

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

CADBURY, Deborah

The lost king of France: revolution, revenge and the search for Louis XVII.- Fourth Estate, 2002.

A compelling account of how science has solved one of the greatest puzzles in French history - the fate of the youngest son of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI.

After a briefing on Marie Antoinette's life in France, the revolution, and the trials and tribulations of the royal family, the story focuses on the young dauphin of France.

Louis-Charles, Duc de Normandie, became the royal heir to the throne on the death of his older brother, at the age of four. A good-looking boy with a friendly and loving nature, he was soon confronted by the hostility of a France gone mad. Separated from his family, he reportedly spent his remaining years in solitary confinement till his early death at the age of ten in 1795.

At the restoration of the monarchy in France in 1816, his body could not be traced, and millions believed that the prince had escaped. This started a succession of imposters claiming to be the missing dauphin. Not until two centuries later, with advances in forensic science, could the mystery of Louis XVII's fate finally be solved.

EB

CAPOSTAGNO, Andy

Memorable moments in one-day cricket.- Penguin, 2002.

English immigrant, Andy Capostagno, is well known locally as a rugby and cricket commentator and journalist. Written to coincide with the 2003 International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup, this is definitely one for the cricket fans. The book, which briefly tells the story of the development of the one-day game from its beginnings in 1971 to the present day, is chatty and readable and well illustrated with numerous colour photographs. A pleasant browse for the cricket lover.

SG

CINEMA year by year 1894-2002.- Dorling Kindersley, 2002.

A celebration of cinema history produced in a lavish Dorling Kindersley edition. It covers the pioneer days of cinema highlighting important events in a year by year format. Illustrations are mostly original stills and posters from the movies.

An additional bonus is the various clips from media coverage about movie stars, film studios, the odd film reviews and the making of certain films.

This is a wonderful browse for film enthusiasts, not only for entertainment but also to gain insight into how the industry has developed over the years.

EB

DUNLOP, Storm

Collins how to identify weather.- Collins, 2002.

The appropriately-named Storm Dunlop provides in this attractive little book both a comprehensive introduction to weather and a practical guide to identifying different types of weather. The contents are clearly laid out with really good photographs accompanying the text. He discusses cloud formation, how clouds relate to forthcoming weather, cloud classification, precipitation, wind, optical phenomena like rainbows, coronas, homirags, the green flash, and much, much more. Satellite images and weather maps are also explained. This is a useful book for those who need to know more about weather and forecasting, but is also a fascinating read for anyone interested in weather and cloud identification, especially those devotees of the daily weather forecast.

SG

GRAIMES, Nicola

Wholefoods: with recipes for health and healing.- Lorenz, 2002.

A glossy, colourfully-illustrated guide to the benefits of eating the correct balance of natural foods such as fruit, vegetables, grains, nuts, seeds and beans. Divided into two sections - the first introduces the reader to every kind of natural food available, discussing their nutritional value and preparation. The second section offers a wide variety of recipes to consider in a step-by-step manner.

The advice is presented in a reader-friendly, accessible package that is likely to be enjoyed and used by many.

EB

MILLER, John

Peter Ustinov: the gift of laughter.- Weidenfeld, 2002.

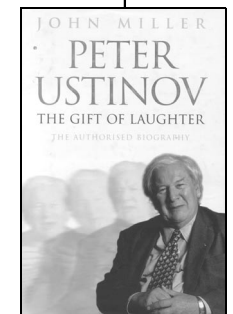
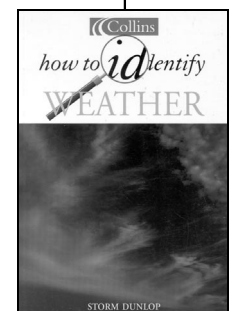
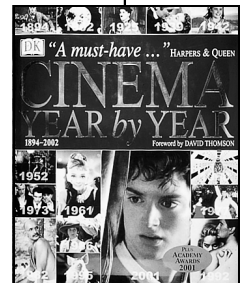
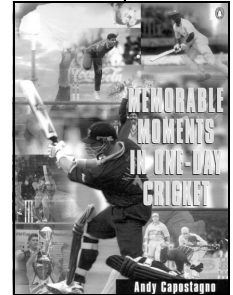
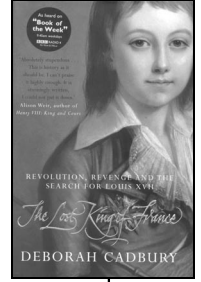
Authorised biography of the Peter Ustinov whom we all know as an actor, playwright, director and writer. Born in England to Russian immigrant parents, Peter revealed from an early age an interest to entertain. The author, with the collaboration of Ustinov and various friends and colleagues, delivers an authorised and readable account of the man's life and multi-faceted career, revealing the real person behind the public image.

