

Cape Librarian

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Kaapse Bibliotekaris



Traffic is light as she leaves Mowbray. She feels her heart. Light. Soon. Soon she will be home. Strange how she was able to bear it - bearing being away. Until now it's only a day to go, it has only become unbearable. She remembers that party on Saturday night. Smashing send-offs these lovely people gave her. Really smashing. So, why is she feeling so odd? Ah, well, she thinks to herself. I've always had a problem, saying goodbye.



Western Cape
Government

Cultural Affairs and Sport

BETTER TOGETHER.

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COVER | VOORBLAD

Sindiwe Magona, a writer, poet, dramatist, storyteller, actress and motivational speaker, whose *Beauty's gift* was shortlisted for the 2009 Commonwealth Writer's Prize (Africa).

Sindiwe Magona is 'n skrywer, digter, dramaturg, storieverteller, aktrise, en motiveringspreker. Haar boek, *Beauty's gift*, was op die kortlys vir die 2009 Commonwealth Writer's Prize (Africa).





It's that time of the year again. The wet, windy and chilly time when one is constantly dreaming of simply snuggling down under a fluffy blanket with a 'must read before one dies' and a steaming cup of tea. Okay, I know many would disagree on my choice of beverage, but I think most of our readers will agree on the rest. I know we all have different needs and tastes but I think that if you're a reader of the *Cape Librarian*, the one thing we all have in common is a love of books! One might sometimes get annoyed with them though, says Pieter Hugo on page 2. 'Books are 'emotionally immature', 'selfish' and a lot more, but the aspects that he waxes lyrical about, namely '... they make us fall in love with them', '... they will do their best to change your mind, your emotions, your philosophy and your entire life', those are the characteristics that I definitely agree with.

The importance of books and reading is also highlighted on page 13 by the well-known author, Neil Gaiman, in the article *Why our future depends on libraries, reading and day dreaming* (originally a talk delivered by him at the Barbican in London). He has an interesting view on why, in this world of text and email, literacy is more important than it ever was. In his view we all have an obligation to read, for pleasure, in private and in public spaces.

Immersing yourself in a book is all good and well but it is also important to occasionally brave the outside world. For the adventurers amongst us, Sabrina Gosling has put together a superb collection of books with suggestions for things to do 'out there' (page 23). There is a general section as well as more specialised books on adventure holidays and outdoor pursuits, motorbikes and mountain biking, surfing, diving and other water activities, hiking and climbing and much more. The biggest problem I imagine is, faced with so many possibilities, what to choose and where to go.

This and much more should make for some interesting reading

this month. Enjoy and don't forget to snuggle up with a book at the first opportunity!

It is alweer sulke tyd. Dis nat, winderig en ysig koud en al waarvan mens droom is om onder daardie lekker warm donserige kombers in te kruip met een van die 'boeke wat 'n mens nog moet lees voordat jy doodgaan' en 'n stomende koppie tee. Ek gee toe dat nie almal met my keuse van drankie sal saamstem nie, maar ek dink wel dat ons lesers met die res van my sentiment sal saamstem. Ek weet dat elkeen se behoeftes en smaak verskil, maar ek glo wel dat as 'n mens 'n leser van die *Kaapse Bibliotekaris* is, dan het ons almal een ding in gemeen – 'n liefde vir boeke. 'n Mens raak egter soms vies vir hulle, sê Pieter Hugo op bladsy 2. Boeke is 'emosioneel onvolwasse', 'selfsugtig' en nog baie meer, maar ek stem saam met hom oor dié eienskappe waarvoor hy lirie raak, naamlik dat '... boeke ons noodsaak om op hulle verlief te raak', en '... dat hulle hul bes sal doen om jou van opinie te laat verander, asook jou emosies, jou filosofie en jou hele lewe'.

Die belangrikheid van boeke en lees word ook beklemtoon deur die bekende outeur Neil Gaiman in die artikel op bladsy 13, *Why our future depends on libraries, reading and day dreaming* (oorspronklik 'n lesing deur hom aangebied by die Barbican in London). Hy het 'n interessante benadering waarom, in vandag se wêreld van teksboodskappe en eposse, geletterdheid meer belangrik is as ooit. Hy is van mening dat ons almal 'n verpligting het om te lees, vir genot en in private en in openbare plekke.

Om 'n ander wêreld te betree in 'n boek is alles goed en wel, maar dit is ook belangrik om so nou en dan die wêreld daar buite aan te durf. Sabrina Gosling het vir die avontuurlustiges onder ons 'n puik versameling boeke met voorstelle vir buitemuurse aktiwiteite bymekaar gesit (bladsy 23). Daar is 'n algemene afdeling, sowel as meer gespesialiseerde boeke oor avontuurvakansies, motorfiets- en bergfietsry, branderplankry en ander watersport, wandelsport, bergklim en baie meer. Die grootste probleem, myns insiens, is om 'n keuse te maak van die groot verskeidenheid wat 'n mens in die gesig staar.

Hierdie en talle ander artikels bied interessante leesgenot hierdie maand. Geniet dit en moenie vergeet om by die eerste beste geleentheid lekker knussies onder die kombers met 'n boek in te kruip nie!

Editor | Redakteur

Grizell Azar-Luxton
Tel: (021) 483-2246

Sub-editor | Subredakteur

Ethney Waters
Tel: (021) 483-2234

Proofreaders | Proeflesers

Dalena le Roux
Helga Fraser

Graphic Designer | Grafiese Ontwerper

Wynand Coetzee
Tel: (021) 483-2283

Photography | Fotografie

David Webber

Administration and advertising | Administrasie en advertensies

Szerena Knapp
Tel: (021) 483-2483
Fax/Faks: (021) 419-7541

Website | Webtuiste

www.westerncape.gov.za/cas

Online public access catalogue

<http://wc.slims.gov.za/desktop/desktopwpc>

E-mail | E-pos

capelib@westerncape.gov.za
Grizell.Azar-Luxton@westerncape.gov.za
grizell@iafrica.com

Address | Adres

PO Box 2108, Cape Town, 8000
Posbus 2108, Kaapstad, 8000

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Editorial policy

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Redaksionele beleid

Die *Kaapse Bibliotekaris* is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstelyste asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir 'n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.

Books are emotionally immature

Why you cannot argue with a book by Pieter Hugo



Books are jealous. Extremely jealous. They want all your attention. My word! Books don't only want your attention, they want to be held all the time. They are worse than babies. They want you to be totally focussed on them, page by page.

Books use emotional blackmail, making it impossible to put them down. They will gladly keep you awake all night. Yes, it is true. Books are so self-centred. Do they

worry about how you feel the next day, struggling to keep awake? Of course not! They don't even think about you, slogging through the day, your body half asleep and half your mind occupied with the story you have read.

You cannot argue with a book. Books do not listen to you. They just stick to their story, literally word for word. Yes, they are extremely opinionated. You cannot ask a book questions, either. Bad luck if you don't understand something or if you misinterpret it. It will selfishly keep you in the dark.

Many books take advantage of people's weakness of generally liking books, by making us fall in love with them. Falling in love with a book is a wonderful yet terrible experience. Of course you cannot put it down. You forget about friends and family. Even in their company you just have to keep on reading. And if you don't read, you keep on talking

about your new love. You take it to bed. Your head is filled with it, day and night. And then, suddenly, you reach the end of the story. Your heart aches. You pine for your love, but it has nothing more to say. It stays in your heart and mind forever, even though it forgot about you the moment you finished reading it.

Eventually, after days or weeks, you take this book that broke your heart from your bedside table and put it on the shelf,

with all the books that you fell in love with earlier. You cannot throw it away. One day you might just want to read it again, or read some good bits from it, or lend it to a friend.

Yes, books make our life difficult and complicated. We don't throw them away after using them as we do with corn flake boxes. We keep them. We spend money and devote valuable space on book shelves to fill them with our used books. We spend time keeping these shelves in order, dusting them, sometimes just lovingly staring at our book collection.

That is another thing about books. They may be emotionally immature, but they are very clever. They love working together. They form gangs to add strength in numbers, doing their

Books are so self-centred. Do they worry about how you feel the next day, struggling to keep awake? Of course not!

emotional blackmailing. You get these book gangs in many homes. Shelves full of them. Book stores are worse, but the most powerful book gangs are found in libraries. These highly organised library book gangs pounce upon the unsuspecting visitors the moment they enter. They have even brainwashed some people to work for them. We call them librarians. Librarians think they serve humankind, but they are actually in



service of the selfish book. Librarians will lead you from one book to the other, slowly but surely drawing you down into the never-ending abyss of lifelong reading. Before you know it, you are caught in the trap of the drug called books. Librarians are so bad, they actually target innocent small children. They know that if they can enslave them to books at a very young age, they will have a next generation of non-stop readers.

Cats, on the other hand, instinctively know that books are not good for you. If you are owned by a cat you will know what I am talking about. Try and settle down for a good read and before long your cat jumps on the book. It will do its best to distract you. It is not, as is commonly believed, because cats are selfish and want all your attention. Your cat is trying to save you from your book addiction.

Be warned. I cannot stress this enough. Be extremely careful of books, because they are emotionally immature and extremely clever, a very dangerous mix. You cannot enter a book and come out unscathed. Books rob you of your money, your time and your peace of mind. They do their best to change your mind, your emotions, your philosophy, your entire life.

The problem with this warning is that no one will take it seriously. I will have to write a book about the dangers of books. If I call it *The Seven Dangers of Books*, with the subtitle *The No Read Revolution*, it will become a bestseller and everyone will read it.



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Pieter Hugo is the deputy director of Municipal Support Services at the Western Cape Library Service



people | mense

Minister of Cultural Affairs and sport

Ms Anroux Marais was appointed as Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport with effect from 24 April 2015. She has been an elected member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament since 2004, after serving as a City of Cape Town councillor from 2000 to 2004. Ms Marais served a full term as a member of the Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs and Sport. Having participated in parliamentary oversight of the Department for five years, she understands the work of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) very well. Ms Marais has also served as the chairperson of the Standing Committees of Health and of Social Development, and she understands the importance of

holistic management across departments.

She was unanimously elected for a second term as the chairperson of the Provincial Caucus of the Democratic Alliance in May 2015.

Minister Marais is committed to making a significant difference in the lives of the people of the Western Cape. She believes that DCAS has a pivotal role to fulfil in facilitating community conversations, promoting culture, heritage, libraries, archives and language, and using sport and recreation to advance social cohesion. She has prioritised the Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and Growth (MOD) programme as a key driver for positive change in the province.



The newly appointed minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Ms Anroux Marais during a 'Meet and greet' visit at the Western Cape Library Service with the director, Nomaza Dingayo

New assistant director appointed

Leonard Fortuin was recently appointed as the new assistant director for the Cape Metropole area.

Born on 9 July 1959 in Sarepta, Kuilsrivier, Mr Fortuin matriculated at the Bellville South Senior Secondary school in 1977. He spent a gap year as a labourer in a marine engineering firm in Salt River. He graduated from the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in 1983 with a B.Bibl (Hons) degree. His formative career, starting in 1984, was spent in Cape Town City Libraries, where he ended up in 1997

as a chief librarian. He then became library manager of South Peninsula Municipality Libraries, immediately followed by a six-year sojourn in the Department of SACR in Gauteng, where he assumed responsibility for libraries for four years, and then for departmental legal, policy, planning and research matters for two years. He returned to his family in Cape Town in 2007 to be a house husband. After a brief contractual period for the City of Cape Town in 2012 (at Wesfleur Library), he joined the Western Cape Library Service in 2013 as the Worcester regional librarian.



He sees himself as having a generally open, professional, productive and resourceful approach to life, which is underpinned by a firm commitment to lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

libraries | biblioteke

World Read Aloud Day

Touws River Library held a World Read Aloud Day on 4 March 2015. Thirty-two children attended and were told about the many services offered in a library. The children had a lot of fun whilst reading story books out loud.



Balochistan culture demonstrated

Fostering cultural awareness is one of the aims of libraries. It enables people to understand the beliefs, traditions, values and attitudes of other groups and communities as well as tolerance and respect.

As part of an awareness programme, the chairman of The Friends of the Library in George, Ken Smith, arranged with Persia House owner, Farid Hakimi (from George) to offer demonstrations in the library about the design and production of oriental carpets with the focus on the rugs of the Balochistan tribe.

The Friends organised two free demonstrations at **George Library** that received some advertorial coverage in the *George Herald*.

The Balochistan tribe, an ethnic tribe of Iran, is well known worldwide for their handknotted rugs and Kilims with amazing designs and vibrant colours. Colour is something they miss in nature since they live in the desert. Like most of the other tribes of Iran, the Balochistans don't use cartoon (a pattern on graph paper) for their design but weave from memory, and pass their motifs and designs on to the next generation. Hakimi's demonstration was complemented by an exhibition in the library of Oriental rugs. By sharing his skill with regards to weaving, Hakimi showed the people of George how they could become weavers and how this process can enable them to make a living.

'If you give a man a fish, he has food for a day. If you teach him *how* to fish, he has food for the rest of his life' (Spanish proverb).



Farid Hakimi and his sister demonstrate the weaving of carpets at **George Library**

Rachel Williams, Manager, George Library Services

I love my library

Earlier this year patrons from **Observatory Library** were invited to complete a sentence on a paper heart and placed it in a glass jar. The sentence read: 'I love my library ...' There were some very sweet responses with the winning entry by Genevieve Lang, aged three, who told her mother what to write down for her. We feature a small selection of responses:

I love my library ...

... because of the children's holiday programme. My children have been coming here for ± 25 years. The staff are always friendly and helpful. (Imelda)

... because I love reading it is magical and funny. (Songeza Cekiso)

... because I get the chance to relive my life as a character through the guidance of my favourite author. (Lisa Mbalentle Nojokol)

... because it stretches my mind. (Kathy Twomey)

... because the ladies are very helpful and always smiling. ☺ (Anon)

... because it's a very lovely, comfortable space. The books are awesome and updated. Small and intimate space to read. (Thandile)

... because the staff are always very helpful, friendly, caring and obliging. Also I can get all information from them. (Oscar Hopkins)

... because I love to share my love for books with my children. (Esther)

... because it made my life easy. For five years my life had to change.

Thanx for free books and Internet. (Sbongile Zondi)

And the winning entry:

I love my library ... because of the books. (Genevieve Lang, aged 3).

Nadia Ismail, Senior Librarian, Observatory Public Library

Vredenburg Library encourages youth to read

On Monday 20 April 2015, the Executive Mayor of Saldanha Bay Municipality, Alderman Francois Schippers, and Ms Nomaza Dingayo, Director: Library Service from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) opened the new R8 million **Vredenburg Public Library**.

Children from Elim Pre-Primary School entertained the audience with poetry readings.

The library stocks over 35,000 items (books and other materials) as well as five computers with free Internet access provided by the Rural Connectivity Project. Access to the Internet will assist library-goers to improve their computer skills, do research and search for jobs online.

'We want the community to make use of everything the library has to offer,' said Ms Dingayo. 'This library was built for the community and today I urge the community to look after it and take ownership of it.'



Ald. Francois Schippers and Ms Nomaza Dingayo open the **Vredenburg Public Library**

Wêreldboekdag vieringe

Citrusdal

Twee belangrike dae is onlangs in Citrusdal Biblioteek met uitstallings herdenk: Wêreldboekdag en Vryheidsdag.

As deel van die vieringe het Brakfontein se kleuterskool die biblioteek op 23 April (Wêreldboekdag) besoek. Die kleuters is heerlijk vermaak en is geleer oor die belangrikheid van lees. Inkleurprente is aan almal uitgedeel.



George Library

In Catalonia, Spain, World Book Day involves the exchange of gifts between loved ones and respected people. In line with this tradition, **George Library** donated books to Pacaltsdorp Secondary Parkdene Primary School, George Hospital and George Correctional Services. This is in line with LIASA's statement about World Book Day: 'The day is set aside to celebrate books and reading, to raise awareness of the importance of reading and of libraries and, to distribute books to communities.'

Valhalla Park

Ook op 23 April 2015, het die jaarlikse uitdunronde vir die Kaapse leeskompetisie weer in die Valhalla Park Biblioteek plaasgevind. Hierdie inisiatief het in 2013 'n ATKV-Veertjie vir leesbevordering gewen.



Die winners van die Afrikaanse leeskompetisie, (l-r) Tameryn Witbooi (derde), Robyn Petersen (eerste) en Celena Williams (tweede) saam met DA-raadslid Michael Britz. Raadslid Britz steun hierdie projek al lank en 'n hele paar van die pryse het uit sy eie sak gekom



Boniswa Notiki (senior librarian, George Library); Pieter Moolman (George Hospital) and Eurogene Carolus (library assistant, George Library)

Die kleintjies moes hul gunstelingkarakter in 'n boek uitbeeld. Dié enetjie (links) dink duidelik dat dit 'cool' is om 'n dokter te wees. En hoekom nie 'n sprokiesheld (regs) wees nie?

Alan Kannemeyer, bibliotekaris, Valhalla Park Biblioteek

Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries

A comfy spot for dollies



The children's section at **Gordon's Bay Library** sports a handmade lounge suite for dolls in lilac and shocking pink.

Africa Month display at Knysna Library



Mendisa Lunga put on this colourful display at **Knysna Library** to celebrate Africa month.

Write your own story project

Gordon's Bay Library launched a project to encourage children to write their own stories. The competition was aimed at learners from Grade R (they could tell their stories with pictures) to Grade 12 and students.

The topics ranged from *The people in my life*, *The street where I live*, *Boeke en die tiener* to *I dream of a future where ...*

They received more than 200 entries and people not involved with the library, were asked to help with the shortlisting and the selection of the winners. Winnie Rust, a local author, Professor Ampie Coetzee, a retired academic and Anne-Ghret Erasmus, an artist, helped with the adjudicating process.

In order to encourage the participants it was decided to provide many prizes such as donated books, vouchers from KFC, Spur and Wimpy, T-shirts with the



flying books motif printed on the back, games like Monopoly, as well as puzzles. All in all there were 30 prizes. The first prize was a tablet on which a lot of books were loaded. This was won by a Grade 7-learner with a story rich in imagination. Winners, parents and teachers were invited to the prizegiving on 22 May. Ms Lorensia Thomas handed over the prizes.

Africa Day celebrations

The Library Service celebrated Africa Month at selected public libraries in the Western Cape: Barrydale, Riversdale, Wesbank, Masiphumele, Ravensmead, Drakenstein, Fish Hoek, Retreat and Mfuleni. Everybody in the various communities were involved; ranging from children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. Activities included the showing of 16mm films of African origin, and colouring-in and face-painting sessions. In Riversdale, for example, over 400 school children attended the 16mm film shows in one sitting. Gauging from the reaction of patrons, the The Africa Day/Month activities were very popular.



