# BOOK REVIEWS • UHLOLO LWENCWADI

### **ADULT NON-FICTION**VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

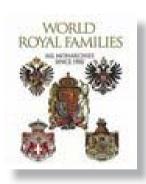


COETZEE, Renata en Miros, Volker

Koekemakranka: Khoi-Khoin-kultuurgoed en kom-kuier-kos.- Lapa, 2009.

Renata Coetzee is 'n navorser wat onlangs 'n eredoktorsgraad ontvang het van die Noordwes-

universiteit vir haar dekades-lange navorsing oor die eetkulture van die inheemse mense van Suid-Afrika. Hierdie publikasie is 'n verkorte weergawe van 'n uitgebreide wetenskaplike studie oor die Khoi-Khoin-eetkultuur en -gebruike, toeganklik aangebied vir die breë publiek. Benewens die Khoi-Khoin se kos, word die verhaal ook vertel van hul kultuur en leefwyse van toe tot nou. Van hul musiek en die ramkie met net een snaar. Van hul kleredrag, hul eetgerei en woonplekke, met selfs 'n beskrywing van hoe matjieshuise gemaak is. Talle vertellings is regstreeks uit die mond van 'n paar Khoi-Khoin wat nog onthou hoe dinge 'n paar dekades gelede gedoen is. Volker Miros se 300 kleurfoto's help om Koekemakranka die benaming 'pragboek' te laat verdien. Vir die bewaringsbewustes is daar volop raad vir die aanlê van 'n eie veldkostuin en 'n tydige waarskuwing oor plante wat aan die uitsterf is. Die boek word afgesluit met 'n verskeidenheid resepte. Die botaniese name van eetbare plante wat in die boek vermeld word, is ingesluit.



'n Unieke en hoogs interessante boek. .....SSJ

### FORTY, Sandra, MILLIDGE, Judith and RILEY, Ed

**World royal families.-** Chartwell Bks., 2008.

During the opening years of the 20th century most countries were ruled by hereditary monarchs, but at the end of the century most of these rulers were no longer in charge. Only a handful would

remain and today most surviving monarchies are constitutional. In a constitutional monarchy, the hereditary ruler is the head of state, and a democratically elected prime minister leads the government that is responsible for the legislature. A constitutional monarch acts on the advice of elected officials. A prime example of this is the existing British monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

There are only a few absolute monarchs found in the world - the Sultan of Oman, the King of Swaziland, the King of Arabia and the Sultan of Brunei.

Political upheavals have removed from power many ancient families such as the Romanovs, the Habsburgs and the Hohenzollerns, whose families live on, many still retaining their courtesy titles and in some cases, their fortunes.

Although the royal families of the world have been forced to adjust to changing attitudes, they have certainly not been wiped

out. Dispossessed royals have shown themselves to be versatile and imaginative, with a wide array of skills that enable them to survive away from the trappings of inherited wealth. Today, it is often more likely that princes and princesses want to disassociate themselves from their royal heritage and all the unwelcome publicity that it implies.

This extravagantly produced title offers extensive research and rare photographic coverage of these royals who, despite the fact that their powers have been stripped, remain an object of fascination throughout the world.



#### ROJAS, Claudio Velasquez Shoreline: discovering South Africa's coast.- Struik, 2010.

This impressive title, based on the well-received SABC2 television series of the same name, takes the reader on an awe-inspiring journey along the coastal regions of South Africa.

The coastline of South Africa stretches for nearly 2800 kilometers, beginning from the

lake system of Kosi Bay on the eastern side, flanked by the warm Indian Ocean, around the famous and treacherous Cape Point, up to the mouth of the Orange River on the cold Atlantic Ocean West Coast.

These shores reveal a wide diversity of natural habitats and readers are offered the opportunity of a lifetime to experience some of the most picturesque and scenic areas in the world. This odyssey is made possible by the engaging and readable text, drawing on the research of noted scientists and various experts. The many impressive colour photographs by Claudio Rojas are certainly a treasure to behold and whets the readers' appetite to visit these various sites. Not only does the book reveal interesting facts about flora and fauna but it also delivers a fascinating and varied history of human activity. South Africa is an ancient land, both geologically and in terms of human evolution. Genetic evidence has shown that the San and Khoi peoples of Southern Africa carry some of the oldest lineages in the world. It is speculated via data from different disciplines that Southern Africa and its coastline could possibly be the geographical region from where modern human beings originated.