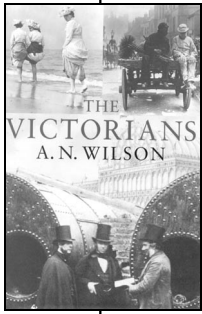
EB

WILSON, AN

The Victorians.- Hutchinson, 2002.

An entertaining and well-written survey of an epoch known as the Victorian age, in honour of Queen Victoria who reigned at the time.



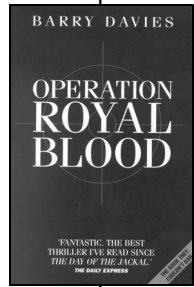


The author, an award-winning biographer, writes of the many British men and women who played important and memorable roles during the 19th century. He not only discusses the rich and famous, but also the man in the street.

Well researched and candid in his approach, the author has produced an extremely readable and, at times, witty analysis of the men and women who made Victorian England.

EB

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



DAVIES, Barry

Operation Royal Blood.- John Blake, 2001.

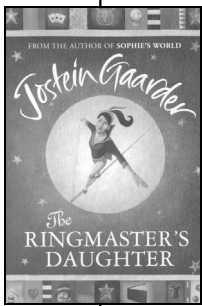
The author is an ex-SAS soldier and has written a number of non-fiction titles on the Special Forces. In this, his first novel, he writes a good fictional fact book, little realising that the death of the princess and her lover would become a reality a few months later. In fact publication of the book was postponed a month before the tragedy occurred.

The story centers on the romance of Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed, and a covert organisation whose task is to deal with this embarrassing situation.

When the prospect of marriage to a Muslim comes to light, Diana, Princess of Wales, is targeted for assassination. Two renegade SAS operatives are hired to stage a fatal accident, but are unaware that another has discovered their secret. Enter lone American soldier called Cal Wesley who takes on a private mission to save the unsuspecting princess.

A pacy and fast-moving thriller that offers some food for thought concerning the actual events surrounding Princess Diana's death in Paris.

EB

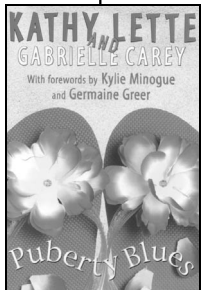


GAARDER, Jostein

The ringmaster's daughter.- Weidenfeld, 2002.

The Norwegian author of *Sophie's world* has once again produced a riveting intriguing novel that bears rereading to unravel the many strands of the literary web he has spun. Petter is the precocious child of divorced parents and since early childhood has used his incredible imagination to make up stories. In later life this becomes his means of earning a living. He does not write novels, but provides ideas and plot outlines for novelists, first in his home country and later internationally. Writers pay him large sums for these ideas and it is all done secretly with the authors unaware that he is providing this service to others. In fact, he is virtually single-handedly plotting his country's entire contemporary literature.

The literary web that Petter weaves is the main theme of the novel, with the ever-present threat of discovery adding an element of suspense. But Gaarder has woven his own web too, with the plot outlines of some of Petter's stories woven into the



novel. The complicated relationships with his parents, and in particular his mother, inform his relationships with women throughout his life, as well as the very nature of his work. And what of his daughter - a stranger in a foreign land?

JdeB

LETTE, Kathy and CAREY, Gabrielle

Puberty blues.- Picador, 2002.

