

●●● VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR ADULT NON-FICTION

The BBC big read book of books. - Dorling Kindersley, 2003.

This is the book of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television programme. It presents introductory information on 100 famous books including **A town like Alice**, **Artemis fowl**, **Charlie and the chocolate factory**, **David Copperfield** and the **Harry Potter** titles. Brief information is provided on each author and story and the colourful illustrations add to the enjoyment of browsing through the book.

DH

BERG, A Scott

Kate remembered. - Simon, 2003.

A loving portrait of American actress Katherine Hepburn, following close on her death during the latter half of last year.

Here the author delivers a vivid picture of her thoughts and sentiments told to him over the years, on condition that he only published them in a biography after her death. The book was completed up to the year 2000 and the final three chapters were only added after the actress died.

Katherine Hepburn became an icon in the popular culture of the twentieth century and Berg covers the seven decades in which she developed from an admired actress into a loved movie star and ultimately the embodiment of the modern American woman.

Scott Berg is a capable biographer who delivers a perceptive and vivid sketch of a complex, difficult and charismatic woman.

EB

CHANDLER, Charlotte

Nobody's perfect: Billy Wilder, a personal biography. - Pocket Bks., 2003.

In a career spanning about forty years Billy Wilder managed to produce some of cinema's most enduring classics such as **Sunset Boulevard**, **Sabrina**, **Some like it hot** and many others.

Combining generally known facts about the subject with truly exclusive interviews with the famous director, his closest associates and actors, **Nobody's perfect** presents not only an intimate look at Hollywood in the 1950s, but also an intense close-up of one of cinema's all-time great directors.

It is this collage of perspectives that makes this title an enthralling read. Chapters are divided according to the chronology of Wilder's films with a who's who of Hollywood adding their remarks.

Film buffs and casual readers on the subject of film will find it an interesting and absorbing work that will prove once and for all that great films never just happen.

EB

CLANCY, Liam

Memoirs of an Irish troubadour. - Virgin, 2002.

Liam Clancy, Irish actor and folksinger, now in his sixties, reflects on his life. The youngest of 11 children, he writes of his childhood experiences in his immediate and extended family, his friends and schooldays in the Irish village of Carrick-on-Suir. His parents often sang around the house and on family walks and from them he developed a love of song, poetry and the theatre. He eventually joined his brothers in New York, where they formed the hugely successful Clancy Brothers. This is a wonderfully enjoyable read, authentic, full of social history, poignant and very funny in parts.

DH

GALLAGHER, John

Geisha, a unique world of tradition, elegance and art. - Collins & Brown, 2003.

Gallagher, who currently works in Japan as a writer and translator, takes a wide-ranging look at the geisha and their world, past and present. This striking quarto production is beautifully illustrated and even includes a series of transparencies showing the layers of traditional geisha dress and make-up. However, it is more than an attractive coffee-table book and the text is substantial and informative.

MJI

GLENNIE, Catherine

Getting motivated, keeping motivated. - Pretext, 2001.

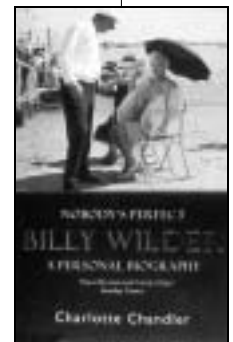
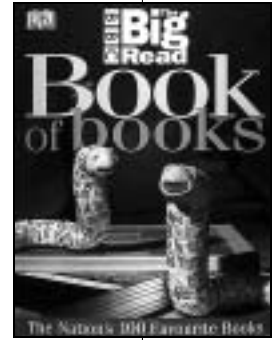
The author is a local motivational speaker and writer. This is a collection of her columns written for **The Argus** from July 1999 to June 2001. Topics covered include goal setting, achieving goals, being focused, how to say 'no', what daily journal writing can do for your life, putting yourself in positive environments, dealing with tough times and other topics. These short pieces are readable and provide practical lifeskill guidelines.

DH

JAMES, Gill

The complete guide to learning a language. - HowtoBooks, 2003.

The author is an experienced language teacher who now runs a language school in Britain. Before launching into learning a new language she recommends that you make a mind-map of why you want to learn a language. The suitability of courses can be





assessed by checking against it. The amount of time per week which can be spent on your language must be decided and from this the total number of months and years to reach your desired mind-map level can be calculated. She provides an overview of what can be expected from different types of courses, for example, language school courses, residential courses in a foreign country, et cetera. The mind-map needs to be checked regularly to see if goals are being reached and further mind-maps need to be made as you go on. Clearly presented, this is a very useful guide on how to go about planning the learning of a new language.

