and with serious undertones regarding motives and morals. Keneally's portrayal of a good and pious man battling with the constraints of his faith is compelling.

LAWHEAD, Stephen

Patrick: son of Ireland.- HarperCollins, 2003.

An epic fictional biography which covers the early years of the famous Irish saint. It opens during the summer of 405AD when Irish raiders pillage the western coast of Wales, taking Succat, a sixteen-year-old-son of a prominent Roman family prisoner. Sold into slavery, he becomes shepherd for a minor Irish king. After various attempts of escape, Succat gains the attention of novice Druid, Cormac, and so begins his initiation into the Druid faith.



Later, helped by his lover Sionan, Cormac's sister, he escapes to Britain to claim his birthright, only to find his father's estate in ruins.

He meets up with one of his old friends, now a priest, and journeys to Gaul where, disillusioned with his fate, he joins the Roman legion. After many adventures in Gaul, Germania and eventually Rome, Succat returns to Ireland to the arms of Sionan, from whom he learns that he is a father. He joins a sect of the Druid order which is slowly introducing Christianity to the land, and the rest is history.

A compelling fictional portrait of this well-known saint delivered by an accomplished author.

EB

MARILLIER, Juliet

Wolfskin.- Tor, 2003.

An historical fantasy set during early Viking times telling the story of two friends, each with very different ideas of what they wish for the future. Eyvind who lives on a prosperous farm in Norway has one great desire and that is to become a Wolfskin, an elite order of warriors devoted to the service of the war god Thor. Somerled, on the other hand, is a slightly-built boy, introverted and very bright, who desires to be a king. As the years pass, Eyvind becomes a Wolfskin and together with Somerled ends up in the Orkney Islands. There Somerled's brother, Ulf, has set up a Viking colony with the permission of the king of the aboriginal inhabitants.

Somerled, now corrupt with ambition, murders his brother, places the blame on the local inhabitants, and incites the Vikings to massacre them in order to declare himself king.

Meanwhile Eyvind discovers Somerled's treachery, falls in love with the local king's daughter and with her aid sets matters right.

An engaging and riveting story of early Norse settlement in the Orkney Islands by the author of the acclaimed Sevenwaters trilogy.

NAIR. Preethi

One hundred shades of white.-

HarperCollins, 2003.

At the age of four, Maya is taken with her mother Nalini and her older brother Satchin to live in London, where her father has business interests. Her beloved grandmother and her native India are left behind. Later, however, their father Raul abandons them and they are forced to take lodgings in a slum, with a prostitute, Maggie, and her adult son, Tom. Maggie finds Nalini work in a factory, and the children are told that their father is dead. Discovering that Nalini has a talent for cooking, Maggie and Tom encourage her to start her own business, specialising in Indian cookery and its mystical applications. Their lives start to improve and Nalini has a chance to remarry.

Maya, however, has many issues to work through as she grows up. She questions her mother's integrity in lying about her father's death, and doubts her step-father's motives in marrying her mother. A trip back to India in search of her roots helps her to develop her sense of identity and come to terms with the truth of her past.

A charming coming of age novel with an 'East meets West' setting, written with depth, sincerity and touches of humour.

WILSON, Robert

The blind man of Seville.- HarperCollins, 2003. Wilson is the award-winning crime writer of titles such as A small death in Lisbon and The company of strangers. With this latest title, he has shifted his setting from Portugal to Spain, more specifically the city of Seville during the Easter celebrations. Police inspector Falcon is investigating the murder of a wealthy restauranteur whose eyelids have been cut out, forcing him to watch a video from a chair to which he has been bound. This grisly murder upsets Falcon unlike other murders he has investigated and during the course of the book he verges on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Not only are others viciously murdered, but he finds a photograph of his father in the dead man's flat. His father, who was Spain's most famous painter after Picasso, died recently and left his house to Falcon. He starts going through his father's studio of art works and comes across his diaries that he had started as a young man with the Foreign Legion. The murder investigation and the uncovering of his father's past are tied together and threaten to overwhelm the recently-divorced inspector

As with Wilson's other recent novels, this is not just a police procedural with an exotic setting, but a psychological portrait of a man and a gripping exploration of the historical past on the present.

