THE READER ON THE 6.27
by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent, Pan Macmillan, R313
Guylain Vignolles is a downcast guy who hates his job pulping books. His only pleasure is reading rescued pages aloud to the commuters on the 6.27 train. One day, he starts reading the diary of a young woman and finds himself falling in love with her. This is a beautiful and heartfelt story about downtrodden people becoming everyday heroes. This novel is filled with humour, interesting characters and exquisite writing.
Rating: 3.5/5 – Percy Matshoba

DEATH IN THE RAINY SEASON
by Anna Jaquiery, Pan Macmillan, R424
Commandant Serge Morel is asked to investigate a murder in Cambodia, and the investigation with which he is presented is more challenging than he expects. In his search for the killer, he interrogates the victim’s family and friends, and uncovers an unexpected twist. This mystery will keep you in suspense until the end. Fans of literary crime fiction will love it.
Rating: 4/5 – Noluthando Mwutha

Before You Get Married by SIYA NGCANGCA should answer all your questions about the run-up to the big day.

It took me seven years to finish this book. I interviewed married and unmarried couples, as well as people who are in interesting relationships. Through my book I’ve learnt that talking about sex, which is usually a taboo in the black community, is okay. The book is divided into two sections – before and after marriage. It also has advice for avoiding divorce. My favourite line from the book is, “If you want sweet fruit out of your relationship, you must work. Peaches only come once a year, so you need to look after that tree.” If I could save only two books in a fire, I’d take Linda Yende’s Wakeup Woman, and The Truth Not Lived: The Path to a Purposeful Life by Kagiso Sithole.
To order a copy, email orders@be4yougetmarried.com.

NINA REVISITED...
A TRIBUTE TO NINA SIMONE (SONY MUSIC)
With artists such as Gregory Porter, Lalah Hathaway and Lauryn Hill, to name a few, I knew this was going to be an amazing album. Lauryn’s six songs, including Little Girl Blue and Feeling Good, in particular, took me on a musical journey. The album is a beautiful musical experience.
Rating: 5/5 – Mahlape Koko

LEON BRIDGES
COMING HOME (COLUMBIA)
Leon Bridges is just 26, yet his sound is soulful and reminiscent of the 1960s. My favourite song on the album, Lisa Sawyer, catapulted Bridges to stardom. After releasing it on SoundCloud, he got more than 800 000 listens and attracted more than 40 record labels. Keep him on your radar.
Rating: 4/5 – Zamahlasela Gabela

MIZA
TWELVE (SME AFRICA)
This compilation has Miza’s hottest singles from last year and then some. My favourites are Trust featuring Kabomo, and Vumani featuring Sbu Nkomo. The sound is proudly South African, with house and R&B flavours that show why he’s one the country’s best DJs.
Rating: 3.5/5 – Zamahlasela Gabela

MIGUEL
WILDEARTH
When we saw the hot Instagram posts about Miguel’s third album, Wildheart, we couldn’t wait to hear it. He’s moved away from the typical R&B sound and gone on a musical journey that’s raw, sensual and very sexy. My favourite tracks are Simple Things and Coffee. If you’re a fan, this album won’t disappoint!
Rating: 4/5 – Lucinda Human

MUSIC

MUST read

THE NEW ENTREPRENEUR
by Shirley Anthony, Black Card Books, R299
The ultimate step-by-step guide for new business owners and those thinking of taking the leap. Shirley guides the reader through what it takes to create a venture worth something. Shirley has a wealth of experience and numerous valuable insights from more than 20 years of running a successful marketing consultancy. ‘The priceless advice from many of South Africa’s most successful entrepreneurs makes this book a winner.
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