

BOOKS

LITERATURE THREE TO READ



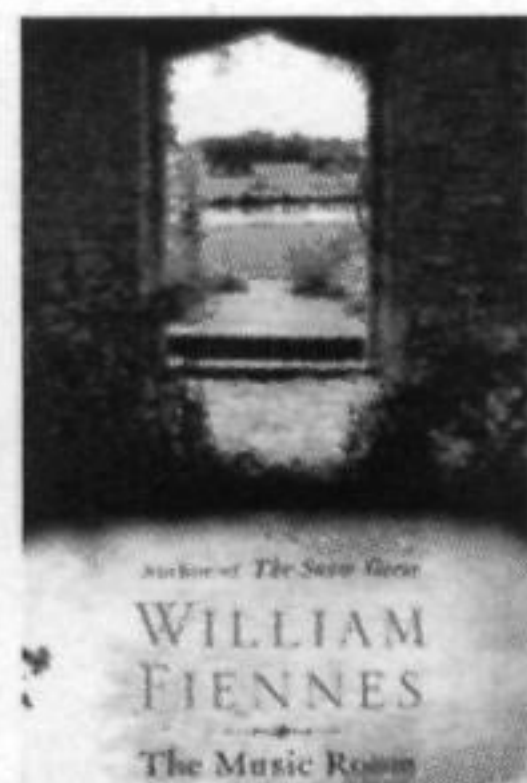
1 | Brian Chikwava *Harare North*

You might not think there'd be a lot of comedy mileage to be had from a Mugabe-loving Zimbabwean

immigrant struggling to make a new life in a slummy flat in London, but debut novelist Chikwava wears his subversive set-up lightly. Narrated in wide-eyed dialect, it's a wry delight. *Out now* (Jonathan Cape)

2 | Alain de Botton *The Pleasures And Sorrows Of Work*

Though the underlying question of de Botton's thesis, "Why do we work?" is redundant to anyone who has ever been off for more than a week (has he seen Dickinson's Real Deal?), the minute details of how we work — fishing tuna, inventing biscuits, painting trees — are fascinating. *Out now* (Hamish Hamilton)



3 | William Fiennes *The Music Room*

Not all of us grew up in a house so grand that film crews camped in the garden. Nor have most of us witnessed

the severe epilepsy that afflicted Fiennes' elder brother, Richard. The follow-up memoir to *The Snow Geese* approaches privilege and struggle with even-handed lyricism. *Out now* (Picador)

COFFEE TABLE ONE TO THUMB

Three Men In A Boat *Jerome K Jerome*

Having made it to number two in *Esquire's* 50 Funniest Books list (March), Jerome K Jerome's comic

tale of boat-bound idlers is reissued this month, with 30 charming illustrations by a certain Vic Reeves. *Out on 16 April* (Vintage Classics)

EXTRACT BITE OF A BOOK



"The wail of another zombie interrupted her; his flowing white beard and half-eaten face attached to a stout body, which was clad in a blood-crusted

blacksmith's apron. Elizabeth and Jane aimed and discharged their muskets; Jane's ball finding one of the creature's eyes, and Elizabeth's striking its neck — cutting through the brittle flesh and separating head from body."

The Netherfield ball is the least of the Bennet sisters' worries in Pride And Prejudice And Zombies by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith (Quirk Books), *out now*

