



**BOOKS**

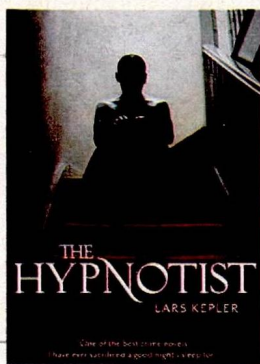
**THE HYPNOTIST**

BY LARS KEPLER  
Harper Collins

The Swedes seem determined to rule the world of crime fiction and are well on track with authors such as Stieg Larsson, Camilla Lackberg and Henning Mankell. Add Lars Kepler (a pseudonym for a husband-and-wife writing team) to the list for this dark thriller with its give-you-shivers cover art.

A family is butchered and a teen boy, Josef, survives but is severely traumatised. Detective Inspector Joona Linna persuades Erik Maria Bark, a trauma therapist with a prescription-pill addiction and a troubled past, to hypnotise the boy to try to find his older sister who wasn't home at the time of the attack. Problem is Bark was publicly discredited the last time he used hypnosis. He agrees against his better judgment – and what's revealed changes the story.

The novel could do with a bit of trimming as it meanders away from the story too often. It's also sometimes difficult to understand some of the characters' actions. But at heart it's a scary thriller that presents two intriguing main characters in Linna and Bark. – NATALIE CAVERNELIS  
**OUR PRICE ON KALAHARI.COM: R162,95**



**WE NEED TO TALK**

BY JONATHAN JANSEN  
Bookstorm

Professor Jonathan Jansen has long been a critical voice in education, a fierce opponent of apartheid but equally outspoken against experiments such as out-comes-based education. Recently the University of the Free State rector hosted Oprah's emotional visit to the campus, sparked by his conciliatory approach to the Reitz Four – the white students who were so deeply insulting to black women workers in 2007. This collection of his columns written for The Times newspaper demonstrates the value of such independent-minded role players.

After travelling around SA to market his university, Professor Jansen was fired up by positive youth and committed teachers, appalled by poor leadership and lazy media, deeply aware of the unresolved trauma of apartheid – and plain terrified of what lies ahead if a dysfunctional education system continues to fail young people and the country. These 800-word columns are an easy, meaty read that show how deeply invested South Africans remain in stereotypes, emphasising the author's point that we need to talk. – RONEL SCHEFFER  
**OUR PRICE ON KALAHARI.COM: R136,95**

