



Reading Room

- BRILLIANT WHODUNNITS
- O'S RECOMMENDATIONS
- DOROTHY KOOMSON'S BEST BOOKS

Compiled by Deidre Donnelly

Portrait of an Artist

A collection of essays and images puts the spotlight on one of South Africa's most contentious cultural icons.

Shortly after Brett Kebble's estate auctioned a Vladimir Tretchikoff painting for the then-record price of R2,9 million in 2009, art valuers cried "It's a fake!" Though forgery claims were later dismissed, Tretchikoff continues to court controversy five years after his death. Now, to coincide with the retrospective exhibition of his work at the Iziko South African National Gallery, in Cape Town, *Tretchikoff: The People's Painter* (Jonathan Ball), edited by Andrew Lamprecht, brings his major works direct to your coffee table – with their lush colours, exotic muses and stylised sensuality.

-DEIDRE DONNELLY >



# On the Crime Scene

Looking to be thrilled and enthralled from the comfort of your couch? Settle down with one of the latest whodunnits. Here is O's roundup of the best.

## MATCHED MINDS

Introducing husband-and-wife duos whose literary partnerships work:

**Pseudonym:** Nicci French.

**Real-life writers:** Nicci Gerrard and her husband, Sean French.

**On working together:** "At first, it was an experiment ... There is something about joining in with someone's imagination. It's really disconcerting," says Nicci.

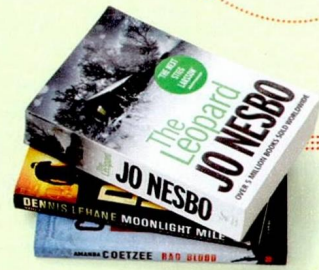
**Latest release:** *Blue Monday* (Penguin).

**Pseudonym:** Lars Kepler.

**Real-life writers:** Alexander and Alexandra Coelho Ahndoril (*right*).

**On how they work as a pair:** "When we started writing together, we couldn't stop. It felt so natural," says Alexandra.

**Latest release:** *The Hypnotist* (Blue Door).



## Staff Picks

Gaelyn Quixley-Smith, O's art director and resident thriller fan (*far right*), doesn't scare easily. But these reads got even her blood racing:

**1** *The Leopard* (Harvill Secker): "I usually battle with Scandinavian novels, but I couldn't put this one down, in which detective Harry Hole is tasked with solving a series of murders. It's chilling, fast-paced and utterly fascinating. Author Jo Nesbø is much more than 'the next Stieg Larsson.' He is exceptional in his own right."

**2** *Moonlight Mile* (Little, Brown): "The sixth in Dennis Lehane's series has beautifully flawed characters. In this one, Patrick Kenzie and his wife, Angela Gennar, have to deal with a case from their past all over again."

**3** *Bad Blood* (Macmillan): "I really enjoyed this crime novel, by SA-based author Amanda Coetsee. She draws you into a tightly woven community of Irish travellers in England and keeps you following the hunt for a missing child."

## OUT THIS MONTH

## New Kid on the (Crime) Block

Hawa Jande Golakai, 32, is a true child of Africa, having lived in seven countries on the continent before settling in Cape Town, a "city that provides plenty of inspiration." With a background in medical science and a love of crime fiction, her debut, *The Lazarus Effect* (Kwela), is bound to be thrilling.



CRIME SCENE



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