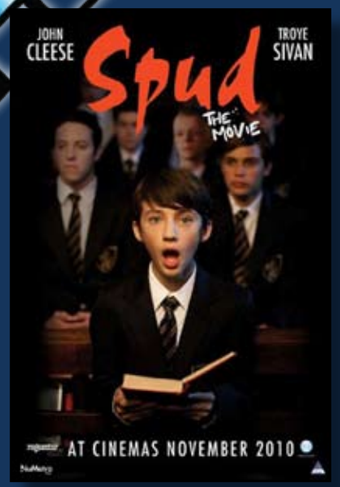
MOVIES & BOOKS

Reviewers: Kutlwano Smith, Kamogelo Phala, Musa Amy Ginyigazi, Anelisa Tuswa



Movie: Spud
Theme: Independence and survival
Main Characters: Troy Sivan (Spud Milton), John Cleese (Mr Edly – The Guv)

★★★★☆

Spud Milton, a smart young boy, different to his peers, is sent by his parents to a private boys boarding school in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Spud faces obstacles as he is new at the school and has difficulties trying to survive and to adjust to the new environment. During his academic year he learns a lot about choice and about the different personalities people have. He also learns to be independent. He tries very hard to please everyone and blend in with the rest of the boys at school. Spud becomes close with one of his roommates "Gecko" (Henry Barker) they then have a weird friendship and would often go to Hell's View together.

Outside of school, Spud's parents, particularly his dad, have difficulties trying to adjust to the new democratic South Africa until a certain event changes that.

Spud finds it hard to survive after an incident involving Gecko but pulls through and survives every obstacles that he faces.

Sivan gives a brilliant breakthrough performance and Cleese is hilarious as always.

Movie: Narnia
Theme: Fantasy
Main Characters: Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes

★★★☆☆

This is the third film in the franchise based on the CS Lewis books, and it doesn't quite reach the high standard set by the previous two!

As far as stories go, there's nothing particularly special about this one. The two younger Pevensie kids, Edmund and Lucy are back (with their older siblings relegated to cameos), as well as Prince (now King) Caspian from the previous film. The three kids are once again transported to the magical world of Narnia, aboard Caspian's ship, the Dawn Treader. There are villains and there are missing people, desert islands, dragons, sea monsters and glowing swords and that God-like lion, Aslan.

The special effects were incredible, but special effects are never enough to carry a movie. Dawn Treader never felt like it really got off the ground. It's not exactly boring but the excitement factor isn't particularly high either.

BOOK: The Monk who sold his Ferrari
Author: Robin Sharma

★★★★☆

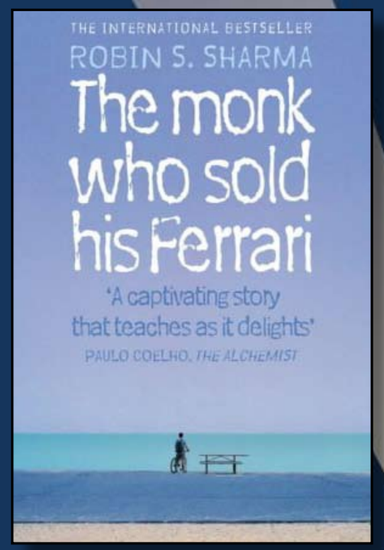
Ever wonder how you can live the life of your dreams or have everything you desire? If your answer to this question is yes, then The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari by Robin Sharma is the book to read!

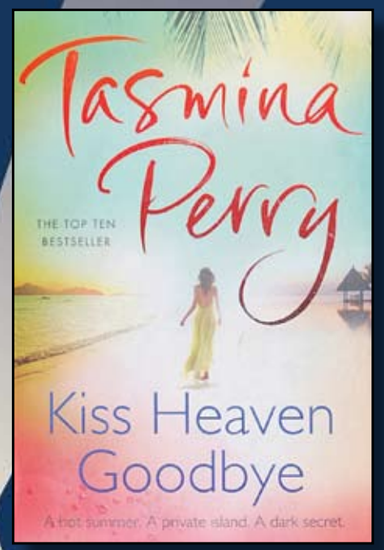
The brilliance of this book comes from the way in which it is written. Based on the true story of how Julian Mantle - a workaholic lawyer who decided to change the way in which he lived his life after a heart attack which nearly cost him his life – Robin tells the story of Julian's spiritual journey through India which helped him attain "Inner Peace".

The book is written from a first person perspective which gives the reader a sense of being part of the story on "Enlightened Living". To summarise this book, it basically gives you different ways and methods that you could use in order to achieve the life you dream of.

What I enjoyed most about this book is that Robin Sharma gives a step by step guide for practicing each technique mentioned, making it easy for readers to try them out. If you have read 'The Secret' and never understood its teachings then this book is highly recommended.

Intellectual teens and adults are the target market of this book. A must read New York Times best seller!





BOOK: Kiss Heaven Goodbye
Author: Tasmina Perry

★★★★☆

A group of students were gathered on a private island in the Bahamas in 1990 for a holiday of indulgence. Four friends found themselves on the beach on the final dark night. In front of them was a body, but they took the decision to let someone else make the discovery rather than getting involved. When they searched the beach the next day the body had gone – and they had no idea how.

The story takes us through the next 20 years in the lives of these four individuals. Sasha tried to make a living as a model, then as a stylist. Miles seemed self-assured but there's a lot of doubt and confusion hidden beneath the surface. He was never going to be short of money but with issues of his own and trying to follow in the footsteps of a famous and successful father, life was never going to be easy.

Alex was a talented musician who loses his way after the island incident but eventually finds fame. Grace (Miles' sister leads an interesting life which takes her all over the world.

The book follows the four until the summer of 2010, when Miles wants to sell the island, but a survey reveals a buried body and it looks as though the four will need to go back to the island.

If it's escapism you're after, then this is the book for you! It has everything in it: love, betrayal, murder, wealth, heartbreak…