

●●● ADULT NON-FICTION
VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

BODOANO, Bridget

Thrift: how to have a stylish home without breaking the bank.- Quadrille, 2005.

Thrift is now fashionable, and this book shows how one can save money while turning your home into a good-looking haven that is not a carbon copy of an @ home interior. Bodoano does not have all the answers, and her book is not filled with projects or beautiful interiors, what she does is points one in various directions so that you will look at what you have and what you can find at second hand shops and chain stores too, in a whole new light to create a modern stylish interior that recycles and reuses and individualises, instead of having everything new and expensive and desirable. She shows how one can reuse existing fabrics to make curtains and blinds, use paint to bring an array of odd items of furniture into a harmonious group, find new uses for old pieces of furniture, for example, using a wardrobe in a hallway. Loads of colour photos, sensible advice and ideas to inspire the financially challenged, this is a useful and practical title - an antidote to the many aspirational titles on interior design.

JdeB

Jewish life in the South African country communities. Volume II: Boland, Bushmanland, Central Karoo, Fairest Cape, Griqualand West, Kalahari, Koup, Namaqualand, Swartland, West Coast.- SA Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth, 2004.

Second volume in a two-part series that researches the history of the Jewish community in the rural areas of South Africa.

It covers their role in the development of these rural areas and shows how they formed an integral part of the community in which they lived. It is based on oral interviews, material found in the national archives, libraries and museums as well as Jewish organisations.

Throughout the book there are subsections featuring dates; covering population statistics, lists of names of prominent Jewish families and important civic roles played by the Jewish community in building up the area.

The readable and informative text is accompanied by many black and white photographs.

Readers of early South African history will enjoy and appreciate this gem of Africana paying tribute to early Jewish activity in the now fast-changing rural areas.

EB

LAMBERT, Gavin

Natalie Wood: a life.- Faber, 2005.

A new biography of the Hollywood star who died tragically in a mysterious drowning in 1981. Daughter of Russian immigrant parents who fled Russia shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution, Natalie grew up in Hollywood under a domineering mother and became a child actress at an early age when she starred in her first major role in 1946 in **Tomorrow is forever**.

Her talents blossomed over the years and she would star in major adult films such as **Rebel without a cause** opposite the legendary James Dean, and later in **Splendor in the grass** opposite the dashing Warren Beatty. Her role in **Gypsy** captured on celluloid her role in life with a domineering, yet loving mother who wished to enjoy via her daughter the life she so desired but could not have.

Although the author does not reveal any new facts, he does much to re-look at the 'foul' play speculation hinted at concerning Natalie's death and is more sympathetic to her husband Robert Wagner who dearly loved his wife.

Gripping and honest, the author has delivered a pleasing biography on a celebrity within the context of her time.

EB

LOURENS, Tony

Complete climbing manual.- New Holland, 2005.

An attractively-illustrated and locally-published title from New Holland publishers giving a comprehensive overview of all aspects of climbing. The author, who has been involved for over thirty years in climbing in various places all over the globe, has also published various climbing guidebooks as well as writing a regular climbing column for a Cape Town daily newspaper.

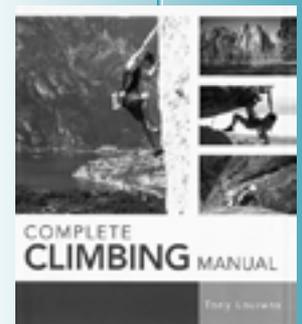
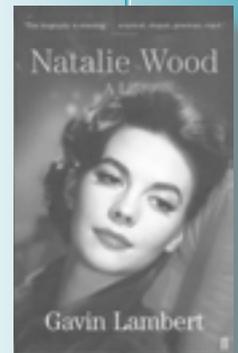
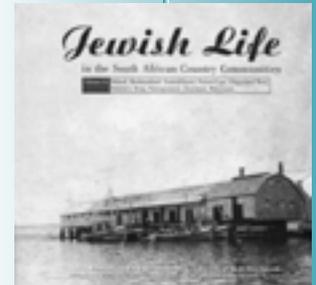
After a brief introduction to the history and types of climbing, the reader learns about terrain, equipment and gear; before venturing into skills, techniques and ropework. The focus then switches to traditional and big wall climbing, revealing the benefits of, for instance, the double rope technique and system, before moving on to aspects of leadership.

Sport climbing is covered with a brief history and styles of climbing, followed by boulder and solo climbing. Another aspect not often covered is indoor climbing and competitions, which I found interesting and useful as this can be done at the local gym.

The final chapters then take a look at strength training and emergency procedures.

One of the best books seen for a long time on the topic as it is not only inspirational but also informative and useful for readers interested in this sport.

EB



VAN DER ROSS, Richard Ernest

Up from slavery: slaves at the Cape: their origins, treatment and contribution.- Ampersand P., 2005.

