

### ●●● ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

**1001 movies you must see before you die.-**  
Cassell, 2003.

A selective guide to the most important films produced, covering all genres, and telling you everything you need to know about these 'must-see' movies. In this extremely attractive volume, the reader is presented with interesting details of each film featured, giving reasons as to why it deserves mention in this volume. The films are discussed in a year-by-year sequence with highlighted boxes offering information regarding their conception, development and making (country, director, cast, et cetera), and are illustrated with stills and posters of the mentioned movies. One is also made aware of famous pieces of memorabilia associated with various films.

Not only is this volume intellectually satisfying, but it also is visually attractive, and will be enjoyed by readers interested in the cinema.

EB

**BASS, Bill and JEFFERSON, Jon**

**Death's acre: inside the legendary Body Farm.-**  
Time Warner, 2003.

Forensic anthropologist Bill Bass's research facility at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville is unique, and to the outsider it may sound very gruesome. This is where experiments are carried out on human corpses to determine scientifically such points as exactly how and when bodies decompose under various conditions. The nickname of the Body Farm became widely known when Patricia Cornwell used it as the title of a Kay Scarpetta novel after Dr Bass had helped her with background research. Dr Bass's memoirs include details of some of the many interesting mysteries and criminal cases in which he has been involved. He does not sensationalise, but relates the often grim forensic details with a blend of professional objectivity and human empathy. He also lightens the mood with occasional anecdotes and touches of self-deprecating humour. While this may not be to everyone's taste, true crime fans will find it an engrossing and informative read.

MJI

**EMSLEY, John**

**Nature's building blocks: an A-Z guide to the elements.-** OUT, 2003.

This book about the chemical elements is intended not for the chemist, but as a reference work for the

layperson or general reader. It contains a wealth of information and is, surprisingly, an interesting browse. The book is arranged alphabetically, with entries varying in length from about two to nine pages each, describing each element's discovery, its uses, and importance to humans and other living things. The entries are divided into various sections: the cosmic element, human element, food element, medical element, economic element, environmental element, and so on, including a rather quirky section Emsley calls the 'element of surprise'.

In the entry for arsenic one learns that Napoleon may have absorbed arsenic from the green-patterned wallpaper in Longwood House on St Helena, and that contaminated soil can be cleaned up by growing the Chinese ladder fern, and in the copper entry that the blood of the octopus and oyster is blue because they rely on a blue copper compound to carry oxygen around the body. This really is a useful and informative work.

SG

**HALL, Sian**

**Dogs of Africa.-** Blue Ribbon Books, n.d.

This Howick author, an anthropology graduate from Rhodes University, spent 16 years researching and writing this book. She provides information on the origins, characteristics, ancient history and place in modern life of African dogs. Breeds covered include, the Pariah, Boerboel, Basenji, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Saluki, Canaan, Egyptian Armant, Aidi, Bichon Frise and many others. Illustrated with drawings and black and white photographs. This is a comprehensive and important study and much of the information in the book has been collected from sources not readily accessible.

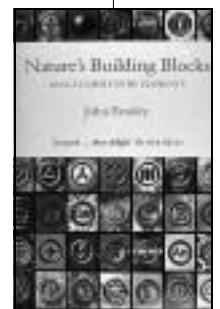
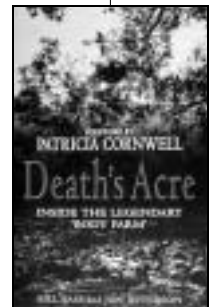
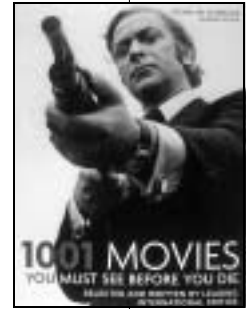
DH

**HARRISON, Shirley**

**Jack the Ripper: the American connection.-**  
Blake, 2003.

In 1994 the author published what looked like the authentic diary of the notorious 19th century London serial killer of the 1880s known as Jack the Ripper. The suggestion was that Jack the Ripper was actually a cotton merchant from Liverpool called James Maybrick who, furious over his wife's infidelity, went periodically to London to butcher whores. This was a fascinating document as the identity of Jack the Ripper has always been a mystery.

Now this title provides further proof that links James Maybrick to the killer as a series of similar-type killings were made in America around about the same time that Maybrick visited there.