#### UYS, Isabel

#### Die Suid-Afrikaanse gids: feite en wenke.- Protea, 2009.

'n Baie handige, omvattende naslaanbron (480 bladsye) wat 'n magdom van uiteenlopende inligting en wenke omtrent Suid-Afrika en sy landburgers bied. Die gids bevat 'n ietsie van alles en is deur middel van kleurkodes ingedeel in verskillende hoofstukke: Algemeen (byvoorbeeld, amptelike naam, oppervlakte, oseane, tydsone, hoofstede, volkslied, grondwet, nasionale vlag, nasionale simbole, landswapen, nasionale ordes, bevolking en belangrikste



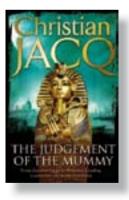
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huistale van die provinsies); Geografie (byvoorbeeld, belangrike stede en dorpe se stigtingsdatums en herkoms van name, plekname na 1994, streekname, belangrike bergreekse, bekende bergpasse, belangrike damme, belangrike vuurtorings, landsgrensposte); Bewaring en ekotoerisme (byvoorbeeld, bekende voetslaanpaaie); Bekende monumente, kerke en besienswaardighede; Mense (byvoorbeeld, presidente en sekretarisse-generaal van die

ANC); Letterkunde (byvoorbeeld, Suid-Afrikaanse literêre pryse); Vervoer (byvoorbeeld, wenke vir die koop van 'n gebruikte motor, die korrekte optrede by 'n motorongeluk, toelatings vir bagasie op SAL-vlugte); Ekonomie en finansies (byvoorbeeld, persoonlike begrotings, finansiële wenke, bankkoste); Plante en diere; Sport; Geskiedenis; Leefstyl (byvoorbeeld, wenke vir goeie toesprake); Skool en werkplek (byvoorbeeld, CV's); Huwelike (byvoorbeeld, trouetiket); Testamente; veiligheid en sekuriteit (byvoorbeeld, internetaankope, selfone); Huise (byvoorbeeld, voor- en nadele van huiskoop en wenke met die koop van 'n huis); Belangrike bepalings en kontrakte vir huiswerkers; Huishoudelike wenke; Medies; en Nuttige inligting (byvoorbeeld, verbruikerswenke en kontakte vir klagtes). Geïllustreer in kleur en swart-en-wit met foto's en tabelle. Ook beskikbaar in Engels as The South African aid: facts and tips. Dis die tipe boek wat in elke openbare biblioteek hoort en wat elke huishouding wat dit kan bekostig, gerus kan aankoop. ... SSJ

### **ADULT FICTION**VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR



#### JACQ, Christian

The judgement of the mummy.- Simon, 2009.

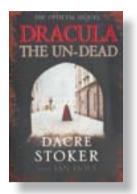
In the year 1821 Londoners are treated to the first ever exhibition of ancient Egyptian artifacts by the adventurer Giovanni Belzoni who has just recently returned from Egypt. The star exhibit happens to be a perfectly preserved Egyptian mummy which is unveiled to a select group of patrons for the first time. Some of the relics that belong to the mummy are sold off to those inter-

ested. The next night the mummy vanishes, and a spate of murders of those who attended the private unveiling and bought the artifacts belonging to the mummy, follow.

Detective Inspector Higgins is called out of retirement to investigate. It would seem that this case could be linked to political unrest engineered by a mysterious person known as Littlewood. Higgins befriends Giovanni Belzoni and his wife, Sarah, to discover more about the mummy whom he suspects is guilty of the crimes. He is joined in his investigations by the charming and beautiful Lady Suzanna whose only interest is to defend the mummy in a court of law. Meanwhile Littlewood also has an interest in the mummy, and is equally determined to eliminate the interfering Higgins who stands in

his way of pursuing his goal of political anarchy.

