



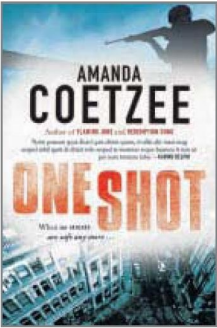
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## book bites

### One Shot ★★★★★

Amanda Coetzee (Pan Macmillan, R240)

#### BOOK *thrill*



Badger, aka Detective Inspector Harry O'Connor, pits his wits against a former sniper who served with the British Armed Forces in Afghanistan. The sniper, who now freelances as a global hit man, becomes involved in an escalating drugs war on Harry's doorstep in the east England town of Bedford.

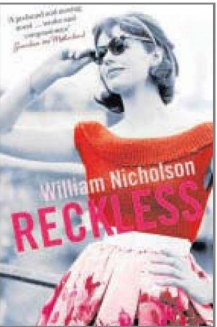
Harry's hunt takes an intriguing turn when the sniper flies out on a job to South Africa and Harry pursues him through the diamond fields of the North West and Hillbrow's urban warren. Exciting and fast-paced.

— Gabriella Bekes @gabrikwa

### Reckless ★★★★★

William Nicholson (Quercus, R310)

#### BOOK *buff*



World War 2 has ended, but an even deadlier threat has risen from the ashes, and Nicholson effectively captures the essence of post-war, nuclear-shadowed Europe and America. We meet a young Kennedy in the midst of the Cuban missile crisis and Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev, who is desperate to

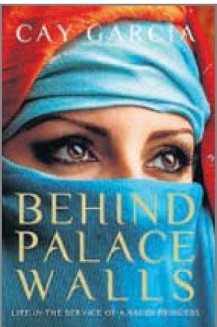
outwit the West. We encounter a War Office advisor trying to find reason in a world gripped by fear and a young girl looking for love in all the wrong places. A captivating read that captures a tense moment in history.

— Sally Partridge @sapartridge

### Behind Palace Walls: Life in the Service of a Saudi Princess ★★★★★

Cay Garcia (Tafelberg, R185)

#### BOOK *fling*



You may mutter at the sloppy editing, and silently implore the author to cowboy up, but this is nevertheless a riveting read. Bored with her job in a jewellery store at Canal Walk, Cay Garcia trains as a butler and finds work in Riyadh, where her employer, "Princess Arabella", lives in a five-storey

villa. She's a bipolar brat who spends her days updating her fake Facebook accounts. Garcia is required to toss out boxes of French food as it expires. She also finds piles of expired antidepressants. It's a surreal, misogynistic world, with chandeliers "the size of swimming pools". She lasts four months.

— Michele Magwood @michelemagwood