Getooi in hul Afrika-uitrustings is personeel van Barrydale Biblioteek (l-r): Suzette Plaatjies, Rina de Villiers en Lorraine Pretorius

Barrydale

Barrydale Biblioteek het op luisterryke wyse Afrikamaand in samewerking met die Wes-Kaaplandse Biblioteekdiens gevier. Senior burgers van Klub Ebenhaezer was getooi in Afrikadrag, en daar was groot pret toe almal se gesigte gevef is. Daar was pryse vir die mooiste kleredrag, en 'n filmvertoning van **Boesman en Lena**. Pragtige skilderye van Afrikaanse kunstenaars is uitgestal. Rondom verversings is kossoorte en kuns van Afrika bespreek.

Kinders van Laerskole Vleiplaas en Lemoenshoek het bymekaar gekom in hul tradisionele kleredragte vir 'n gesigverfessie. Die kinders het selfs pragtige krale van papier gemaak om by hulle uitrustings te pas. 'n Staatskundige kaart van Afrika is vir 'n kompetisie ingekleur en die kinders het 'n riëldans uitgevoer. Die kinders het 'n film van **Winnie the Pooh** terdeë geniet, want die storie vorm deel van die muurskildery by Barrydale Biblioteek. Die middag is afgesluit met heerlike verversings.

Die personeel was ook in tradisionele drag uit een van die Afrikalande geklee. 'n Uitstalling van kaarte, prente, poppe en boeke oor Afrikalande was by die biblioteek te sien.

New library to connect Worcester community

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) hosted the residents of Avian Park in Worcester in the sod-turning ceremony for a new public library, officiated by the Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Ms Anroux Marais, on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Constructed at a cost of R5 million, **Avian Park Library** is one of six libraries in the Western Cape that will be built in the current financial year. There is a dire need for this facility, serving a community of over 16 000 residents and 4 000 households. It will be approximately 500 square metres in size.

'There is a huge need for a library in the community of Avian Park,' said Executive Mayor of Breede Valley, Ms Antoinette Steyn. 'We want to thank DCAS for their support in empowering the youth of Avian Park. Our aim is to leave a legacy of knowledge behind for the next generation because knowledge is power and we have to empower the youth in order to shape the next generation of leaders.'

'The Library Service forms an important part of the Department's outreach to educate and connect communities,' Minister Marais said in her keynote address.

The Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (Library Service) provided R5 000 000 to the Breede Valley Municipality over the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years for the establishment of a new library in Avian Park, due to be opened in January 2016.



MEC of DCAS, Anroux Marais and the executive mayor of Breede Valley Municipality, Antoinette Steyn, with children from the Avian Park community

Twee Karoo-romans verfilm

Die rolprentmaker Koos Roets en die akteur en regisseur André Stolz het die regte bekom om die Karoo-romans *Karretjiemense* en *'n Huis vir Ester* te verfilm.

Die romans deur die Durbanse skrywer Carol Campbell is in Afrikaans en Engels uitgegee en het wyd aanklank gevind.

Roets was die regisseur van *Faan se trein* en *Pawpaw vir my Darling* en die gewilde televisiereeks *Koöperasiestories* en Stolz, 'n veteraan-verhoogakteur, het, onder andere, rolle in *Mandela: Long walk to freedom* en *Stander* vertolk.

Karretjiemense is Campbell, 'n joernalis, se debuutroman.

Die romans is deur Umuzi uitgegee en die Afrikaanse vertaling is deur Kirby van der Merwe gedoen.

Die Burger

Ruth Rendell (85) "n baanbreker vir misdaadfiksie"

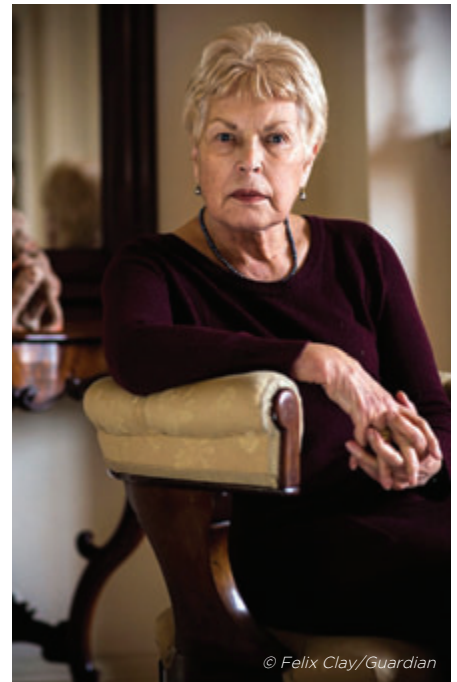
Die misdaadfiksieskrywer Ruth Rendell (85), wat onlangs oorlede is, word vir haar werk as baanbreker in die misdaadfiksiegenre onthou.

'Sestig miljoen boeke verkoop, vertel sy eie verhaal,' sê die Afrikaanse speurspanningskrywer Deon Meyer.

Sy het byna elke nege maande 'n boek klaar geskryf — 'n ongelooflike prestasie. Haar skrywersloopbaan het oor meer as 50 jaar gestrek en bestaan uit meer as 60 boeke, volgens die uitgewer Simon & Schuster. Sy was die ontvanger van drie Edgar Pryse, die hoogste eer van die Mystery Writers of America, asook vier Gold Daggers en 'n Diamond Dagger vir haar bydrae tot die genre van Brittanje se Crime Writers' Association. Sy was 'n lid van die House of Lords en het in Londen gewoon.

Die BBC berig talle van haar werke is vertaal in meer as 20 tale en is benewens vir televisie aangepas vir rolprente.

Haar laaste roman, *Dark Corners*, sal na verwagting in Oktober uitgereik word.



© Felix Clay/Guardian

Die Burger

literary awards | literêre toekennings

Anker en Muller met UJ Pryse bekroon

Willem Anker se roman *Buys*, 'n grensroman (Kwela) is bekroon met die Universiteit van Johannesburg Prys vir die beste kreatiewe teks in Afrikaans.

Die wenner in die kategorie vir debuutwerke is Stephanus Muller met sy grensverskuivende 'biografiese fiksie' *Nagmusiek* (Fourthwall Books), wat handel oor die werk en lewe van die komponis Arnold van Wyk.

Die pryse is die UJ Debuut Prys vir die beste kreatiewe debuut in Afrikaans, met prysgeld van R30,000, en die UJ Prys vir die beste kreatiewe teks in Afrikaans, met prysgeld van R75,000. Titels wat in aanmerking vir die UJ Prys kom is Afrikaanse kreatiewe tekste

wat in die voorafgaande kalenderjaar gepubliseer is.

Vir die 2015 UJ Prys is altesame 56 titels ingeskryf, waaronder 18 debuutwerke.

Die boeke wat opgeneem is op die kortlys vir die UJ Prys is (alfabeties volgens outeur): *Buys* deur Anker, *Ester* deur Kerneels Breytenbach; en 'n *Duisend stories* oor Johannesburg deur Harry Kalmer.

Onder die debutante is die volgende titels deur vanjaar se beoordelaars uitgesonder (alfabeties volgens outeur): Henry Jack Cloete se *Draalnoot vir 'n Janfiskaal*, Muller se *Nagmusiek*, Francois Smit se *Kamphoer*, Oorsee deur Tertius



© Jan Potgieter

Stephanus Muller en Willem Anker by die 2015 UJ-prisfunksie

Kapp; en *Mede-wete* deur Antjie Krog.

Die Burger

Man Booker International Prize

The Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai, whose sentences roll out over paragraphs in what his translator George Szirtes has called a 'slow lava flow of narrative, a vast black river of type', has won the Man Booker International prize for his 'achievement in fiction on the world stage'.

The Guardian



© Gyula Czimbál

How to write good...

1. Avoid alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
5. One should never generalise.
6. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Sentence fragments? Eliminate.
9. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
10. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
11. Who needs rhetorical questions?

miscellany | allerlei

Bekende oorlede

Jaco de Greeff, 'n ou bekende in die biblioteekwêreld, was van die begin af betrokke by PALS. Hy was deel van die tegniese span van die Buro Sinergis, SITA se voorganger, wat verantwoordelik was om na die tegniese aspekte van rekenaarsstelsels te kyk tydens die tenderproses om 'n biblioteekstelsel te identifiseer. Nadat PALS as die stelsel geïdentifiseer is, was hy nou betrokke by die tegniese ondersteuning daarvan. Kort nadat PALS geïmplementeer is, is SITA in die lewe geroep met basies dieselfde personeel en doelwitte as sy voorganger. Jaco was vanselfsprekend deel van SITA en kon ons dus bestaan met al ons PALS probleme en behoeftes.

Jaco het baie gou in al wat 'n bibliotekaris is se hart ingekruip en het mettertyd soos 'n regte bibliotekaris gedink en vir biblioteke se regte geveg. 'n Mens kon hom enige tyd, letterlik dag of nag, skakel vir hulp en Jaco was altyd bereid. Hy het die wonderlikste slag met mense gehad en almal was mal oor hom.

Jaco het die binnewerking van PALS beter geken as die mense in Amerika wat die stelsel ontwerp het. Hy was vir byna 20 jaar verantwoordelik vir die ondersteuning van PALS dwarsoor Suid-Afrika en deel van die span wat deur die land gereis het om die PALS Systems Admin vergaderings by te woon om probleme en nuwe ontwikkelings te bespreek.

Met die besluit om PALS met 'n meer moderne stelsel te vervang was Jaco ook deel van die span wat vir drie weke in Pretoria verskillende stelsels geëvalueer het. Hy was uiteindelik ook in 'n mindere mate betrokke by Brocade wat nou as SLIMS bekend staan. Hy was nie vir baie lank by SLIMS betrokke voordat hy besluit het om af te tree nie. Die ouer garde sal hom altyd onthou as 'n wonderlike mens wat altyd bereid was om te help en mens nooit soos 'n idioot laat voel het nie. Ek weet, want ek het baie keer maar baie 'stupid' vrae gevra wat Jaco geduldig beantwoord het. Dit is so jammer dat hy nie sy aftrede kon geniet nie, maar 'n groot dankie vir alles wat hy vir die Biblioteekdiens en biblioteke in die land beteken het.

Liesel de Villiers (Afgetredene)

Die skielike afsterwe van Jaco de Greeff was vir talle in die biblioteekwêreld 'n groot skok. Ons het sy dogters gevra om 'n stukkie oor hulle geliefde pa met lesers te deel.



'Waar die hart van vol is, loop die mond van oor' — 'n idiom wat ons pa so goed opsom. Hy was immers 'n man wat altyd wou gesels asook 'n man met 'n groot hart vir sy familie en enige vreemdeling wat oor sy pad geloop het.

Wanneer 'n mens dink aan 'n rekenaarspesialis en programmeerder, dink 'n mens gewoonlik (stereotopies) aan 'n bleeksiel met brille wat vasgenael aan 'n rekenaarskerm is. Ons pa het nou wel brille gedra en was passievol oor sy werk, maar hy het nie toegelaat dat sy werk hom definieer nie. Ons kan hom beskryf as 'n avontuurlustige man met 'n wil om saam met sy gesin die wêreld te sien.

Ons het baie as gesin met vakansie gegaan en ons pa was bekend daarvoor om met enige iemand 'n geselsie aan te knoop. Na ure se gesels ken hierdie vreemdeling ons hele familie en nog meer — minwetend dat hy of sy sopas 'n gedaanteverwisseling ondergaan het van vreemdeling tot vriend.

Gevolgtlik het ons pa 'n groot passie gehad vir kliëntediens en ook lojaal teenoor hierdie kliënte opgetree; baie van hierdie kliënte ken ons steeds as vriende. Ons pa het ook nou nie net gesels nie, maar het sy werk baie ernstig opgeneem. As kinders onthou ons hoe hy nagte omgewerk het, veral wanneer hy 'n probleem in die stelsel moes oplos. Hy het selfs oor sy werk gedroom en dan in die vroeë oggendure skielik opgespring en daardie probleem met sy droomoplossing vasgevat.

Annerike de Bruyn en Carla Laubscher

Minister Marais meets staff ...

Central Karoo

Minister Anroux Marais during her meeting with some of the staff in the Central Karoo region, based in Oudtshoorn. She did a round trip of visits to the CP Nel Museum, met the regional arts and culture and library staff members, staff at the regional sports office, and the Schoemanspoort cultural facility staff.

George and Mossel Bay

On her second day of meet-and-greets the minister visited the George Regional Library office, the George Museum, then on to Mossel Bay where she visited the Bartholomew Dias Museum and the KwaNongqaba Library.



The staff at the CP Nel Museum with Minister Marais

IFLA Congress

It is an honour and privilege for South Africa to welcome the world to the 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly, which is an event of significance for the entire African continent!

The theme *Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation* is of critical importance to strengthen democracy on a continent where libraries need to connect with civil society to demonstrate the value they add in eradicating poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and ignorance with special emphasis on early childhood development, youth services, women's health and local economic development. It is our aim to ensure a robust and empowering experience for

as many local and international librarians as possible so that the impact of this international professional exchange will resonate for years to come.

South Africa has a rich history of libraries dating back to 1818, when the first South African public library was proclaimed by Lord Charles Somerset, 'to place the means of knowledge within the reach of the youth of this remote corner of the globe'. Although not remote anymore, this proclamation still holds true today! After 21 years of democracy, South African libraries are emerging as important partners to education and lifelong learning. In an effort to create dynamic libraries to facilitate access to information,

enhance development and promote transformation, the South African government continues to provide funding to build new libraries, redefining of library spaces, services and facilities.

Several libraries have been selected to showcase their rich architecture, special collections and features of contemporary library spaces. During the IFLA WLIC 81st Congress visits to renowned university, national, special and public libraries, you will observe and experience local best practices and innovations; share ideas with local librarians; and explore opportunities for collaboration so that the global library network expands.

Titles by our cover author, Sindiwe Magona

Beauty's gift.- Kwela, 2008.

Forced to grow.- David Philip, 1992.

From Robben Island to Bishops court: [the biography of Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane].- David Philip, 2011.

Living, loving and lying awake at night.- David Philip, 1991.

Mother to mother.- David Philip, 1998.

Push-push! and other stories.- David Philip, 1996.

Sindiwe Magona: climbing higher.- David Philip, 2013.

Sindiwe Magona: the first decade.- University of KwaZulu-Natal P., 2004.

To my children's children.- David Philip, 1990.





The World of Libraries is descending on South Africa

**World Library and Information Congress
15 – 21 August 2015 in Cape Town**

**Theme: Dynamic Libraries: Access,
Development and Transformation**

DID YOU KNOW... IN SOUTH AFRICA WE HAVE

- 1** National Library with **2** Campuses
- 1** South African Library for the Blind
- 9** Research Libraries
- 23** Higher Education Academic Libraries
- 50** Public FET College Libraries
- 1994** Public and Community Libraries served by **9** Provincial Library Services and **6** Metro Library Systems
- 2000** Public School Libraries and many Government and Special Libraries



www.liasa.org.za
ifla2015@liasa.org.za
+27(0) 12 324 6096
<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81>



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Erratum

The author of the article on the Jaipur Literature Festival inadvertently juxtaposed authors Chetan Bhagat's and Vikas Swarup's backgrounds. Vikas Swarup, author of *Q and A*, on which the movie *Slum Dog Millionaire* is based, is a career diplomat with the Indian Foreign Ministry. Chetan Bhagat, author of *Half a Girlfriend*, is an engineer by training, who attained an MBA, and worked as an investment banker. All this while actually wanting to become an author!

40 years ... stefan wehmeyer, deputy director: regions

- Teenagers were asked for their opinions on libraries and reading.

Maxine Gray-Taylor of Milnerton said that since she started to work as a page in the library her outlook on the library has changed. 'I often noticed that women and men came into the library and spend more time talking to the librarians, rather than choosing books. Not that I am saying some people are self-centred and brag about themselves, but they seem to like to "chat" to the librarians about life in general.'

JP Marais van Despatch: 'Alhoewel ek Afrikaanssprekend is, lees ek byna nooit Afrikaans nie, want Afrikaanse boeke bied my geen werklike leesgenot nie. Net as ek lus is om te lees en baie ligte vermaak soek, sal ek 'n Afrikaanse boek lees.'

Cheryl Hector of Grassy Park: 'Where books are concerned — crikey, I could suggest hundreds of good books from the Young Adult section alone. This section is used mostly by teenagers and high school students. Quite a few adults have commented on the interesting books found in this section.'

Lynette Kow of Kimberley: 'What I also dislike is books, especially romances, that border on psychological happenings and/or witchcraft (black magic). A good example is Ira Levin's *Rosemary's baby*.'

Ian Uys van Durbanville: 'As die skooldag verby is, is dit vir my die lekkerste om my op my bed neer te vly, miskien met 'n lekker boek in die hand. Ja, om met Agatha Christie kragte te meet, of om met Asimov die ruimte te deurkruis: dis dinge dié wat

van die lewe iets maak wat nie soos die daaglikse roetinelewe is nie.'

- W Garcia wrote an article on Picasso. 'Picasso's work, however, has not been taken to heart universally. Some people hate it. Others think he was making fools of the public, making a joke of art. But with so much for and so much against, it may well be that another fifty years, or perhaps a hundred are required to see whether his output has stood the test of time.' (*Roll on 2014 and one of his paintings was sold for a record auction price of \$179,365,000 ...*)

- Mr AH Vosloo, the administrator, announced in the Cape Provincial Council that subsidies will be provided to build libraries for the communities of Welverdiend (Bredasdorp), Pineview (Grabouw) and Esselen Park (Worcester). He also mentioned that only Plettenberg Bay and Pinelands municipalities still remained outside the Provincial Library Service.

- Leon Rousseau wen die CNA Prys vir Afrikaans vir sy biografie oor die lewe van Eugène Marais, *Die groot verlange*.

- Die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens wins sy sesmiljoenste boek aan. Die titel is *Die boer se roer*.

- 1975 was the International Women's year. In *Controversy/Polemiek* the question was posed: Librarianship is a women's field. Is this a good thing?

Joyce Waring, politician: 'The only thing in this life that I know is strictly a

"woman's field" is childbirth. If you are still living in the days of the Brontës, where the librarian was depicted as a timid spinster, whose long red nose carried a perpetual dewdrop on its tip, whose pince-nez was balanced precariously, who had chilblains on her red hands and whose temperament was shrewish, then you are very out of date today, when the beautiful girl in the short, short mini can turn out to be the chief librarian at your library.'

