

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

**BASSETT, Richard**  
**Hitler's spy chief: the Wilhelm Canaris**  
**mystery.**- Weidenfeld, 2005.

Regarded by the Russians as 'the most dangerous intelligence man in the world', Admiral Wilhelm Canaris was appointed as head of Abwehr (German secret service) by Hitler himself shortly after the Nazis came to power:

Yet it would seem that from 1938 onwards, this same man, regarded as Hitler's chief spy, was out to sabotage the German war effort, and would later be linked to plots to assassinate Hitler.

Based on original research from both British and German archives, the author reveals the disillusionment of Canaris with Hitler and how he sabotaged the German war machine from within.

Reinhard Heydrich of the SS Intelligence Service had his suspicions, but would be assassinated by the British before he could close in on Canaris. This, however, would not prevent SS chief Himmler from closing in on Canaris a few weeks before the end of the war and seeing to his execution.

A fascinating tale of espionage and intrigue linked to the German high command that allows for a gripping and entertaining read.

EB

**DE KLERK, Christo**  
**Gelukkig op my eie: daar is lewe na egskeding.**  
- Lapa Uitg., 2004.

In **Gelukkig op my eie** wys Christo de Klerk dat daar wel lig aan die einde van die tunnel is vir vroue wat egskeding beleef het. Volgens hom kan dit vir die verontregte, mishandelde vrou, vasgevang in 'n patriargale huwelik, die begin wees van 'n hoër kwaliteit van lewe. De Klerk, 'n teoloog, lei in hierdie titel die vrou deur die proses van egskeding - deur die gevoel van algehele verlies tot die uiteindelijke herstel en heropbou van haar sosiale identiteit. Vroue kan ook baat vind by sy praktiese raad oor die aanleer van vaardighede, finansies en die regsproses met betrekking tot egskeding. Die outeur handhaaf 'n sterk Christelike inslag deur 'n verduideliking van Bybelse en Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) standpunte oor egskeding. 'n Insiggewende gids vir vroue wat deur die trauma van egskeding gaan, asook hul familie en terapeute wat die krisis saam met hulle beleef.

EMW

**FERGUSON, Harry**  
**Spy: a handbook.**- Bloomsbury, 2004.

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

television series showed how a selected group of participants underwent the sort of training given to real-life spies, with the trainers (including author Harry Ferguson) being former intelligence officers. The book tells us something about the television contestants and how they fared, but it also explores spycraft itself. It explains what it is like to be a spy and what spies actually do and describes the skills they need and how they acquire them, with real-life examples. Fans of espionage fiction and others will find this fascinating.

MJI

**FRIEDA, Leonie**  
**Catherine de Medici.**- Weidenfeld, 2004.

An engaging and informative study of the French queen, Catherine de Medici, a notorious character associated with one of the most horrendous political crimes in history - the infamous Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day on 24 August, 1572.

Here the author provides an interesting insight into Catherine's early life. Brought up in Florence and orphaned at infancy, the young Catherine was betrothed to Henry, son of King Francis of France at the age of fourteen. Even as a married woman, life was not easy for her at the French court, as Henry preferred his mistress, Diana de Poitiers.

Widowed at an early age, Catherine was faced with maintaining the crown and the inheritance of her children. Everything she did was in her sons' interests. The author now attempts to set history straight by giving this remarkable woman full justice, revealing an efficient political strategist and ruthless conspirator who nevertheless ruled France efficiently for her corrupt and sickly children. Refreshingly and sympathetically told, the author manages to weave her way through a confusing period of French history.

EB

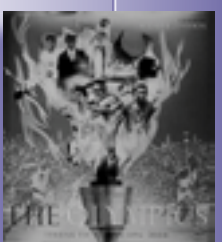
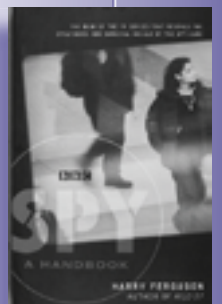
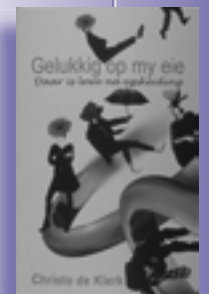
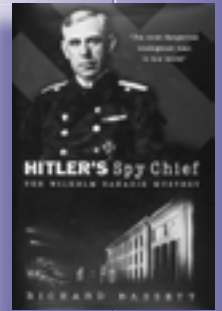
**The Olympics: Athens to Athens 1896-2004.**- Weidenfeld, 2004.