Educationalist and politician, Richard van der Ross is perhaps best known for having been the principal of the University of the Western Cape in the turbulent 1970s and 1980s. He has written an interesting and readable book on slavery at the Cape, based not on original research but on secondary sources. Most titles on the subject are academic in nature, and it is the author's stated intention to introduce the topic to those who might not readily have access to the more scholarly works, and to lead them on to display greater interest in slavery and related matters, indeed matters about ourselves as South Africans and inhabitants of the Western Cape. It is this accessibility factor that is especially welcome.

The author covers the history of slavery at the Cape and topics such as punishments and rewards, the treatment of slaves (accommodation, schooling, et cetera), emancipation as well as the influence of slavery on the Cape in the past and the present. The last chapter presents his own family history and as such a case study and of interest to those who wish to trace their own ancestors.

JdeB

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

BLAKE, Victoria

Cutting blades.- Orion, 2005.

This is Blake's second novel. She qualified as a solicitor but only worked as a lawyer for a short time. Since then she has been involved in the book trade - mainly bookselling.

Her first novel, **Bloodless shadow**, introduced her very likeable female sleuth, Sam Falconer; former world judo champion now private eye who runs the Gentle Way investigative agency in London. Sam grew up in Oxford and her family still lives there, so the stories often move between Oxford and London. In **Cutting blades**, Sam is approached to investigate the disappearance of one of Oxford University's best rowers, just a couple of months before the boat race. She and her business partner are also doing a bit of body-guarding on the side for a stall-holder in a London market. This novel is very much a sequel to the first, and not simply a crime story featuring the same detective, so it's better to read them in sequence. They are both thoroughly enjoyable crime stories which should be popular with readers of British mysteries.

SG

CONNELLY, Michael

The closers.- Orion, 2005.

Fans will be surprised to see series character, Harry Bosch, back in uniform. In this latest crime thriller the retired Bosch returns to the LAPD to work with his old partner, Kiz Rider, in the Open-Unsolved Unit - to review, investigate and try to close cold cases.

Their first case is an unsolved crime from the 1980s: the kidnapping and murder of a teenage girl. **The closers** is a compelling police procedural - just what we expect from a writer of Connelly's calibre. His many admirers will not be disappointed.

SG

KELLY, Cathy

Always and forever.- Collins, 2005.

Cathy Kelly, the Irish film critic and agony aunt turned novelist, can usually be relied upon for a good beach read and her fans will definitely not be disappointed with her latest novel. **Always and forever** is another enjoyable, untaxing women's read about relationships and families - this time focusing on three women in the town of Carrickville just outside Dublin. Daisy wants a child with her long-time lover, Alex; Mel is struggling to cope, juggling her career and her role as a mother; and young Cleo, just out of hotel school, is trying to convince her family (without much success) to put some money into their small family hotel. All three are likeable characters and the story is entertaining and very readable - just what one expects from the popular Kelly.

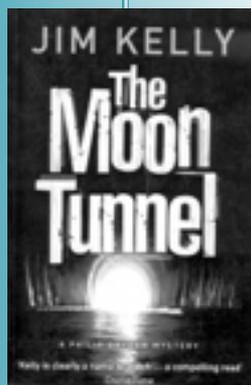
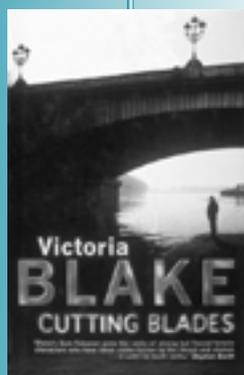
SG

KELLY, Jim

The fire baby.- Penguin, 2005.

Moon tunnel.- Joseph, 2005.

Kelly's first novel **The water clock** was short-listed for the 2002 CWA John Creasey Award. It was the first title in his series of atmospheric mysteries set in the Cambridgeshire fens. They all feature Philip Dryden, a former high-powered Fleet Street journalist now working for a small local rag. Dryden's wife is in a coma following a terrible car crash. Her condition is called 'Locked In Syndrome'. The reader is always aware of her in the background; sometimes she can communicate and at other times she's completely closed off from the world. This adds an extra dimension and poignancy to the novels. **The Observer** reviewer wrote of **The fire baby**: 'The plot has all the right notes: there are murders, there is pornography and people-smuggling, and an old mystery is solved.' The most recent book is **Moon tunnel**, in which a dead body is uncovered at an archaeological dig in an old World War II POW camp. The title refers to a tunnel that was discovered at the camp, and the mystery is that the corpse was not that of one of the inmates escaping from the



prison camp but of someone entering it. All three novels are gripping reads with a strong sense of place, and Dryden is a sympathetic and complicated character. Jim Kelly is a great find for readers looking for a good new crime author. Highly recommended. **SG**

●●● YOUNG ADULT FICTION TIENERLEKTUUR

ROSOFF, Meg

How I live now.- Penguin, 2005.