First published in Australia in 1979 when Kathy Lette and her friend and co-author, Gabrielle Carey, were twenty years old, this is a portrait of female adolescence that is still very much the same for many young girls today - hanging out with friends, passively watching a group of boys engaged in sport (in this case surfing), joyless sexual activity in the back of panel vans, smoking in the school toilets and then progressing on to alcohol and drugs.

The main character is 13-year-old Deb, who together with her best friend Sue, are involved in this closed world where what you wear, where you sit on the school bus, who you hang out with and what you talk about is so tightly controlled as to be almost claustrophobic. Eventually the girls break out of this narrow world by going surfing themselves. This means that they are ostracised from their group, but liberated to become themselves.

Germaine Greer, in her introduction, calls this a moral tale and it is that. This slim novel, which so convincingly describes adolescent peer pressure, has certainly stood the test of time.

JdeB

PACKER, Ann

The dive from Clausen's Pier.- Piatkus, 2002.

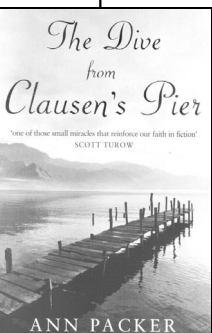
Short story writer Ann Packer makes an impressive debut with this, her first novel. It is about love and friendship, responsibility and duty, and the choices one makes. A group of close friends in a small American town have made something of a tradition of their annual Memorial Day picnic. The novel begins with Carrie and Mike on their way to the picnic site. High school sweethearts, now engaged, they have been together for more than eight years. During the drive, Carrie ponders her relationship with Mike and her general feelings of dissatisfaction and boredom. The day ends in tragedy, when Mike's dive from Clausen's Pier leaves him a quadriplegic. The central question becomes: What will Carrie do? This is a wonderfully compelling novel - I was hooked from the first page and read it in one sitting. Packer's writing is surprisingly assured for a first novelist; I have no doubt we will be hearing more from her in the future. Highly recommended.

SG

PEPETELA

The return of the water spirit.- Heinemann, 2001.

Pepetela is Angola's most important writer and in 1997 was awarded the Camoes Prize, the most prestigious literary award in the Portuguese-speaking world. His latest novel, a slim one, is a devastating



critique of his country's recent history and the opening up of its economy with the associated corruption and vast discrepancies in wealth that characterise the impact of globalisation on war-torn ex-colonies. Joao Evangelista's family is horrified when he marries Carmina, a rampant socialist and member of Angola's ruling political elite. He reaps and misuses the benefits of her political position. When the market economy opens up, Carmina initially goes into a decline as her political belief system is undermined by developments around her. But she soon reinvents herself as a businesswoman in the import business, for as she says, what does she have to export? As the author exposes and critiques Angola's recent past and present through the story of this couple, he weaves in a magic realist element - that of the water spirit who is reclaiming land reclaimed from the sea by having buildings in the capital city collapsing for no explicable reason.

JdeB

RANKIN, Robert
The hollow chocolate bunnies of the apocalypse.- Gollancz, 2002.

The latest rendering by this author of bizarre, comic fantasy titles which is set in Toy Town. Humpty Dumpty, one of the established members of the town, is found boiled alive in his own swimming pool. He is the first in a spate of murders of notable nursery rhyme characters who made millions from their famous nursery rhymes. It would seem that a serial killer is stalking and murdering them.

Each experience a macabre, strangely comic death and it is up to the town's only detective, a hard-drinking teddy bear called Eddie, to solve the crimes.

The book is filled with likeable characters and Rankin fans will especially enjoy the very funny one-liners and over-the-top humour, especially Rankin's play on words.

EB

●●● **YOUNG ADULT FICTION**
TIENERLEKTUUR

COLE, Brock
The facts speak for themselves.- Picador, 2002.

