

ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

Die Afrikaanse skryfgids / saamgestel deur Riana Scheepers en Leti Kleyn.- Penguin, 2012.

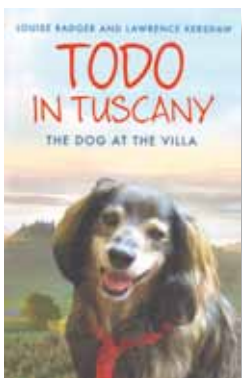


'Hierdie boek is 'n skatkis vir aspirantskrywers en 'n mens kan gerus die Engelse uitgewer Penguin hiermee gelukwens. Daar is nie 'n genre wat nie behandel word nie: die kortverhaal, roman, misdaad, fantasie, liefdesverhale, Christelike romans, kinder- en jeugboeke, poësie, drama, TV en film, joernalistieke skryfwerk, niefiksie - noem maar op. Selfs illustrasies en stripkuns word behandel. Een van die vele sterk punte van die gids

is dat kenners op elke terrein ingespan is om te skryf oor die spesifieke voorskrifte en geheime van hul genre. Daar is, onder andere, Philip de Vos, Hennie Aucamp, Andries Bezuidenhout, Piet Grobler, Margot Luyt, Willemien Brümmer, Dana Snyman, Saartjie Botha - jy leer dus aan die knie van die bestes in Afrikaans. In 'n tyd waar selfpublikasie via die Internet so maklik geword het dat Jan Rap en sy maat dink hy kan ryk word deur sy pennevuggies, verwelkom 'n mens **Die Afrikaanse skryfgids** met sy duidelike riglyne vir manuskripte en ander skryfwerk. Die boek is van groot waarde vir individue, maar sal ook met vrug as handboek voorgeskryf kan word.' (*Huisgenoot Boeke*)

BADGER, Louise and KERSHAW, Lawrence

Todo in Tuscany: the dog at the villa.- Hodder, 2012.



After enjoying many holidays together in Italy, Louise Badger and Lawrence Kershaw decided it was time to buy there. So in 2007 to make the dream a reality, the two were off to house-hunt in the Tuscan countryside not far from Lucca. Their very first house viewing turned into a memorable experience when they were greeted by a charming brown dog named Todo. They were shocked to discover that the dog with the scruffy coat and

floppy ears sitting at the gate of the Villa Poggiolino was a 'non-negotiable' part of the purchase.

When Carol MacAndrew had died two years earlier, she had left behind her beloved home and garden, Poggiolino, and her faithful companion Todo. Although Todo had been alone for two years when Badger and Kershaw first met him, he had refused to leave

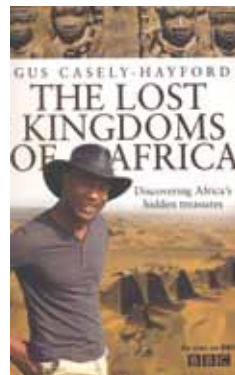
the home where he had passed so many happy years with Carol. It was decided that whoever bought Poggiolino got Todo as well!

Although the house wasn't quite what they initially had in mind and required more work than expected, they couldn't get Todo's sad face out of their minds when they left.

In **Todo in Tuscany: the dog at the villa**, Badger and Kershaw share their story of meeting Todo, revealing the ups and downs of moving and making a new life in Italy and the joys of falling in love with a place. **EB**

CASELY-HAYFORD, Gus

The lost kingdoms of Africa.- Bantam, 2012.



The author is a British and cultural historian with Ghanaian roots, and serves as a research associate at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. In 2010, as part of the Wonderful Africa Season, he presented a television series called *Lost kingdoms of Africa*. This consisted of four 60-minute television programmes that were shown on BBC2 and BBC4. In February 2012 he was commissioned

to do a second season of this series.

In this book, which accompanies the above-mentioned 8-part BBC series, Dr Casely-Hayford takes us on a fascinating journey through the history of this remarkable continent.

The African continent is home to nearly a billion people. It has an incredible diversity of communities and cultures, yet we know less of its history than almost anywhere else on earth. In the last few decades researchers and archaeologists have begun to uncover a range of impressive and extraordinary histories. Long-lost kingdoms are suddenly being brought back to life, and civilisations that had faded into myth are revealing their secrets. Using this latest research, Dr Casely-Hayford explores the pre-colonial history of some of Africa's most important kingdoms, revealing their histories in an entirely new, colourful and richly-informed way.