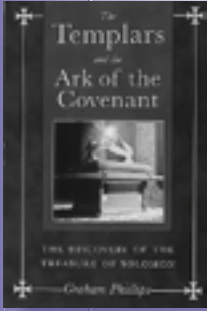
A lavishly-illustrated title commemorating a century of the Olympic Games compiled by the Olympic Museum in Lausanne in partnership with the International Olympic Committee and the French sport paper, **L'Equipe**. It features over six hundred photographs of all 24 Olympiads, many of which were previously unpublished.

Very visual in content, it certainly captures the excitement and fun of the events portrayed, conveying a sense of enjoyment for armchair enthusiasts of this major international sporting event.

A comprehensive treatment of Olympic Games history much like the Dorling Kindersley titles.

EB





**PHILLIPS, Graham**  
**The Templars and the Ark of the Covenant: the discovery of the treasure of Solomon.-** Bear, 2004.

The mystery surrounding the fabled Ark of the Covenant has raised much speculation and interest over hundreds of years, resulting in a host of stories.

In the most recent title on this ancient mystery, the author bases his findings on the discovery that 13th century Templars found the Ark and the accompanying breastplate containing 12 sacred gemstones in the ancient city of Petra.

A group of Templars fled to England with these treasures to escape the persecution of the French king, Philip the Fair. Hidden at various locations, the Templars left clues found in church paintings, inscriptions and stained glass windows.

In this fascinating account the author looks at biblical references to the Ark, the history of the Hebrews, the area associated with the Ark's speculated hiding place at a sacred site of the Edomites long before the city of Petra existed, and also investigates the findings of an amateur Victorian archaeologist.

All this allows for some entertaining and thought-provoking reading which seems quite authentic.

EB

**SALEEM, Hiner**  
**My father's rifle: a childhood in Kurdistan.-** Atlantic Bks., 2005.

This slim boyhood memoir tells what it was like to be a Kurd in Iraq during the sixties and seventies. Saleem describes growing up in a Kurdish community in Baghdad and later fleeing to the north to be part of the Kurds' resistance. The family eventually move into a refugee camp in Iran, returning to Iraq when Saddam Hussein promises them a better life. This fails to materialise and back in Baghdad the Kurds are discriminated against, forced to be taught in Arabic and subjected to continuous harassment. Saleem sees his first films and becomes passionate about film. Eventually Baath Party cruelty makes life unbearable, and Saleem describes his flight from Iraq to France, where he is now a film-maker. This is a riveting read which illuminates the Kurdish struggle in a very readable way.

DH

**SHIACH, Don**  
**The movies: a complete guide to the directors, stars, studios and movie genres.-** Lorenz Bks., c2003.

A wonderful overview of cinema history providing insight into the works of important directors, the major studios, the stars and the movie world in general. This extremely entertaining title is profusely

illustrated with stills and posters of various movies as well as publicity shots of the actors. All in all, this is both informative and entertaining, providing an interesting browse for readers interested in the cinema and for those wishing to gain a better knowledge of cinema history.

EB

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

**BEAUMAN, Sally**  
**The landscape of love.-** Little, Brown, 2005.

This seventh novel from the author is a love story set in rural Suffolk. It is about the three Mortland sisters. Set during the summer of 1967, the first narrator is thirteen-year-old Maisie. She is deformed and sees and communicates with ghosts. Her sisters, teenage Finn and beautiful Julia, in her twenties, are present at a family gathering. Their friends, Daniel and Nick, are also present and Lucas, an artist, is painting a portrait of the sisters. The second part of the book is set in the eighties. Nick and Julia are married and Daniel, now a Cambridge graduate working in advertising is rethinking about that summer. This is a gripping and suspenseful read.

DH

**FIORE, Rosie**  
**This year's black.-** Oshun, 2004.

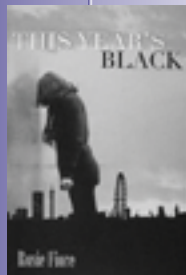
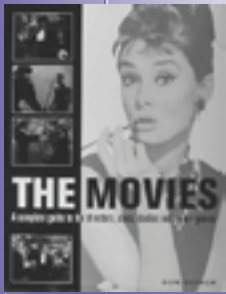
South African Ronel Morgan is living in London, having left a prestigious job in South Africa. She also tried to leave behind various family and personal problems, but now she finds herself unemployed and broke. The story of how Ronel contrives to rebuild her life and face up to her problems is at times wryly funny, at times touching, and mostly very readable. This locally-published first novel is definitely a cut above standard chick-lit fare. It is skilfully written and makes an entertaining lighter middlebrow read.