DH

McGILLIGAN, Patrick

Alfred Hitchcock: a life in darkness. - Regan Bks., 2003.

An inside look at this unique director, drawing on original interviews with the director's friends and associates, as well as documents from Hitchcock's archives.

It covers the usual biographical details of childhood, early career and eventual success, but goes beyond that to offer an intimate glimpse of the creative processes that led Hitchcock to produce many of the twentieth century's greatest cinematic masterpieces.

No stone is left unturned to provide meticulous detail of a director who was both loved and loathed, but who nevertheless forged a career unequalled by any other. **Alfred Hitchcock: a life in darkness** is the ultimate tribute to a man who re-defined the meaning of the word 'suspense'. It is unlikely that there will be another work of comparable merit in years to come.

EB

MYNHARDT, Patrick

Boy from Bethulie. - Wits U.P., 2003.

A candid and honest autobiography of well-known South African actor Patrick Mynhardt, covering his life and career in the entertainment industry.

He allows the reader a glimpse of his early life as a young boy growing up in Bethulie as the son of an Afrikaans doctor and Irish Catholic mother. He then describes his early years in theatre both here and in England, and gives an interesting insight into the history of South African theatre from the 1950s onward.

The witty, honest and amusing revelations clearly reflect Mynhardt's ability to entertain. A wonderful read.

EB

NEL, Hylton

Hylton Nel. - Michael Stevenson, 2003.

Hylton Nel has evolved as a South African ceramist with an international reputation, whose works are sought after by collectors. This book comprises colour photographs of a wide range of his work together with the text of conversations between

Michael Stevenson and Nel. The text takes the form of a long interview and is biographical, covering his childhood on a Northern Cape farm, his art school days at Rhodes, years spent in Antwerp studying, living in Britain and return to South Africa. He taught at the Port Elizabeth Technikon and later at Michaelis Art School. This is a well-produced book with many colour illustrations which reveal the beauty of his works.

DH

ROTHER, Rainer

Leni Riefenstahl: the seduction of genius. - Continuum, 2002.

Translated from the German text this title explores the controversial life and career of Leni Riefenstahl who gained fame as a dancer, actress, director and photographer. However, she is best remembered as the famed film director for noteworthy and acclaimed films such as **Olympia**, a documentary of the 1936 Munich Olympics, and for the Nazi propaganda film **Triumph des Willens**.

Although regarded as the best female director before World War II, she never quite received opportunities in the film industry after the war due to her close association with the Third Reich. Leni Riefenstahl then went on to establish a successful career in photography.

Not a traditional biography in the true sense of the word, this title is more an examination of Riefenstahl's life via her achievements. It reads well, and those interested in learning more of this fascinating woman will find this an absorbing and informative read.

EB

SCHRIRE, Gwynne

Camps Bay: an illustrated history. - A.W. Louw, 2003.

A nostalgic look at the history of Camps Bay by a local author who has certainly put her heart into the project. After a briefing of the area's archaeological history and that of its original primitive inhabitants, attention is focused on the early encounters with white explorers whose impressions of the area allow for some fascinating reading.

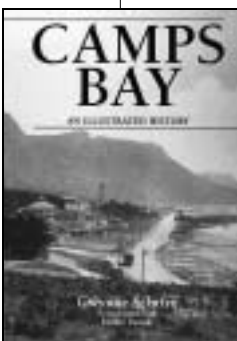
This is done to whet the reader's appetite before venturing into an overview of the development of the area over the years to present times, which forms the main content of the book. Authentic archival photographs are tastefully used to liven up the readable text and capture the essence of times long gone past.

EB

TRUSS, Lynne

Eats, shoots & leaves: a zero tolerance approach to punctuation. - Profile Bks., 2003.

British writer and broadcaster Lynne Truss explores correct punctuation and its importance and deplores its modern decline. She discusses the



various punctuation marks, how they should be used and what happens when they are ignored or misused, with telling examples. But more than this, she shows that punctuation is not just some outmoded convention but a crucial part of thinking clearly about what one wants to say and communicating it to others without confusion. Written in entertaining, witty style and very readable, the book has received wide critical acclaim and has proved to be a surprise best-seller overseas. It will certainly appeal to anyone interested in language.

