

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

FRONTIERS 01: science and technology, 2001-02.- Atlantic Bks., 2002.

This is a collection of articles about science and technology breakthroughs in the year 2001. There are various contributors, all of them respected scientists or science writers. The subjects dealt with include, amongst others, the Human Genome Project, global warming, the discovery of the cancer gene, earthquakes and tsunami, cosmology, whale evolution, and cloning. The book's editor, Tim Radford, has written a fascinating short piece on the work some Massachusetts scientists have done with light: actually slowing a beam of light to a standstill and holding it still for a thousandth of a second. While the book may not look like much from the outside, it really is one of the most fascinating reads - perhaps because the information is presented in such short, concise essays easily accessible to the general reader.

SG

MICHAELS, Scott and EVANS, David
Rocky Horror: from concept to cult.- Sanctuary, 2002.

Little did the creators of the rock musical called **The Rocky Horror picture show** imagine that it would become such a great success when first premiered for a tiny theatre in Chelsea, London, in 1973.

Now in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the making of the cult film, the reader is offered a background look of what went on behind the scenes from those who were there at the time.

Included are original cast photographs as well as unseen stage directions and movie scripts.

A must read for Rocky Horror fans.

EB

MOORE, Robert
A time to die: the Kursk disaster.- Doubleday, 2002.

In August 2000 the largest attack submarine in the world was lost at sea. The Russian nuclear submarine Kursk, on naval exercises in Arctic waters, was torn by two massive explosions and sank to the seabed.

Rescue operations were slow and the few survivors on board died before help came. In his first book, an award-winning American television journalist gives a vivid blow-by-blow account of the disaster and its aftermath. There are some colour photographs. This tragic true story makes a gripping read.

MJI

NICOLSON, Adam
Sea room: an island life.- HarperCollins, 2002.

The author owns the Shiantis - a group of three small wind-and-wave-swept islands in the Outer Hebrides, which were purchased by his father more than 60 years ago. Uninhabited since 1901, though

still used by shepherds for seasonal grazing, the islands have archaeological traces of millennia of human occupation. They are also a paradise for bird life. Nicolson describes the islands, their past and present, and meditates on his love for the Shiantis and the close bond he feels with them. Well written, by turn factual, witty and poetic, this makes an absorbing read.

MJI

RALL, Maureen
Petticoat pioneers: the history of the pioneer women who lived on the diamond fields in the early years.- Kimberley Africana Library, 2002.

In a celebration of the women who played a part during the early years of Kimberley, the author through meticulous research, has written a fascinating tribute to women often unknown and forgotten.

Using letters, diaries and other accounts, the author has delivered a fascinating study of women who were allowed to work alongside their men, which in a way reflects an early beginning of the liberation of women.

Clever use of archival photographs of the period highlight the readable and interesting text.

EB

RANDALL, Will
Solomon time: adventures in the South Pacific.- Abacus, 2002.

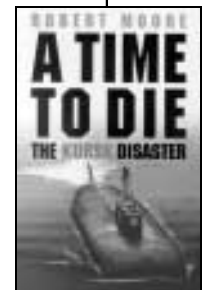
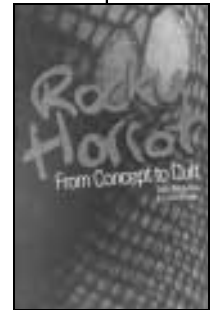
Will Randall gave up his teaching job to travel to a remote South Pacific island, one of the Solomon Islands. Here (in terms of a bequest in the will of an Englishman who had spent many years on the island) he was supposed to help in choosing and setting up a project that would aid the villagers financially. Eventually a slightly eccentric but viable chicken farming venture materialised. However, this is not an earnest account of a worthy endeavour, but a delightful look at the place and its people, and at Randall's own adventures and misadventures, all told with a mixture of comedy and evocative description. An extremely readable travelogue.

MJI

STIGLITZ, Joseph E
Globalization and its discontents.- Allen Lane, 2002.

An old song said: 'The rich get rich and the poor get poorer.' That is also what Columbia University professor and Nobel Prize winner Stiglitz says is happening today - because of the policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Chief Economist of the World Bank till January 2000, he has a knowledgeable insider's view of the issues involved. This hard-hitting critique makes an interesting and authoritative contribution to the controversy on globalisation and unbridled free market policies. For the more discerning reader.

MJI





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

AFRIKA, Tatamkhulu

Bitter Eden.- Arcadia, 2002.

A poignant story of survival and close friendship between males in a prisoner of war camp. Based loosely on the author's own experiences during the Second World War.

The story centres around a young South African who is captured in North Africa and then is shipped off to Italy to spend time with other prisoners in an Italian prisoner of war camp. When the Germans take over all are shifted to Germany where they will remain until the end of the war.