IdeB

YOUNG ADULT FICTION TIENERLEKTUUR

CASSIDY, Anne

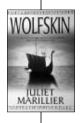
Love letters.- Scholastic, 2003.

At first Vicky is flattered when she starts receiving anonymous love letters. She initially suspects her best friend's older half-brother whom she fancies and then a boy in her class. But things take a darker turn when the married store manager at the shop where she has a part-time job owns up. Mr Messenger is a stalker, appearing in all kinds of situations, seemingly out of the blue, but in wait for her. There are never any witnesses and so her parents and the police do not believe her and suspect that she is deluded. Vicky decides to take matters into her own hands and discovers that she is not his first victim.

Cassidy writes realistic novels for teenagers, usually with an element of suspense. She is particularly good at portraying two aspects of adolescence - developing teenage sexuality and the way in which teenagers can live wholly separate lives from their parents. In this book she is particularly good also at depicting the changing relationship between Vicky and her best friend Jen, who has changed from a bit of a swot like Vicky, into a boy-crazed flirt who is not discriminating with her affections.

IdeB











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Cape Libr. , Jul / Aug 2003



Close your eyes.- David Bennett, 2002.

A little tiger is reluctant to go to sleep, giving his reasons to his mother for not doing so. For every concern of his, his mother provides a comforting answer. When he admits that he is afraid of the dark, her answer is truly philosophical and re-assuring, as she matter-of-factly states that dark is just the other side of light and that she will always be there if he needs her. This soothes him and sets his fears at rest. The bright, almost warm atmospheric illustrations by Georg Hallensleben blend in satisfactorily with the story.



I hate everyone.- D. Bennett Bks., 2002.

Queen Bee is very rude and demanding and never ever says please when asking the staff at her palace for anything. Whenever they ask her to say please, she responds by insulting them. She is so furious that she locks herself away in a deep dark dungeon and there realises the error of her ways. With its expressive text, and large painterly illustrations by Ruth Palmer, this is great fun while teaching a lesson about manners.

IdeB

MABALA, Richard

The special gift.- Maskew Miller Longman, 1996.

One in a series of graphic novels produced by UNICEF-ESAROs Communications Section, developed by a team of artists, writers and researchers in eastern and southern Africa in which problems specific to girl children and teenagers, living in rural and peri-urban areas in the region, are addressed. Sara is ayoung teenage girl who lives in an East African village and through the stories, she becomes a role model and symbol of children's rights as she faces and copes with specific problems as well as seeing how the problems of others in the community are dealt with. These graphic novels have a set of notes at the back to guide teachers and group facilitators so that the themes can be explored with young people in a group situation.

This story addresses the issue of girls being taken out of school when there is not enough money to pay for their education and/or they are needed at home or in the community to work. Sara loves school and is devastated when she is told that she has to leave for her father, who works in the city, has not sent money for her school fees and she is needed at home to fetch firewood. A book with science experiments, on loan from her teacher, enables Sara and her friend to build a fuel-friendly stove that demonstrates the value of education. This title also explores issues of local politics, gender and corruption in her community. The Sara titles, with their cartoon-style format and accessible presentation, appear simple, but the issues they

highlight are complex and dealt with in a challenging and thought-provoking way.

PRELLER, Martie

Ek is Simon.- Tafelberg, 2003.

Klein Simon maak een aand sy boek oop en begin lees. Hy lees van die sterk olifant, die vinnige dulker, die slim spinnekop, die ratse apie en die vlakvark. Maar dit bly nie net daar nie: Simon word deel van die wêreld. En meteens voel hy swak teen die sterk olifant, om van die ander diere nie eens te praat nie: hy voel onnosel en lomp teen hulle. Boonop vertel die vlakvark vir hom hoe lelik hy is. Simon voel nou regtig sleg. Dit is eers nadat sy ouers hom vertel van sy unieke eienskappe en vaardighede dat Simon beter voel. Bevat aksiebelaaide kleur-illustrasies deur Vian Oelofsen. Prettige verhaal wat op 'n slim wyse die kwessie van selfaanvaarding aanspreek.

WORMELL, Chris

Two frogs.- Cape, 2003.