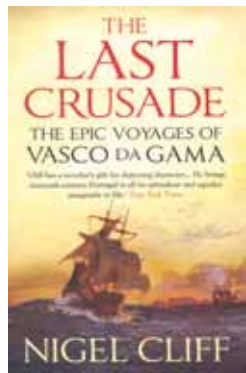
He first looks at Nubia, in what is now Northern Sudan, a kingdom that dominated a vast area of the eastern Sahara for thousands of years, tracing the origins of this fascinating kingdom back to 10,000 BCE. He explores how it developed and what happened to it and its people, revealing that its kings briefly once ruled Ancient Egypt. En route, the author brings to light diverse cultures and civilisations which have arisen in Africa since earliest times such as the Kingdom of Asante; the Zulu Kingdom; the Berber Kingdom of Morocco; the Kingdoms of Bunyoro and Buganda.

The book also serves as an entertaining travelogue where the reader is taken on a tour of contemporary Africa. One sees not just the physical historical evidence in the form of architecture,

artefacts and art, but also meets modern day descendants and experts whose testimonies help to evoke echoes of the past.**EB**

CLIFF, Nigel

The last crusade: the epic voyages of Vasco da Gama.- Atlantic, 2011.



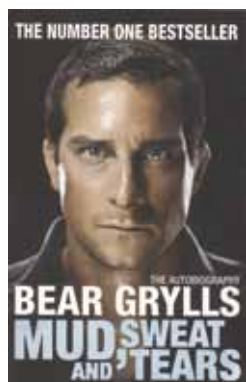
Nigel Cliff offers a fresh take on the history of the Age of Discovery in his thrilling narrative about the young captain Vasco da Gama who sailed from Portugal in 1498 to circumnavigate Africa and cross the Indian Ocean, and thus discover an important sea route to the Indies. This is not a definitive work on Da Gama's life, but what sets this work apart is the impeccable research and accessibility of this pivotal moment in

history. There is nothing really new here but the author's presentation and narrative which is so refreshing. Vasco da Gama's voyages do indeed remind one of those of Odysseus and Aeneas – in the range of adventures, mostly disastrous, which befell the tiny ships, and also in the iron will of their leaders. The Portuguese drive to the East became little more than organised piracy and ideas of any crusading Christian mission melted under the attractions of an eastern way of life. But it remains astonishing that marginal little Portugal reached around India to China and founded Macau and the Spice Islands all by itself. Followed by the Dutch and then, on a far grander scale, by the British, the Portuguese were the first precursors of true globalisation.

Readers of this book will relish the rich and colourful glimpse into the place and context of the Age of Exploration. This is a lively and fascinating retelling of one of history's greatest naval expeditions and of the powers behind it.**EB**

GRYLLS, Bear

Mud, sweat and tears.- Channel 4 Bks., 2012.

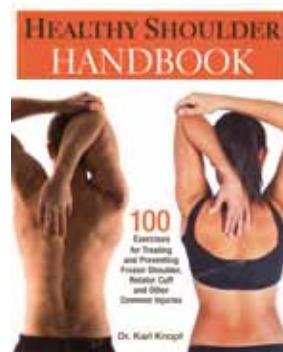


The author is regarded as one of the greatest living adventurers and is known for his daring exploits in the *Man vs Wild* TV show. His autobiography is a wonderfully easy read as it is honest, intimate and quite lacking in pretention. He begins with some childhood and teenage adventures that made him realise his innate love for adventure. Bear has a family history of dedicated military service and was educated at Eton. The bulk of

the book concentrates on Grylls' two most formative experiences: training for and mastering the brutal selection process to join the elite Special Air Services (SAS) unit of the British Special Forces, and his attempts and eventual success (he broke his back in a parachuting incident in Africa) in climbing Mount Everest. He became one of the youngest mountaineers to reach the summit, which led to lectures, a deodorant commercial, appointment as the youngest ever Chief Scout to the Scouting Association, and eventual celebrity status as an influential personality on the Discovery Channel. Grylls' flowing account comes across as an engaging novel revealing a satisfying life story filled with excitement and adventurous risk-taking.**EB**

KNOPE, Karl

Healthy shoulder handbook: 100 exercises for treating and preventing frozen shoulder, rotator cuff and other common injuries.- Ulysses P., c2010.



The author is the coordinator for the fitness therapist programme at Foothill College in California. He offers a comprehensive look at a wide range of different exercises for the rotator cuff, as well as prevention programmes aimed towards different activities, including baseball, basketball, football, golf, hockey, swimming, tennis, volleyball, wrestling, construction, and office/desk jobs.