There a rather eccentric Englishman called Douglas, takes a liking to him and teams up with him, but is really a bore. Later our hero is befriended by the reclusive Danny and develops a strong bond with him. It is only after the war that they discover and admit to certain feelings but this is only when they are on the verge of saying goodbye.

The narrator of the story reminisces on these memories after he is left a small revolver in Danny's will (one similar to the one that Danny gave him during the war).

Well written, moving and certainly different from anything that the author has written before.

EB

BENIOFF, David

The 25th hour.- NEL, 2002.

This riveting first novel is a crime story, but it is character driven rather than action packed. Good-looking Monty Brogan is a 27-year-old New Yorker with just 24 hours of freedom left before entering gaol to serve a seven-year sentence for drug dealing. He spends his last day walking around New York: enjoying the city, pondering how he ended up in this situation, dealing with the people he meets, thinking about choices and consequences. Benioff has taken a simple idea and used it to construct an impressive novel. It is well paced, with good characterisation, dialogue that is spot on, and enough tension to keep you turning the pages - certainly well worth reading.

SG

BORCHARDT, Alice

The dragon queen.- Bantam, 2002.

Set in Britain during the period known as the Dark Ages, this is the first volume of a trilogy telling the adventures of the fabled Guinevere before and after she came to Camelot. Daughter of a great Pagan queen, she is on the run from Merlin and his followers. Protected as a baby by a Druid and a shape-changing wolfman, she is suckled by a she-wolf and grows up with her foster wolf brothers and sisters.

As Guinevere grows, she discovers that she has been born with special powers and can tackle her

own destiny. Along the route we meet some interesting characters, share in some fantastic adventures and come to appreciate our heroine's endearing qualities. The reader is also introduced to the young Arthur during the course of the story and comes to realise that the destiny of the two is entwined through a mutual attraction.

The author, who is sister to the popular Anne Rice, once again delivers an entertaining and engaging fantasy.

EB

COOPER, Diana

The silent stones: a spiritual adventure.- Modder, 2002.

In the footsteps of the celebrated bestseller **The Celestine prophecy**, the author delivers an intriguing and gripping adventure story about three friends who receive a sacred scroll from a dying Tibetan monk. This scroll is said to have come from fabled Atlantis and is supposed to contain important secrets regarding the wellbeing of mankind and Earth.

However, there are forces abroad that wish it destroyed. The story centres on the three friends' mission to decipher the scroll, a task that causes them to journey to different ancient locations.

This is a first novel by an author of a number of inspirational spiritual titles.

EB

DICKINSON, Matt

Black ice.- Hutchinson, 2002.

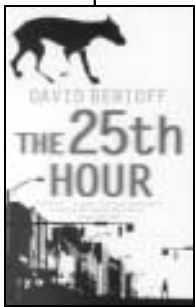
At a small scientific base in Antarctica, Lauren Burgess and her team are engaged in groundbreaking research. Meanwhile famous explorer Julian Fitzgerald and his companion Carl Norland are trying to cross the ice-bound continent on foot. When they run into serious trouble Lauren leads a successful mission to rescue them, and with the long winter darkness closing in, the two men must remain at the base. Fitzgerald may be the dream hero of the media but it soon becomes clear he is not all he seems. His true nature comes to the fore, putting the base in danger and everyone's life at risk. There are some far-fetched elements in the plot, but it is not difficult to suspend disbelief as the tension builds, while the background details, based on the author's own experience of Antarctica, are vivid and utterly convincing. This is an exciting and engrossing thriller.

MJI

GILES, Maree

Under the green moon.- Virago, 2002.

This story of a girl growing up in 1930s Australia is the second novel from the author of **Invisible thread**. Rachel Calthorpe, a young married woman living in Botany Bay in the late 19th century, was forced to leave her home and tragically drowned on the ship bound for England. Daisy Entwistle, born thirty-two years after her grandmother's death, and bearing a close resemblance to her, becomes obsessed with Rachel's life and fate and is determined to discover why there is such a mystery surrounding her. **Under the green moon** is a wonderfully atmospheric



coming-of-age story with a strong sense of time and place - Australia during the Depression, the contemporary racial and social attitudes - making for an absorbing read.

GREEFF, Rachelle

Hanna.- Tafelberg, 2002.

Hanna is 'n kleremaker - iemand wat haar toevlug neem en troos vind in wat sy skep met mooi lappe. As kind was sy gemolesteer en haar huwelik was ook nie 'n sukses nie. Sy drink te veel, maar weier om dit aan haarself te erken. Albei haar kinders is in die buiteland, en wanneer haar seun Wim terugkeer, berei sy 'n feesmaal voor. Wat tydens die partytjie plaasvind, forseer Hanna om haar afhanklikheid van alkohol te erken en iets daaraan te doen. Sy word gedwing om in haar verlede terug te gaan, en vrede daarmee te maak voor daar vir haar genesing kom.