Fèbé van Niekerk, City Librarian: 'Female librarians are the little cogs which keep the machinery running smoothly. Library work entails numerous mundane tasks, which have to be performed continuously and meticulously. Who is better equipped for this than the woman, who has patience, diligence, perseverance, and above all, the aptitude for serving others?'

Leon Rousseau, skrywer en uitgewer: 'Vir my het die biblioteek die beeld verkry van 'n plek waar 'n mens deur dienswillige, vriendelike en aantreklike mense gehelp word. Ondanks die nare ontsmettingsgeur en pyn-assosiasies van 'n hospitaal, bied die beroep van verpleegster dieselfde beeld. En die beeld is die van aardmoeder. As ek in 'n hospitaal opgeneem word en daar is verpleërs in plaas van verpleegsters, klop ek sweerlik binne 'n halfuur af. Net so min kan 'n mens jou 'n biblioteek vol bebaarde manlike klerke voorstel. Dié kan hoogstens agter die skerms geduld word.'



Why our future depends on **libraries, reading and daydreaming**

A talk on why using our imagination, and providing for others to use theirs, is an obligation for all citizens by Neil Gaiman

It's important for people to tell you what side they are on and why, and whether they might be biased. A declaration of members' interests, of a sort. So, I am going to talk about reading. I'm going to tell you that libraries are important. I'm going to suggest that reading fiction and that reading for pleasure, is one of the most important things one can do. I'm going to make an impassioned plea for people to understand what libraries and librarians are, and to preserve both of these things.

And I am biased, obviously and enormously: I'm an author, often an author of fiction. I write for children and for adults. For about 30 years I have been earning my living through my words, mostly by making things up and writing them down. It is obviously in my interest for

people to read, to read fiction, for libraries and librarians to exist and help foster a love of reading and places in which reading can occur.

So I'm biased as a writer. But I am much, much more biased as a reader. And I am even more biased as a British citizen.

I'm giving this talk under the auspices of the Reading Agency,

a charity whose mission is to give everyone an equal chance in life by helping people to become confident and enthusiastic readers, that supports literacy programmes, libraries and individuals and nakedly encourages the act of reading. Because, they tell us, everything changes when we read.

And it's that change, and that act of reading that I'm here to talk about. I want to talk about what reading does. What it's good for.

Once in New York I listened to a talk about the building of private prisons — a huge growth industry in America. The prison industry needs to plan its future growth; how many cells are they going to need? How many prisoners are there going to be, 15 years from now? And they found they could predict it very easily, using a pretty simple algorithm, based on asking what percentage of 10- and 11-year-olds couldn't read. And certainly couldn't read for pleasure.

It's not one to one: you can't say that a literate society has no criminality. But there are very real correlations.

And I think some of those correlations, the simplest, come from something very simple. Literate people read fiction.

Fiction

Fiction has two uses. Firstly, it's a gateway drug to reading. The drive to know what happens next, to want to turn the page, the need to keep going, even if it's hard, because someone's in trouble and you have to know how it's all going to end — that is a very real drive. And it forces you to learn new words, to think new thoughts, to keep going. To discover that reading per se is pleasurable. Once you learn that, you're on the road to reading everything. And reading is key. There were noises made briefly, a few years ago, about the idea that we were living in a post-literate world, in which the ability to make sense out of written words was somehow redundant, but those days are gone: words are more important than they ever were: we navigate the world with words, and as the world slips onto the



Neil Gaiman

web, we need to follow, to communicate and to comprehend what we are reading. People who cannot understand each other cannot exchange ideas, cannot communicate, and translation programmes only go so far.

The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read, and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity. And that means, at its simplest, finding books that they enjoy, giving them access to those books, and letting them read them.

I don't think there is such a thing as a bad book for children. Every now and again it becomes fashionable among some adults to point at a subset of children's books, a genre perhaps, or an author, and to declare them bad books, books that children should be stopped from reading. I've seen it happen over and over. Enid Blyton was declared a bad author, so was RL Stine, so were dozens of others. Comics have been decried as fostering illiteracy.

There is no such thing as a bad writer ... Enid Blyton's *Famous Five*.

It's tosh. It's snobbery and it's foolishness. There are no bad authors for children, because every child is different. They can find the stories they need to, and they bring themselves to stories.

A hackneyed, worn-out idea isn't hackneyed and worn out to them. This is the first time the child has encountered it. Do not discourage children from reading because you feel they are reading the wrong thing. Fiction you don't like is a route to other books you may prefer. And not everyone has the same taste as you.

Well-meaning adults can easily destroy a child's love of reading: stop them from reading what they enjoy, or give them worthy-but-dull books that they like, the 21st-century equivalents of Victorian 'improving' literature. You'll wind up with a generation convinced that reading is uncool and worse, unpleasant.

We need our children to get onto the reading ladder: anything that they enjoy reading will move them up, rung by rung, into literacy. (Also, do not do what this author did when his 11-year-old daughter was into RL Stine, which was to go and get a copy of Stephen King's *Carrie*, saying, if you liked those you'll love this! Holly read nothing but safe stories of settlers on prairies for the rest of her teenage years, and still glares at me when Stephen King's name is mentioned.)

And the second thing fiction does, is to build empathy. When you watch television or watch a film, you are looking at things happening to other people. Prose fiction is something you build up from 26 letters and a handful of punctuation marks, and you, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people in it and look through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would never otherwise know. You learn that everyone else out there is a me, as well. You're being someone else, and when you return to your own world, you're going to be slightly changed. Empathy is a tool for building

people into groups, for allowing us to function as more than self-obsessed individuals.

You're also finding out something as you read that is vitally important for making your way in the world. And it's this: The world doesn't have to be like this. Things can be different.

I was in China in 2007, at the first party-approved science fiction and fantasy convention in Chinese history. At one point I took a top official aside and asked him why science fiction (SF) had been disapproved of for a long time. What had changed?

It's simple, he told me. The Chinese were brilliant at making things if other people brought them the plans. But they did not innovate and they did not invent. They did not imagine. So they sent a delegation to the United States to Apple, Microsoft, and Google, and they asked the people there who were involved in inventing the future about themselves. And they found that all of them had read science fiction when they were boys or girls.

Fiction can show you a different world. It can take you somewhere you've never been. Once you've visited other worlds, like those who ate fairy fruit, you can never be entirely content with the world that you grew up in. Discontent is a good thing: discontented people can modify and improve their worlds, leave them better, leave them different.

And while we're on the subject, I'd like to say a few words about escapism. I hear the term (escapism) bandied about as if it's a bad thing. As if escapist fiction is a cheap opiate used by the muddled and the foolish and the deluded, and the only fiction that is worthy, for adults or for children, is mimetic fiction,

mirroring the worst of the world the reader finds her/himself in.

If you were trapped in an impossible situation, in an unpleasant place, with people who meant you ill, and someone offered you a temporary escape, why wouldn't you take it? And escapist fiction is just that: fiction that opens a door, shows the sunlight outside, gives you a place to go where you are in control, are with people you want to be with (and books are real places, make no mistake about that); and more importantly, during your escape, books can also give you knowledge about the world and your predicament, give you weapons, give you armour: real things you can take back into your prison. Skills and knowledge and tools you can use to escape for real. As JRR Tolkien reminded us, the only people who inveigh against escape are jailers.

Libraries

Another way to destroy a child's love of reading, of course, is to make sure there are no books of any kind around. And to give them nowhere to read those books. I was lucky. Growing up I had access to an excellent local library. I had the kind of parents who could be persuaded to drop me off at the library on their way to work in summer holidays, and the kind of librarians who did not mind a small, unaccompanied boy heading back into the children's library every morning and working his way through

There are no bad authors for children, because every child is different. There is no such thing as a bad writer. It's tosh. It's snobbery and it's foolishness

the card catalogue, looking for books with ghosts or magic or rockets in them, looking for vampires or detectives or witches or wonders. And when I had finished reading the books in the children's library I began on the adult books.

They were good librarians. They liked books and they liked the books being read. They taught me how to order books from other libraries on the inter-library loan system. There was no snobbery about anything I read. They just seemed to like that there was this wide-eyed little boy who loved to read. They would talk to me about the books I was reading, they would find me other books in a series, they would help. They treated me as another reader — nothing less or more — which meant they treated me with respect. I was not used to being treated with respect as an eight-year-old.

of human history, we have lived in a time of information scarcity, and having the needed information was always important, and always worth something: when to plant crops, where to find things, maps, histories and stories — it was always good for a meal and company. Information was a valuable thing, and those who had it or could obtain it, could charge for that service.

In the last few years, we've moved from an information-scarce economy to one swamped by an information glut. According to Eric Schmidt of Google, every two days now the human race creates as much information as we did from the dawn of civilisation until 2003. That's about five exobytes of data a day, for those of you keeping score. The challenge becomes not finding that scarce plant growing in the desert, but finding a specific plant growing in a jungle. We are going to need help



Libraries are about freedom. Freedom to read, freedom of ideas, freedom of communication. They are about education (which is not a process that finishes the day we leave school or university), about entertainment, about being safe spaces, and about access to information.

I worry that in the 21st century people misunderstand what libraries and their purpose are. If you perceive a library as a shelf of books, it may seem antiquated or outdated in a world in which most, but not all, books in print exist digitally. But that is to miss the point fundamentally.

I think it has to do with the nature of information. Information has value, and the right information has enormous value. For all

navigating that information to find the thing we actually need.

Libraries are places that people go to for information. Books are only the tip of the information iceberg: they are there, and libraries can provide you freely and legally with books. More children are borrowing books from libraries than ever before — books of all kinds: paper and digital and audio. But libraries are also, for example, places that people, who may not have computers or who may not have Internet connections, can go online without paying anything: hugely important when the way you find out about jobs, apply for jobs or apply for benefits is increasingly migrating exclusively online. Librarians can help these people navigate that world.

I do not believe that all books will or should migrate onto screens: as Douglas Adams once pointed out to me (more than 20 years before the Kindle turned up) a physical book is like a shark. Sharks are old: there were sharks in the ocean before the dinosaurs. And the reason there are still sharks around is that sharks are better at being sharks than anything else. Physical books are tough, hard to destroy, bath-resistant, solar-operated, feel good in your hand: they are good at being books, and there will always be a place for them. They belong in libraries, just as libraries have already become places you can go to for access to e-books, audiobooks, DVDs and web content.

A library is a repository of information and gives every citizen equal access to it. That includes health information. And mental health information. It's a community space. It's a place of safety, a haven from the world. It's a place with librarians in it. What the libraries of the future will be like is something we should be imagining now.

Literacy

In this world of text and email, a world of written information, literacy is more important than it ever was. We need to read and write, we need global citizens who can read comfortably,

comprehend what they are reading, understand nuance, and make themselves understood.

Libraries really are the gates to the future. So it is unfortunate that around the world, we observe local authorities seizing the opportunity to close libraries as an easy way to save money, without realising that they are stealing from the future to pay for today. They are closing the gates that should be open.

According to a recent study by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, England is the 'only country where the oldest age group has higher proficiency in both literacy and numeracy than the youngest group, after other factors such as gender, socio-economic backgrounds and type of occupations are taken into account'.

Or, to put it another way, our children and our grandchildren are less literate and less numerate than we are. They are less able to navigate the world, to understand it and to solve problems. They can be more easily lied to and misled, will be less able to change the world in which they find themselves, be less employable. All of these things. And as a country, England will fall behind other developed nations because it will lack a skilled workforce.

Books are the way that we communicate with the dead. The way that we learn lessons from those who are no longer with us,

... around the world, we observe local authorities seizing the opportunity to close libraries as an easy way to save money, without realising that they are stealing from the future to pay for today



that humanity has built on itself, progressed, made knowledge incremental rather than something that has to be relearned, over and over. There are tales that are older than most countries, tales that have long outlasted the cultures and the buildings in which they were first told.

I think we have responsibilities to the future. Responsibilities and obligations to children, to the adults those children will become, to the world they will find themselves inhabiting. All of us — as readers, as writers, as citizens — have obligations. I thought I'd try and spell out some of these obligations here.

I believe we have an obligation to read for pleasure, in private and in public places. If we read for pleasure, then we learn, we exercise our imaginations. If others see us reading, we show that reading is a good thing.

We have an obligation to support libraries. To use libraries, to encourage others to use libraries, to protest the closure of libraries. If you do not value libraries then you do not value information or culture or wisdom. You are silencing the voices of the past and you are damaging the future.

We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read things to them they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves. Use reading-aloud time as bonding time, as a time when no phones are being checked, when the distractions of the world are put aside.

We have an obligation to use the language. To push ourselves: to find out what words mean and how to deploy them, to communicate clearly, to say what we mean. We must not attempt to freeze language, or pretend it is a dead thing that must be revered, but we should use it as a living thing, that flows, that borrows words, that allows meanings and pronunciations to change with time.

We writers — and especially writers for children — have an obligation to our readers: it's the obligation to write true things, especially important when we are creating tales of people who do not exist in places that never were — to understand that truth is not in what happens but what it tells us about who we are. Fiction is the lie that tells the truth, after all. We have an obligation not to bore our readers, but to make them want and need to turn the pages. One of the best cures for a reluctant reader, after all, is a tale they cannot stop themselves from reading. And while we must tell our readers true things and give them weapons and give them armour and a pass on whatever wisdom we have gleaned from our short stay in this green world, we have an obligation not to preach, not to lecture, not to force pre-digested morals and messages down our readers' throats like adult birds feeding their babies pre-masticated maggots; and we have an obligation never, ever, under any circumstances, to write anything for children that we would not want to read ourselves.

We have an obligation to understand and to acknowledge that

as writers for children we are doing important work, because if we mess it up and write dull books that turn children away from reading and from books, we've lessened our own future and diminished theirs.

We all — adults and children, writers and readers — have an obligation to daydream. We have an obligation to imagine. It is easy to pretend that nobody can change anything; that we are in a world in which society is huge and the individual is less than nothing: an atom in a wall, a grain of rice in a rice field. But the truth is, individuals change their world over and over, individuals make the future, and they do it by imagining that things can be different.

Look around you: I mean it. Pause, for a moment and look around the room that you are in. I'm going to point out something so obvious that it tends to be forgotten. It's this: that everything you can see, including the walls, was, at some point, imagined. Someone decided it was easier to sit on a chair than on the ground and imagined the chair. Someone had to imagine a way that I could talk to you in London right now without us all

getting rained on. This room and the things in it, and all the other things in this building, this city, exist because, over and over and over, people imagined things.

We have an obligation to make things beautiful. Not to leave the world uglier than we found it, not to empty the oceans, not to leave our

problems for the next generation. We have an obligation to clean up after ourselves, and not leave our children with a world we've short-sightedly messed up, short-changed, and crippled.

We have an obligation to tell our politicians what we want, to vote against politicians of whatever party who do not understand the value of reading in creating worthwhile citizens, who do not want to act to preserve and protect knowledge and encourage literacy. This is not a matter of party politics. This is a matter of common humanity.

Albert Einstein was once asked how we could make our children intelligent. His reply was both simple and wise. 'If you want your children to be intelligent,' he said, 'read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.' He understood the value of reading, and of imagining. I hope we can give our children a world in which they will read, and be read to, and imagine, and understand.

This article is an edited version of Neil Gaiman's lecture for the Reading Agency, delivered at the Barbican in London. The Reading Agency's annual lecture series was initiated in 2012 as a platform for leading writers and thinkers to share original and challenging ideas about reading and libraries.

Neil Gaiman is an author of short fiction, novels, comic books and graphic novels

If you do not value libraries then
you do not value information
or culture or wisdom. You are
silencing the voices of the past
and damaging the future



Uit die joernalistiek gebore: 'n skrywer vir méér as vermaak

'n Onderhoud van 30 minute word 90 minute deur Francois Verster

Met die vertaling van haar eerste boek, **Plaasmoord**, op hande, is ek gevra of ek 'n onderhoud met Karin Brynard sal doen. Iemand anders sal die Engelse weergawe resenseer. Ek moes dus opskud. Wel, na 'n paar e-posse en 'n telefoongesprek is ek op 'n reënerige Donderdagoggend na Mostertsdrif, naby die Eersterivier, waar hierdie bekroonde skrywer woon.

'n Mens leef mos maar saam met jou voorveronderstellings en halfgebakte menings, en siende dat ek reeds twee maal praatjies bygewoon het waar Karin opgetree het (Philadelphia Boekbasaar en Stellenbosch Woordfees), het ek gedink ek weet wat om te verwag. Inteendeel, Karin Brynard is veel méér as die persoon op die verhoog — hartliker, intelligenter, welbelese, met 'n uitstekende humorsin — nie dat haar openbare beeld onaantreklik is nie; dis net dat daar 'n afstand is tussen die persoon en die gehoor wanneer skrywers by sulke geleenthede optree. Vir die skrywer voel dit dalk nie so nie, maar uit die gehoor tog wel. Tweedens is dit my ervaring dat 'n mens gewoonlik teleurgestel word wanneer jy jou helde en heldinne ontmoet — die perfekte karikatuur word die kleivoet-karakter. Maar nie altyd nie. Karin Brynard is 'n fees op haar eie.

Lesers van haar twee fiksieboeke tot dusver, **Plaasmoord** (2009) en **Onse vaders** (2012) sal beïndruk wees met haar deeglike navorsing om só milieu in leefwêreld, eerder as agtergrond te omskep. Hierdie noukeurigheid kom van haar opleiding as joernalis, en nie net as rubriekskrywer nie, maar as ondersoekende verslaggewer, dikwels in gevaarlike gebiede soos die townships gedurende die Struggle. Karin het ervaring van misdaad, gevaar, ongure karakters en bowenal van die lewe — 'n skrywer moet eers geleef het voordat sy met gesag en oortuiging kan skryf. Dis hoekom Karin se werk byval vind: sy is gebrei as aanskouer, beskrywer en bedinker van wat mense (aan mekaar) doen, het geleer hoe om die essensie van 'n saak raak te vat en om bondig te kan skryf — die heilige graal van alle skrywers. Misdaadverslaggewers en misdaadromanskrywers het immers in gemeen dat hulle 'op die punt af' moet skryf. Op my vraag of sy probeer om elke toneel op 'n mespunt te laat eindig, sê sy dat sy probeer, maar dis nie so maklik nie — spanningsverhale vereis egter spanning en dis 'n kernelement van haar skrywerk.