There are exercises that are passive on the floor, on a roller, with a cane, against a wall/door, and then some with resistance (band/dumbbell).

The manual takes a look at the various causes for common shoulder conditions such as tendinitis, dislocation and others, offering suggested guidelines to dealing with them via easy-to-follow exercises which are covered in step-by-step photographs.

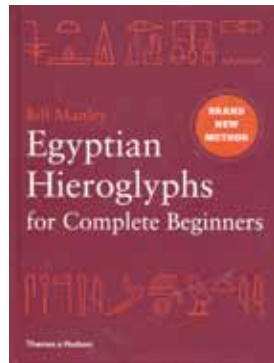
This should be a useful source for people recovering after a shoulder injury or surgery, offering a lot of exercises with a short technical review of the shoulder.**EB**

MANLEY, Bill

Egyptian hieroglyphs for complete beginners: the revolutionary new approach to reading the monuments.- Thames, 2012.

The author, well known as co-author for the bestselling *How to read Egyptian hieroglyphs*, has produced a new book for students planning to learn hieroglyphs for the first time. Manley introduces the mechanics of ancient Egyptian language through a close study of selected monuments, including stelae, funerary cones, and coffins. His prose is simple, clear and easy to digest. Manley speaks

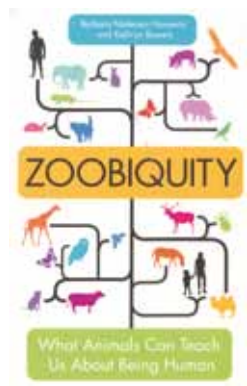
directly to his readers, encouraging and involving them throughout the book. Each monument or object is illustrated beautifully, so that the hieroglyphs are very easy to see, and most are accompanied by photographs so the readers can see how they look in reality. Everything is shown in black on white, but guidelines are superimposed in red to help the reader navigate each piece of text. This combination of red and black on white, used throughout, is both attractive and effective.



The author has produced a useful source for classroom settings as well as for independent research. This is by far one of the best beginner's guides recently seen on the subject, offering a new approach to the subject. It is beautifully produced and illustrated in a manner that should make it appealing not only to the beginner at whom it is aimed, but also to those with a basic knowledge wishing to refresh their skills.EB

NATTERSON-HOROWITZ, Barbara and BOWERS, Kathryn.

Zoobiquity: what animals can teach us about being human.-Virgin Bks., 2012.



'Our ancestors knew that animals suffer the same diseases as humans, but as modern medicine developed, a great schism grew between physicians and veterinarians. Cardiologist and psychiatrist Natterson-Horowitz now calls for a new species-spanning approach to medicine and health. She and science writer Bowers coined the term zoobiquity for this emerging field, and they present their case with winning enthusiasm and expertise. Natterson-Horowitz,

astute and funny, recounts her mind-expanding zoobiquitous expeditions involving a remarkable array of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects and explicates the genetic and evolutionary roots of her revelatory discoveries. Not only do animals faint but fainting can be essential to survival, leading Natterson-Horowitz to modify a classic phrase to fight, flight, or faint. Even more arresting are her revelations about animals, intoxication, and addiction (including a Texan cocker spaniel who loved to lick cane toads for the hallucinogenic toxin in their skin). Her investigation into animal sex redefines natural acts, and her coverage of animal adolescence and eating disorders is fascinating and instructive. Clearly, we have much to learn from animals and from this profoundly illuminating

new fusion of veterinary, human, and evolutionary medicine. Zoobiquity is a clarion and perception-altering work'. (Booklist)

RADCLIFFE, Margaret

Circular knitting workshop: essential techniques to master knitting in the round.- Storey Pub., 2012.



'For those somewhat familiar with knitting flatly back and forth on two needles, this sourcebook is an excellent resource to continue knitting in the round. In well-organised sections master teacher Margaret Radcliffe clearly explains the nitty-gritty of circular knitting. With descriptions of the essentials such as the required needles, types of yarn, gauge measurements, and other supplies, instructions

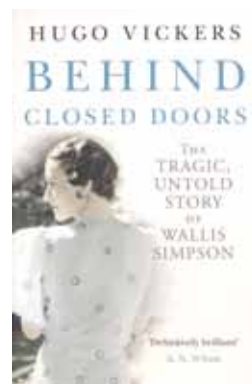
are presented for various projects. Projects for knitting bags, hats, circular shawls, socks, mittens, gloves, and sweaters are included.

