

## WW | reading room



### Sisters gorgeous

*THE VOLUPTUOUS DELIGHTS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND JAM* BY LAUREN LIEBENBERG, LITTLE, BROWN, \$29.99.

A vivid and powerful drama about a white family and their life on a beautiful farm in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the late 1970s. There are two adorable sisters growing up under the watchful eye of an eccentric grandfather and influences that include paganism, Catholicism and The Brothers Grimm. Gnawing away at the fabric of their lives is change in the form of a visitor and the coming to power of Robert Mugabe. Long-listed for the Orange Prize, this book will make you laugh and cry.

### Restoration

*THE YOUNG WIDOW'S BOOK OF HOME IMPROVEMENT* BY VIRGINIA LLOYD, UQP, \$32.95. An unusual love story and a true one, in which the author falls for a man who is ill, but expected to recover. By the time they realise he won't, the two lovers are committed and decide to savour every moment together, and everything else, including their falling-down house, becomes unimportant. After her husband's death, the author is faced with fixing the house and embarking on a new life she can barely contemplate. From great loss comes a gift in the form of this lovely, insightful book.

### From Russia with love

*PETROPOLIS* BY ANYA ULINICH, SCRIBE, \$29.95. A sparkling debut, engaging, funny, moving

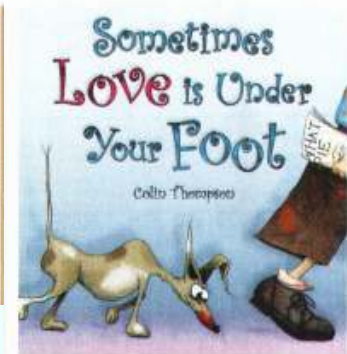
and completely unlike anything else you've read. Sasha Goldberg, born and raised in bleaksville – Siberia – follows her heart, with unforeseen consequences: an affair with a dropout, life as a mail-order bride and a journey through America to find the father who abandoned her. Flawed families, cultural confusion, new beginnings and an unlikely romance hold together this deliciously zany story.

### French affair

*PETITE ANGLAISE* BY CATHERINE SANDERSON, MICHAEL JOSEPH/PENGUIN, \$32.95. This book began as a blog when the English author embarked on an online diary to record her experiences living in Paris with her French husband, Mr Frog, and their toddler daughter, Tadpole. Parisian life and a yearning for adventures is well sketched, but this book is more about the choices a woman makes when she finds her marriage is not what she thought it would be. Entertaining and perkily written.

### Roost in peace

*THE HOUSEHOLD GUIDE TO DYING* BY DEBRA ADELAIDE, PICADOR, \$29.95. Meet Delia Bennet, author and domestic advice columnist, who hasn't much time left, so decides to get her house in order. She's warm, witty and brave, although sometimes her plans for preparing everything before her demise get out of hand. This book is a homage to a love of family and home, complete with named chickens, leaving you feeling enriched, uplifted and very glad indeed that you read it.



### CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

*Sometimes Love Is Under Your Foot* by Colin Thompson, Scholastic, \$24.99. Another outstanding book by award-winning local writer and illustrator Colin Thompson. Kevin the dog is enjoyed by the entire family, but not loved as he would like to be by George. Then illness changes everything. This is a bittersweet story about how adversity can melt the hardest of hearts. For ages five-plus.

### Angus & Robertson

**WIN! Book Lovers' Bonus**  
Angus & Robertson has 10 sets of six of the adults' books reviewed this month to give away. For an opportunity to be one of the winners, tell us in 25 words or less why you would like to win this great collection. Send your entry with your name, address and phone number to: AWW Books Competition, PO Box 415, Eastern Suburbs MC, NSW 2004 by June 24, 2008. See Contents page for the location of Conditions of Entry and ACP's Privacy Notice.

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