MJI

(See *Between the lines*, CL, January / February 2004, p 2.)

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

DUNMORE, Helen

Mourning Ruby.- Viking, 2003.

The central character, Rebecca, was found as a baby in a man's size eleven shoebox. Now grown up and married, this story is part of Rebecca's identity. She is devastated by grief when her five-year-old daughter Ruby, dies in an accident and this affects her relationship with her husband, Adam. Her friendship with writer, Joe, leads to a new version of her origins. Also part of her life is Mr Damiano, a hotel entrepreneur who offers her a job. This is a compelling story focusing on relationships of the well-drawn characters.

DH

McKINLEY, Robin

Sunshine.- Bantam, 2003.

Rae Seddon, nicknamed Sunshine, decides to cool down at a nearby lake one evening after working at her stepfather's bakery from where she is abducted by a group of young vampires.

Taken to an abandoned old mansion she is chained to a wall directly opposite another vampire. The other vampires taunt him and yet are scared to go near him. She is supposed to be eaten by him and to further increase his hunger, one vampire cuts her across the chest with his claws to let the blood flow.

The group depart, leaving Rae and her neighbour, Constantine alone. The vampire asks her to tell stories to keep them sane, and they develop an understanding. Making use of half-forgotten, hereditary magical powers, Rae manages to secure their escape.

Rae wants to forget her experience but there are forces at play that do not allow for this. Soon Rae finds herself calling on Constantine, and joining forces in a death-defying mission to destroy a coven of evil vampires.

Written very much in the way of fantasy titles, this engrossing novel looks like the first title in what could be an enthralling vampire fantasy series.

EB

NASSISE, Joseph

Riverwatch.- Pocket Bks., 2003.

While renovating the cellar of the old Blake family mansion in Harrington Falls, Jake Caruso is informed by his construction team of the existence of a hidden tunnel. Excited by this unexpected discovery, Jake enters its depths and comes across a sealed stone chamber. Instructed by the owner to report back if anything unusual is found, all construction work comes to a halt.

Meanwhile a disgruntled worker secretly breaks into the sealed chamber and unknowingly unleashes an ancient evil amongst the residents of the small community. A nightmarish creature from the primeval past is responsible for the gruesome deaths of the locals. It is up to Jake and his two friends, Sam and Katelynn, and the local sheriff Damon to put a stop to the terror.

This is the author's first horror novel and it has already received two nominations for awards. It is well written, filled with gripping action and moves at a seductively fast pace.

EB

VAN DER VYVER, Marita

Vergenoeg.- Tafelberg, 2003.

Van der Vyver lewer met haar nuutste boek voorwaar 'n roman wat die hartsnare roer - 'n roman van absolute meeleving, wat jou opnuut bewus maak van jou eie sterflikheid.

Die verhaal speel af in 'n klein plekkie met die naam van Vergenoeg. Dit handel oor Adele Bothma, wat sterwend is aan kanker en haar twee dogters, die korrekte San en die eksotiese Bella. Beide susters keer tydens hul ma se siekte terug na Vergenoeg om haar te versorg. Die verhaal word vertel vanuit elkeen van die drie vroue se perspektief en geleidelik word verskeie aspekte van die karakters ontbloot: Bella, die nagklubsangeres wat meer bekend is in haar eie land as in Frankryk en San, wat oënskynlik altyd in beheer is, maar heimlik 'n drankprobleem het. Benewens hul konfrontasie met die dood, word die twee susters ook gekonfronteer met hul eie gevoelens vir mekaar. San veral, voel dat die jonger Bella altyd die onverantwoordelike een was, wat kon wegkom met moord en dat haar ma altyd meer aandag en liefde aan Bella gegee het.

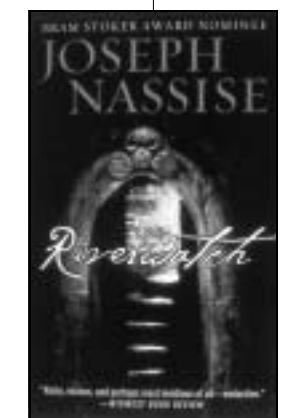
Van der Vyver slaag daarin om die hele idee van die moeder-dogter generasie te laat voortleef deurdat sy Adele se stem na haar dood vul met die van haar kleindogter Ada. 'n Intens, aangrypende verhaal, wat beslis nie maklik neergesit kan word nie.