While these project details are for small sizes, instructions are provided to render the knitted undertakings into larger versions. The uniqueness of the book rests not only in the clarity of its presentation, but also with the accompanying magnified photographs which colourfully illustrate each direction from knitting stitches to the finished project. If you prefer knitted garments with few to no seams, then circular knitting is the way to go. Circular knitting produces less of a strain on the arms, the knitting itself flows continuously without the awkwardness of shifting needles, and the entire project can easily be compressed and folded for storage without the worry of isolated long needles stabbing oneself or others. This is a useful book to gain proficiency in knitting in the round.'

(www.citybookreview.com)

VICKERS, Hugo

Behind closed doors: the tragic untold story of Wallis Simpson.- Arrow, 2012.



Ostracised by the Establishment after the abdication in 1936, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor lived out a golden life in America, France and the capitals of Europe. The twice-married American socialite, Wallis Simpson, for whom the Duke abandoned the throne to marry, could be seen at glittering events. Although no classical beauty, she always dressed immaculately in

haute-couture, complemented by fabulous jewellery.

Hugo Vickers, in his latest biography of the Duke and Duchess, has produced a solid telling of their lives and of those around them. Vickers begins at the end – the Duke's death in 1972 and the Duchess' death in 1986. He also introduces a relatively little known character into the saga of the Duke and Duchess – the French lawyer, Suzanne Blum, who had taken over the Duchess' business and medical affairs. Wallis, the widowed Duchess of Windsor, spent her last years incarcerated in a living grave in her villa in the Bois de Boulogne. Suzanne Blum kept her under close surveillance, but (according to Vickers) she was a ruthless, wicked crook. Claiming to act as the Duchess's devoted friend and protector, she fired her respectable English lawyer, sacked the Duchess's loyal servants, and banished her old friends, such as Diana Mosley.

Vickers is actually a participant in the later lives of the Duke and Duchess. A journalist from the early 1970s, he had been employed by DeBrett's Peerage to ascertain the current facts about the lives of the Windsors in their life of exile in Paris. In attempting to redress the balance Vickers has succeeded up to a point. The 'untold story' of her last years is not tragic but sadly familiar: a frail old woman, exploited by those who were paid to care for her. Vickers' main impetus in this part of the book is a hatred of the Duchess' lawyer, Suzanne Blum. His researches have convinced him that Wallis has been unfairly treated, and that she was not a villain but a victim. This was true throughout her life, but never more so than at the end.EB

ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

ADRIAANSE, Wilna

'n Klein lewe.- Tafelberg, 2012.



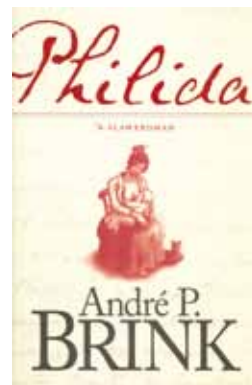
'Met 'n Klein lewe skryf Wilna Adriaanse haar storie van gewone mense wat grootgeword het in die apartheidsjare. Vertel deur die stem van 'n middeljarige Afrikaanse vrou is dit die storie van die volwassewording en groeiende politieke bewussyn van 'n vrou wat in die laat 1950's in Suid-Afrika gebore is, grootword in die Kaap, studeer op Stellenbosch en as pasgetroude jong volwassene in Giyani in die administrasie van

die destydse swart tuisland Gazankulu saam met haar man gaan werk. Ná 'n paar jaar trek hulle terug Kaap toe – sy is nou ma

van drie seuns en haar man word stadsekretaris van drie swart woongebiede op die Kaapse Vlakte. Dis die '70's en '80's, die jare van politieke onrus, en die townships brand. In die vroeë 90's word die munisipale bestuurders uit die townships verjaag – ook die verteller se man. Hy begin later werk as projekbestuurder vir die Wêreldbank in Lagos, waar sy hom in Nigerië besoek. Adriaanse, ook 'n skrywer van bekroonde liefdesverhale, skryf vlot en met 'n goeie oog vir die fyn nuanses wat al die deeltjies van 'n lewe opmaak ... Die vervreemding wat sy as witmens ervaar en die verdwyning van sekerhede oor wat dit is om 'n witmens in Afrika te wees, bly 'n deurlopende tema wat sy dwarsdeur die boek vleg ... Met die aanhalings van skrywers wat elke hoofstuk voorafgaan en die verwysings na boeke uit die Suid-Afrikaanse en wêreldliteratuur wat die verteller deur haar lewe lees, dui sy aan wat die boustene van 'n politieke bewuswording was ... Dis uiteindelik deur haar interaksies met ander en deur haar kinders wat vreesloos die wêreld invaar dat die verteller die bevryding ervaar van mens-wees tussen ander.' (www.beeld.com)

BRINK, André Philippus

Philida: 'n slaweroman.- Human, 2012.