'n Boeiende en roerende verhaal waarin Suid-Afrika se gekwelde verlede in die hoofkarakter se lewe 'n weerklank vind. Die verhaal eindig op 'n noot van hoop - die belofte van 'n nuwe lewe wat op Hanna wag, en hopelik ook heling vir ons land. Hoog aanbeveel.

SG

HENRY, Veronica.

Honeycote.- Penguin, 2002.

This first novel from a television scriptwriter is somewhat similar to the early Jilly Cooper books. The setting is the small Cotswold village of Honeycote where a brewery has been owned by the Liddiard family for generations. The brewery is in financial trouble and the Liddiard family is taking strain. This is a bit of a romp, but the writing is assured, the characters colourful and interesting, and the story entertaining - a most enjoyable read.

EdeR

MANFREDI, Valerio Massimo

Spartan.- Macmillan, 2002.

Separated by a cruel Spartan custom from birth, two brothers grow up in totally different worlds. Brithos, the elder son, is schooled into the caste of the warrior elite, while his younger brother, Talos, abandoned because he is crippled in one foot, is rescued and raised by a Helot shepherd.

Both live their lives separately until they chance to meet in rather unfortunate circumstances. Talos breaks a fixed Spartan rule of standing up to Brithos and friends when they try to have their pleasure with a beautiful young Helot girl of Talos's acquaintance.

Later destiny once again brings the two brothers together at the famous battle of Thermopylae, during the Persian invasion of the Greek city-states. The lives of the two boys become entwined and Talos eventually discovers the true tale of his origins.

Since childhood Talos was schooled and trained in the secret, ancient ways of the Helots to be (unknown to him) their prophesised liberator. As the novel unfolds and the years progress Talos sees through the corruption of the Spartan regime and

ends up fulfilling his destiny according to the Helot legend.

A gripping epic saga of passion and adventure set in ancient Sparta by the author of the best-selling *Alexander* trilogy.

PYE, Marc

Rewire.- Sceptre, 2001.

The novel is set mostly in the small Scottish village of Glen Leven. Josh Strachan is an electrician from the city who has set up shop in the village, ripping off everyone with the exorbitant prices he charges. His girlfriend, Keighley, is a nurse at the local psychiatric hospital, Craigellachie House. When the hospital needs re-wiring, Josh's quote is outrageous, so the manager contacts an electrical agency in the city, and Nathan and Karl arrive to do the job. *Rewire* is dark and gritty, yet very funny, and moving too.

EB

SG

● ● ● **JEUGVAKLEKTUUR**
JUVENILE NON-FICTION

BREWSTER, Hugh

To be a princess: the lives of real princesses.- Scholastic, 2001.

A most attractive, well-illustrated book which describes what childhood must have been like for twelve princesses. A chapter is devoted to each princess and some of these include: Mary and Elizabeth Tudor, Marie Antoinette, the Tsar's daughters and Margaret and Elizabeth. Timelines follow each chapter. This is an appealing and readable book.

DH

TAGHOLM, Sally

The complete book of the seasons.- Kingfisher, 2002.

This book looks at the changes in nature which each season brings. Seasonal activities and celebrations around the world are described. The colour illustrations are a striking feature of the book and it is a very visual production with short bytes of text.

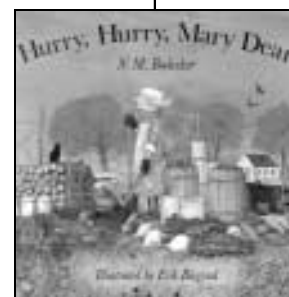
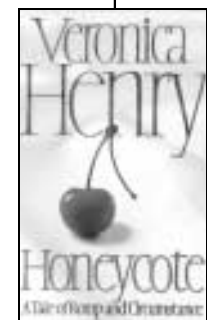
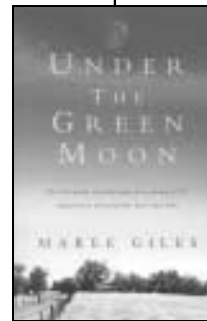
DH

● ● ● **JEUGLEKTUUR**
JUVENILE FICTION

BODECKER, Niels Mogens

Hurry, hurry, Mary dear.- Aladdin, 2001.

Erik Blegvad has taken a nonsense poem written years ago by his late friend and colleague NM Bodecker and turned it into a very successful picture book, basing his illustrations on Bodecker's original line drawings. Mary, a thin but energetic old lady scurries about preparing for winter: picking fruit, digging vegetables, making preserves, stacking wood, putting up storm shutters, and more.