An amusing picture book featuring two frogs holding a conversation on a lily pad in the middle of a large pond. The one is holding a stick and the other questions his reasons for doing that. For every question, the frog with the stick delivers a witty answer.

Later when a passing heron snaps them up into its beak, the stick certainly comes in handy in their escape. They both swim ashore and look for more sticks.

The vivid illustrations are a real treat and complement this sophisticated story.

EB

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

BK Brenda Kyle (City Libraries)

EB Erich Buchhaus

EMW Ethney Waters

JdeB Johanna de Beer

KM Katherine Moon (City Libraries)

MY Marion Yudelman (City Libraries)

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PRACTICAL



HOW TO COPE

Compiled by JEANETTE VOSLOO Assistant Director, Metropole Region

he past ten years have seen many changes in the daily tasks that librarians are confronted with. Librarians in general will probably agree that they are often faced with issues never before experienced by their predecessors.

We have encouraged librarians to share some of these situations with us as well as to provide us with possible solutions. The response was quite surprising - so much so that we will probably publish a follow-up article in a next issue.

Suggestions from...

Bellville Library

Ilze Swart, Chief Librarian

Proof of address

Prospective members cannot understand why they have to produce an identity

document (ID) and proof of home address and ill will is created before a person even joins. Elderly people seem to be particularly affronted as they think one is questioning their honesty. An ID number is a search field on PALS and we have to check that a borrower is not a member elsewhere/does not have outstanding material or fines elsewhere. A borrower must have proof of address so that overdue and other notices reach the correct address. (A summons is also served at a home address and not in a post box address.) It is common practice in business to ask for proof of details before opening an account. A borrower may take thousands of rands of material on a card. Libraries do not ask for a deposit as, for example, Eskom does - libraries merely require a recent proof of address.

• Homeless/street children

They are not necessarily borrowers but they frequent the library because it is a warm and comfortable place to sit/sleep/read the newspapers. Other borrowers complain about them because they sleep/

snore/smell. They can be told to sit up and wake up, or leave the library. Street children can become rowdy and older ones frighten smaller children in the children's department. See the standard library bylaw clause 16: No person shall... Display it in a prominent place on a laminated card so you can flash it at the person you are asking to leave.

• Damaged material

One can become involved in endless and sometimes acrimonious arguments with borrowers who disclaim responsibility to damage. In summer we regularly display heat/beach-damaged books to make borrowers aware of the damage which can be caused. Amazing too that most borrowers who damage a video claim to have brand new VCRs. Accurate noting of damage is very important so that one does not hold the innocent responsible for damage.

Fined borrowers

There are some borrowers who regularly argue about fines: they have renewed their books, or they have paid the fine on a previous occasion. No easy answer-try to give the borrower the benefit of the doubt-unless he is a habitual 'offender' who tries his luck with every member of staff. Fortunately, with PALS, one can make discreet (NB - because borrowers read the screen) notes about such cases. One must always give a borrower a till slip as proof of his payment, particularly if it is a large amount.

Noisy borrowers

Particularly in the reference section where you want them to be quiet. We recently had two female students going at each other with fisticuffs because the one was trying to study and the other ignored her request to be quiet. Solution: show borrower who talks a yellow card asking him to be quiet. If he does not listen, show him a red card which tells him to leave the reference section. Keeping young children quiet is more problematic.

Kaapse Bibl., Jul | Aug 2003

Cape Libr., Jul/Aug 2003

Thieves

Have discovered that the library can offer good pickings because people are concentrating on finding a book or information. Warning notices about keeping an eye on your possessions are necessary. Cellphones and purses are particularly vulnerable, especially when borrowers are making photocopies.

Treating everyone with courtesy and respect and having a friendly and helpful attitude is a great defuser of problem situations and borrowers.

Encourage staff to refer problem borrowers /situations to a librarian, who should preferably take the borrower out of the public eye before speaking to them. Habitual troublemakers love an audience.

Delft Library

Ingrid Neethling, Librarian

At Delft Library the appointed security guard deals with difficult customers. However, there are occasions when the librarian or staff have to deal with difficult patrons.