EW

YOUNGHUSBAND, Peter L

Every meal a banquet, every night a honeymoon.- Jonathan Ball, 2003.

Written by a retired journalist, this is a collection of 23 non-fiction stories set in different African countries. The first story is about what happened when two Italian prisoners-of-war were assigned to





'Boetie Jan's' farm as labourers. In the title story a journalist is sent to Zaire to find the newspaper owner's son who has disappeared while there on a journalistic assignment. These are authentic and readable stories which will find a ready readership.

DH

●●● **JEUGLEKTUUR**
JUVENILE FICTION

DURANT, Alan

Always and forever.- Doubleday, 2003.

Otter, Mole, Fox and Hare share a tree house in the woods as one happy family. During the early part of the autumn season, Fox takes ill and one day is discovered dead in the woods. His death deeply affects his three friends who do not know how they will get over his sudden passing.

During the winter months they deeply mourn their dead friend and stay in-doors. When spring comes, they are still in mourning.

Squirrel decides to pay them a visit and during his visit he reminds them how funny Fox used to be and in this way makes them realise that Fox will always be in their heart and memories.

The vivid colour illustrations by the award-winning children's illustrator Debi Gliori, capture the poignancy of this moving yet spiritually uplifting tale on the theme of bereavement.

EB

HORACEK, Petr

When the moon smiled.- Walker Bks., 2003.

The moon comes out to find that things are topsy-turvy: the animals that should be going to sleep are wide awake and the nocturnal animals are not to be seen. So the moon starts lighting the stars, one for each type of animal. The first star puts the dog to sleep, the second wakes up the cats, the third sends the cows to rest, the fourth rouses the bats. This continues up to ten, when all has been put right. In each case another star-shaped hole in the page allows readers to see yet one more yellow star, while the number of animals also increases (one dog, two cats, three cows, and so on). Another novelty feature is the acetate window in the front cover through which the moon can be seen. The illustrations in this attractively-produced bedtime counting book feature rich, deep colours and glowing golden-yellows.

MJI

MITTON, Tony

Bumpus jumpus dinosaurump!- Orchard Books, 2003.

The ground quakes and quivers as the dinosaurs gather to romp and stomp for the dinosaur rumpus. Things calm down as the dinosaurs grow sleepy and then tumble in a heap as they fall asleep. Rhythmic

text with plenty of repetition and colourful and lively illustrations make this fun to read aloud.

DH

PITCHER, Caroline

The winter dragon.- F. Lincoln, 2003.

A little boy called Rory is terribly afraid of the dark during the winter months and creates a dragon with a painted emerald green body and a brilliant red crest as a companion.

One night the dragon comes to life, calling himself the Winter Dragon and proceeds to tell Rory stories to help him overcome his fear of the dark.

At the approach of spring the dragon has to say goodbye. Next winter the Winter Dragon does not appear but the memories of his wonderful tales keep Rory safe within 'his own world of warmth and light'.

An uplifting story with appealing atmospheric illustrations that offers encouragement to a child in dealing with fears of the dark.

EB

ROEP, Nanda

A goodnight kiss.- Gullane, 2003.

A little racoon, Lisa, is being put to bed. She asks her father for a kiss. He offers her all kinds of kisses - a butterfly kiss, a monster kiss, a circus kiss, an Eskimo kiss, and more - each with its own appropriate fantasy scene. Finally he gives her a goodnight kiss, which sends Lisa to sleep. The colourful, exuberant double-page-spread illustrations, by Marijke ten Cate, are full of movement and amusing detail, and feature a charming father-and-daughter pair of racoons. This attractive bedtime picture-book was first published in the Netherlands.

MJI

WILD, Margaret

The pocket dogs.- Southwood, 2003.

Biff and Buff are two very small dogs. They belong to the amiable Mr Pockets, who carries them around in the big pockets of his coat when he goes out. But Mr Pockets doesn't realise that there is a hole in one of his pockets. Biff is terrified that he'll fall out, but he cannot explain to Mr Pockets what is wrong. The hole gets bigger and bigger, and poor Biff does fall out. He gets lost in the supermarket, but all ends well when he is reunited with Mr Pockets and Buff. The text is simple but effective, and Stephen Michael King provides delightful, amusing colour illustrations. A charming picture-book.

MJI

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

DH Denise Harris **EB** Erich Buchhaus
MJI Margaret Iskandar **EW** Ethney Waters

