



# BibliO

A detective story, travel tales and Oprah's top choice....

## ▼ WAR-TORN

There's a madman terrorising London, and New Scotland Yard is determined to apprehend the culprit before lives are lost. After witnessing a suicide, Maisie Dobbs, investigator *extraordinaire*, is involuntarily drawn into the police investigation. Her leads bring her face to face with her own demons, and the reality of men trying to survive with minds and bodies affected by The Great War. Who are the real mad men? Are acts of terror justified when they're born of soul-destroying circumstances? In **Among the Mad** (John Murray), author Jacqueline Winspear creates a portrait of 1930s London so vivid, you can almost smell the smog. **—M.D.**

## ▼ A PLACE AND TIME

Set in 1950s Johannesburg, three women narrate their stories in **Counting Sleeping Beauties** (Jacana), by Hazel Frankel: Leah; her daughter, Susan; and Hannah, the granddaughter. Interspersed is also the story of Sina, the domestic worker who takes care of everyone's needs. The family's life is disrupted by a tragedy. Susan descends into a depression, with divorce as the result. In an age where grief and trauma counselling were not available, and children were seen and not heard, Hannah has to find her own way of rising above her circumstances. **—L.R.**



## ◀ CITY WISE

When Emma Cooper leaves London to work as an investment banker on New York's Wall Street, she is chasing dollars and holding out for her philanthropic love interest, Dr. Campbell. But starting out in mergers and acquisitions in a new city means torturous hours and loneliness. When her journey takes some unexpected turns, she learns about giving back, and receiving wisdom and love from unlikely sources.

**White Knights (A&A)**, by local author Astrid Fleming, delivers all you want from a great chick-lit read. **—D.D.**

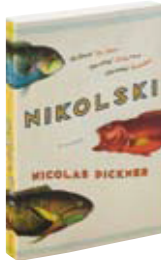
We are giving away three signed copies of *White Knights*. For details, see Shop Guide on page 151.



The Big Smoke, brought to life.

## DREAM CATCHERS

► **Nikolski** (Portobello), by Nicolas Dickner, is a delicate, intriguing medley following the life-altering experiences of three characters. Joyce runs away from home at 14 to follow her ancestors' footsteps in piracy, albeit the modern, Internet kind. Noah leaves his nomadic existence, traversing the Canadian prairies in a trailer with his mother, to find grounding in Montréal. And the unnamed narrator, firmly bound to his bookshop, dreams of other locations. With their paths crossing, these three perspectives present a thought-provoking answer to the questions of identity and belonging. Dickner's style, expertly translated from French by Lazer Lederhendler, is mesmerising, marking him as an author to look out for. **—S.L.**



## ▼ THE OUTSIDER

"Harare North" is the name given to London by Zimbabwean immigrants. But this is a London few will recognise, where life is a constant struggle. **Harare North** (Jonathan Cape), by Brian Chikwava, is centred on an illegal squat, and the novel gives a glimpse of the conditions in which illegal immigrants can find themselves. It is clear that Chikwava, who moved to London from Bulawayo five years ago, has an intimate knowledge of the immigrant experience. His is an original voice; his characters exude pathos, humour and acidity in equal measure, making them hauntingly difficult to shake off. **—L.M.**



## ▼ IT'S OFFICIAL!

Oprah has revealed the 63rd Oprah's Book Club pick: the Commonwealth prize-winning *Say You're One of Them* (Little, Brown), by Uwem Akpan (reviewed in the August 2008 issue of O). Of her decision to choose a collection of short stories, she says, "This is a first for me because each one of these five stories really left me gasping." Akpan, a Nigerian Jesuit priest, says he was inspired to write "by the people who sit around my village church to share palm wine after Sunday Mass, by the Bible and by the humour and endurance of the poor." For more information, visit [oprah.com](http://oprah.com)

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