- Administrative problems, for example, fine notices, damaged items, et cetera, are dealt with by explaining procedures and rules. If the problem is on our side we promise to follow-up the query and inform the patron when it has been solved. If, however, the problem is as a result of the patron's own actions, we tactfully explain our procedures, for example, loading of fines, damages, lost books, et cetera, and then implement it.
- Rowdy patrons are asked to leave the library - the assistance of the security guard is normally requested.
- Verbally abusive patrons are difficult to control, the staff would point out to the patron that her/his behaviour is unacceptable, but very little can be done except to let the patron blow off steam; they tend to leave as soon as they have had their say.

- Drunken patrons behave in a similar way but can be removed much easier.
- In the case of serious fighting in the library, when the security guard cannot control the situation, the city's law enforcement officers are called in to deal with the problem.
- The most efficient way to deal with a difficult customer is to remain calm and speak in a confident manner without hesitation, especially when explaining library procedures and rules.

Belhar Library

Samantha Barreiro, Librarian

Belhar Library has traditionally focussed on improving customer service. It is our policy to go the extra mile for our patrons. It does, however, sometimes happen that a patron cannot be appeased or placated. In these cases where the patron demands service above and beyond what is offered the following procedures are followed:

- The patron is calmly addressed and handled. If at any stage verbal abuse is used the staff member will ask the patron to refrain from swearing or ask him/her to leave the library and return when a more civil and productive conversation can take place. At no stage will the staff member become embroiled in an argument with a patron.
- The staff member will not allow him/ herself to be forced to make allowances for difficult patrons if it goes against the procedures and policies of the library service. If the patrons insist with these demands he/she is sent to the librarian for resolution of the problem.
- The most common complaint is that of patrons still wanting to use the old dockets and their reaction when they realise that they need to wait a week. This is an operational procedure and

under special circumstances can be overturned.

- The staff has been given the right to use their discretion in certain matters. Everybody works on the basis of trust and respect and any complaints about staff is referred to the librarian. At no stage will a staff member be involved in badmouthing a colleague. Complaints about the library closing earlier due to staff shortages are referred to the library manager.
- The most important aspect of dealing with difficult patrons is to keep them informed. They need to understand why certain rules cannot be broken and others be adapted. A query on a blocked card, for example, for outstanding fines need to be carefully explained to the patron. We should not assume that patrons know what our procedures are and therefore need to be clear and transparent in our service delivery.
- Our overall policy is to assist and serve within set parameters. Any deviation from these must be addressed by the librarian and procedures and the reasons for its importance should be explained to patrons. Our aim is service delivery and we will do whatever is within our power to deliver an efficient and effective service.

Ours is not a perfect world and if all else fails, remember to remain calm. Bear in mind that you as a librarian are not alone in the dilemmas facing you and that you at least have the support of your colleagues. Remember, if all else fails, go for an Indian head massage..!



Calling all aspiring sport heroes, trainers and enthusiasts!

Compiled by HENNELIE DE KLERK Publications and Promotions

ew can deny the fact that your average South African is 'sport mad'.
What with the French Open and
Wimbledon just completed, it's slap-bang into cricket and the Rugby World Cup.
We've put together a short selection of titles on these and other types of sport to inspire your users to great heights!



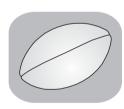
This game of cricket / producer, Peter Bucknall; director, Jack Dennis.

This five-part series, made for the National Cricket Association, is intended to assist cricket coaches at school, club and even county or provincial level by showing a number of international players in action in their specific fields. Using specially-staged demonstrations, extracts from top class matches, slow motion and animation, it illustrates the basic techniques of bowling, batting, fielding and wicket-keeping, and

then discusses all the variations on each. The details are as follows: fielding and wicket-keeping (with David Gower and Bob Taylor), pace bowling (with lan Botham and Norman Cowans), spin bowling (with John Emburey, Phil Edmonds and Abdul Qadir), batting: the back strokes (with Allan Lamb), and batting: the forward strokes (with Graham Gooch).

The Bob Woolmer way (volumes I-5)
Hard ball: the history of black cricket in
South Africa

Highlights of the 1993/94 World Series 10 years of Western Province cricket.



Focus on rugby / producer, Ray Marshall; director, Terry Ryan.