Ek het 'n klompie vrae neergeskryf, maar ons gesels 'n hond

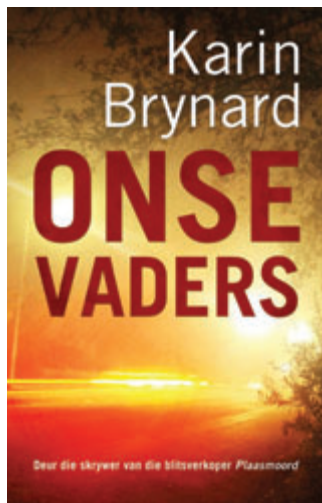
uit 'n bos uit en die onderhoud wat 30 minute moes duur, raak 90 minute. Allerhande temas word bespreek: kreatiwiteit, politiek, joernalistiek ... Ek vra oor haar volgende boek, vir eers *Tuisland* gedoop, maar sy praat liever nie oor werk-in-wording nie, en heeltemal tereg ook. Soos die titel, kan die teks in elk geval nog baie verander. Sy sê sy het die hele manuskrip oorgeskryf, want dit het nie reg gevoel nie. Inderdaad 'n prysenswaardige uitgangspunt — ek twyfel of ek sommer weer van voor af sal kan begin, maar sy sê daar is meer druk op 'n mens nadat jy by die tweede of derde boek gekom het. Uiteraard, sy het 'n standaard gestel en elke skrywer is so goed soos haar laaste boek, lui die gesegde — so dit moet goed wees, en beter as die vorige, wat pryse gewen het!

Ek vra of sy ander genres oorweeg en sy sê nee, hoewel sy af en toe kortverhale skryf. Soos in die erotiese kortverhaalbundel **Bloots** (Graffiti, 2012). Iemand het haar ook gevra om 'n spookstorie te skryf, val dit haar skielik by. 'Voel jy soos 'n skrywer?' vra ek, en sy skud haar kop. 'Nee, ek is eerstens 'n joernalis — huisvrou is ek nie. Joernalistiek is die wonderlikste beroep ...' begin sy en ek vra: 'maar hoekom dan romans skryf as jy joernalistiek moes los daarvoor?' Nee, sy skryf nog vryskut-artikels. Ek vra weer: 'Hoe het dit gekom dat jy relatief laat in jou lewe romans begin skryf het?' En toe vertel sy dat sy 'n onderhoud met Deon Meyer gedoen het en hy haar gevra het hoekom sy nie misdaadfiksie skryf nie. Sy het geantwoord dat sy wel af en toe aan ietsie peusel, maar nie dink dat dit 'n boek sal word nie. Kort daarna bel iemand van NB-Uitgewers en vra dat sy die manuskrip aanstuur. Voilà, Karin Brynard die skrywer is gebore! Altans nie so maklik nie; skryf is nie 'n gooi-net-water-by-aktiwiteit nie, dis wroeg en skaaf en timmer. Maar, dit was die begin.

Die gesprek kronkel na motivering om oor misdaad te skryf — sy sê uitgewers soek nou Afrikaanse 'krimmies', so die tyd(gees) is ook gunstig vir haar. Iets wat haar aangaande die berugte Lotz-moord getref het was die vraag oor mans se rol in die moderne samelewing: is mans nog in staat om beskermer en rolmodel vir beide seuns en dogters te wees? Kinders leer nie soseer wat ouers hulle meedeel nie, maar eerder deur dade. Mans behandel hulle vroue soos hulle pa's hul ma's behandel het en vroue, glo sy, ontwikkel nie seksueel 'gesond' as hulle



Plaasmoord (2009)



Onse Vaders (2012)



Karin Brynard in haar kantoor

nie 'n goeie vaderlike rolmodel gehad het nie. Die Derde Golf van Feminisme handel juis oor hoe seuns grootgemaak moet word wat geen vader ken nie. Soveel gesinne is vaderloos en dit dra by tot die hoë voorkoms van geweld in die samelewing; nie net politiek-geïnspireerde frustrasies nie. Van die patriargale gesinne waar die NG Kerk-model in beheer was, na 'n volslae leemte — hierdie oorgang van een uiterste na die ander is duidelik katastrofaal.

Terwyleknahaarluisterdink ek: 'Sydinkdiepoordiedingewaaroor sy skryf. Dis nie sommer blote vakansievermaak wat sy opdis nie, al benadruk sy die vermaaklikheidswaarde van romans. Die dieper essensie van menswees moet ontbloot word om lesers aan te gryp en om nie net formulewerk soos Wilbur Smith of Danielle Steele uit te wys nie.' Elke mens het 'n storie, sê Karin, en ek glo haar. Ek kan sien sy luister na wat 'n mens sê. Sy wil jou storie hoor.

'En wat dink jy van literêre pryse?' vra ek. 'Totale stomme verbasing,' antwoord sy. 'Erkenning is nodig, maar dis tog nie net vir een boek nie, dis ook vir 'n hele oeuvre, 'n genre en 'n taal.' Daarmee bedoel sy dat die sukses van een Afrikaanse misdaadromanskrywer ook goed is vir alle misdaadromanskrywers en as dit ook nog in 'n spesifieke taal is, baat dit almal wat by daardie taal betrokke is. Wanneer die buitewêreld kennis neem van ons Deon Meyers, Karin Brynards en Chris Karstens en vir vertalings vra, is dit 'n groot sprong vorentoe. Ook biblioteke wen — 'n invloei van Afrikaanse 'krimmies' sal ekstra lesers lok, en só sypel die voordele deur na voetsoolvlak — na die beginnerlesers, wat tog nie by hogere literatuur kan begin nie (ek ril as ek aan sekere voorgeskrewe boeke uit my skooldae dink).

'Hoe werk hierdie vertaalbesigheid?' wil ek weet en sy sê *Plaasmoord* is vertaal as *Weeping waters* (uitgegee deur Penguin SA, vertaal deur Maya Fowler en Isobel Dixon) en nou wag die Franse om die Engelse weergawe in Frans te vertaal. In Nederlands heet die boek *Moord op Huilwater*. Oorsese uitgewers verkies dat 'n boek na Engels vertaal word en vertaal dit dan na ander tale. 'n Mens hoop maar die *lost in translation*-aspek tree nie in werking nie,' sê ek en sy stem saam: sommige woorde, soos 'mos', is in al sy vorme moeilik vertaalbaar. Elke

taal het sekerlik sulke woorde ...

Die gesprek kring weer weg na joernalistiek. Joernalistiek se 'hou by die feite'-strategie beteken dat joernaliste op vaster grond staan as fiksieskrywers, voel Karin. 'n Fiksieskrywer se persoonlikheid word dus meer blootgestel, en die afstand tussen jou en jou lesers verklein sodoende, anders as tussen joernalis en leser. Ek vra of Suid-Afrikaanse misdaadfiksieskrywers nie eerder skryf oor hoe die land behoort te wees as oor hoe die land wel is nie? 'Dis die skrywer se werk om te vermaak,' sê sy. 'Jou karakters weerspieël die goeie én slegte — in onder meer die polisiediens. Die skrywer bied ontvlugting aan die leser, nie noodwendig realisme nie.'

'Het jou ingesteldheid verander sedert *Plaasmoord*?' wil ek weet. Sy knik. 'Ja, ek het agtergekom dis veel harder werk om te skryf! Daardie eerste boek het oor sewe jaar ontwikkel.' Nou is dit Karin Brynard se werk, en met die vertalings moet sy ook help, sodat dit nimmereindigend voel. Maar dit verskaf ook genoegdoening, juis omdat dit sulke harde werk is.

Dit raak looptyd. Karin moet daai spookstorie skryf, en ek vra ter afsluiting: 'Hoe was jou kinderdae? Was jy die tipiese alleenkind wat vir haarself stories opgemaak het?' Karin lyk verras, want sy het nie so daaraan gedink nie, maar skrywers was dikwels sulke kinders. Sy het drie sibbe gehad, maar het dikwels alleen in die veld rondgeloop. Tydens sulke wandelings was sy dan die heldin in haar eie 'radiodramas'.

En nou dink sy oor rolmodelle, en skryf oor haar helde. Afrikaanse lesers kla beslis nie. Binnekort ook nie mense van oor die wêreld heen nie.

Titels in voorraad

Plaasmoord.- Human, 2009.

Onse vaders.- Human, 2012.

Weeping waters.- Penguin, 2014.

Dr Francois Verster is 'n argivaris en 'n skrywer



Twee onblusbare geeste

In gesprek met Gawie en Gwen Fagan deur Francois Verster

Die Stellenbosch Woordfees van 2015 is al geskiedenis, en my persoonlike belewenis was weereens aangenaam. Hierdie keer het ek die voorreg gehad om saam met uiteenlopende, maar uiters interessante mense te kuier — Prof Hermann Giliomee, Dana Snyman, Frank Opperman, Gert Vlok Nel — elkeen 'n belangrike bydraer op sy eie gebied; almal mense wat ons kultuurlewe verryk. En op 'n meer formele vlak het ek nog twee groot geeste beleef, die fassinerendste egpaar wat ek nóg ontmoet het.

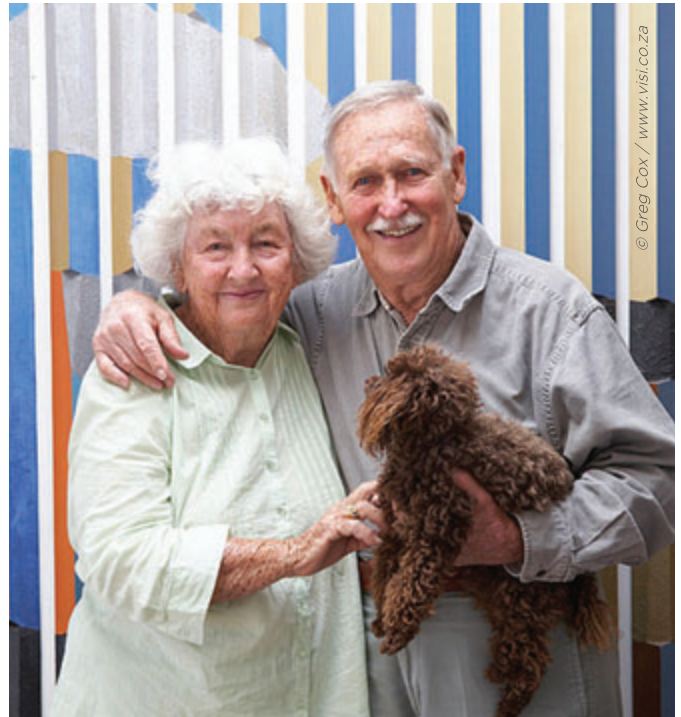
By vanjaar se Woordfees is hulde gebring aan die bekende 'span', Gawie en Gwen Fagan — in Engels is hulle ook al genoem 'Team Fagan'. Met goeie rede ook, want hulle is reeds 65 jaar getroud en werk steeds elke dag in hulle argitek-studio in Breëstraat 156, Kaapstad — die Kaapstad-praktyk wat hulle al in 1963 begin het. En dan sal hulle sowaar na 'n harde werksdag steeds bereid wees om, gratis, na 'n plek soos Welgemeend in die Tuine te kom en raad te gee oor restourasie van die ou woning van die ikoniese Hofmeyr-familie (Willie, Klein Jan, Onze Jan, daárdie steunpilare van die nasie), soos ek hulle onlangs ook daar as lid van die Vriende van Welgemeend en die Boerneefversameling ervaar het. Werklikwaar het hulle elke toekenning wat hulle al ontvang het, oor en oor verdien.

Ook in die staatsargief; eers in Koningin Victoriastraat en daarna in Roelandstraat, en ook by verenigings en boekbekendstellings het ek hulle baie gesien, en oor die jare baie nuuskierig geword oor wie hulle werklik is — want spoggerig en spraaksam is hulle níé. Inteendeel.

Toe ek dus op die Woordfeesprogram sien hulle gaan in Erfurthuis oor hulle lewens en loopbane (uiteraard saam) gesels, was dit die eerste kaartjie wat ek gekoop het.

Sedert hulle in 1969 begin het om geboue wat beskadig was in die aardbewing op Tulbagh te restoureer, is Gabriël Theron Fagan (gebore 1925) en Gwendoline Elizabeth Gannon (gebore 1924) lewende legendes in die bewaringsbedryf. Dáár het hulle alreeds genoeg gedoen om in ons erfenis-annale verewig te word, maar dit was maar die begin van 'n baie lang en kronkelende pad vir hulle.

Hulle is al vir 32 jaar betrokke by die Kasteel in Kaapstad, aanvanklik om dit te restoureer. Volgens Gawie het hulle skaars



Gwen en Gawie Fagan

daarmee klaargekry, toe moes daar weer met herstelwerk aan dié oudste gebou in Suid-Afrika begin word, waarmee hulle steeds besig is. Hulle werk aan die Kasteel het hulle aan erfeniswerk blootgestel en dis ook hoekom Gwen opgehou werk het as mediese dokter, om Gawie met hierdie soort werk by te staan: hy ontwerp en vervaardig, sy samel inligting in, hou rekord; is as't ware sy hoeksteen. Vóór dit het Gawie 12 jaar vir Volkskas gewerk en in dié tydperk 50 nuwe bankgeboue ontwerp.

Gwen het die gehoor in Erfurthuis getrakteer met 'n fassinerende Powerpoint-vertoning; sy het vertel en gewys — pragtige ou wit-en-swart foto's — en Gawie het hier en daar 'n

voetnoot verskaf — hoe hulle ontmoet het, hoe hulle geleef het, die uitdagings wat hulle beleef het, die projekte wat deurgevoer is — verstommend. Vrye geeste wat hulle is, besluit hulle, byvoorbeeld, om nie hul kinders in die stad groot te maak nie, koop 'n stukkie grond met hul karige fondse, begin koeie aanhou om geld te maak, plant en oes selfs die koeie se voer — Gwen ry terstond trekker; niks is te veel vir haar nie. Oral waar sy gaan neem sy haar kinders saam — daar was uiteindelik vier — en Gawie besef die rondreisery wat sy werk by die bank vereis, raak te veel. Hy koop 'n vliegtuig en vlieg eenvoudig werk toe! Elke uitdaging word uiteindelik 'n projek en 'n triomf, terwyl rekord gehou word en boeke daarvoor gepubliseer is — soos Gwen se roostuin wat aanvanklik 'n mislukte projek was (nie haar skuld nie), maar uiteindelik uitgeloop het in 'n boek oor rose en 'n doktorsgraad in tuinontwerp.

oer-voorgeslagte dit gedoen het, kan jy die Fagans slegs beny. Dog, dit wat hulle bereik het — die vererings wat hulle al ontvang het, is talryk — was die resultaat van 'n kombinasie van harde werk, deurstellingsvermoë, vindingrykheid, selfgeloof en kreatiwiteit wat jy selde in een leeftyd raakloop. Voeg daarby onopgesmuktheid, nederigheid en altruïsme en jy beskryf 'Span Fagan' in 'n neutedop.

Vandag werk hierdie twee onblusbare steeds volle werksure en doen sommige projekte saam met hul seun Henry, 'n strukturele ingenieur. Hulle erken dat hulle soms 'baklei', maar dat hulle al vir nagenoeg 70 jaar saamwerk, wat dui op wedersydse respek en 'n vermoë om geskille te besleg. Hulle sê hulle sal dit oorweeg om af te tree as hulle 100 is. Twee sulke intelligente en kreatiewe mense bymekaar — dit wil gedoen wees!

Hoewel 'n formidabele span, is Gawie en Gwen elkeen kenners in hul eie areas. Gwen spesialiseer in interieurs en in tuinbou,

en Gawie doen die res — die strukture self, waar hy teorie en skeppendheid aan die een kant en praktyk en innovasie aan die ander kant soomloos byeenvoeg in 'n werkbare eenheid. Hy (en Gwen) beskou die huis wat hy reeds in 1951 vir sy ouers gebou het as sy beste werk. Hy het ook die pragtige voordeur ontwerp, nadat die tweede eienaar nie tevrede was met die een wat eers daarin was nie. Gawie sê (tong in die kies) hy kon dit verstaan, want daardie eerste deur was ál deel van die huis wat hy nie self ontwerp het nie! So klink 'n man wat vertrou het in sy eie vermoëns en wat goeie rede het daartoe. Hy vertel van 'n paar medewerkers wat hulle opgeruk en die pad gevat het, maar, soos iemand

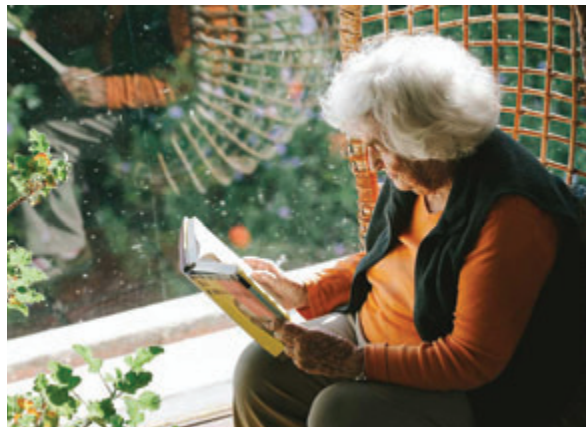


Die vliegtuig waarmee Gawie werk toe gevlieg het

Die entoesiasme en liefde wat hulle vir hulle werk het is sekerlik aansteeklik: die tien mense wat vir hulle in Kaapstad werk, is werklik bevoorreg, terwyl hul kinders blykbaar 'dieselfde' as hul ouers is, aldus Gwen. Hulle is grootgemaak met 'n waardering vir die natuur en 'n liefde vir die kunste — wat 'n kombinasie! Vir my klink dit idillies. En as 'n mens kyk na die milieu wat hulle geskep het: die unieke huis in Kampsbaai met sy lieflike ruimtes en pragtige uitsigte, met die 'Es' (wat haard/vuurmaakplek beteken) wat so ontwerp is dat die reuse vuurherd in die huis juis die huis se middelpunt — amper sê ek 'brandpunt' — moet wees, waar gewerk en gekuier kan word, soos ons

gesê het, 'I outlived all those bastards', want hier is hy steeds; sy onblusbare self, met sy ewe ononderdrukbare vennoot-in-die-lewe aan sy sy.

Hoe dit ook al sy, ek is oortuig dat daar tussen 1951 en 2015 dosyne geboue opgerig is wat onmiskenbaar Gawie Fagan is, terwyl uitstekende restourasiewerk soos met Tuynhuis (hulle eerste groot projek), te danke is aan hierdie twee dienaars van ons erfenis. En laat ek die woord 'onbaatsugtig' dadelik byvoeg. Die terme 'vision' en 'passion' word deesdae te maklik rondgegooi. Gaan kyk na die Fagans en dan sien jy wat dit beteken.