The author, renowned for his *Rams*es and other series usually set in ancient Egypt, delivers an exciting thriller filled with suspense and an unexpected conclusion.



#### STOKER, Dacre and HOLT, Ian

Dracula the Un-Dead.- Harper, 2009.

This 'sequel' to Bram Stoker's classic vampire novel **Dracula** comes more than 112 years after its publication.

Written by the famous Irish author's great-grand nephew (in association with lan Holt) the story picks up twenty-five years after the dramatic conclusion of the original novel.

Jonathan and Mina Harker now have a strained marriage. Jack Seward is hopelessly fighting a debilitating drug

addiction as well as hunting down the remaining vampires, while there are rumours that Dr Abraham Van Helsing could be directly involved in the 'Jack the Ripper' murders.

Adding stress to the Harper marriage is their rebellious son Quincy's decision to drop out of university to pursue a career in the theatre. In an ironic twist, Quincy's first breakthrough in the theatre comes when Stoker brings his story of Dracula to stage. It does not take long for Quincy to recognise his family and family friends in the script, which sets the already rebellious youth off on a path of intrigue, deception and horror. Dacre Stoker, using handwritten notes left behind by his ancestor, manages to write an evocative and eerie novel which any lover of the original Stoker classic would enjoy.

The style of the novel is very much in keeping with the spate of revisionist novels of the past ten years and certainly has a fair measure of 'inside humour' with tongue firmly in cheek. The plot is sprinkled with an array of unexpected characters (the much maligned Elizabeth Bathory, who in the year of this novel would have been 352 years old), strange plot twists, such as Van Helsing's supposed involvement in the 'Whitechapel Murders', and the appearance of the shadowy stage actor Basarah (who himself may have an axe to grind with the Blood Countess, Elizabeth Bathory). This novel takes the reader on an entertaining and suspense-filled adventure through the major capitals of Europe in the years preceding the Great War, with characters fighting their own 'great war' against malignant and terrifying dark forces.

What Bram Stoker would think of his descendant's sequel of his classic one can only speculate, but anyone with an open mind and a sense of curiosity and adventure will be sure to approve of this valiant effort.

### YOUNG ADULT FICTION JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

#### CALCUTT, David

Shadow bringer.- Oxford U.P., 2010.

'Nathan has gone to stay with his uncle and aunt and his awful cousin Kevin. But Nathan is very unhappy. He does not under-

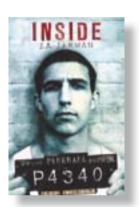


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stand why his mother has gone away without him, or why his father has left. He feels alone. He feels angry and hurt. But alongside this pain, he feels something else. He feels afraid, deeply afraid. He has seen the creature take form - a swirl that could not be smoke in the sky. He has heard it scratching to get in ... It is a tense and psychological story about the pain and anger associated with growing up, change and loss. It is also about confronting fear and coming to terms with events outside one's control. It shows how

negative emotions evoke negative things ... It is a strong, bold and perceptive book that is both insightful and enjoyable.' (*School Library, Summer,* 2009.)



#### JARMAN, JA

Inside.- Anderson P., 2010.

'Inside provides the reader with an intimate insight into the darkness of young offenders' institutions. Lee may well have committed the crime but doing the time in Parkhall is no holiday camp, despite what people had told him. He struggles to keep onside with both inmates and staff but knows that the best way to survive inside is to keep his head down, despite other people's intentions. This novel is not a cheerful

read but is very useful as a warning to those students in danger of going off the rails ... The extreme violence is shocking at times and the psychopathology of the inmates is worrying. With aggressive attacks, ambushes, riots and suicides, this clearly is no holiday camp but then surely it is only the gullible readers of tabloids who believe that a YOI is a glorified youth club with pool tables, televisions and gourmet meals. This book makes it clear just how difficult it is to survive in such institutions and although this is a work of fiction, I strongly suspect that it is an accurate reflection of how some of our young criminals are treated. Is it any wonder, then, that re-offending rates are as high as they are when they become a better criminal inside because it is safer than being a better person?' (www.writeaway. org.uk)

### JUVENILE NON-FICTION |EUGVAKLEKTUUR

HAT Afrikaanse skoolwoordeboek.- Pearson Education S.A., 2009.