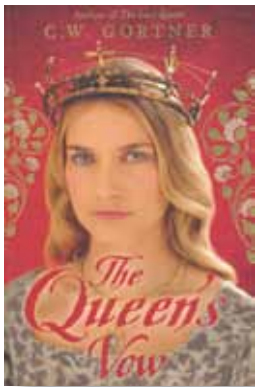


'Brink was die eerste ontvanger van die Jan Rabie en Marjorie Wallace-Skrywersbeurs van die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland; Philida is die produk van daardie beurs ... Die verhaal van Philida, 'n slaaf op die plaas Zandvliet, speel af in die tydperk voor en tydens die vrystelling van slawe aan die Kaap. Die vertelling skop af in die jaar 1832, met Philida wat van Zandvliet Stellenbosch toe loop om daar by die slawebeskermer 'n klag in te

dien teen Frans Brink, seun van die plaaseienaar, saam met wie sy kinders gehad het en wat toe nie sy belofte om haar vry te koop, nagekom het nie. Philida se verhouding met Frans is die stramien waarop die verhaal van slawery aan die Kaap uitgebeeld word - 'n verhaal van intieme wreedheid, of wrede intimiteit ... Die verhaal volg Philida, onder meer, deur terugflitse, deur die verskillende fases van haar lewe as 'n slavin tot by haar voorlopige vrystelling met die aankondiging van die Emansipasie op 1 Desember 1934. Op tematiese vlak handel die roman onder meer met vrae rondom die aard en betekenis van vryheid ... Philida is nie een van daardie Brink-romans wat 'n vernuwing aankondig nie. Intendeel. Dit gryp in baie opsigte terug na 'n vorige fase(s) ... Dis nie Brink se grootste óf mees vernuwendende roman nie, maar dis 'n waardige toevoeging tot 'n indrukwekkende oeuvre.' (www.beeld.com)

GORTNER, CW

The queen's vow: a novel of Isabella of Castile.- Hodder, 2012.



The author is a master of historical fiction featuring strong royal women. His previous subjects included Catherine de Medici and Juana of Castile. In this novel, he concentrates on the third child and only daughter of King John II of Castile, Isabella, an important figure in Spanish history.

After the death of her father and her eldest half-brother Enrique's ascension to the throne, Isabella finds herself exiled from court with her brother Alfonso and her unpopular

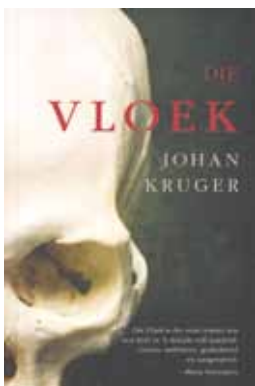
mother, Isabella of Portugal. Enrique is an even weaker king than her father, and this leads to a civil war in which Isabella is forced to take sides between the two brothers. Isabella realizes that she will have to fight to defend her own place in the kingdom. As it is not easy to survive as a woman alone in the 15th century, Isabella turns her attention to a long-admired cousin Fernando, heir to the throne of Aragon. With Fernando as her husband, she not only can claim her rights to Castile, but can unite the two countries.

Isabella and Fernando are best known for their support of Christopher Columbus' expedition, the Spanish Inquisition and the Reconquista that drove the Moors from Spain.

Gortner's latest historical delivers a believable account of a woman determined to control her own fate and shape Spain into a great country without over-romanticising the vibrant plot.EB

KRUGER, Johan

Die vloek.- Lapa, 2012.



'Alwyn Baayenhoek is 'n suksesvolle prokureur in Pretoria. Hy word binne die bestek van 'n paar weke met verskeie krisisse in sy lewe gekonfronteer: 'n grondeis, sy onredelike korrelkop-pa wat verhouding met getroue werkers vertroebel, 'n komplekse opdrag om 'n lughawe te bou, spanning in sy huwelik, die verbreking van 'n jarelange vriendskap, familiespanning – maar bowe alles, 'n konfrontasie met die verlede, en die sondes van die vader, deur

die onverwagse kennismaking met 'n bruin neef. Die verhaal strek oor bietjie meer as 'n eeu, beginnende by die verhaal van Kortpeet Baayenhoek en Mara wat as pioniers op die plaas Rietvallei kom woon tydens die Anglo-Boereoorlog. Die versteuring van 'n graf

op die plaas veroorsaak dat iemand van die Sekhukhunestam 'n vloek oor Peet uitspreek en "almal van jou wat die water drink". En dit gebeur ook so: Alwyn, Kortpeet se eersteling, word gebore met 'n waterhoof, Peet en sy seun Sarel verdrink in die rivier; Alwyn verdrink homself in alkohol en sterf in 'n fratsongeluk en Petrus skiet homself dood.