Die Fagans tuis in hul indrukwekkende huis in Kampsbaai, Kaapstad

© Antonia Heil and Desmond Louw

Vir my was hierdie praatjie een van die hoogtepunte van 2015 se Woordfees. Al die Fagans se boeke kan via gabriel@fagan.co.za (Breestraat Publikasies) bestel word. Hulle skryf, redigeer, publiseer en bemark hulle boeke self. Uiteraard, hoe anders?

En hier sou ek die artikel kon afsluit, op 'n positiewe noot, en niemand se liddorings raaktrap nie. Maar soos Gawie teen die einde van hulle praatjie, waartydens Gwen meestal aan die woord was, en hulle kinders in die voorste ry soms voetnote en korreksies bygevoeg het, somer so uit die gehoor!, wil ek tog my nek uitsteek en sê ek voel die hele debakel oor die ou graanskuur bo in Kaapstad is nie hoe die laaste hoofstuk in die Fagan-sage behoort te eindig nie.

Soveel mense het in koerante geskryf, kenners én leke, waarvan — volgens Gawie — sommige nooit eens die moeite gedoen het om die perseel te besoek nie. Dit herinner my so aan die ministersvrou wat oor die radio teen **Sewe dae by die Silbersteins** gewaarsku het, en toe aan die programaanbieder erken het dat sy nie self die boek gelees het nie. Ek glo tog dat die Fagans nie mense is wat ongevoelig staan teenoor argitektoniese holisme of ingestel is op geldmaak ten koste van bewaring nie, dat hulle baanrekord vanself spreek en dat hulle, van alle mense, die voordeel van die twyfel verdien wanneer mense begaan is oor renovasies, aanbouings en modernisering.

Nietemin, wat my sal bybly van die werklik treffende praatjie

in Erfurthuis is die entoesiasme wat steeds by dié twee mense waarneembaar is. Nie 'n (op)gebottelde Gospel-skreeu-tipe ding nie, maar 'n eerlike en met onsig-onderskryfde waardering vir die lewe self, deur mense wat die goeie en die mooie kan identifiseer en dit aan ander uitwys, hetsy geboue, standbeelde of rose.

Nota: Gawie en Dr Gwen Fagan het ook onlangs 'n spesiale ministeriële toekening ontvang vir Lewenslange Prestasie op Erfenisgebied tydens die jaarlikse Kultuursake en Sportseremonie.

Titels in voorraad

- Church Street in the land of Waveren.- Tulbagh Restoration Committee, 1975.
- Kerkstraat in't land van Waveren.- Tulbagh Restourasiekomitee, 1974.
- Brakdak — flatroofs in the Karoo.- Breestraat, 2008.
- Brakdak — platdakke in die Karoo.- Breestraat, 2008.

Dr Francois Verster is 'n argivaris en 'n skrywer



Out and about

Routes and rambles, sights and sites, things to do and places to visit

by Sabrina Gosling

If you're wondering where to go or what to do on your next holiday or weekend away, there are a number of new books that can help you. I've collected them together with some other local travel books already in our stock to give you a variety of choice — whether you are looking for a destination holiday, a road trip, or just a day out, and whether you want something relaxing or physically challenging, cultural or sporty, arty or adventurous.

In my selection I've concentrated on books that are not in the conventional travel series, trying to bring to your attention some books that you were perhaps unaware of.

But do keep in mind that guides published by respected and reliable names in the travel business (Lonely Planet, Rough Guides, Dorling Kindersley, and so on) while aimed at the foreign tourist, can help even long-time residents and native South Africans find out new things about their city or area.

We have many books on mountain-climbing, hiking, mountain-biking trails, scuba diving and other outdoor activities; I have chosen just a few of them, concentrating on the most recent.

There should be something for everyone, but this is quite a hodge-podge of books, so I've tried to arrange them loosely in categories. At the end I've included a few books written for children.

I'll start off with some of the more general travel guides — they all have great ideas for things to do, places to visit and trips to take. Enjoy.



GENERAL GUIDES

Been there, done that: a South African checklist for the curious and the brave / Douglas Bristow.- Struik, 2011

The former *Getaway* editor has assembled a real treasure trove of ideas and information about ways to spend your leisure time and enjoy what this country has to offer, whatever your taste or interests.

Getaway's 1001 places to see before you die: places to go, things to do in Southern Africa / Marion Boddy-Evans ... [et al].- Struik, 2006.

Although this book has been around for a while, it's still a good place to get

some travel ideas.

Afrikaans title: Getaway se 1001 moet-sien plekke: plekke om na te gaan, dinge om te doen in Suider-Afrika.

Road tripping South Africa: off-the-beaten-track detours.- Map Studio, 2014.

This is a new local travel guide covering 20 road trips which avoid the main highways. These routes use back roads and detours to provide scenic interesting drives. Illustrated with colour photographs and, of course, maps, 'the book includes driving conditions, pet-friendly ratings, child-friendly ratings, low-slung vehicle-friendly ratings, don't-miss features, emergency numbers, the best time to visit these areas, top tips and padkos options, as well as day-by-

day descriptions and route maps'. Written by a number of travel writers, this guide is available in both English and Afrikaans, and should prove helpful and useful especially for people who haven't done much travelling (rather than just driving to get from A to B) around South Africa.

Afrikaans title: Padlang Suid-Afrika: Suid-Afrika se agterpaadjies.

South Africa by road: a regional guide / Pat Hopkins, Willie Olivier and Denise Slabbert; photographs by Jean du Plessis.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2010.

Afrikaans title: Padlang deur Suid-Afrika: 'n streek-vir-streek-reisgids.

South Africa for South Africans / Marielle Renssen and Hirsh Aronowitz.- Map Studio, 2014.

Marielle Renssen has a bubbly personality, loads of enthusiasm and oodles of publishing experience. She was an editor at Struik for many years and has written a number of books herself. Here, she teams up with husband Hirsh, and the result is this very welcome new general guide to travel in South Africa. It has a good mix of information and description and covers a wide range of places to see and things to do, from energetic and adventurous to more leisurely and relaxing. 'Our aim here is to make travelling ... as interesting as possible ... to slow down your journey and have fun with the family along the way ... From hiking and mountain biking to wildlife watching, birding and beachcombing ... Quirky farm stalls, small-town museums, monuments, city walks, battlefields, cultural sites and interesting municipal parks — we've got them covered.' Perhaps the title was not such a good choice in these times of xenophobic violence but it does convey their intention of not focussing only on the major tourist attractions that are so familiar to people living here. Foreign tourists may also need more practical information of the kind found in books in travel series (*Lonely Planet*, *Rough Guides*, *Eyewitness Guides*, and the like).

Afrikaans title: Suid-Afrika vir Suid-Afrikaners.

Your bucket list: 150 must-do experiences in Southern Africa / Patrick Cruywagen.- Map Studio, 2014.

The South African author, currently the features editor of *Land Rover Monthly* in

England, used to be the bush editor of *SA 4x4* magazine and has travelled widely in southern Africa. His experience and knowledge is obvious in this wonderful book of his selection of 'must-do' activities and destinations. And the photographs are great too. Most of the activities are quite adventurous.

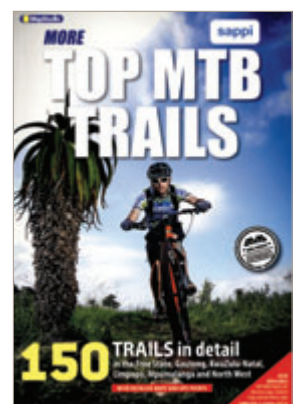
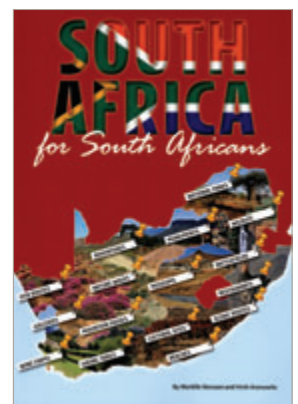
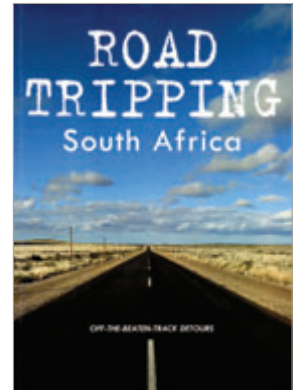
ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS AND OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Great African adventures: a guide to the mother continent's ultimate outdoor adventures / Jacques Marais.- Struik, 2008.

'Africa has long been favoured by intrepid adventurers, and this well-researched, visually appealing book will whet even the most conservative appetite. Whether you're an armchair traveller or a seasoned outdoor fanatic, you'll relish the award-winning photography, edgy style and detailed destination information, and feel fully equipped to take on the continent's countless adventurous destinations.' *Oprah*.

Mild to wild: adventures & activities in southern Africa / Fiona McIntosh.- Map Studio, 2013.

Fiona McIntosh is an intrepid type who's travelled extensively and done loads of adventurous things. She has also written a number of books on diving, mountain biking, hiking, slack packing, and so on. This is a new adventure travel guide for southern Africa and other countries further north like Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. (Actually, the 'southern' in the title is a bit misleading.) What's really nice for the less daring types like me, is that 'milder' activities are included too. 'The book rates activities as TO DO, MILD or WILD, depending on intensity, as well as grouping them in categories of LAND, WATER, and AIR adventures. A brief description of each activity is given, as well as contact details of companies and tour operators that can assist you in planning your adventure. Detailed maps show the location of each activity using icons which can be cross-referenced to the text entries. Maps of popular tourist regions are also featured.' Well illustrated with colour photographs and maps, this is a useful book to help plan one's holiday and to get ideas about where to go and what to do.



Wild weekends: places to go, things to do / Claire Keeton and Marianne Schwankhart.- Bookstorm, 2013.

A collection of *Girls gone wild* columns from the *Sunday Times* travel supplement about the authors' experiences in adventure sports and other extreme outdoor activities. The book also gives practical advice about the best places to do things but our reviewer thought this less of a travel guide and more of an inspirational book 'full of ideas for those who like the outdoors and want to try something new'.

MOTORBIKES AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

Dirt busters: a guide to adventure motorbiking / Deon Meyer with photography by Adriaan Oosthuizen.- Tafelberg, 2013.

The Argus reviewer wrote: 'Even I started to get carried away by the unbridled enthusiasm that bursts from the pages of this guide to adventure motorbiking. Not many people know that before he became South Africa's leading crime writer, Deon Meyer worked for BMW motorbikes, and has retained his enthusiasm for two-wheeled travel, preferably of the adventurous kind. This book, illustrated with Adriaan Oosthuizen's

gorgeous pictures, is an adventure trail guide to some of South Africa's most remote and beguiling places with lots of good practical biking advice.'

Original Afrikaans title: *Ridders van die grondpad: 'n gids vir avontuur-motorfietse*.

Free wheeling: Southern Africa's best multi-day MTB trails / Fiona McIntosh.- Sunbird, 2012.

More top MTB trails: 150 trails in detail in the Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West / Jacques Marais.- Map Studio, 2014.

Practical guide to mountain biking trails with lots of helpful information, colour photographs and route maps.

Riding the dragon's spine: Beit Bridge to Cape Town: SA's ultimate MTB trail - 58 routes & maps / David Bristow and Steve Thomas.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2012.

SURFING, DIVING AND OTHER WATERY ACTIVITIES

Atlas of dive sites of South Africa & Mozambique / Fiona McIntosh.- Map Studio, 2010.

Practical, informative guide to top scuba-diving sites, with maps (above ground and underwater), colour photographs, charts, a list of contacts and a 30-page marine species identification guide.

The dive spots of Southern Africa / Johan and Amilda Boshoff.- The Dive Spot, 2008.

Diving and spearfishing in South Africa / Piet van Rooyen.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2012.

Updated edition of a local book on free-diving and spearfishing.

A practical guide to sea kayaking in Southern Africa: over 50 charted routes / Johan S Loots.- Struik, 1999.

Run the rivers of Southern Africa / Celliers Kruger.- Fluid Designs & Dynamics, 2001.

White-water rafting and canoeing guide.

South African surf: the swell-seekers' guide / Craig Jarvis and Daniel Beatty.- Sunbird, 2007.

Dive South Africa: the complete underwater compendium / Al J Venter with John H Visser.- Ashanti, 2008.

Informed, interesting guide to local scuba-diving spots and conditions, but



reflecting a rather macho, aggressive 'dive culture'.

Afrikaans title: Suid-Afrikaanse duikgids: die allerbeste onderwatergids.

Surfing South Africa / Steve Pike.- Double Storey, 2007.

Follow-up to Spike's Surfing in South Africa.

HIKING AND CLIMBING

Best walks of the Drakensberg / David Bristow.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2010.

Cape Peninsula select: a guide to trad climbing in the Cape Peninsula / Tony Lourens.- Blue Mountain, 2013.

For the serious mountaineer this is a welcome new guide to traditional rock climbing in the Peninsula.

Easy walks in the Cape Peninsula / Mike Lundy.- Tafelberg, 2014.

'Books on hiking are two-a-penny, but Mike Lundy's stand head and shoulders above the rest.' (*Sunday Times*)

Hike Cape Town: top day trails on the Peninsula, Table Mountain National Park - 20 hikes with 30 alternative routes / Fiona McIntosh.- Jacana, 2014.

An attractive and useful book on hiking (including both climbing and walking) in the Cape Peninsula, mostly in the Table Mountain National Park. It covers the main routes up Table Mountain, Devil's Peak and Lion's Head, walks around Silvermine and Cape Point, the Contour Path, Smuts Track, and so on, as well as some more challenging routes. But it is not only for the serious hiker as it also includes walking along the Sea Point Promenade, on Noordhoek Beach, on the coastal path from Muizenberg to St James or taking the short walk from Fish Hoek to Sunny Cove along The Jager Walk (aka The Catwalk). It's well illustrated with lovely colour photographs and contains 'hiking information, contour maps, elevation, distance, fauna and flora ...'

Hiking trails of South Africa / Willie Olivier.- Struik, 2010.

Mike Lundy's best walks in the Cape Peninsula / Mike Lundy.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2012.

Paths to pubs: a guide to hikes and pints in the Cape Peninsula / Tony Burton.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2012.

Slack packing: a guide to South Africa's top leisure trails / Fiona McIntosh.- Sunbird, 2010.

For those who want to hike trails but do not want to actually backpack, slack packing is the answer and this book will be of great help in finding out about the options available.

Top 12 hiking trails of the Western Cape / Fiona McIntosh.- Map Studio, 2009.

All the trails have been walked and verified. Some of the 12 covered are: West Coast Crayfish Trail, the Cedarberg Heritage Route, Hoerikwaggo Tented Classic, the Whale Trail (De Hoop Nature Reserve), Postberg Wild Flower Trail, the Oystercatcher Trail (Mossel Bay), and the Donkey Trail. The book also gives information about some other hikes, canoe trips, and walks or climbs in the areas.

Weekend trails in the Western Cape / Mike Lundy.- Tafelberg, 2014.

This is the revised and updated 7th edition of the guide to two-day hiking trails in the Western Cape, ones that can be done over a weekend.

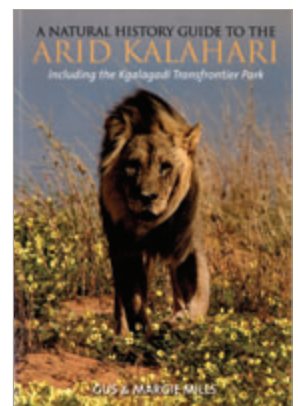
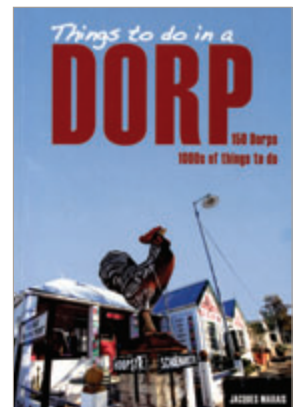
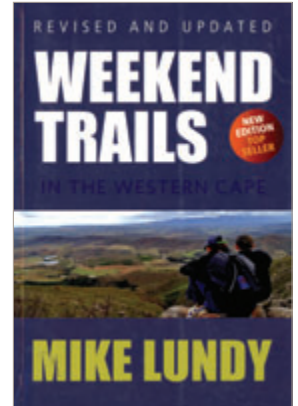
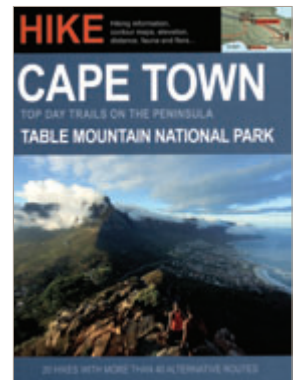
Western Cape rock: a guide to sport climbing in the Western Cape, South Africa / Tony Lourens.- Blue Mountain, 2015.

Sport climbing has been around for about 25 years. This new edition is a substantial guidebook to a wealth of climbs across the province, with route maps and colour photographs — an excellent resource for local rock climbers.

TOWNS AND CITIES

Things to do in a dorp: 150 dorps, 1000s of things to do / Jacques Marais.- Map Studio, 2013.

This is a handy and attractive travel guide to a wide selection of small country towns (dorps) across South Africa. Colour photographs dot the text and the feel of the book is similar to articles in magazines like *Country Life* and *Getaway*. Obviously there's quite a bit he's left out, but the book gives a good taste of the places he describes even if it's not comprehensive. Jacques Marais has written a number of other books (some





mentioned in this booklist) and he's an author one can rely on, as well as a good photographer. The book is divided into three sections: in the first section each dorp gets a double-page spread, in the second a page and in the third just a paragraph. He really has packed this with information, making it easy for any visitor to plan their trip to these little towns. This will be popular and fortunately it is available in Afrikaans too.

Afrikaans title: Doendinge in 'n dorp: 150 dorpe, duisende dinge om te doen.

Cape Town

Cape Town: don't tell — the mother city's (hush-hush) must-do list / Sheryl Ozinsky and Sam Wouldidge.- Struik, 2003.

Don't discount this guide even though it's rather old.

Hidden Cape Town / Paul Duncan, photographs by Alain Proust.- Struik Lifestyle, 2013.

This 'showcases the interiors of 30 Cape Town buildings mostly open to the public'.

Key to Cape Town: your insider's guide to exploring the Mother City / Toast Coetzer and Samantha Reinders.- Sunbird, 2009.

Walking Long Street / Desmond Martin.- Struik, 2007.

Walking Cape Town: urban walks and drives in the Cape Peninsula / John Muir.- Struik, 2013.

'The perfect companion for the urban sightseer ... [featuring] 33 easy walks and drives through the streets and suburbs ... For locals and visitors wanting to discover more about the city's rich heritage, **Walking Cape Town** is an indispensable guide'. (*bookslive.co.za*)

Scenic day drives from Cape Town / Mike Lundy.- Human, 2010.