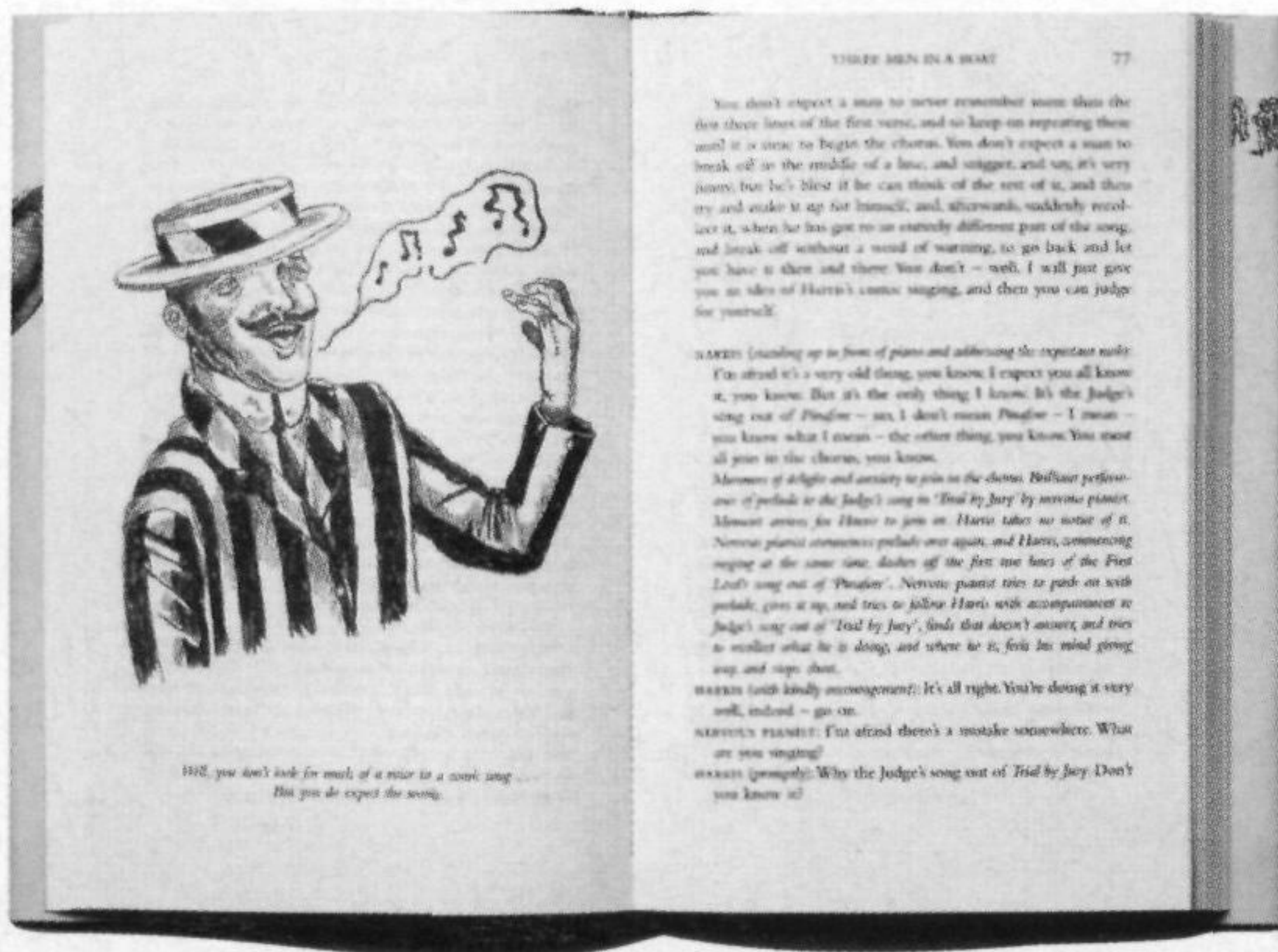
ART

EXHIBITIONS THREE TO VISIT

1 | Edwyn Collins *British Birdlife*

CCA, Glasgow, 16 April to 9 May After suffering a near-fatal brain haemorrhage in 2005, the one-time Orange Juice frontman relearned

COMIC BOOK: VIC REEVES HAS HIS WAY WITH THREE MEN IN A BOAT



motor skills through his other passion: illustration. These drawings of birds — he did one a day — are a touching record of his rehabilitation. (cca-glasgow.com/home)

2 | Henry VIII: Man And Monarch

British Library, London NW1, 23 April to 6 September David Starkey tries his hand at curating to mark 500 years since the uxoricidal monarch acceded to the throne. Rare maps and documents will be exhibited. (www.bl.uk/henry)



3 | State Of The Art: New York Urbis, Manchester, 9 April to 6 Sept

Transatlantic artists descend on Lancashire, including The Bruce High Quality Foundation, who re-enacted the raft of the Medusa in the Hudson, above, and Leon Reid IV, who will dress the statue of Abe in Lincoln Square in hip-hop threads. (www.urbis.org.uk)

EVENTS SPECTACLE

Waiting For Godot *Theatre Royal Haymarket, 30 April to 28 June*

A fearsome foursome of thespes — Simon Callow, Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart and Ronald Pickup — join forces to tackle Beckett. (www.trh.co.uk)

SALES & AUCTIONS WHERE TO BUY

For a gentleman in need of an antique billiards table or two, the spring Decorative Antiques And Textiles Fair, 21 to 26 April, in Battersea Park will feature a classic "club room" installation in the foyer, with all items available to buy. ☺ (www.decorativefair.com)