MJI

**FUENTES, Leonardo Padura**  
**Adiós Hemingway.-** Canongate, 2005.

Translated from the Spanish, this is another of the acclaimed Cuban writer's detective novels, featuring Inspector Mario Conde. Now retired, Conde is brought out of retirement to investigate a body found in the garden of Hemingway's Cuban estate, Finca Vigia. The narrative shifts between Conde's investigations and the events in 1958, forty years before. The body in the garden is that of an FBI agent. Written with an underlying humour, this is

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a suspenseful thriller; with interesting information, perhaps not so well known, about Hemingway.

DH

**KOWALSKI, William**

**The good neighbour.**- Doubleday, 2004.

This latest offering from William Kowalski proves to be every bit as fascinating as his previous efforts, **Eddie's bastard** and **The adventures of Flash Jackson**. **The good neighbour** is essentially two stories. The first observes the purchase of an old house by a New York stockbroker, Coltrane Hart, as a final bid to save his marriage to his manic depressive wife, Francie. The second chronicles the history of the house and the civil war family who inhabited it.

Returning to New York for business and even just to get away, Coltrane leaves Francie behind. Francie does not mind as she is totally in love with her new dream house, discovering new things about it and its previous owners. Even the mysterious neighbours whom she befriends are related to the original owners from the Civil War:

But when husband Colt decides to destroy the abandoned cemetery in the back garden, all hell, literally, breaks loose.

**The good neighbour** offers a blend of gothic Americana and modern familial relationships. Difficult to put down and not easy to forget, this new work can be regarded as an extra feather in the author's cap.

EB

**MALLADI, Amulya**

**Serving crazy with curry.**- Piatkus, 2004.

When Devi, a young Indian woman, decides to slash her wrists in her bathtub, she thought that it would be the end of the road for her. Fate however, intervenes, and a bloodstained Devi is discovered by her mother Saroj, who uses her spare key to check up on Devi's household. Miraculously Devi lives, having to face her devastated family. After being released from hospital, Devi becomes a mute, and finds solace in her mother's kitchen, cooking exotic dishes for her family. As time goes on, Devi is forced to face her pain: the same pain that caused her to commit such a horrific act. An engrossing tale of a young woman's loss, a devastated family, and the ultimate betrayal.

EMW

**The Mammoth book of vampires / edited by Stephen Jones.**- Robinson, 2004.

This book offers an interesting anthology of stories by various authors featuring the best of vampire fiction in the *Mammoth* series.

Authors featured include Ramsey Campbell, Clive Barker, Neil Gaiman, together with a host of others.

Included are a few previously-unpublished stories as well as a selection of classic novellas. Each story opens with a brief biography of the author and information associated with the story itself.

Geared for readers who enjoy the genre, this is ideal escapist reading fare for those solitary, cold winter nights.

EB

**MANFREDI, Valerio Massimo**

**Tyrant.**- Macmillan, 2004.

The story opens up in the year 412 BC when the Greek city-states of Sicily are under threat from invading Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal. After witnessing the massacre and destruction of Selinius, a nearby Greek city, Dionysius, a brave and popular Greek officer from the city of Syracuse, decides to unite the Greek city-states into a powerful force to eradicate the Carthaginian presence from the island. In the difficult quest of achieving absolute political power, Dionysius has to sacrifice loved ones and friends into eventually becoming the much-feared ruler of Syracuse. During his rule, he would make Syracuse into a powerful Greek city-state, build up the largest army, and be regarded as a ruthless and egocentric despot. Yet all this is done to secure and protect Greek interests in Sicily. Based on historical fact, the author of such best-selling novels as **Spartan** and **The last legion** delivers a well-written and gripping epic novel set in the ancient world.

EB

**MUNRO, Alice**

**Runaway: stories.**- Chatto, 2005.

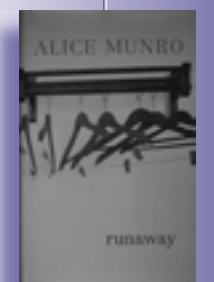
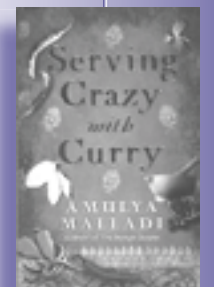
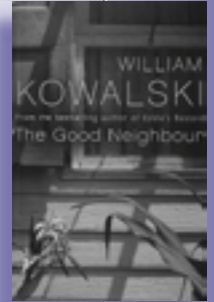
A collection of eight short stories from this Canadian writer and master of the short story form. In **Runaway** Carla and her husband run stables outside a small town. To make ends meet she does a housekeeping job for a neighbour. She is very unhappy at home and her employer helps her to leave her husband. Three of the stories follow a schoolteacher at different stages of her life. Another is about a brief encounter of a nurse on a day trip. An appealing collection with perceptive writing and unexpected twists, which will not disappoint her fans.