Of course this is interesting speculation, and it is as readable as the first. Also included are the diaries of James Maybrick.

EB

### RAYNER, Claire

**How did I get here from there?**- Virago, 2003.

Autobiography from this British novelist, broadcaster and advice columnist. She writes about her wretched childhood, her parents were constantly in a state of financial ruin and she was treated cruelly by her mother. Her love of reading saved her and from a very early age she was a great library user. At the age of 14 she escaped from home, into nursing, but had to return home when her real age was discovered. Her parents then emigrated to Canada, where she was institutionalised for over a year in a psychiatric hospital. Later, it became clear that her problems were thyroid related. Back in Britain, she returned to nursing, married and in between babies started writing novels and dispensing health advice through newspaper columns. This is rather long on the author's unhappy childhood, but also readable and interesting.

DH

### SAFFRON, Inga

**Caviar: the strange history and uncertain future of the world's most coveted delicacy.**- Broadway Bks., 2003.

It became the ultimate gourmet luxury, but once it was so little regarded that Russian peasants fed it to their pigs. Today the sturgeon, the fish that produces the delicious little eggs, is threatened with extinction in its native land. These are among the interesting facts that journalist Inga Saffron reveals in her history of caviar. She describes the caviar industry and incorporates anecdotes, travel experiences and personalities. With its readable style, this should appeal to those who enjoyed Mark Kurlansky's book, *Cod*.

MJI

**West Coast cookbook / edited by Ina Paarman.**- Struik, 2003.

In 1996 the Bergrivier Vissersvrouevereniging was established by a group of women who are the wives and widows of pelagic fishermen on the West Coast. Their application for a fishing quota was successful and some of the income generated is used to fund projects, with this cookbook being a 'means of recording the history and restoring the pride and dignity of the West Coast people'.

This very attractive and well-designed quarto is not only a recipe book with traditional recipes from the West Coast, with many fish and seafood dishes, but a readable overview of the history of the fishing

community and its culture that pays tribute to the role of women within it.

Here one will find recipes for dishes like smoor-snoek, roosterkoek, curried noodle salad, curried crayfish potjie and many more to tantalize the tastebuds. The culturally sensitive and culinary sensible input of Ina Paarman, the well-known cookery writer, has meant that these traditional West Coast dishes can now easily be prepared and enjoyed by those who are unfamiliar with them.

A lot of thought and care has gone into this wonderful resource that can even be enjoyed by non-foodies - the archival photographs and the examples of West Coast idiomatic expressions like, 'die water brand', which refers to the reflection of phosphorus on the water.

JdeB

## ●●● ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

### BLACKLAWS, Troy

**Karoo boy.**- Double Storey, 2004.

Fourteen-year-old Douglas's twin brother, Marsden, is killed in an accident in a family cricket game on Muizenberg beach. This leads to the separation of his parents and Douglas and his mother, accompanied by their live-in maid, Hope, go to live in a Karoo dorp. Here, Douglas has to adjust to a new school and platteland attitudes. He finds a friend in Marika. This first novel is written with a light touch and the text is full of South African expressions which ring true. The author captures many attitudes typical of the 'Old South Africa', which resonate with the reader.

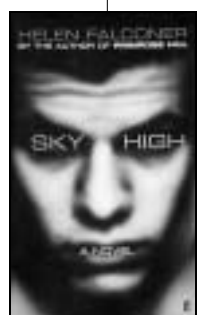
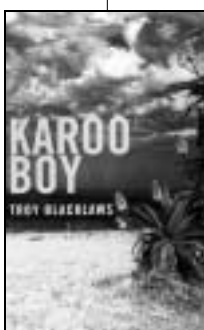
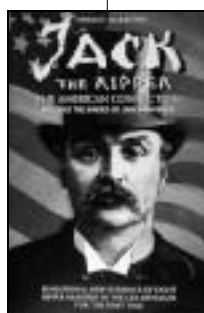
DH

### FALCONER, Helen

**Sky high.**- Faber, 2003.

Although the central character of *Sky high* is a teenager, it is not intended as a teenage novel. Set on a housing estate in London and with music playing an important role in the story, it will, however, have some young adult appeal. Ferdia, an attractive and intelligent boy, narrates his story.