'Die HAT Afrikaanse skoolwoordeboek is veel meer as net 'n woordeboek. Dit bied meer as 30 000 woorde en hul verbuigings, duisende vaste uitdrukkings en idiome, inligting oor die herkoms van woorde en afkortings. Eenvoudige definisies, toegelig met meer as 300 illustrasies en duisende natuurlike voorbeeldsinne en frases. Die woordeboek bevat verder notas oor spelling en taalgebruik en is in die eerste plek vir Afrikaans huistaal- en Afrikaans eerste addisionele

taalleerders geskryf. Dit voldoen aan al die vereistes van die nasionale kurrikulum, maar hoewel die keuse van trefwoorde, die formulering van definisies en die seleksie van voorbeeldsinne en frases op die skool en die leefwêreld van tieners afgestem is, is oormatige vereenvoudiging vermy sodat elke gebruiker van Afrikaans, nie net leerders nie, die woordeboek met vrug kan gebruik.' (Protea Boekwinkel, *Nuusbrief* 184, 10/03/10.)



Hierdie boek is gebaseer op die **Kernwoordeboek** deur Francois Frederik Odendal.

### JUVENILE FICTION IEUGLEKTUUR



#### DHAMI, Narinder

Hannah's secret.- Orchard Bks., 2009.

This is the first book in *The beautiful game*, a new series of four books aimed at readers aged 8-12. The series is about a group of soccer-loving girls: Hannah, Lauren, Katie, Jasmin, Grace and Georgie. The first title focuses on Hannah, who has a big secret. Each book will concentrate on a different character. The author knows her football; she wrote the novel of the movie, **Bend it like Beckham**. She

is also one of the four authors of the popular  $\it Rainbow\ magic$  series, written under the name of Daisy Meadows.

Hannah's secret is an easy read with some likeable characters. 'Here at Lovereading we were more than a little sceptical about this new series featuring football and girls, but after handing the title round to a number of 8+-year-old girls the universal reaction was hugely positive. Kids who might not read much picked it up and devoured it, whilst book lovers enjoyed it too. Friendship, families, fashion, school and football all collide in a terrific mix of girl power and fun.' (Lovereading4kids.co.uk) I read a review by a 10-year-old girl who gave the book 4/5. She enjoyed it a lot but, not being a soccer fan, would have preferred some of the football terms to be explained. She added that she thought a soccer fan would give it 5/5! The beautiful game series should be popular with sports-loving girls. It's 'going to provide enjoyable easy reading for a whole swathe of tomboyish pre-teen girls who are more interested in footie than lip gloss - but are prepared to give lip gloss a minor chance during the off season.' (thebookbag.co.uk) The second title, which will be 

#### HALE, Shannon and Hale, Dean

Calamity Jack / illustrated by Nathan Hale.- Bloomsbury, 2010. 'Anarchic and ingenious, Calamity Jack is a tremendously original retelling of Jack and the beanstalk, transposed to a gangster kingdom



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presided over by the giant, Blunderboar. Told in graphic novel form and drawing on wild west, "steampunk", gangster and superhero traditions, this is a vibrant, appealing work." (Bookseller, 16/10/2009.)

'The Hales follow up Rapunzel's revenge with this fast-moving story focusing on Jack. It begins in the city of Shyport with his birth. Even as a child, Jack tends toward scheming, conning, and thievery with various accomplices, including Pru, a hatfancying pixie. One scheme involves

magical beans when the wealthy and corrupt giant Blunderboar goes awry, leaving Jack's tenement and his mother's bakery destroyed. Jack's mother orders him to go, and go he does with a certain goose under his arm. After the events recounted in **Rapunzel's revenge**, Jack and Rapunzel head back to Shyport to set things right. They arrive to find that Jack's mother is being held prisoner by Blunderboar, who is virtually running the city. They team up with Pru and Freddie Sparksmith, a young journalist, to save Jack's mom and the day.