'Heelparty kwessies betreffende die Afrikaner se plek in die nuwe Suid-Afrika word aangeraak . . . Die skrywer se agtergrond – hy het gewerk as advokaat, professor en regter – blyk nie net uit die oortuigende hantering van regstegniese implikasies nie . . . Kruger het 'n allemintige taak aangepak en noodwendig is daar nog enkele dingetjies wat pla . . . Hier is egter navorsing gedoen soos min en Kruger se vlot, intelligente verteltrant hou deurgaans die aandag. As jy lief is vir verwikkelde romans propvol historiese gegewens, is dit die een wat jy vanjaar nog moet lees.' (www.graffitiboeke.co.za; www.beeld.com)

LOUPAS, Elizabeth



The flower reader.- Preface, 2012.

'Rinette Leslie, a girl who can read truth in flowers, is entrusted with a casket by Scotland's dying queen. Destined for Mary, known to history as Queen of Scots, the casket contains predictions made by Nostradamus, meant to protect her from the folly in her future. But foolishly, Rinette shows the casket to her young husband, the man she loves with all her heart, and decides not to go back to Edinburgh to put

it in its secret hiding place or give the casket to Mary. After all, she's happy in her seaside castle, and she trusts him. But when the secret of the casket gets out, the lives of Rinette, her husband, and her young child are in grave danger.

'Rinette can read flowers; she can apply the meanings of flowers to the future. It kind of goes along with the idea that a certain colour rose means passion, a different one love, a different one grief, and so on, but Rinette can see meanings in all different kinds of flowers, as though they speak to her. It's an intriguing premise and adds an element of magic to what could have been a relatively standard historical thriller.

'The book is full of twists and turns and death and mystery. Rinette is put through agonies on multiple occasions, her spirit crushed, buried in mourning and regret and sorrows, all due to a casket that she didn't even want anything to do with. All she wants is to live quietly in Granmuir by the sea, and it's a desire that grows with time as her life spins out of control, forced to the whims of the court and the royalty around her. Loupas did a great job creating such a sympathetic character who suffers much too severely for the faults of youth that many of us will recognise in ourselves. Her

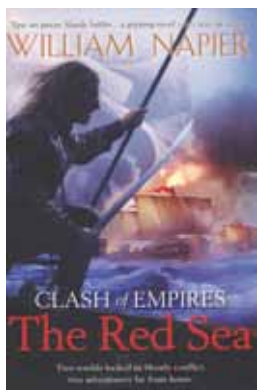
mistake in trusting the husband she adores, a man who clearly isn't trustworthy, haunts her even as she seeks to find his murderer and exact revenge.

'I also loved the refreshing take that this sort of book gave on sixteenth-century Scotland; we're right at the start of Mary's reign, and even at her court, many of the more controversial elements of her later life are only just beginning. The future is still completely open to her; but she's not an admirable character, and it's very clear that we're not meant to like her or her mother.

'It's a well-paced, well-written read with a good basis in history but enough of a fantasy touch to make it feel fresh.'
(www.medievalbookworm.com)

NAPIER, William

The red sea.- Orion, 2012.



This title is the exciting sequel to **The great siege** and is the second title in the *Clash of empires* series. It features the same cast of heroes but the story is set six years later. Readers will remember Nicholas Ingoldsy and his companion, Hodge, refugees from England who fought valiantly for Christendom during the siege of Malta and survived with plans to return to England. There Nicholas Ingoldsy hoped to reclaim his title to lands unfairly confiscated from his family and to re-join his sisters still

living in a convent (see **The great siege**).

The prologue details the path the novel will pursue. It reveals an ambitious Grand Vizier who encourages the new, but inefficient Ottoman ruler to continue the quest of his father, Suleiman the Magnificent, to wage war on the Christian infidels. The idea is to gain control of the Mediterranean Sea, but to do this they have to first conquer Cyprus.