Written by the well-known hiking author and illustrated with colour photographs and route maps, this is an easy-to-follow guide to some scenic day drives out of Cape Town.

Johannesburg

The Joburg book / edited by Nechama Brodie.- Pan MacMillan, 2014.

The Johannesburg explorer book: amazing stories about the city's historic suburbs and streets / Mike Alfred and Peter Delmar.- Parkview P., 2013.

This is a wonderful little companion to Johannesburg whether you are a visitor or a resident, and whether you're walking or driving. It's a narrow-sized guide to the history of the city and suburbs, jam-packed with facts, anecdotes and some interesting photographs.

Spaces & places 2.0 — Joburg-places: a city awaits you / Gerald Garner.- Double G Media, 2012.

NATIONAL PARKS

Addo Elephant National Park / Peter Derichs.- P. Derichs, c2014.

A new title in the very useful *Peter's Guides* series, this contains a bit of everything about Addo, including maps and photographs with descriptions and GPS positions.

Kruger National Park: questions and answers / PF Fourie; updated by Chris van der Linde.- Struik Nature, 2014.

We have many guides to Kruger, but this is something a bit different — it's a 'compilation of the most frequently asked questions by visitors to the Park' and is written in a question-and-answer format.

National parks and nature reserves: a South African field guide / Chris and Mathilde Stuart.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2012.

A natural history guide to the arid Kalahari including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park / Gus and Margie Mills.- Africa Geographic, 2013.

In *Hyena nights & Kalahari days*, husband and wife, Gus and Margie Mills, wrote about their experiences living in the Kalahari Gemsbok Park for many years. They also wrote a guide to the park. This new book is a substantially revised and completely redesigned version of that guide, now covering the whole Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park — in Botswana as well as South Africa. This is a wonderful book for those interested in the area; it's informative yet accessible and illustrated with quality colour photographs. I'm definitely taking it along the next time I visit the Kalahari.

Touring South Africa's national parks / Michael R Brett.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2010.
Afrikaans title: Reis deur Suid-Afrika se nasionale parke.

PHOTOGRAPHY, BIRDS AND GARDENS

Insider's guide: how and where to photograph birds in southern Africa / Izak Pretorius.- Jacana, 2014.

Insider's guide: top wildlife photography spots in South Africa / Shem Compion.- Jacana, 2010.

Kirstenbosch: the most beautiful garden in Africa / Brian J Huntley.- Struik Nature, 2012.

2013 marked the centenary of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, so a number of books were published around that time including this one which 'tells the story of its establishment, its setbacks and triumphs, its benefactors and heroes. It outlines the Garden's scientific eminence as the repository of knowledge on our prized flora and details the many attractions that make it a favourite destination for Capetonians and visitors alike ... [It is] lavishly illustrated with

photographs and artworks that tell the history and reflect the beauty of the Garden' (*randomstruik.co.za*). Huntley also touches on other gardens in South Africa, such as the Harold Porter Gardens in Betty's Bay.

Kirstenbosch: a visitors' guide / Colin Paterson-Jones and John Winter.- Struik Nature, 2013.

This is quite a slight book at only 32 pages, but it gives a good introduction and overview of Kirstenbosch and is very attractively illustrated.

Sasol birdwatching in Southern Africa / Peter Ryan.- Struik, 2006.

FARMS STALLS AND MARKETS

Farm stall to farm stall: a food lover's guide to farm stalls and markets / Jennifer Stern.- Map Studio, 2014.

A new local guide to farm stalls along the roads of South Africa by travel and adventure writer Jennifer Stern. She has visited them all and her reviews give you a good idea of what to expect at each one as well as providing information about opening times, contact details, places to stay in the area and GPS coordinates. Very helpful for those travelling with small children or pets, is her rating of how child and pet friendly each place is. A section at the back looks at and lists markets and festivals — some examples are the Redelinghuys Potato Show, the Knysna Oyster Festival, the Clanwilliam Flower Show, the Crayfish Festival in Lambertsbaai, the Riebeek Valley Olive Festival, the Napier Patatfees, the Boertjie Kontreifees at Bultfontein, where to do strawberry and olive picking, Wild Oats Community Farmers' Market at Sedgefield and the Route 44 Market in Stellenbosch.



Market food: South Africa / Dianne Stewart, Jessica Cairns and Lissa Stewart.- Bookstorm, 2015.

Just published, this is a book for foodies and market-trawlers. Local author Stewart and her daughters travelled to markets all over the country in search of the best market food and this book is the result. The first section lists and describes their favourite markets, while the bulk of the book features particular individuals, their stories and recipes. Sumaya's chicken curry and Gusto's seafood paella (Neighbourgoods), Hantie's chocolate-truffle cupcakes (Wild Oats), Michele's roasted almond and orange cake (City Bowl), Cecil's chorizo and vegetable salad (Stellenbosch Slow) and Dr Juice's Fennelicious (Earth Fair) are some of the examples from Western Cape markets.

TRAVEL UP NORTH

The N4 book: the road to Maputo / Peter Delmar.- Parkview P., c2010.

'This little book is filled with short, factual stories relevant to specific areas through which the N4 passes on its way from Pretoria to Maputo ... The glossy pages, with their fascinating facts of history, geology, feats of engineering and mining, include beautiful scenic photographs as well as historic pictures. There are also stories of off-the-beaten-track places. Turn your journey into a voyage of discovery. Buckle up and enjoy the ride.' (*Sunday Times*)

The Platinum road: the road to Botswana / Peter Delmar.- Parkview P., 2013.

'This is the latest in a series of books by Delmar that tell the stories of the people living along our roads. The Platinum Road does not refer to a single road ... Among the many

stories is that of the breakaway Zulu chief Mzilikazi ... the Anglo-Boer wars ... the struggle against apartheid ... modern events such as the Marikana massacre and the 300-year-old stories of the Bapo people ... If you thought roads were boring corridors along which to speed dangerously, reading this book will lead you on a path of enlightenment.' (*Sydney Seshibedi*)

The South African Bushveld: a field guide from the Waterberg Bushveld / Lee Gutteridge.- Southbound, 2008.

'The detail is fantastic and all-embracing ... It is a perfect history of a chunk of the earth — geology, biology and human history.' (*Sunday Times*)

The Waterberg: the natural splendours and the people / William Taylor, Gerald Hinde and David Holt-Biddle.- Struik, 2003.

This is a bit old but I can still highly recommend it to anyone visiting the Waterberg region in Limpopo. It focuses to some extent on the wildlife (flora and fauna) but also looks at the people, the history, the geology and archaeology, and is illustrated with both new colour photographs and archival pictures.

MOUNTAIN PASSES, POORTS AND ROCK FORMATIONS

Geological journeys: a traveller's guide to South Africa's rocks and landforms / Nick Norman and Gavin Whitfield.- Struik, 2006.

This well-illustrated book discusses geological features along the major routes across South Africa. It's for the layman and contains a wealth of accessible and interesting information. 'It is for people like me ... that this wonderful reference book





has been written ... Cleverly designed for any number of routes ... the book answers a zillion questions you may want to ask about rock formations, the origin of a hill, or the mineral wealth under the tar ... giving clear answers to queries from the most basic to the abstruse ... [They] need to be congratulated on producing a reference book which has an air of authority, is not dry nor academic and is as appealing to the eye as it is stimulating to the brain. The referencing is also particularly good ... buy two. Keep one in the car ... and leave the other at home — in time both, I predict, will be equally well read.' (*Cape Times*)

Geology off the beaten track: exploring South Africa's hidden treasures / Nick Norman.- Struik, 2013.

This is another fascinating book from Norman. He describes it as a companion volume to *Geological journeys* saying: 'In this later guide you leave the well-beaten track, with its traffic and familiarity, and take the road less travelled ... Whether or not you see new parts of the country, unexpected birds and animals or unfamiliar veld types, one thing is certain — that you'll see and get to understand geology you had never noticed before.'

A guide to South Africa's mountain passes and poorts / Patrick Coyne.- Osborne Porter Literary Services, 2010.

Mountain pass enthusiast and researcher Trygve Roberts has this to say about passes: 'I think there is something

magical in almost every mountain pass. When you're on a boring, straight tar road and see a gravel road meandering away up a mountainside, it awakens a sense of adventure — a need to explore. Passes take you somewhere — to an unseen place — a surprise — a new vista — a new discovery. They have gracious curves, inspiring engineering, sometimes they are pure poetry and things of absolute beauty.'

Passes & poorts South Africa: *Getaway's* top scenic mountain routes / Marion Whitehead.- Jacana, 2014.

'A guide to more than forty of South Africa's most scenic mountain passes. Includes information on hiking trails, mountain biking tracks, and 4x4 routes, and recommendations on places to stay and eat.' Both this and the author's earlier book are brilliant travel companions.

Passes & poorts: *Getaway's* top 30 scenic mountain routes in the Western Cape / Marion Whitehead.- Jacana, 2011.

SOME OTHER GUIDES

Discovering the battlefields of the Anglo-Zulu War / Ken Gillings.- 30 Degrees South Pub., 2014.

For military history buffs and others interested in visiting battlefields and war sites, we have some guides in stock, including ones to Boer War sites

of historical significance. This colour-illustrated guide to Zulu War sites is our most recent. The author, currently chairperson of the KZN Tourist Guides Association, said: 'Ten years ago, 95% of participants on my tours were British. Now, 78% are South African.'

Due South — travel guide to South African craft sites.- Eskom Due-South Craft Route Project, 2006.

Finding Pofadder: the West Coast, Namaqualand & Northern Cape / Ursula Stevens.- Wanderlust Bks., 2008.

Holistic holidays in South Africa: health spas, hot springs, magical places and sacred spaces / Sharyn Spicer and Janine Nepgen.- Human, 2005.

Obviously this will not cover the many new spas that have sprung up in the last few years but it is worth looking at for other information.

Labyrinths and mazes of South Africa / Marielle Renssen.- Zyteck, 2005.

Offbeat South Africa: the travel guide to the wacky and wonderful / Richard George, Denise Slabbert and Kim Wildman.- Struik, 2006.

'Among the offbeat offerings the three introduce is a section on "ghostly tours" ... If chasing ghosts is not your thing, the book also recommends such ventures as Rastafarian township tours, gourmet motorcycle trips, an

underground drain tour, the prickly pear festival in Uitenhage, the cherry festival in Ficksburg and the Evergreen Chilli Carnival at Tshwane Market. This book will have you rediscovering South Africa in a wacky wonderful way ... Although the scalpel and buck-naked safaris might be too hardcore for some, there is no doubt that the brandy safari and the Rugby Addict Museum in Hanover will fascinate many.' (*Mail&Guardian*)

My wine route South Africa: a guide to the top quality wines, great value wines and the best wine cellars — as rated by the world's top judges / Mike Froud.- Map Studio, 2013.

SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP SITES

This is a series of seven detailed local guides written by Philip Harrison, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Wits University. They were published by Spearhead between 2004 and 2006. The individual titles are: **Science, Struggle, Arts & culture, Family** (which was written with Sue Heese), **Ecotravel, Gay & lesbian, and Spiritual**. Each book contains an index, numerous maps, and some plates of colour photographs. They really are wonderful little books, putting sites and places in context for the traveller.

PLACE NAMES

I'm sure there are many people like me who are interested in the names of places they visit (or intend to visit). Raper's book really fits the bill.

Beard shaver's bush: place names in the Cape / Ed Coombe and Peter Slingsby.- Baardskeerder, 2000.

Dictionary of southern African place names / Peter Edmund Raper.- Ball, 2014.

This is the latest edition of what has become something of a standard reference work on the subject.

Things ewe never kn'ewe about South African place names / Ann Gadd.- Map Studio, 2015.

Gadd mixes history and humour in this new little book about local place names. The arrangement is alphabetical and the text is

dotted throughout with the author's comical sheep illustrations.

FOR THE YOUNG ONES

I'll end off by mentioning a few books written for children.

Adventure trails in Kirstenbosch / Daphne Mackie.- Struik Nature, 2012.

A local guide to the treasures and pleasures of Kirstenbosch. Written and beautifully illustrated by Cape Town artist and botanical illustrator Daphne Mackie, it also includes lovely colour photographs from a variety of photographers, and a map for each route described. Although aimed at young readers, this is so interesting and filled with information that it could be helpful to any visitor to Kirstenbosch, especially those who didn't grow up exploring the gardens.

Lion's Head hunt: easy 2-3 hour walk around Lion's Head / Suzie Joubert.- Art Publ., 2014.

Young Explorers is a new series of local guides. So far, there've only been two books: this one about walking on the mountain and the Waterfront guide below. They are colourful, informative and great fun.

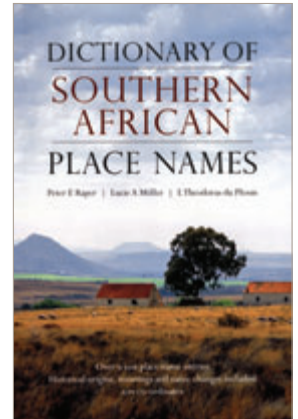
My Cape Town ABC / illustrated by Sandy Lightley.- Struik Travel & Heritage, 2014.

For a younger child, this is an alphabet picture book with a difference — it's all about Cape Town, and includes some practical information for parents who want to take their children to the various places mentioned. Jay Heale wrote: 'Large clear illustrations show a range of places and items unique to Cape Town, like Bo-Kaap houses, Hout Bay Harbour and ... the Zip-Zap Circus ... Alphabet, information, a bit of thinking, and a lot of exploring Cape Town. Excellent!'

Touring South Africa / Sue Boucher.- Shuter, 2014.

This is a colour-illustrated book in the Zebra Readers series — aimed at children from about 8 to 11 years.

Waterfront walkabout: easy 2-3 hour walk around the V&A Waterfront / Suzie Joubert.- Art Publ., 2014.



Sabrina Gosling is a book selector with the Western Cape Library Service

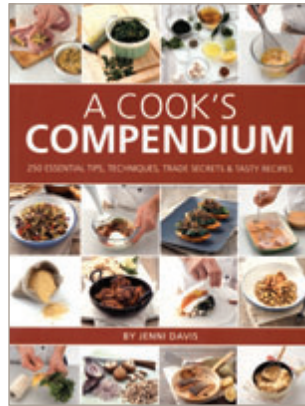


ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

DAVIS, Jenni

A cook's compendium: 250 essential tips, techniques, trade secrets and tasty recipes.- Struik Lifestyle, 2014.

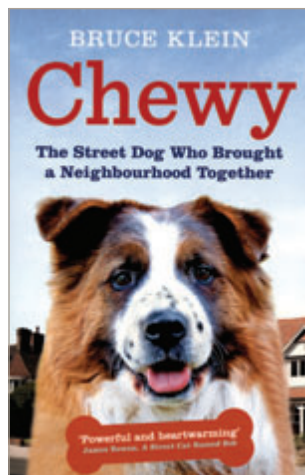
A cook's compendium by Jenni Davis caters for those who lack confidence in the kitchen, offering helpful tips, simple techniques and useful information. It demonstrates how to dish up quick, easy meals for you and your family. Serving as an indispensable compendium of technical know-how for the home cook, it shows not only the best options on cooking, but why it can be a successful working venture. This better understanding of cooking methods allows you to feel a lot more in control of your cooking. Filled with techniques, all-important troubleshooting advice, and delicious recipes, it has everything you need to know at your fingertips to turn out fabulous meals. Step-by-step photographs, labelled diagrams, tables, charts, 'fix it' and 'try it' features, and much more, make this compendium an essential resource. The book covers a wide range of topics in seven thematic chapters with 20 recipes to practice techniques. The opening section has information on key ingredients, utensils, useful accessories and other essential tools. It is an attractively presented, easy to understand, and very inspirational book for all cooks, not only beginners. EB



KLEIN, Bruce

Chewy: the street dog who brought a neighbourhood together.- Ebury, 2014.

This is a heart-warming story about a stray St Bernard-cross dog who visited the author's Californian hometown and immediately captured its heart. For five years this stray dog wandered into the town each day and retired each night to sleep under a bridge nearby. People in the area watched and worried about him, but although he was friendly, he wouldn't let anyone close enough to catch him. Every morning and evening residents who lived near the bridge left food for him. After witnessing some people throwing rocks at him, the author's wife together with two concerned people, eventually hatched a plan to save the stray dog, who earned the name Chewy, as they knew it would only be a matter of time before the local animal control would



put him down. After feeding him food laced with tranquilisers, Chewy was taken to the author's house where he still resides. To this day people share their thoughts about their interaction with Chewy who had won their hearts. This entertaining and pleasant read will appeal to animal lovers. EB

LOWER, Wendy

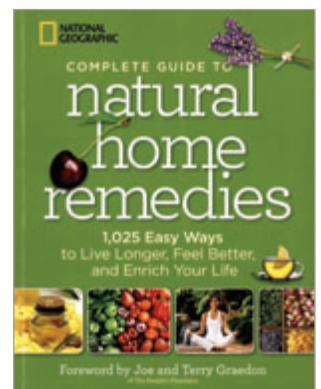
Hitler's Furies: German women in the Nazi killing fields.- Vintage, 2014.

Hitler's Furies is a study of German women on the Eastern Front, revealing that they were no less capable of brutality than men. What these women saw and did was shocking. At least half a million women went or were sent east during World War II. For these women it was a departure from stifling hometown and family circles, and a prospect of self-fulfilment through work and travel. Many were anti-Semitic and would actively participate in the planning and execution of the Holocaust. They would serve as teachers, nurses, secretaries, stenographers, typists and telephone operators. Some committed atrocities, and most witnessed these atrocities. Lower, a consultant for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, ably writes on an aspect of WWII history that has mostly been overlooked and ignored. It looks beyond Germany to the Eastern Front — Poland, the Baltic States, Belarus, and Ukraine — where much of the most awful brutalities took place. Based on exhaustive research and by tracing the lives of a dozen or so women, the author delivers a unique and thought-provoking study about a controversial subject that still poses many questions. EB



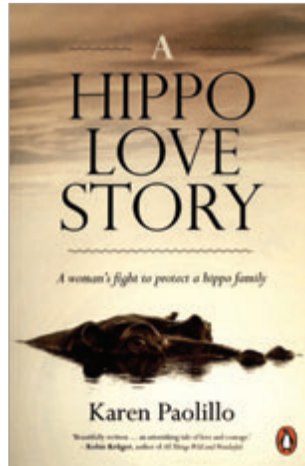
National Geographic complete guide to natural home remedies: 1,025 easy ways to live longer, feel better, and enrich your life.- National Geographic, 2014.