'Nathan Hale's artwork places the action in a fairy-tale version of the American West, with the city as backdrop. His character sketches are delightfully expressive, and the book has the same rich palette as the previous story. It should satisfy readers who enjoy adventure, fairy tales, and anyone who loves a rogue.' (School Library Journal 1/01/2010.)



#### HEST, Amy

**Little chick**.- Walker Bks., 2010.

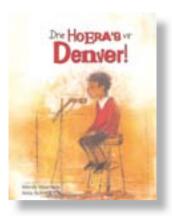
'Old-Auntie the hen, endlessly patient, marvellously kind, helps Little Chick deal with frustration in three stories. As depicted in Jeram's (Guess how much I love you) watercolour washes, Old-Auntie's feathered bulk dwarfs Little Chick, and her gestures - holding Little

Chick between her wings for a kiss, bending down to peer at her when she's discouraged - are infused with tenderness. Old-Auntie helps Little Chick deal with her eagerness to harvest the carrot she planted; helps Little Chick endure the long wait until her kite finally flies; and assures Little Chick that the star in the night sky that she wants is better off staying just where it is ("I'm afraid the sky just wouldn't be the same without your star," she says, her big feathery wing looped through Little Chick's spindly one). Hest's (Kiss good night) light humor and Jeram's visual charm work as harmoniously together as Little Chick and Old-Auntie themselves.' (Publisher's Weekly, 02/02/2009.)

#### MAARTENS, Wendy

Drie hoera's vir Denver! / geïllustreer deur Alida Bothma.- Lapa, 2009

Denver het nie altyd gehakkel nie. Voordat oom Jaap by hulle kom bly het, het die woorde soos gladde seepbelle oor sy lippe geglip. Almal is van mening dat sy ma baie gelukkig is om 'n aangename man soos oom Jaap te kry. Denver is die enigste een wat nie van oom Jaap hou nie en met goeie rede. Hy wens hy kon vir sy ma of vir sy musiekonderwyseres vertel wie oom Jaap regtig is. Hierdie is 'n sensitiewe verhaal wat die hart aanraak - dit leer kinders om nie stil te bly of skuldig te voel wanneer hulle gemolesteer word nie. Denver se opbouende verhouding met sy musiek-onderwyseres, asook



sy sangtalent, speel 'n sentrale rol in die verhaal en sy pad na heling. Agter in die boek is riglyne en hulpnommers vir kinders om so 'n situasie te hanteer, asook inligting vir ouers en onderwysers, byvoorbeeld, wat om te doen as 'n kind jou in sy vertroue neem, of as jy tekens sien wat dui op onderliggende spanning of seksuele misbruik. Die illustrasies deur Alida Bothma is in herfskleure, wat die atmosfeer van die verhaal goed weergee - dit beeld die hartseersituasie waarin Denver hom bevind duidelik uit. Die teks is langer en meer as wat die geval is met die gemiddelde prenteboek. Ook in Engels beskikbaar as **Three cheers for Tyran!** 

The David Beckham Academy series.- Egmont, 2009.

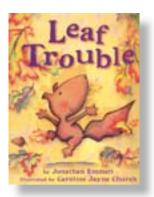
#### EMMETT, Jonathan

Leaf trouble.- Chicken House, 2009.

'Pre-School-Grade I - Pip Squirrel's first fall finds him confused and concerned: his family's oak tree is falling apart. The leaves have changed from summer green to yellow, red, and orange and are fluttering to the ground. He elicits his sister's help to gather them and stick them back on the branches. Mom Squirrel patiently, but er-



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roneously, explains that "taking care of the leaves was hard work for the tree ... it needed to rest awhile", and that the leaves will return in the spring. Pip likens the coming and going of the leaves to the sun setting and rising. Even though their mother's explanation is incorrect, her children are satisfied with her account and are pleased that, come spring, their home will begin to look the way it used to. The colourful and endearing ink illustrations, placed in a layered collage using a

variety of textures and perspectives, are a delight. One minor quibble: one spread is so dark that the text is difficult to read. The cozy pictures are the book's highlight, and children will be attracted to them.' (School Library Journal.)