This brilliant psychological portrait of an abused teenager is narrated in the first person. The deadpan style and the fact that the author offers no comfort or relief through, for example, a sympathetic adult character, is most unsettling. Marketed for teenagers, it comes with a warning sticker on the cover that it 'contains material which some readers may find disturbing'. I certainly found it so and like some other recent titles for teenagers, presents a real challenge for librarians.

Linda is a 13-year-old who relates the story of her life for she feels that the report of a social worker does not tell the whole story. Her mother, Sandra, is

the most useless and incompetent mother imaginable - she drinks, sleeps with an array of men, has three children by different fathers and leaves her eldest daughter to care for the younger ones. When she finally appears to have settled with a man old enough to be her father, she abandons him when he becomes senile. She leaves Linda behind in Florida as well where she spends months doing her best to look after the increasingly demented Mr Bloomberg, bunking school and trying to keep the authorities at bay.

Linda is exposed to adult sexuality from a young age and is the focus of several men's paedophilic fantasies over the years. Eventually at the age of twelve she becomes the 'lover' of her mother's employer. Linda's story ends with her mother's ex-boyfriend murdering Mr Green and then turning the gun on himself. Linda witnesses this traumatic event and it is this that brings her to a Catholic home for troubled girls, from which she tells her story.

JdeB

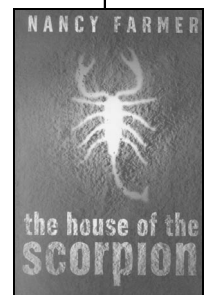
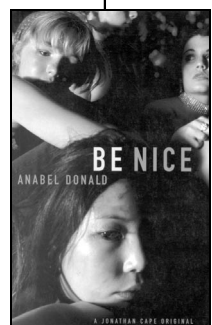
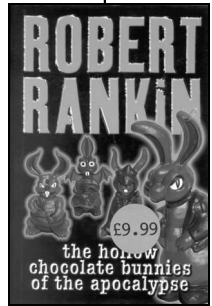
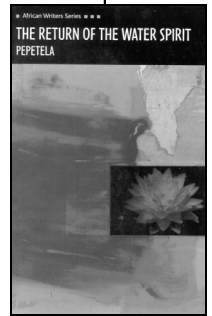
DONALD, Anabel
Be nice.- Cape, 2002.

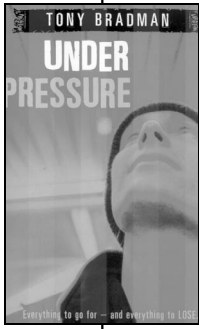
Donald is best known for her crime series featuring Alex Tanner, television journalist and occasional private eye. This new novel is something quite different: it is a kind of modern-day retelling of Golding's **Lord of the flies**. It is a group of teenage girls, the winners of an essay competition sponsored by a feminine hygiene company, who are the plane crash survivors on a tropical island. The girls are more concerned with glamour and image than they are with practical considerations of survival. Many of them believe their situation to be intended rather than accidental - that the sponsors have somehow contrived to place them in a so-called 'reality television' show and that there are hidden cameras and microphones recording their behaviour. The story is told through the different voices of the girls, which can be a bit confusing at first. The language they use, what they say and how they say it is spot-on for contemporary teenspeak, and as such, is often banal and reflective of the materialist and consumerist society from which they come. I don't think this was intended as a teen novel, but I do think there will be teenagers who will enjoy it. **Be nice** doesn't have the depth nor the quality of narrative of **Lord of the flies**, but it is engrossing and, in the picture it paints of contemporary society, just as scary.

SG

FARMER, Nancy
The house of the scorpion.- Schuster, 2002.

The house of the scorpion is a gripping and engrossing teenage read. It is both a powerful and moving coming-of-age story and an imaginative science fiction novel looking at the social implications and ethical considerations of scientific research and technological developments. In this case, the issue is cloning. Matt is a young boy who has grown up on the estate belonging to a powerful and wealthy drug baron, El Patron. He learns that he is the clone of El





Patron, but only later, as a teenager, does he realise that clones are bred to provide spare body parts for their makers. Multi-layered yet fast-paced and exciting, this novel is well worth recommending to the science fiction reader who relishes a good story and a challenging read.