This title is the result of the combined effort of a recognised advisory board of medical professionals and leading figures in natural healing fields that offer an informative and entertaining overview of healthy living. It is filled with plenty of useful tips and hints for both personal health as well as safe/natural household cleaning methods. In addition it also looks at the medicinal qualities of various foodstuffs as well as that of herbs. The text and presentation are as accessible as in a popular magazine and the book is well illustrated and in colour. This serves as both a handy reference and rewarding browse that all will enjoy. EB



PAOLILLO, Karen
A hippo love story: a woman's fight to protect a hippo family.- Penguin, 2014.

The British-born author and founder of the Turgwe Hippo Trust in the south-east lowveld of Zimbabwe has lived together with her French husband, Jean-Roger, six cats and a mongoose in the Zimbabwean bush. She has laboured for decades to protect the animals, especially the hippos, who inhabit the bush area and Turgwe river banks. The inspiration for her book is as result of daily observation and contact over the past 20 years with these creatures. She has come to be referred to as 'the lady who talks to hippos'. This is not just a book about these wonderful animals, but also Paolillo's personal story of surviving drought, Robert Mugabe's political campaign and the land grabs by mobs loyal to him, battling trophy hunters and poachers and lastly her love for her husband Jean-Roger. Readers will be thoroughly entertained by the author's very personal relationship with the region's wildlife and their common struggle to survive in this beautifully written tale filled with adventure and triumph. EB



SEBESTYEN, Victor
1946: the making of the modern world.- Macmillan, 2014.

This book takes a searching look at the year after the Second World War when a new world was born. Peace agreements were signed that would shape the second half of the twentieth century and influence the world of the future. It would be an important year in modern history in which countries would be reborn and created, national and ideological boundaries redrawn and people across the globe would begin to rebuild their lives. But there was another, mostly untold side, which the author vividly illustrates in this unsettling and disturbing book. He tells the untold savage stories of rampant rape, endless pillage, tortuous death marches and ongoing programmes against the Jewish with openly Catholic compliance. This was ruthless revenge on an unprecedented scale in the global upheaval and moral blackout that followed victory. Unsettling facts reveal that more Jews were killed in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in the 12 months after the end of the war than in the 12 years before 1939. In Germany alone, 14 million were homeless because a third of the housing stock had been destroyed and many Germans had been evacuated from Eastern Europe in an ethnic cleansing programme. Sebestyen delivers this compelling account of



a crucial year in post-war history that reads well and provides information that, until recently, has been overlooked. EB

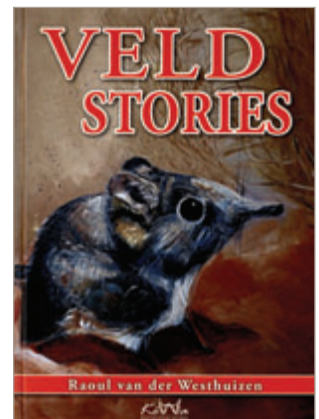
TEICHOLZ, Nina
The big fat surprise: why butter, meat, and cheese belong in a healthy diet.- Scribe, 2014.

This book about dietary fat, written by a journalist, makes fascinating reading. It has received good reviews from a number of sources. 'For many years Americans have been told that low-fat diets are the best way to prevent heart disease and lose weight. While heart disease deaths have indeed dropped, the rate of heart disease has not and the obesity rate is increasing. Food writer Teicholz, who followed this advice until she began writing restaurant reviews that required eating whatever the chef served, was surprised when she actually lost weight once she began eating red meat and rich sauces. The author began looking at the scientific nutrition literature. Her research revealed that most of the studies were observational, rather than clinical trials. This meant that there was no real evidence to support the dietary guidelines issued by the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health. Yet the data is the accepted canon and scientists who present contradictory information are ostracised. This fascinating book raises important issues as Americans battle obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The author provides an extensive bibliography of scientific literature, notes, and a glossary. Thought provoking and well worth purchasing.' (*Library Journal*)



VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Raoul
Veld stories.- Kejafa Knowledge Works, 2013.

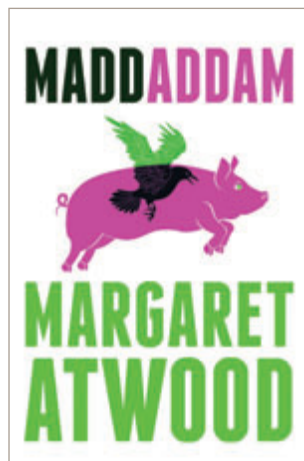
Born in 1941 in Calvinia, a small town in the Hantam region of the Great Karoo semi-desert, the author qualified as veterinarian in 1965. He has participated in various nature conservation projects in both South Africa and Namibia. The reader is taken on a scenic and personal journey to cover certain events in Southern Africa as they occurred during the previous century. Although this cannot truly be classified as a biography, the author writes about his experiences and observations in the veld and at different locations. In the opening chapters, readers receive an overview of the author's ancestors; Calvinia, his birth place; and the Jews that settled there. After looking at the unique history of Calvinia and the Hantam region, the author moves onto his



conservation experiences in the Kruger National Park. He later describes his experiences in Ovamboland, Namibia, where he would meet his future wife, Dagmar. His contribution and role in other major conservation projects such as the West Coast National Park, the Great Karoo and the Agulhas National Park are also covered. The book is beautifully illustrated with colour photographs that vividly capture the essence of the beauty of the areas discussed. Not an easy book to review as there is no central theme but it offers an enjoyable armchair journey, tempting readers to explore. A rare treat and an enchanting example of recent Africana. EB

ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

ATWOOD, Margaret
MaddAddam.- Virago, 2014.
'The final entry in Atwood's brilliant *MaddAddam* trilogy roils with spectacular and furious satire. The novel begins where *Oryx and Crake* and *The year of the flood* end, just after most of the human species has been eradicated by a man-made plague. The early books explore a world of terrifying corporate tyranny, horrifying brutality, and the relentless rape of women and the planet. In *Oryx and Crake*, the pandemic leaves wounded

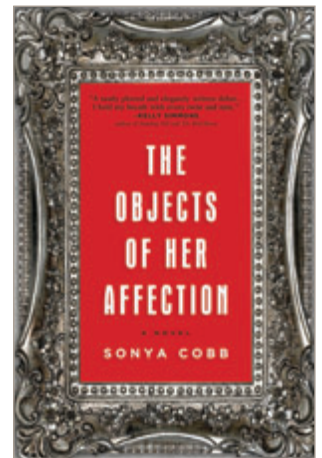


protagonist Jimmy to watch over the Crakers, a humanoid species bioengineered to replace humankind by the man responsible for unleashing the plague. In *The year of the flood*, MaddAddamites wield science to terrorise corporate villains while God's Gardeners use prayer and devotion to the Earth to prepare for the approaching cataclysm. Toby, a God's Gardener and key character in the second book, narrates the third instalment, in which a few survivors, including MaddAddamites, God's Gardeners, Jimmy, and the Crakers, navigate a post-apocalyptic world. Toby is reunited with Zeb, her MaddAddamite romantic interest in *The year of the flood*, and the two become leaders and defenders of their new community. The survivors are a traumatised, cynical group with harshly tested self-preservation skills, but they have the capacity for love and self-sacrifice, which in a simpler story would signal hope for the future of humankind. However, Atwood dramatises the importance of all life so convincingly that readers will hesitate to assume that the perpetuation of a species as destructive as man is the novel's central concern. With childlike stubbornness, even the peaceful Crakers demand mythology and insist on deifying people whose motives they can't understand. Other species genetically engineered for exploitation by now extinct corporations roam the new frontier; some are hostile to man, including the pigeons — a powerful and uniquely perceptive source of bacon and menace.

Threatening humans, Crakers, and pigeons are the Painballers — former prisoners dehumanised in grotesque life-or-death battles. The Crakers cannot fight, the bloodthirsty Painballers will not yield, and the humans are outnumbered by the pigeons. Happily, Atwood has more surprises in store. Her vision is as affirming as it is cautionary, and the conclusion of this remarkable trilogy leaves us not with a sense of despair at mankind's failings but with a sense of awe at humanity's barely explored potential to evolve.' (*Publishers Weekly*)

COBB, Sonya

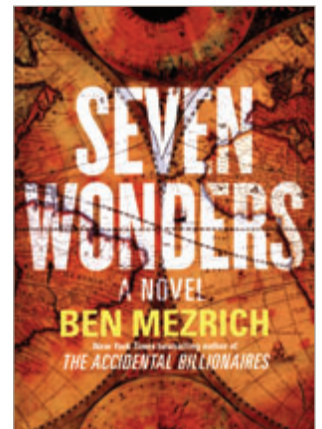
The objects of her affection: a novel.- Sourcebooks, 2014.
Freelance computer programmer Sophie Porter has had trouble re-entering the job market since the birth of her two children. She and her husband, Brian, must survive on his salary as a curator of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. When she finds an old house in Philadelphia that she feels is just perfect, she rushes to buy it, despite the concerns of her somewhat absent husband. All she sees is the security of owning a house and not the problems that an old house can hide. She signs up for a risky mortgage and suddenly the payment is far more than she can afford and she finds herself scrambling for money. While visiting her husband at work one day, Sophie discovers a trove of poorly catalogued artworks. Thinking if she can make off with just a few pieces, she can turn her financial situation around, Sophie begins her life of crime. As Brian's job gives Sophie access to the museum's mass of uncatalogued items, she decides a few thefts would likely go unnoticed, and could keep the family afloat financially. However, her desperate measures soon become a compulsion and eventually attract the attention of the FBI.



Debut novelist Cobb provides a thrilling read with well-drawn characters and a plot full of twists and turns, raising some truly thought-provoking questions. EB

MEZRICH, Ben

Seven wonders: a novel.- Heinemann, 2014.
When the reclusive mathematician Jeremy Grady goes missing, it's up to his estranged brother, Jack, to find out why. Jack comes across details of his brother's latest work which points to a connection between the Modern Seven Wonders of the World and the Ancient Seven Wonders of the World. He meets up with a beautiful fellow adventurer, botanist



Sloane Costa, and the two of them start trotting the globe chasing the mystery. Not only do they have to find the next clue, but they have to do it against fierce opposition from an unknown enemy. Together they discover a conspiracy to hide a roadmap to the Garden of Eden, and the truth behind a mythological ancient culture. This book is written with authority concerning the ancient sites and clues; whether true or not, is irrelevant. The reader believes them and follows Jack and Sloane's adventures that are delivered at a heart-pounding pace through panoramic backdrops. This modern-day adventure story is very much reminiscent of the Indiana Jones-sagas and seems to be the first in a trilogy. EB

YOUNG ADULT FICTION JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

SMITH, Andrew

Winger.- Penguin, 2014.

'This brutally honest coming-of-age novel from Smith unfolds through the eyes of Ryan Dean West, a 14-year-old, rugby-playing junior at the exclusive Pine Mountain school. He is two years younger than his classmates, hopelessly in love with his best friend Annie, and stuck in Opportunity Hall, the residence reserved for the worst rule-breakers. As Ryan Dean struggles with football-team bullies, late-night escapades, academic pressures, and girl troubles, he also discovers his own strengths. Like puberty itself, this tale is alternately hilarious and painful, awkward and enlightening; Bosma's occasional comics add another layer of whimsy and emotion, representing Ryan Dean's own artistic bent. The characters and situations are profane and crass, revelling in talk of bodily functions and sexual innuendo, and the story is a cross between the films *Lucas* and *Porky's*, with all the charm and gross-out moments that dichotomy suggests. That's what makes the tragedy near the very end all the more shocking and sudden, changing the entire mood and impact of Ryan Dean's journey. The last-minute twist may leave readers confused, angry, and heartbroken, but this remains an excellent, challenging read.' (*Publishers Weekly*)



JUVENILE NON-FICTION JEUGVAKLEKTUUR

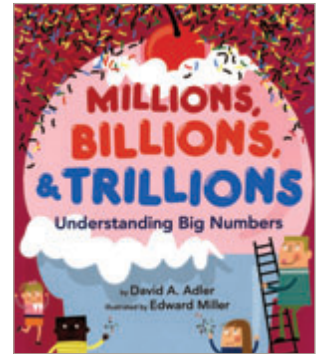
ADLER, David A.

Millions, billions, & trillions: understanding big numbers / illustrated by Edward Miller.- Holiday House, 2013.

'Adler does a wonderful job of helping school-age children

understand the concept that a million is a heck of a lot. He begins his explanations with things that children know. For example, he asks how many slices of pizza a million dollars would buy and tells readers they could acquire two entire pizzas every day for 68 years. Grounding their thinking in something they already know helps youngsters to understand the enormity of the number.

Similarly, he describes one billion in terms of how many hairs are on a typical human's head. One hundred thousand! If you gathered together ten thousand people you would have about one billion hairs. Miller's clean, clear digital graphics are lively and colourful, adding an extra bit of fun to the presentation. The book is perfectly suited to elementary students who are able to think conceptually, and their foundational knowledge of math will help them make the leaps they will need to take to understand millions, billions, and trillions.' (*School Library Journal*)

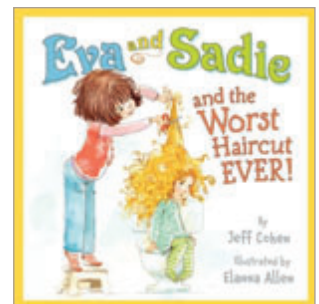


JUVENILE FICTION JEUGLEKTUUR

COHEN, Jeff and ALLEN, Elanna

Eva and Sadie and the worst haircut ever.- Harper, 2014.

'Sadie's little sister Eva has long curly blond tresses "down to her tush" (Sadie's own mop is short, straight, and brown). No braids or pigtails can tame Eva's hair, and it has never been cut before. Sadie decides to "help" by grabbing their mom's scissors and giving Eva a haircut, with predictably dreadful results. She tries to hide the evidence from their parents but eventually admits to the misdeed after Eva tells on her, promising not to do it again. Allen's playful pencil, watercolour, and digital illustrations perfectly capture the wildness of Eva's hair and the gentle humour of the story. Based on a real-life haircutting incident with Cohen's young daughters, this story will resonate with many young readers, though hopefully not inspire them to get into their own haircutting shenanigans.' (*School Library Journal*)



EB Erich Buchhaus

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



For health's sake ...

A healthy lifestyle requires an understanding of health risks

by Dalena le Roux

What is health? What does good health mean? It may be viewed in many contexts: historic and cultural, social and personal, scientific and philosophic. These meanings, sometimes contradictory and often overlapping, will always exist in the varied contexts of human experience and interaction.

The word *health* means different things to different people, depending on the situation. There is a plethora of definitions to describe this condition.

The English word 'health' comes from the Old English word *hale*, meaning wholeness, being whole, sound or well.

The most famous modern definition comes from the World Health Organisation, saying that '*Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*'

Whichever definition is accepted by health experts and practitioners, most agree that health can be divided into two broad aspects, namely physical and mental health.

- **Physical health**

For humans, physical health relates to anything concerning our bodies as physical entities. This means that one's personal lifestyle should include exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate rest. The following factors are also identified as determinants of a person's health status: smoking, diet, alcohol and/or drug use.

- **Mental health**

This refers to people's cognitive and emotional well-being. According to the World Health Organisation, mental health is '*a state of well-being in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.*'

Regardless of how the concept of health is seen, the fact remains that a healthy life and lifestyle, as well as health promotion, require a better understanding of risks and behaviour must always be uppermost in everybody's mind.



“Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live in”

— Jim Rohn



“The groundwork
of all happiness is
good health”

— Lee Hunt

“Good health and good
sense are two of life’s
greatest blessings”

— Publilius Syrus

To assist in this venture of health education, Central Collection (SN) has a healthy(!) choice of reading material, and extends the usual invitation to make use of the stock.

Books in SN

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Amakhamandela oncwadi lwabantsundu

Ingxoxo ngeendidi zoluncwadi abangabhaliyo abantsundu ngazo,
nguXolisa Tshongolo

Okupapashwayo ngeelwimi zabantsundu ziinovel, amabali amafutshane, imidlalo, imibongo, uncwadi lwemveli, kwakunye negcuntswana ke lezenkolo. Olu ke luncwadi olulungiselelwe ezemfundo ngokwasesikolweni. Ezinye iinkalo ebekunokubhalwa ngazo, njengoko kusenziwa zezinye iintlanga, zibethwa ngoyaba ngababhaleli babantsundu.

Zininzi izinto abathabatha inxaxheba kuzo abantsundu abangena luncwadi lwazo. Make ndibethe nje iintloko ke kwezi nto ndincwinayo ngazo. Uluntu oluntsundu luthatha inxaxheba kwezobuhle; izinto ezifana nokulungiswa kweenwele, iinzipho, ifashoni, nezinye ke. Asiboni nto ibhalwe ngeelwimi zabantsundu kwezi nkalo, abaxhamli-zinkonzo iinkcukacha zoku bazifumana ngesiNgesi.

Amabhinqa akukhulelwa kufuneka elandele imimeselo ethile ukukhathelwa oko akuphetheyo, njengoko ke kule mihla sele kumithwa isilungu. Iba lixesha elinguchiki kakhulu eli kubo. Baquqa kumaziko-mpilo ukuyoxilongisa imeko yabo, bakhutshelwe neencwadana ekufuneka bezifundile ukuqinisekisa ukhuseleko lwabo. Isimanga ke kukuba akukho nenye incwadi kwezipapashwe ngokusesikweni ngesiXhosa kwezo ncwadana nangona bekhona abantsundu abanobungcali kule nkalo.

Iintsana zikhuliswa ngemanyuwali kule mihla. Isikhokelo esi ke sichaza indlela ezityiswa ngayo, eziphathwa ngayo, yokubek' eswen' ukukhula kwazo, amaxa eethintela, njalo-njalo ke. Ezanamhlanje iintsana zanyiswa ngencwadi, noonina bayasengwa kugalelwe ezimbodloleni. Ezi manyuwali zingesiNgesi kuphela, asiziboni ndawo ezesiXhosa. Ingaba asinazo na ke thina iingcali zokukhulisa iintsana ngesi silungu kukhuliswa ngaso kule mihla ekhay' apha?

Lawa maqaba amandulo sisenawo nanamhla oku. Amadaka namaxonya nemimemezi zisekho nanamhla oku, zixutywe ngeendlela zale mihla. Oonontshongo banamhlanje ngabempucuko, abanculelwa xhegwazana. Obanamhlanje ubuhle buthengwa evenkileni bukhatshwa yincwadi. Azikho ke ezesiXhosa kwezo ncwadi.