The story then switches to our two heroes planning to escape the Sweet Rose of Algiers, a Barbary ship where they are serving as galley slaves. They escape only to get entangled with corrupt Spanish authorities. Later they are rescued by old friends from the Knights of St John who happen to be around, looking for new recruits for the forthcoming battle for Cyprus. They are persuaded to join the Knights and so become once again involved in a new, bloody conflict in the Mediterranean. They are first shipped to Cyprus, witnessing its capitulation, only to join the legendary Don Juan in the forthcoming Battle of Lepanto.

The story is as exciting and gripping as the previous title, revealing once again the author's gift at evoking the adrenaline rush of vivid battle sequences. However, his greatest talent is to create characters that immediately seize the reader's attention and imagination. This will appeal to readers of historical fiction who enjoy swashbuckling action. Add some in-depth research for a certain

authenticity and we can justly claim it to be a pacy series that live up to expectations.**EB**

VAN DER WALT, Derick B

Daan Dreyer se blou geranium.- Kwela, 2012.



Daan Dreyer was nie bewus daarvan dat sy vrou sielsongelukkig in hul huwelik is nie. Toe sy hom op 'n dag meedeel dat sy wil skei, is hy totaal oorbluf. Uit respek en liefde los hy vir haar en die kinders die huis en trek in 'n klein, donker woonstelletjie in. Maar hy verlang baie na hulle, want hy het sy vrou nog net so lief soos altyd. Sy kollega en vriend se vrou gee vir Daan 'n plant om sy lewe bietjie op te helder – 'n blou geranium. Blom wil dit egter nie,

ten spyte van sy getroue sorg en aandag. By die werk is Daan die standvastige staatsmaker wat hy altyd was, maar nuwe bloed in die vorm van 'n ambisieuse jong toesighouer krap sy sake sommer erg deurmekaar. Hy voel selfs onseker oor sy toekoms daar; aangesien die ouer garde as 'has-beens' gesien word. Daan se onvermoë om behoorlik met sy naaste geliefdes te kommunikeer is 'n aspek wat deurlopend na vore kom. Hy word eg-menslik en realities geteken, sodat lesers maklik met hom identifiseer en regtig spyt is dat sy huwelik verbreek. Daar kom egter 'n tyd dat die blou geranium blom, en dit op 'n tyd wanneer Daan die vrede begin ervaar om nuwe paaie te bewandel. Hierdie lekkerleesboek vertel met humor van die seer en aanpassing van 'n middeljarige wit man wat hom meteens alleen bevind en sy worsteling om weer sy voete te vind.**SSJ**

VENTER, Irma

Skoenlapper.- Human, 2012.



'Die verhaal handel oor Alex Derksen, 'n vryskutjoernalis in Dar es Salaam. Hy ontmoet Ranna Abrahams, 'n vryskutfotograaf wat ook daar werk. Hoewel Alex skugter is vir die liefde en dit hoofsaaklik sien as 'n resep vir chaos, kry sy hart die oorhand en hy val pens en pootjies vir die mooi donkerkop. Dit ondanks waarskuwings dat sy 'n manne-eter is en sy hart gaan fynkou voor sy dit uitspoeg. Ranna praat nie graag oor haar verlede nie. Trouens, sy is uifers

geheimsinnig. Wanneer 'n Amerikaanse IT-biljoenêr se lyk op die strand uitspoel, word Ranna 'n verdagte in die saak. En dit begin vir Alex lyk of sy iets het om weg te steek, al hou sy vol dit was nie sy nie. Die storie is briljant geskryf. Dit neem jou op stofpaadjies

en maak wilde draaie waarop jy nie altyd voorbereid is nie. Alex as joernalis en Ranna as nuusfotograaf oortuig met mening . . . Met haar lewendige beskrywings van die lewe in Dar, soos die karakters dit noem, laat Venter jou voel asof jy self daar is. Daar is 'n varsheid in haar gebruik van die taal en soms beskryf sy 'n emosie of situasie op só 'n oorspronklike manier dat jy dit weer wil lees om dit in te drink . . . Venter mag maar skryf. En sy moet . . . Al het die einde van haar debuut my heeltemal onkant betrap en amper vies gemaak. Maar dalk het sy dit doelbewus so beplan om 'n mens reikhalsend te laat uitsien na 'n opvolg?' (www.rapport.co.za)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

VAN ROOYEN, Nanette

Ek was hier.- Lapa, 2012.