This cross-over teenage/adult debut novel has garnered awards on both sides of the Atlantic and heralds a new voice in fiction. The only comparison I can make is to the way I felt when I read David Almond for the first time. Contemporary, yet set in the future, realistic yet at times it feels that one is in a dream, specific, yet there is so much that is unexplained, the reader's guide is the voice of the narrator - one that is sure and real and unlike any other.

Fifteen-year-old Daisy, a New Yorker, is sent away by her father as he wants to be alone with his pregnant new wife and the anorexic Daisy has become a 'problem'. With her bohemian relatives in rural England, she finds herself in a totally different world, one where social taboos break down when Aunt Penn goes to Oslo to help prevent war from breaking out. Daisy's immediate attraction to her cousin Edmund now develops into an intense love affair, which includes underage sex and telepathic communication.

An unnamed army invades Britain, the farm is taken over and the children are separated with the girls going to live with a military family. Daisy is now responsible for nine-year-old Piper, and this spurs on her transformation from a cynical self-absorbed teenager to one who is willing and able to be caring, responsible and mature.

Throughout their separation Daisy's love for Edmond remains as strong as ever and it is this that drives her and Piper to risk everything to go back to the farm to be reunited with him and his brothers. The children witness the unspeakable horrors of war which have devastating consequences on them all, most especially the sensitive Edmond.

JdeB

VILJOEN, Fanie

Breinbliksem.- Tafelberg, 2005.

Nuweling Fanie Viljoen smokkel sowaar met lesers se brein met sy titel **Breinbliksem**, want hy verras en skok tegelykertyd met 'n einde waarop lesers geen-sins voorbereid was nie. Geen wonder keurders beskou dit as 'n kragtoer nie. En dit is ook duidelik waarom hierdie titel, tesame met Francois Bloemhof

se **Nie vir kinders nie**, aangewys is as die Sanlam pryswenner vir jeuglektuur vir 2005.

Breinbliksem vertel die verhaal van drie tieners, Burns, Kerbs en Sky wat op pad is na die BreinBliksem rockfees wat by die Allemanskraaldam gehou word. Langs die pad tel hulle 'n meisie, genaamd Partygirl op. Burns voel onmiddellik aangetrokke tot haar en dieselfde aand beleef hy en Partygirl 'n hittige oomblik van passie. Maar met sy vriend, Kerbs (nou uiters beskonke) se aankoms by die tent, verander hul wonderlike tydjie saam in 'n aand van gruwel...

EMW

WESTERFELD, Scott

Uglies.- Simon Pulse, 2005.

Uglies is the first book in a new science trilogy for teenagers and older children. Although a post-holocaust scenario, the holocaust is many years in the past and the emphasis in the book is on the new society. The main character, Tally Youngblood, is eagerly awaiting her 16th birthday, for in this strange, image-obsessed society 16 is a pivotal age, the age when one leaves Uglytown, undergoes major cosmetic surgery, and emerges beautiful and ready to take one's place in the 'party towers' of New Pretty Town, where everyone is young and stunning looking and life is one big jol. Of course, as the reader can guess, things are not going to run so smoothly for Tally. Westerfeld has created a convincing, and rather scary, post-apocalyptic world with its interesting social stratifications and futuristic technology. His characters are well drawn, and the plot brisk. **Uglies** is exciting, thought provoking and highly readable. Readers will be eagerly awaiting the next two books: **Pretties** and **Specials**.

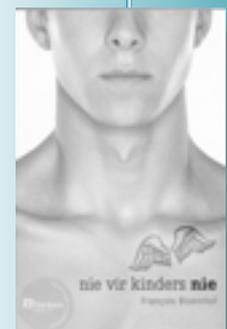
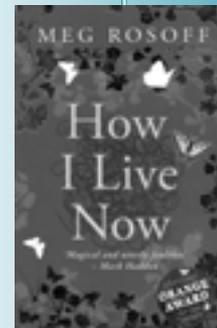
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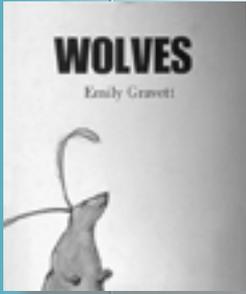
●●● JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

BLOEMHOF, Francois

Nie vir kinders nie.- Tafelberg, 2005.