SG

●●● JUVENILE FICTION
JEUGLEKTUUR

BRADMAN, Tony

Under pressure: the first Hawks novel.- Corgi, 2002.

The *Hawks* novels are aimed at older children and young teenagers and, more particularly, at soccer fans. Hawks is the nickname of a London-based soccer club, City FC, which has been in the Premier League for three seasons. **Under pressure** is the first book in this new series about the club's youth team. It focuses mainly on two new young players: Craig (a brilliant striker) and Darren (a not very confident central defender). Both players show promise, are hardworking, and both are desperate to succeed - but for different reasons. Craig wants to impress his rather distant father and Darren to become rich and help his struggling family. This should go down well, it has an authentic feel to it and is very readable. It is an enjoyable and realistic novel about football and growing up, and I have no doubt that readers will be eagerly awaiting the second *Hawks* title, **Bad boys**.

SG

CHILD, Lauren

What planet are you from Clarice Bean?- Orchard Bks., 2002.

Another title in the exhilarating picture book series about the irrepressible Clarice Bean and her family. Clarice is teamed up with Robert, the boy next door who irritates her immensely to do a school project on the environment. Projects always present problems for Clarice for she can never come up with a suitable topic. Fortunately for her, her older brother has decided to become an eco-warrior and is camping in a tree outside their house that is in danger of being felled. It doesn't take long for the whole family and their friends to become involved in the protest which receives media attention. Now Clarice has the perfect topic for her project.

As with the previous titles in the series, there is much madcap fun to be had with Clarice, an exuberant child with a highly opinionated take on life.

JdeB

GAIMAN, Neil

Coraline.- Bloomsbury, 2002.

The author is best known for his adult fantasy, bizarre short stories, and the Sandman graphic novels.

Coraline is a headstrong, pre-teen girl, living with her parents and an assortment of strange characters, in an ancient, rambling boarding house. A strong urge of exploration keeps her busy investigating the surrounding fields and forests. Then, suddenly one day, she steps into a bizarre alternative world where everything seems topsy-turvy. In this parallel 'other' world, she even has another mother with buttons for eyes, who seems determined to keep Coraline 'imprisoned'. How Coraline escapes, is only part of the fun and the fear of this delightful book.

At first glance one might be tempted to see Gaiman's **Coraline** as a parody of Lewis Carroll's **Alice in Wonderland**. However, Gaiman's tale is far darker and more intricate than any of Carroll's works, and although similarities may exist, it is Gaiman's originality that gives **Coraline** a character of its own.

Another masterpiece by this talented author who has won acclaim for this and other titles.

EB

JONES, Elisabeth and COPPLESTONE, James
Moonlight & Shadow.- Ragged Bear, 2002.

A truly beautiful book about friendship and fear, light and shadow. A foal becomes aware of his shadow for the first time on one full moon evening in a snow-covered field. He is at first frightened of this large dark beast, but when he sees that it also sniffs his muzzle, he realizes that they have been friends all along. The poetic text and striking artwork combine seamlessly in this multi-faceted picture book about facing up to one's fears.

JdeB

SPINELLI, Eileen

Sophie's masterpiece: a spider's tale / illustrated by Jane Dyer.- Simon, 2002.

A beautiful graceful picture book about Sophie, a house spider that is an extraordinary artist who spins 'webs more wondrous than anyone had ever seen'. In her youth, she moves into the drab bleak Beekman's Boardinghouse and immediately gets to work to improve the drab interior and brighten the lives of the tenants and staff. Her works of art, which include a set of lace curtains and a pair of bedroom slippers are not appreciated at all and she is chased from room to room.

Eventually she moves into the room of a young woman on the third floor where she lives happily and undisturbed for several years in her knitting basket. When the young woman takes up her knitting to begin preparing for the baby she is carrying, Sophie, now old and tired, gathers her strength to produce her masterpiece - a beautiful baby's shawl.

JdeB

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

EB Erich Buchhaus

JdeB Johanna de Beer

SG Sabrina Gosling

MJI Margaret Iskandar