'Hierdie opwindende jeugroman is verlede jaar bekroon met die eerste prys in LAPA se Jeugromanwedstryd. En van die inleidingsparagraaf af, waarin Frankie 'n pikswart rot op haar vensterbank sien sit - uit swart karton gesny en met gloeiende rooi oë - word die leser emosioneel en intellektueel betrek. Frankie van Luffelen is in graad 10. Haar ouers is anders: Elena, die ma, is 'n gesondheidsfanatikus, vreemd van gedrag en vol neuroses; haar pa, Ben, lyk volgens haar soos Atilla die Hun.

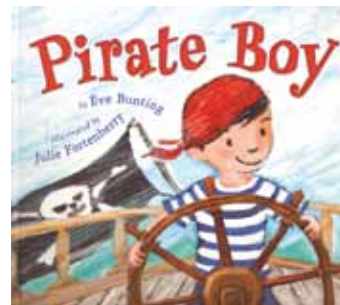
Hy is afkomstig van Vlaandere en praat steeds Vlaams. Hy is 'n sjef met 'n kookskool in Woodstock. Hy is nog simpel verlief op sy vrou; "hy is soos 'n lomp Great Dane agter haar aan". Die rot laat Frankie wonder: wie is daarvoor verantwoordelik? Die nuwe ou in graad 10, Milan Kucharzik, dalk? Mettertyd volg graffiti-boodskappe wat bydra tot die uitbouing van die spanningslyn, boodskappe aan haar gerig met spesiale betekenisse. Die gesin word deur ander kleurrike karakters aangevul. Daar is Gloria, die eienares van die hoekkafee met haar interessante gewade, 'n verskeidenheid pruik en 'n hart van goud; die rolprentklub-onderwyser Tarantino met sy insiggewende opmerkings oor fliëks en spelers; en ook Milan se pa, die wiskunde-onderwyser, wat as seuntjie saam met sy ouers uit Tsjeggo-Slowakye gevlug het. Maar dit gaan hier hoofsaaklik oor Frankie en Milan en die ontwikkeling van hul verhouding teen die agtergrond van gesinsverhoudings. Albei karakters oortuig in die uitbeelding van hul ervaringswêreld en gedrag, albei is sensitiewe, intelligente wesens - eintlik alleenlopers met dieselfde belangstelling en passie vir "old school"-musiek en graffiti . . . Graffiti speel 'n belangrike rol in die interaksie tussen Frankie en Milan. Sy ontvang 'n boek van hom oor die Britse graffitikunstenaar Banksy, **Wall and piece**, en begin self geïnteresseerd raak in dié kunsvorm. Later, wanneer 'n erge ongeluk Milan in die hospitaal laat beland, is haar

enigste kommunikasie met hom 'n kaartjie wat sy langs sy bed laat met rooi ballonne daarop geteken en die boodskap agterop: "Ek was hier." Dié verhaal getuig van 'n sensitiewe begrip van die psige van 'n tiener. Die skrywer handhaaf 'n goeie balans tussen emosioneel-belaaide voorvalle versus die uitbeelding van gewoon menswees in 'n intieme groep, soos onder andere verteenwoordig deur die ruimhartige Gloria, die ou man met sy papegaaï, Pannevis, en Ice, die transvestiet wat in die mooiste aandrokke by Gloria tee drink. Die eenvoudige dog treffende taalgebruik verhef dit tot 'n werk met sterk letterkundige verdienste. **Ek was hier** is 'n waardige pryswenner, 'n boek waarby tieners aanklank sal vind en 'n genotvolle leeservaring.' (www.beeld.com)

JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

BUNTING, Eve

Pirate boy / illustrated by Julia Fortenberry.- Holiday House, 2012.



'Danny and his mother read a picture book called **Pirate boy** together and then, in a question-and-answer dialogue, create their own pirate adventure featuring Danny sailing away on a pirate ship with Mom close at hand, should he have second thoughts about the escapade. Al-

though the other pirates turn menacing, and there are a couple of scary sea monsters, the challenges Danny conjures up are low-key, and mom conquers each with a flourish. The story concludes with a day at the beach, and the book ends with mother and son enjoying cookies. Softly coloured, uncluttered watercolour-style digital illustrations scored with thin, scratchy lines to suggest wind and motion perfectly match the nonthreatening tone of the text and feature just the right amount of accoutrement appropriate for a pirate story. The action scenes have enough drama to create interest but not so much as to be overwhelming.' (*Booklist*)

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

EB.....Erich Buchhaus
SSJ.....Stanley Jonck