His father has left home (now living with a young starlet), and his mother is having an affair with a young man from the estate (a rough character with a scary reputation). Ferdia goes to school, hangs out with his friends, plays music, and is seduced by his English teacher. This may not sound particularly appealing, but it really is worth reading. I loved it - it's funny and sad and very contemporary, and paints



a gritty portrait of life on an urban estate. Highly recommended.

SG

**FRENCH, Nicci**

**Secret smile.**- M. Joseph, 2003.

This is the seventh novel from the writing duo of **Observer** journalist, Nicci Gerrard, and her husband, Sean French, and it certainly will not disappoint their many fans. The authors really ratchet up the tension in this thriller about obsession and revenge. Miranda Cotton had recently begun an affair with Brendan, whom she'd met while out with mutual friends, but was having second thoughts about it, feeling that he was moving too quickly for her. When she finds him in her flat reading her diary, she breaks off the relationship, only to learn a week or so later that he is now going out with her sister, has met (and charmed) her parents and has lied to them all about his relationship with Miranda. From then on the situation just gets worse and worse. **Secret smile** is a compelling and almost oppressively tense read, and like the previous book, **Land of the living**, impossible to put down.

SG

**MARILLIER, Juliet**

**Foxmask.**- Tor, 2003.

An exciting epic sequel to **Wolfskin**. It is set in the Orkney Islands to the north of Scotland, focusing on the children of the protagonists of the first title, some years later.

Eyvand, a Viking colonist leader has married a local native princess Nessa and has built up a thriving and peaceful community after the banishment of the previous brutal Viking chieftain, Sommerled.

The story continues with the adventures of Thorvald, Sommerled's son, who, discovering his real father's identity, sets off on a journey to find him. Eyvand's daughter, Creidhe, and his best friend Sam join him. They travel north and reach the Lost Isles after a rough journey where they meet the Long Knife people ruled by a cruel tyrant. These people live under a dreadful curse and Thorvald and his two friends are virtual prisoners.

Creidhe is separated from Thorvald and Sam, but manages to escape to a mostly inaccessible island where she meets her future love, Keeper, the uncle of the visionary child and seer known as Foxmask.

A gripping blend of history and fantasy makes this a wonderful and satisfying read for those interested in the early history of the British Isles.

EB

**PRUNTY, Morag**

**Poison arrows.**- Pan, 2003.

This third novel from the author of **Dancing with mules** and **Disco daddy** is a comic take on romance

and relationships. The angel Christian (a cupid) is sent to the small village of Gorrib in Ireland to sort out the love lives of its inhabitants. This really is great fun, with heaven and the work of angels organised like a vast bureaucracy. **Poison arrows** is a delightfully funny, light read - definitely not a novel to be taken too seriously.

SG

**ROBERTS, Nora and ROBB, JD**

**Remember when.**- Piatkus, 2003.

Popular author, Nora Roberts, writes romance and romantic suspense under her own name, and a futuristic crime series using the pseudonym, JD Robb. In **Remember when** she combines these and it works fairly well. The first half is contemporary romantic suspense with a touch of humour. Attractive Laine Tavish, the owner of a small-town antique shop called Remember when, seems pretty ordinary but no one in Angel's Gap is aware of her past- which suddenly seems to be catching up with her. The second part of the book moves fifty or so years into the future, to mid-21st century New York and the police investigation led by Detective Lieutenant Eve Dallas.

Although the stories are linked, this is almost like two books in one, and is obviously the way the best-selling Roberts has chosen to introduce her legions of fans to her *Eve Dallas* series. I don't know whether they will all like the Eve Dallas story, but I have no doubt that fans will all give it a try.

SG

**SPIEGELMAN, Peter**

**Black maps.**- Century, 2003.

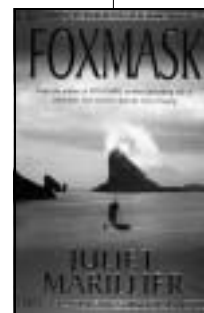
Spiegelman's accomplished debut novel features New York private detective John March. The former upstate cop has a tragedy in his past, which is hinted at and finally revealed. But here his immediate pre-occupation is with the fallout from the collapse of a crooked bank, MWB, and a client who's being blackmailed by someone who seems to know all MWBs dirty secrets. March, a modern incarnation of the archetypal tough private eye, must face not only tangled financial scams but corruption, evil and violence. This tense, gritty crime thriller is well crafted and makes a gripping read.