Francois Bloemhof is weer in die kollig: sy nuutste jeugroman is onlangs aangewys as die Sanlam pryswenner vir 2005. Bloemhof, 'n gesoute skrywer, het in die vroeë negentigerjare naam gemaak toe hy die De Kat Prys verower het vir sy rillerverhaal, **Die nag het een oog**. Sedertdien het hy al drie-en-twintig boeke die lig laat sien en ook verdere literêre pryse ontvang. In **Nie vir kinders nie** spreek Bloemhof die oeroue kwessie van sosiale verval aan soos ervaar deur die sestienjarige Tim en sy vriend Ruan. Tim, onderhoofseun by sy skool, word bestempel as 'n voorbeeldige tiener. Nie net is hy selfversekerd en aantreklik nie, maar beskik hy ook oor 'n besondere sangstem wat deur Ruan se ma, tannie Trisa ontdek word. Maar ofskoon Tim alles





het, bly hy soekend na iets groters. En dis juis hierdie soeke wat maak dat hy ingetrek word by 'n ATM bedrogspul. En so word hy later vasgevang in 'n maalkolk van inbrake, dwelms en uiteindelik prostitusie. Dit alles het natuurlike tragiese gevolge. Die verhaal is by tye skokkend, maar Bloemhof los tog aan die einde van die teks die leser met hoop. Beslis die moeite werd om te lees.

EMW

GRAVETT, Emily

Wolves.- Macmillan, 2005.

In this witty post-modernist picture book, Rabbit goes to the library where he takes out a book about wolves. This non-fiction title is so fascinating that he can't stop reading. So he walks along with his nose in it, reading that wolves can survive anywhere, that they have bushy tails, 42 teeth, and eat both large and smaller mammals. Little does he realise that he is being followed by a wolf and is in real danger. The reader is spared the sight of him being eaten by the wolf, but we do see the evidence - the torn red cover of that library book.

Gravett is having too much fun with the reader to stop here. After telling us that no rabbits were eaten during the making of this book, she provides an alternative ending for more sensitive readers. Torn images from the pages of the book we have been reading are rearranged to accompany a caption that tells us that the wolf was actually vegetarian and he and the rabbit became best friends and lived happily ever after. To reveal any more would be to spoil the reader's fun.

A supremely clever picture book for all ages, though there may be some very young or sensitive readers who will find it upsetting.

JdeB

HUSSEY, Charmian

The valley of secrets.- Hodder, 2005.

Charmian Hussey's **The valley of secrets** has caused quite a stir in the publishing world, and the lucky readers who chance upon this book will understand why.

Young Stephen, an orphan, with no memory of his biological family, suddenly finds himself the sole heir to a considerable Cornish country estate. What awaits him there is nothing short of fantastic.

A sprawling manor house, acres of impossibly tropical grounds, ancient stone circles, and mysterious, mischievous creatures propel Stephen into a world of discovery he could never have imagined. Local inhabitants have not entered the estate for many years, fearing that it is haunted.

The plot evolves as Stephen unearths his great uncle Theodore's journal telling of a past expedition up the Amazon River. This holds the key to unlocking the secret of Stephen's past, and more importantly his present, explaining what the mysterious

creatures and their caretaker in the garden might be.

The valley of secrets is another of those cross-over novels that could be enjoyed by imaginative readers of all ages, much like readers of the Harry Potter titles.

EB

McCOMBIE, Karen

How to be good(ish).- Walker, 2005.

This is the first book in a series about a 10-year-old girl called India Kidd, Indie for short. She lives with her divorced mother (who works at an animal rescue centre), a lodger, Caitlin, and various pets (dogs, fish and a cat). Her father, a photographer on the local rag, lives with Fiona, a cookery writer, and her nine-year-old son Dylan. When Indie's teacher asks the class to list their three top talents, Indie is at a loss to think of even one. So most of the book is concerned with her quest to find something she is good at. The story is illustrated with humorous black and white drawings by Lydia Monks.

Young girls should enjoy this series: Indie is very likeable and reassuringly ordinary, and the stories are funny and very readable. I am not sure if there will be more titles in this *India Kidd* series, but we have ordered both this one and its sequel: **Oops, I lost my best(est) friends.**

SG

WILLEMS, Mo

Knuffle Bunny.- Walker Bks., 2005.

'Not very long along ago, before she could even speak words, Trixie went on an errand with her daddy...' So begins this delightful picture book set in New York where a toddler accompanies her father on a trip to the laundromat. Her beloved toy rabbit, the Knuffle Bunny of the title, is accidentally thrown into the washing machine along with the washing. It is only on their way home that Trixie realises that it is missing. She can't speak, but the reader, unlike her father, knows exactly what she means when she raises the alarm with 'Aggle flaggle klabble!'

As with his previous picture books, Willems is a master at conveying the intense changing emotions of young children as reflected in their facial expressions and body language. For the illustrations he has drawn cartoon-style figures onto a background of sepia photographs of the Brooklyn neighbourhood, and this combination of the comic and the real perfectly reflects the experience of Trixie and her father.

JdeB

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

EB Erich Buchhaus
SG Sabrina Gosling

JdeB Johanna de Beer
EMW Ethney Waters