Made with the cooperation of the Rugby Unions of Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England, France, New Zealand and Australia, this series often programmes is intended to give players and coaches an in-depth look at the training routines of some of the world's top rugby players. It devotes separate chapters to key positions on the field and intercuts

movement and tactics as observed during training sessions with their match equivalents, so that the application of what has been practised can be seen immediately afterwards. In each case a top player talks about his role in the team and discusses the special skills required for his position. The last chapter deals with the importance of physical fitness and depicts a demanding set of exercises devised by Tom Hudson, director of physical education at Bath University. Also included is historial newsreel footage, featuring talented players of the past, amongst them some South Africans.

Other rugby titles:

All Blacks vs Springboks
Battle of the giants
101 rugby tries
Rugby World Cup 1995
WP-rugby: die eerste eeu.



Focus on soccer / producer, Ray Marshall; director, Terry Ryan.

Made in cooperation with The Football League, this series of seven programmes is intended to give players and coaches an

DOCUMENTARY FOCUS

in-depth look at the training routines of some of England's top soccer stars. Beginning with a brief introduction to the history of the game and a demonstration of basic skills, it devotes separate chapters to key positions on the field. It intercuts movements and tactics as observed during club training sessions with their match equivalents, so that the application of what has been practised can be seen immediately afterwards. In each case a top player talks about his role in the team and discusses the special skills required for his position. Also included is historical newsreel footage, in which soccer stars of the past are seen in action, illustrating how changes in the game have come about. The films are narrated by Hugh Johns, with Sir Matt Busby acting as series consultant.

Other soccer titles: The people's game (volumes I-3) Teaching kids soccer.



The winning edge: private lessons with the pros / producer, Rob Walker; director, John Yandell.

In the introduction it is explained that this video was made to help the viewer play better tennis. In five brief lessons, John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl teach us how to develop the basic shots and how to put them together into winning strategies. The first three lessons cover groundstrokes, volleys and serve, and the two advanced ones illustrate how to win and break serve. The players start each lesson by pointing out key elements to watch for and explain why they use music when practising. The demonstrations were filmed indoors against a neutral dark background, which prevents the viewer from being distracted.

In addition the filmmakers have employed sophisticated, computer-enhanced cinematic techniques to bring out details of the action. McEnroe and Lendl take turns to narrate and the music they use is by The Police (Walking on the moon), The Cars (Shake it up), Blondie (Shayla), The Pretenders (Time the avenger) and The Motels (Forever mine).

Other tennis titles: Borg vs McEnroe Ten years of Wimbledon 1971-1980.



Teach your children to swim / producer, Chris Davies.

This video programme is meant for use by parents and teachers who would like practical guidance and a clearly-structured course for teaching young children to swim. It consists of five lessons, each following the school syllabus of the Gauteng Department of Education from Standards I to 5, but it can also be followed at the individual child's level of proficiency over a shorter period of time. The instructor is one of South Africa's foremost swimming coaches. Mo Lamont, who begins with confidence building, breathing and floating exercises and then progresses from the dog paddle to the crawl, back stroke, breast stroke and butterfly. Also included are progressively more advanced instructions on diving and life saving, as well as some useful information on competitive swimming.

Other swimming titles:

1992 Summer Olympics - Swimming & diving Teaching kids swimming.



Keep fit with karate / director, Barry Morel.

A local production in which South African karate expert Stan Schmidt takes a squad of his pupils through a series of workouts. All the exercises are derived from basic karate moves and are designed to re-shape, recondition and re-create the body, without wasting any energy or effort. The programme is divided into three parts, representing the three stages of growth elementary, intermediate and advanced and viewers are advised not to tackle any of the sophisticated techniques before the basics have been mastered. Please note that the video is intended for use by individuals interested in getting fit through karate and is not primarily meant to teach karate as a discipline.

Other karate titles:

Beginning karate Essentials of karate.

Other sport titles of interest:

The fun, the art, the triumph: all you need

to know about road running Great golf courses of Southern Africa Hunters Self-Defence Solo ascent 1992 Summer Olympics - Basketball & Supercharged: the grand prix car 1924-

Put these titles to good use together with a display on book titles - remember a healthy body inspires a healthy mind.

Note: Reviews by Freddy Ogterop, Film | Video | DVD Selector.

