



On books and writers

Several good books by South African writers have been published this year. For every good book two mediocre books were also published and three really rotten ones for the mediocre ones.

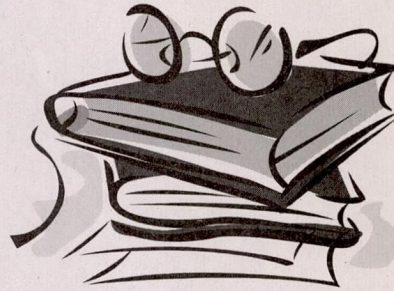
This remains my opinion, but if you were to read some of the stuff being peddled to you as reading material which were supposedly researched you cannot but agree with me. A client said to me the other day that she does not read anything by South Africans as it is mostly badly researched and of course badly written. I do not agree with this sentiment. Many of our writers write excellent books, especially fiction. Biographies of course are another matter and here I have to mostly agree.

Poor language skills, terrible proofreading and thumb-suck facts are in the order of the day. Biographers spend three days on the subject and then write a three or 400 page book on the subject. You can be sure that most of what was written in the book is bull-dust, unless the biographer is a clairvoyant, which I don't believe. If the facts are to be believed, the motion picture, *"The Iron Lady"* were based on Maggie Thatcher's biography and most of her political activities were widely known, but even here a lot of license were applied to make the picture and the book believable!

Wessel Ebersohn, in my opinion, is most probably the best crime fiction writer to have published books in our country, about our country and communities to have written books here for the past 15 years. His latest book, *"The Prisoner of C-Max"* recently arrived on the shelves and is excellent reading material. Ebersohn once again use his two main characters, the psychologist Yudel Gordon, a Jew and Abigail Bukula a lawyer as his unlikely heroes, but the story is very believable.

David Baldacci fans will also be glad to see his latest book *"The Forgotten"* is also available now and this book once again proves his supremacy when it comes to spy/crime thrillers. Nearly better than any of his previous books and definitely making the top five list of reads so far this year. A relatively unknown writer to some, Ben Elton's new book *"Two Brothers"* are also available to readers. I have been fortunate to have read two of his previous works, but this book surpasses everything he has previously written and in my opinion is the top book to have hit the shelves this year.

Several real life dramas' have also been published and are on sale now, including



Jenna Miscavige Hill's *"Beyond Believe My Secret Life inside Scientology and my Harrowing Escape"*. This book is in fact important to read if you need to know a bit more about what people such as John Travolta and Tom Cruise believes in. In fact I do believe that Travolta is the founding member, or at least one of the founding members of this cult.

Hill's book is not a book for the faint-hearted; in fact you should really brace your shoulders when you read it, for the manipulation and psychological damage these people visit on their family's border on unbelievable.

Several books for women whom love drama and a more loving look at life were also recently printed. Jo-Anne Richards second book *"The Child Minder"* are also available now. This young South African writer had a huge success with her first book *"The Innocence of Roast Chicken"* but I do believe this book is better and she should and will develop into a great international star.

Enjoy your books.

~Piet Adendorff, *The Night Owl*.