Meanwhile her fat, indolent husband lazes at his ease, telling Mary what to do and urging her to hurry. But eventually the increasingly harassed Mary's patience snaps. The brief text is illustrated with expressive and amusing watercolour illustrations full of telling detail.

MJI

D'LACEY, Chris
Fly, Cherokee, fly.- Corgi, 2002.

The Cherokee of the title is an injured racing pigeon that 11-year-old Darren finds and decides to keep. This book, and its sequel, **Pawnee Warrior**, are both compelling stories with a realistic setting and completely believable (and likeable) characters.

SG

HENDERSON, Kathy
Baby knows best.- Corgi, 2002.

Baby is given many toys but only wants to play with keys, given special food but wants to eat what the grownups eat, given bath toys but wants to play with the plug and so on. He is doing all the things grownups will recognise as typical of a certain stage. This charming picture book with pencil and watercolour drawings depicts a happy baby in a loving family setting.

DH

KENNEMORE, Tim
Circle of doom.- Andersen, 2001.

Kennemore's latest is an amusing story about a very likeable family. Lizzie, the eldest daughter, decides to learn to perform magic, so that she can make the horrible next-door-neighbours move away and a new family move in. Of course, the new family will have to have children. Things, of course, don't quite go according to plan. This is great fun.

SG

OSBORNE, Mary Pope
Adaline Falling Star.- Scholastic, 2000.

Set in America in 1840 this is the story of Adaline Falling Star, the 11-year-old daughter of a white frontiersman and his Arapaho wife. Her mother is dead of cholera, so her father, who is off to help lead an expedition up north, decides to leave her with his cousin, a schoolteacher, and his family in St Louis, until his return. The family is horrified to discover that she is of mixed race, thinking her a 'red savage' - uncivilised and ignorant, and perhaps even likely to scalp them all in their beds if provoked. The story is narrated by Adaline, and a wonderful narrator she is too. She lives a kind of Cinderella existence there, suffering in silence, until she learns that the expedition has returned, without her father who has gone to New Mexico. She decides to run away to find him. Dressed as a boy, she begins her journey with a stray dog that befriends her. Her adventures and her thoughts about life make absorbing reading. This really is a wonderful story - moving, poignant, and funny.

SG

PHINN, Gervase
Our cat Cuddles.- Child's Play, 2002.

Lizzie and Dominic persuade their parents to get a cat. The family goes to the animal shelter, where all

kinds of creatures are to be found, including many cats. Each member of the family has a different idea about what sort of cat they should get, but in the end they take a strange-looking yellow cat chosen by Lizzie. They call him Cuddles. Cuddles grows and grows and progressively wrecks the house. But Lizzie still loves him, even though, as the final pages reveal, they've had to rename him Brian - because 'Cuddles' doesn't suit a full-grown lion! The rhyming text, which makes use of some clever patter, is lively and amusing, as are the exuberant, brightly-coloured illustrations by Amanda Montgomery-Higham. This is an entertaining picture book that should work well for reading aloud.

MJI

RANKIN, Joan
Oh, Mum!- Red Fox, 2002.

It is little Haybillybun's first day at the Yappy Puppy Play School. The young pup doesn't want to go and is full of worries and objections, despite his parents' calm reassurances. 'Oh, Mum!' he wails over and over as yet another possible problem occurs to him. After escorting her reluctant offspring to school, mum starts thinking that perhaps Haybillybun is too little to be away from home, so she sets off to rescue him. But when she gets back to the school she sees his new friends. The attractive watercolour illustrations are full of character, gentle humour and amusing details. This warm and delightful picture book not only offers reassurance to toddlers in the same situation, but is entertaining and enjoyable in itself.

MJI

WYETH, Sharon Dennis
Something beautiful / illustrated by Chris K Soentpiet.- Dragonfly Bks., 2002.

Grimy littered yards, walls marked by gang graffiti, no-go areas, homeless people in doorways - this is what a young African-American girl sees outside her front door in the decaying urban inner city where she lives. Despite this, she discovers many beautiful things around her when she sets out one day with this intention. Her family and neighbours identify them for her when asked. For Miss Delphine at the diner, it is fried fish sandwiches, for Jamal it is his new sneakers, for old Mr Sims it is a smooth stone he has carried in his pocket for years, for Aunt Carolyn it is her baby's laugh.

The author has created an inspiring story, based on her own childhood memory and a testament to the power of the human spirit. It has been lovingly matched to perfection by the luminous paintings of Soentpiet whose portraits make the members of this community come alive.

JdeB

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

EB Erich Buchhaus	JdeB Johanna de Beer
EdeR Elizabeth de Roubaix	SG Sabrina Gosling
DH Denise Harris	MJI Margaret Iskandar