#### VAN ASWEGEN, Marita



Phapo se geskenk / illustrasies deur Fanie Viljoen.- Knowledge Thirst Media, 2010.

'Met 'n doodgewone, maar dapper Suid-Afrikaanse dogtertjie, Phapo, en 'n eg Suid-Afrikaanse storie wil die maatskaplike werker en skrywer Marita van Aswegen vir kinders wys hulle is belangrik.

Om met kinders oor die blommetjies en bytjies te gesels is moeilik. Om boonop kwessies soos maagdelikheid, vigs en die dood by so 'n gesprek in te klits,

klink dalk na 'n onmoontlike opdrag.

Dit is egter presies wat die skrywer op 'n sensitiewe en kindervriendelike manier doen in haar boek.

Phapo is 'n tienjarige Sotho-meisietjie wat op die platteland woon. Haar pa, met wie sy 'n hegte band het, is sterwend weens vigs. Boonop flikflooi die seuns al hoe meer met haar langs die grondpad waarlangs sy vyf kilometers skool toe moet stap en verdwyn een van haar ouer maatjies dikwels agter die bome saam met 'n kêrel. Hoewel Phapo gekonfronteer word met dié dinge, bly sy 'n kind. Een wat droom van 'n pop met baie rokke en van 'n blink toekoms. Nadat haar ouma met haar oor haar kosbare vrug, maagdelikheid, gesels het, is sy vasbeslote om niemand toe te laat om haar daarvan te ontneem nie. Selfs kinders wat in beskermende, liefdevolle huishoudings grootword en nie noodwendig Phapo se leefwêreld deel nie, sal kan baat vind by die boek, meen Van Aswegen. Kinders kan hieruit leer oor die impak van vigs en die voordele van seksuele onthouding

Die illustreerder Fanie Viljoen se prentjies verhelder die bladsye en die eenvoudige verhaallyn maak daarvan 'n lekkerlees-boek.' (www. beeld.com)

Hierdie titel is in Afrikaans, Sotho en Engels uitgegee.

#### ZILILO,TG

#### Abaqambi.- Heinemann, 2009.



#### ZILILO,TG

#### ZILILO.TG

**Imiba yentlalo.**- Heinemann, 2009. UTito yinkwenkwana esuka eKenya nosapho lwakho, uyise wakhe

uzokusebenza apha eMzantsi Afrika njengogqirha. Lusuku lwakhe lokuqala esikolweni kwaye unxunguphele. Kube nzima koogxa bakhe ukumva xa ethetha kuba amagama ebengawabizi ngokufanayo. Le nto yenze angabandakanyo kumdlalo webhola.......NNG

#### ZILILO,TG

Impilo entlango.- Heinemann, 2009.

Eli libali elingembali nemvelaphi yabaThwa. Umbhali uthi abalise nangenenekazi elalidume kakhulu kwihlabathi jikelele uSaartjie Bartman. Ubalisa ngokuthatyathwa kwakhe asiwe phesheya kwezilwandle apho wafika waphatheka kakubi de wasweleka......NNG

#### ZILILO,TG

Isifo esiyingozi.- Heinemann, 2009.

Ibali eli lingesifo secesina, sifo eso esisasazwa ziingcongconi. Umbhali uthi achazele umfundi kabanzi ngesisifo. Uqale acacise ngendlela azanda ngazo iingcongconi, achaze neempawu athi umntu onesisifo azibonakalise. Isifo secesina kuthiwa sihlasela ikakhuli abantwana abaselula.......NNG

#### ZILILO, TG

Lishishini lesizwe eli.- Heinemann, 2009.

Intombazanana encinane uLindi, unesakhono sokuhlohla iintsimbi. Uthe xa eqala ukufika kwisikolo sakhe waqaqamba ngesisakhono wasifundiswa ngunina. Utitshalakazi wakhe wamcela akuba afundise nabanye abafundi. Isikolo sikaLindi sabayindumasi ngokwenza ezintsimbi waza uLindi wafumana nembasa ngeli galelo lakhe.......NNG

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

EB	Erich Buchhaus
NNG	
SCG	Sabrina Gosling
SSJ	Stanley Jonck