MJI

**VAKIL, Ardashir**

**One day.**- Penguin, 2004.

A contemporary novel about one day in the lives of Anglo-Indian Ben and his wife, Priya, who live in North London. It is their son's third birthday and a party is planned for later in the day. Ben, a schoolteacher, goes to work and Priya, en route for the BBC, drops their son, Whacka, at nursery school. As the day unfolds, more is revealed of the backgrounds of





Ben and Priya and the event which led to the rift in their marriage. After the birthday party, a marital conflict erupts and the cut and thrust of the row brings to light mutual displeasure. This ironical novel is written with clarity.

DH

●●● JUVENILE NON-FICTION  
JEUGVAKLEKTUUR

LEWIS, Sara

**Die jong kok: 60 maklike en prettige resepte vir kinders van alle ouderdomme.**- Struik, 2004.

Soek jy 'n oulike eenvoudige resepteboek om jou jongklomp mee besig te hou? Wel, dan is **Die jong kok: 60 maklike en prettige resepte vir kinders van alle ouderdomme**, net vir jou. Hierdie titel sluit 'n versameling van eenvoudige, dog smaaklike resepte in met stap-vir-stap aanwysings en kleurvolle illustrasies. Dit sluit in: hoendergeregte, vleisgeregte, visgeregte, tesame met lekkernye soos pizza, kaaswiletjies, appelsneeu, framboosroomys en allerlei koekies en brode. Voorts gee dit ook basiese wenke oor kosmaak, byvoorbeeld, hoe om groente te skil, groente te skrop, te blokkeer so meer. Die jongspan word ook verder geleer van al die terme wat in kookkuns gebruik word. En laastens word hulle ook geleer van veiligheid en higiëne in die kombuis. Beslis goeie leesstof vir die jong fynproewer, selfs Pa kan iets leer! Ook beskikbaar in Engels.

EMW

●●● JUVENILE FICTION  
JEUGLEKTUUR

JACOBS, Jaco

**Superheroes vlieg net saans.**- Lapa, 2003.

Jaco Jacobs se jeugverhaal **Superheroes vlieg net saans** is belaaie met pret en avontuur. Sy hoofkarakter, Miek, is vol kwajongstreke. Hy is veral in die sop omdat hy die wetenskapklas se witmuis groen gekleur het. Boonop het hy ook nie 'n projek vir entrepreneursdag nie. Maar dan gebeur die vreemdste ding: 'n superhero in 'n geel gewaad land in Miek-hulle se agterplaas...

Die teks word goed aangevul deur die humoristiese, kleurvolle illustrasies deur Frans Groenewald.

EMW

THOMSON, Pat

**Drat that fat cat!**- Arthur A Levine, 2003.

The story centres around a rather fat cat that does not consider himself fat enough. So he goes out

looking for possible sources of food and everybody he approaches with nothing to offer gets gobbled up. Those swallowed whole include a rat, a duck, a dog and an old lady.

But when the fat cat accidentally swallows a bee that stings, he realises that he has taken on more than he can handle and coughs up all his victims.

The bright, bold watercolour illustrations capture the essence of this amusing tale that should appeal to toddlers.

EB

WALLACE, John

**Anything for you.**- Puffin, 2003.

Charlie is a little bear who just loves to help his friend Ginger but things never work out quite right. Whether he tries helping in the garden or the house, he always seems to end up making such a mess that he himself has to be cleaned instead.

But still Charlie would do anything for Ginger and when it is suggested that Little Charlie go to bed and sleep, he is capable of doing this very well, and he is already rather tired. A charming and touching story with quaint, rather old-fashioned watercolour illustrations well suited to this warm and affectionate story.

EB

WHYBROW, Ian

**Gently Bentley.**- Hodder, 2004.

Bentley is a young bear who likes to 'smash and bash', and he plays so roughly with one of his favourite toys that he breaks it. His friends Bun (a rabbit) and Squeaky (a rodent) demonstrate other toys and games to him, but despite repeated cries of 'Gently Bentley!' it seems he's too rough for any of them. David Melling's lively and amusing colour illustrations depict an active and endearing trio of childlike animals. Possibly toddlers will find it more fun to imitate Bentley's smashing and bashing than to absorb the moral of enjoying gentler, cooperative play. Nevertheless, this is an appealing picture book.

MJI

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

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

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