Akusathonjiswa kule mihla. Nokuba kuthi kuthonjiswa akusenziwa oko kwakusenziwa mandulo — ukufundiswa kwentombi ubuntombi yakufikisa. Kule mihla ke sizixelelwa ngencwadi ne-intanethi izimbo zentombi efikisayo, nendlela emasiyiphathe ngayo isencwadini, ngokufanayo ke nenkwenkwe. Ukusebenza ngabafikisayo ngumsebenzi wobungcali kule mihla, kwaye unoncwadi lwako. Sikubhalelwa nini ke thina oku ngesiXhosa?

Kule mihla kuninzi okusenza sizibone sinomva-ndedwa,

de kudingeke ukuba sancedwe ngokuhlekiswa ngamarharha neentlekisi. Kwiimbombo zezitalato sidibana nabantu, ingakumbi abala mazwe asemantla e-Afrika, abathengisa iincwadana zokuhlekisa, ezi zinto kuthiwa zijowukhu. Siyazithenga ke ezo ncwadana, sihleke siqikileke ngomqolo thina mbinana ikwaziyo ukufunda isilungu nokuba asigqibelelanga na, ufa namthanyana ke yena ongazi siNgesi?

Mininzi ke imizekelo yeendidi zoluncwadi endinokuzekelisa ngazo esingenazo kokwethu apha. Akundisithelanga ke ukuba uninzi lwezi zinto besingadingi kuzifumana zibhalwe ncwadini kwimveli yethu, ibiyinto esikhula ngayo. Eso ke sesinye sezizathu ezibangela ukuba singanaki kuzibhala ezi zinto. Ilishwa ke kukuba abo bazibhalayo bayaphila bona ngazo, bephiliswa kwasithi aba endaweni yokuziphilisa thina ngokuthi sibhalelane. Yinto engenakuphikwa bani ukuba kule mihla asisenanto siyazi ngokwemveli, nesiyaziyo siyayiyeshela sixunele kuleyo siyixelelwa mntu wumbi. Abo ke bakhuthelele ukusixelela ezi zinto bayasicuntsulela ngokuthi bazizise kuthi ngeelwimi ezingezizo ezakumawethu. Kule mihla siwalusa ngencwadi amakhwenkwe, umzekelo ezoqeqesho lwamakhankatha neengcibi. Ezo ncwadi zolwaluso sisaziguqulela esiXhoseni nasesiSuthwini ke apha eNtshona Koloni, andazi ke kwezinye iindawo. Xa ndisithi ziyaguqulelwa ke oko kuthetha ukuba zibhalwa ngesiNgesi — ndaza ndakuva zwindini!

Ukwenjenje oku ke ndizama ukukhuthaza ukubhala kwethu kuzo zonke iindidi zoncwadi olukhoyo. Oku kuya kwandisa izinto zokufundwa ezibhalwe ngolwimi lwethu, kutsho kuzuze zonke iindidi zabafundi esinabo, hayi nje abo bezemfundo kuphela. Esinye sezizathu zokuba sibe nabantu abangakuthandiyo ukufunda kungenxa yokuba asibalungiseleli ngokupheleleyo abafundi bethu, silungiselela abezemfundo kuphela. Mazifumaneke ngeelwimi zethu iimagazini ezingokukhuliswa kwabantwana nezingezobuhle, sikhulule uluncwadi lwethu kula makhamandela lukuwo.

English synopsis

The article discusses and argues that African languages authors mainly write for the main stream (educational material) and neglect leisure. It suggests that having different kinds of reading material increase readership which is lacking in African languages. It therefore calls on African languages authors to start writing in these other genres that readers mainly choose for leisure.

Xolisa Tshongolo, Owenu kuluncwadi lwesiXhosa



Die essensie van 'n resensie

Resensielesers weet nie hoe ver die onderrok partykeer agter die skerms uithang nie deur Francois Bloemhof



en maniere. Jy kry maniere en slegte maniere. Jy kry slegte resensies en slegte resensente.

Hoe kleiner die mensie, hoe giftiger die resensie.

Daar is 'n opvatting dat almal 'n resensie kan skryf, nes party mense glo enigiemand kan dig. Jy vind mos net 'n paar foute — of dit waarvan jy nie hou nie en wat dus foute is — en wys só jy is slim. Is dit nie hoe dit werk nie?

My eerste boek is voorafgegaan met die *De Kat Prys* vir Beste Debuutroman. Die manuskripte is anoniem beoordeel, wat steeds na my mening die enigste geloofwaardige manier is om dit te doen. Toe dink ek: Sjoë, *Die nag het net een oog* is reeds voor publikasie bekroon, niemand sal dit nou kan kritiseer nie! O ja? Die eerste resensie se opskrif was *Lelike kalant klim uit die sand*

en die res was net afdraand. Al het ek die woord 'cliché' twee maal in die boek gebruik om duidelik te maak dat ek met konvensies werk, was die resensent gou om uit te wys dat daar clichés voorkom. Vir drie weke moes ek wag vir verdere resensies, oortuig dat my skryfloopbaan verby is. Toe is hulle almal goed.

Met my tweede boek, *Die duiwel se tuin*, het ek gemeen nou skryf ek mos beter, so ek kan nie weer 'n slegte eerste resensie kry nie. Die opskrif *Bloemhof se duiwel steek mis* het op die teendeel gedui. Redakteurs hou van treffende opskrifte, en

die beklemtoning van negatiewe aspekte is mos treffend. Weer moes ek drie weke wag vir verdere resensies: goeies.

Later sou ek hoor dié resensent het enkele weke vantevore bekeer geraak. G'n wonder hy het my daarvan beskuldig dat ek nou die bouse melk nie — asof iemand ooit vir Dalene Matthee sou gesê het sy melk nou die Bos. Later sou ek by 'n egpaar hoor dat daardie man vir hulle *Die duiwel se tuin* as 'n lekker leeservaring aanbeveel het.

Ek resenseer deesdae selde boeke. Ek het al met te veel redakteurs saamgewerk en ken hulle te goed. Ek léés ook al hoe minder resensies. Omdat ek weet hoeveel moeite daar in 'n boek ingaan is dit nie

Daar is 'n opvatting dat almal 'n resensie kan skryf, nes party mense glo enigiemand kan dig

plesierig om te sien hoe party skrywers se werk verskeur word nie. 'n Sekere soort mens, en dus ook 'n sekere soort resensent, is mos trots daarop dat hy geen filter het nie. Met die soort venyn wat jy eerder op kômmin sosiale forums verwag, trek hulle los. Hierdie resensie sal onthou word!

Ek dink soms terug aan hoe daar met *Les misérables* se opening in Londen nie 'n enkele goeie resensie was nie. Ook toe dit hier opgevoer is, het niemand minder nie as die destydse hoof (ja, die hoof!) van 'n toonaangewende dagblad se

S krywers swyg gewoonlik oor swak resensies, net soos jy nie vir almal van die rotteplaag in jou huis vertel nie. Ek skryf vandag hier namens almal wat al deurgeloopt het — maar sal my medeskrywers enige verleentheid spaar deur slegs te verwys na happe en houe wat ek self gekry het. Hoewel ek sekerlik nie die ergste resensies nog in Afrikaans ingeoes het nie, meen ek dat ek hoog op die lysie is wat onregverdiges betref.

Laat ek dit duidelik maak: ek het niks teen resensente in die algemeen nie. Hulle is nodig, natuurlik. Maar jy kry maniere

kunsredaksie die 'feit' betreur dat daar nie een onthoubare wysie is nie. Dit sal dan nou liedjies soos *I dreamed a dream*, *Do you hear the people sing*, *Master of the house* en *Bring him home* wees, jy weet, daardie wysies wat almal behalwe hy kon hoor en onthou. En hy mog dink almal buiten hy is die gepeupel, maar dit was sy taak om hul smaak in ag te neem.

Ek het in 'n stadium vir *Die Burger* rolprente geresenseer, twee per week. Toe ek later ander resensente se menings lees, kon ek soms nie glo hulle het saam met my na dieselfde fliëk sit en kyk nie.

Soveel mense, soveel menings. Gaan loer gerus op www.imdb.com hoeveel persone daar is wat, byvoorbeeld, glo *Citizen Kane* of *Titanic* of *Gone with the wind* is die swakste rolprent wat nog gemaak is. Die vraag is, hoe moet jy weet wie se mening jy op so 'n webruimte kan vertrou? Natuurlik dié by wie daar meer blyke van redenasie- en uitdrukkingsvermoë is as van 'n getier en gekyf. Net so met boekresensies. Is die persoon die amp van resensent waardig, of bloot 'n gifdwerגיע? (Die goue reël nou weer? Hoe kleiner die mensie, hoe giftiger die resensie.)

Heelparty resensente kraak nie 'n boek af sonder om hulself te diskrediteer nie. Dit het al gebeur dat iemand 'n volwasse roman van my negatief resenseer, net om twee maande later in dieselfde koerant 'n jeugroman van my óók af te kraak. Dan dink ek: Jou arme siel, jy moes daardie geld (of die geleentheid om jou naam in druk te sien) baie nodig gehad het om twee maal my werk te moet opneem ... maar dink jy rêrig nie ek het 'n vars kans by iemand anders verdien nie?

Of wat van die resensent wat gekla het oor die styl waarin my boek geskryf is — sonder om 'n enkele voorbeeld aan te haal? Leer resensente nie dat jy geen wilde stellings moet maak sonder om dit te illustreer nie? Sou die persoon dalk ook nie weet dat sommige skrywers juis gewild is vanweë hul unieke styl nie? Self mik ek vir 'n toeganklike styl: nooit 'ineens' as jy 'skielik' kan gebruik nie; nooit 'flussies' eerder as 'so pas' nie; en as 'n sin onnodig uitgesponne raak, moet dit dalk twee of meer sinne wees. Voor die afskietery begin het, het die resensent eers moeite gedoen om my prestasies te lys, want hoe meer jy opgebou word, hoe verder kan jy val, reg? Die smalende uitdrukking was egter reeds sigbaar op die kol waar sy hoë suurvlakke 'n stuk van die vriendelike masker weggevreet het, toe daar na my as 'n 'beminde skrywer' verwys is — nie 'geliefde skrywer', wat sonder so 'n sarkastiese angel sou wees nie.

Resensielesers weet nie hoe ver die onderrok partykeer agter die skerms uithang nie. Self het ek, byvoorbeeld, eers later gehoor bogenoemde resensent het 'n navraag aan die reklamebeampte gestuur oor die uitgewers se volgende uitspraak voor in die boek: 'Francois Bloemhof is die enigste skrywer ter wêreld wat so uitgebreid en suksesvol vir die volwasse, tiener- én jeugmarkte skryf.' Hy wou weet: 'Kan dit waar wees? Wat dan van JK Rowling?' So asof JK Rowling, wie se **Harry Potter**-boeke wel deur verskillende ouderdomsgroepe gelees mag word, al ooit in haar lewe 'n klomp afsonderlike boeke vir verskillende ouderdomme



The Reader Crowned with Flowers deur Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot

Die vraag is, hoe moet jy weet wie se mening jy op so 'n webruimte kan vertrou? Natuurlik dié by wie daar meer blyke van redenasie- en uitdrukkingsvermoë is as van 'n getier en gekyf. Net so met boekresensies. Is die persoon die amp van resensent waardig, of bloot 'n gifdwerגיע?

geskryf het! Dan sien jy hoe die resesent gesóék het na 'n lat om jou mee te slaan; iets buite die inhoud. Maar die reklamebeampte was met kraamverlof en hy het geen antwoord gekry nie.

Toe vind hy maar 'n ánder lat buite inhoudsverband: Met geveinsde onskuld en verwondering vra hy wie dan nou vir so 'n swak voorblad verantwoordelik kon gewees het, en hoe het dit by die uitgewers verbygekom? Terwyl daar voorin die boek duidelik staan dat ék daarvoor verantwoordelik was. Selfs die domste leser wat daaroor wonder, weet om die antwoord daar te gaan kry.

Dit is 'n stukkie werk wat 'n mens maar net hoop hy later nie as een van sy eerbaarste sal onthou nie. Sies!

Kritiek bly iets wat 'n mens ernstig moet opneem — opbouende, weldeurdagte kritiek. Skrywers is mense en ons maak foute; in elke boek maak ons nuwes, veral as ons kansse waag. Dis hoe jy groei. Hoe kan ek in keurverslae vir skrywers raad gee as ék nie oop is vir kritiek nie? Maar ek doen dit ordentlik. Ek het 'n filter.

'n Resesent moet homself ook altyd kan afvra: Wat wou die skrywer hier doen? En as ek nie die ideale leser is nie, kan ek so probeer dink? Om iets in 'n boek te soek wat die skrywer nooit wou insit nie en dit dan nie te vind nie, is nie gelykstaande aan insig nie.

Dit is wel met deernis dat jy van party resesente se swak omstandighede en persoonlike verhoudings te hore kom. Jy weet van sommiges se kondisies, waarmee jy meer simpatie sou hê as dit nie was dat die medikasie wat so geredelik daarvoor beskikbaar is nie gebruik word nie. Jy verneem van die bestudeerde wêreldmoegheid en irritasie met gewaande minderes, en besef dat hulle hul ook maar net wil laat geld in hierdie ou wêreld waar daar so min geleenthede daartoe is. Maar is dit verkeerd om te wens dat hulle eerder hul frustrasies op die bure se keffende brak wou uithaal?

Niemand beweer dat slegte resesente almal lae IK's het nie. Hulle kan naïewe lesers van resensies dan soms laat glo dat hul neerbuigende snedigheid eintlik 'n simpatieke vasvat is. Wat egter veel skaarser by hulle voorkom, is emosionele intelligensie.

Neem dan nou die meisie wat aan die begin van haar resensie van een van my boeke verklaar dat sy selde rillers lees. Arme ding, ook hier hoop ek die geld en plasing van haar naam by die stuk het gekompenseer vir haar moeite. Maar sou ek mý aanmatig om, byvoorbeeld, 'n boek oor ballet of kookkuns te resenseer? Sy gaan ondanks haar gebrek aan ervaring vol bravade voort om my boek te toets aan reëls wat sy nie ken nie. Dit kom ook skynbaar nie by haar op om te oorweeg dat daar dalk 'n verskil tussen 'n riller en 'n sielkundige riller kan wees nie. Van 'n terloopse leser verwag 'n mens dit nie, maar van iemand wat die geleentheid kry om haar vir 'n resesent uit te gee?

Met die oormoed van iemand wat 'n beskermde posisie geniet, snou die meisie my toe dat ek 'selfvoldane verbale masturbasie' pleeg. (Ek jok nie vir julle nie.) Ek sit die growwe belediging so en kyk en dink ek is bly ek is nie meer 'n boekebladredakteur, sodat ek haar moes laat weet 'n resesent behoort darem beter maniere as dit te hê nie. Die dame sit en blom seker nou nog omdat sy daarmee weggekome het. Selfvoldaan.

Jy kry eerlike kritiek en jy kry *demolition jobs*. Jy kry goed beredeneerde argumente, met voorbeelde en respek vir die reëls van die resepsie-estetika, en jy kry mense wat spoeg op subtiliteit.

En wat van die ou wat sy resensie begin met die spog-verklaring dat hy nie baie Afrikaanse boeke lees nie, want hy verwag sekere gebreke daarin? En kwalik verrassend vind hy dan ook daardie gebreke in my Afrikaanse boek. Ek het hiero nog net die inhoud van sy resensie en het sy naam en van vergeet, maar kan onthou dit is so Afrikaans soos boerbeskuit — hy dra waarskynlik swaar daaraan. Die respek vir sy taak demonstreer hy reeds wanneer hy op jolige, studentikose wyse vroeg in die resensie met 'n 'Hi, Jo!' die boekebladredakteur groet wat hom dan nou so voorsien van die enigste Afrikaanse boeke wat hy lees, vir resensiedoeleindes. (Ek maak nie hierdie goed op nie, ek sweer.)

Vroeg in sy resensie merk die ou op daar word voor in die boek 'groot gewag gemaak deur die helpmekaarspan van ander Afrikaanse skrywers van Francois Bloemhof se vermoë om te boei en te ril. Siniese lofbetuiging, in my opinie.' Hy skiet dus nie slegs my poging af nie, maar maak sonder skaamte 'n klomp mense verdag, insluitend Deon Meyer, Helene de Kock, Fanie Viljoen, Leon van Nierop, Koos Kombuis en Riana Scheepers. Met ander woorde, sý mening oor my skryfwerk het meriete, maar sodra sulke gerespekteerde, etiese mense met gesonde oordeelsvermoë van hom verskil, is hulle almal sinies en moet hulle die een of ander onderduimse motief hê.

Maar die kroon op hierdie resesent se handelswyse? Dat hy uit 'n ánder bitsige resensie aanhaal in sý bitsige resensie. (Ek jok nie.) Buiten die direkte aanhaling stem ook hul hoofpunte ooreen. Hoe regverdig, eties en selfdenkend is dit as jy in 'n kritiese beskouing van 'n werk steun op jou vriend-en-held se uitsprake daaroor? Mees tekenend van sy aanslag is egter sy afsluiting: dat my boek 'net 'n siniese poging is om 'n baie spesifieke mark te ontgin — ouerige Afrikaanse tannies (Hi, Ma!). Sjarment, nè? Let ook op na die herbeklemtoning van sy renons in eie taal en kultuur. En 'tannies', julle is welkom in my leeskring, hoor. Ek voel bevoorreg om persone van enige geslag en ouderdom onder my lesers te kan tel.

Van die venynigste onder die vryskutresesente is persone wat nie self kon publiseer nie, of eenmalig. Vir sommiges is dit 'n uitlaatklep. Dat hul publikasiemoontlikhede nou daartoe beperk is om skrywers se werk af te kam, is 'n tragedie waaroor selfs Osama bin Laden sou geween het.

'n Groot ironie? Dat 'n mens later net die kleimafstekende katterigheid onthou. Nie eens die gifdwergies se name nie. Maar die ironie der ironieë? Dat, in hul ongeskakeerde aanval op 'n boek, hulle so 'n gebrekkige stukkie skryfwerk gepleeg het.

Francois Bloemhof skryf uitgebreid en suksesvol vir die volwasse, tiener- én jeugmarkte. Hy is meermalig in elke kategorie bekroon. Hy is ook bekend vir sy verhoog- en radiotekste en sy eerste rolprentdraaiboeke word vanjaar verfilm.



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J 621.36 ROO Rooney, Anne. Optical engineering and the science of light.- Crabtree, 2014.

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J 636 SMI Smith, Miranda. My eerste boek oor plaasdiere.- Phambili, 2013.

J 641.5123 MIL Milton, Jon. Do try this at home — Cook it!.- Macmillan, 2013.

J 641.631 THI Thirion, Josh. Bak met Josh.- Struik Lifestyle, 2014.

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