DH

**SEVERIN, Tim**

**Viking: Odinn's child.**- Macmillan, 2005.

From best-selling author of award-winning historical travel titles such as **The Brendan voyage**, **In search of Genghis Khan** and many other, comes this first instalment in a trilogy set during Viking times. The story opens in the year 1001 when toddler Thorgils Leifsson is born, spawn of an ageing Irish-Norse noblewoman gifted with second sight and a dashing young Viking, Leif the Lucky. Orphaned from





a young age, Thorgils is raised by various mentors in Greenland, who teach him the ancient ways and inform him of the invasion of the 'White Christ'. Thorgils, as he gets older, finds that he is beset by a restless quest for adventure that takes him to places across the sea. He witnesses the disastrous expedition to Vinland (in America), a political feud between two powerful families in Iceland, and is taken prisoner in battle in Ireland to be later sold as a slave. This appears to be a promising beginning to a new historical series by an acclaimed author who utilises his background knowledge of historical travel adventures in a convincing and realistic vision.

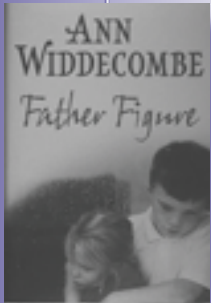
EB

**WIDDECOMBE, Ann**

**Father figure.**- Weidenfeld, 2005.

Thirty-two-year-old teacher Jason Kirk thinks of himself as a happily married man, and he's devoted to his two young children, Jake and Leah. He's devastated when his wife Kat suddenly leaves him, taking the children with her. Kat has no real grounds for complaint against Jason - she simply leaves because she's bored - but she wants what she calls a clean break and she becomes increasingly hostile when Jason insists on seeing Jake and Leah. Over the years, through formal separation, divorce, changes of home and job, and even remarriage, Jason must plead and fight for any chance to see his children while Kat uses every manipulative trick to deny him access and make life difficult for him. Yet the law and society at large seem to be on Kat's side. This provides a vivid depiction of the complexities of parent-child relationships following divorce and a thought-provoking look at the position of fathers in modern society, at least in the United Kingdom. A very readable middlebrow novel.

MJI



● ● ● **YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION**  
**TIENERVAKLEKTUUR**

**VAN RENSBURG, Ewald**

**Aanvaar God my net soos ek is? en ander 101 real vrae wat tieners vra.**- CUM, 2004.

In **Aanvaar God my net soos ek is? en ander 101 real vrae wat tieners vra** takel Ewald van Rensburg kwessies wat jong mense na aan die hart lê. Hy spreek, onder meer, die volgende temas aan: die tiener se verhouding met sy ouers en sy familie, sy vriendskappe en verhoudings, selfbeeld, etiese en morele vraagstukke, sy lewenswyse, asook aspekte rondom godsdiens en geloof. Elke hoofstuk word



aangebied in 'n vraag en antwoord formaat, tesame met gedagterigtings en teksverse vir oordenking. 'n Ideale titel vir jong Christelike lesers wat op soek is na 'n dieper geloofslewe.

EMW

● ● ● **JUVENILE FICTION**  
**JEUGLEKTUUR**

**BUTTERWORTH, Nick**

**The whisperer.**- HarperCollins, 2004.

A picture book that offers a feline variant on the Romeo and Juliet theme, but one with a happy ending. Two family gangs of cats, one lot ginger, the other black and white, live in an urban scarpyard and are always fighting each other. This is a most satisfactory state of affairs for the narrator, a rat who encourages the conflict by whispering campaigns, because while the cats are busy fighting, they leave the rats alone. However, black and white cat Monty and ginger cat Amber fall in love. They are banished, but when they later return with their kittens, things are set to change. Butterworth's lively, comic colour illustrations are entertaining. This is an appealing book, but the tough urban background, the cynical narrator and the touches of humour ensure that it doesn't become soppy and sentimental.

MJI

**DOYLE, Malachy**

**The dancing tiger.**- Schuster, 2005.

This charming picture book is about a small girl's secret friend. At night she goes into the woods to meet the dancing tiger. Together, they have fun dancing under the full moon, expressing exuberant love of life. In old age she passes the tiger on to her great-grandchild. Beautifully illustrated in wonderful night colours the text is in the form of a long rhyming poem.

DH

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

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EB	Erich Buchhaus
SG	Sabrina Gosling
DH	Denise Harris
MJI	Margaret Iskandar
EMW	Ethney Waters

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