

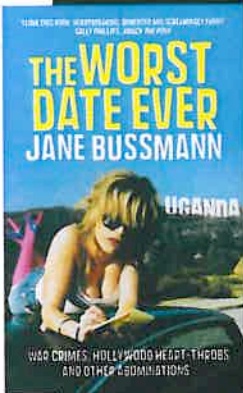
TOP 3 MUST-READ

BOOKS

By VIV GROSKOP

THE WORST DATE EVER

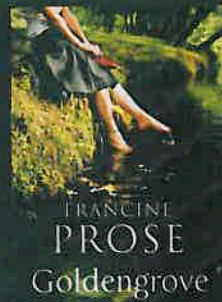
by Jane Bussmann
(Pan Macmillan, £11.99)
The real-life tale of scriptwriter Jane Bussmann's move to LA to write for the movies. When Hollywood doesn't want her, she is reduced to trailing Paris Hilton and Britney Spears for the celebrity gossip magazines she detests. Desperate to be a 'proper writer', she heads to Uganda to track down a peacemaker she has fallen in lust with. Hilarious. ★★★★★



GOLDENGROVE

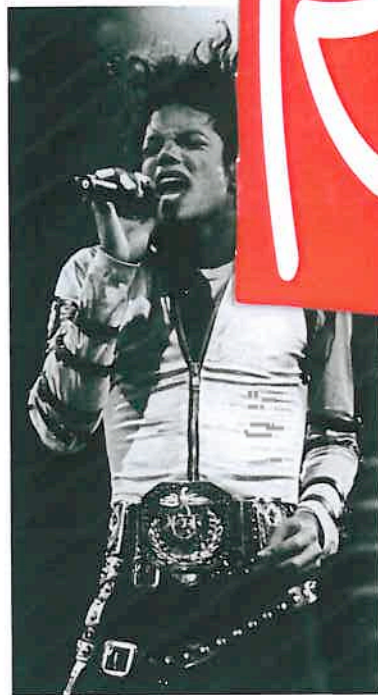
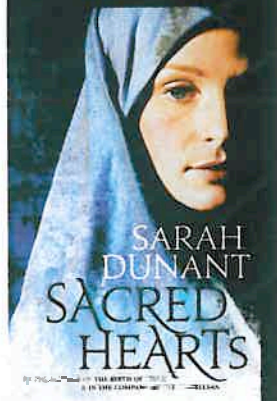
by Francine Prose
(Atlantic, £12.99)
Set over the course of one haunted summer, 13-year-old Nico must come to terms with the sudden death of her glamorous, manipulative older sister, Margaret. Recklessly, she turns to Margaret's boyfriend for solace. This is a book that really draws you in - Nico narrates her own story and her voice is scarily addictive. A coming-of-age novel that is refreshingly unsentimental. ★★★

'The convent is packed with noblewomen who can't find a husband'



SACRED HEARTS

by Sarah Dunant
(Virago, £14.99)
A wonderfully dark historical thriller set in 1570 in the Italian city of Ferrara. The convent of Santa Caterina is packed with noblewomen who have become brides of Christ because they can't find a husband. When 16-year-old Serafina arrives, having disgraced her family with an illicit affair, she disrupts everything by forming an unlikely alliance with Suora Zuana, a scholarly nun. ★★★



...we've seen Britney Spears holidaying topless on a yacht, Pete Doherty drawing blood and Britney Spears being carted off in an ambulance. It's all Top Much Information. Michael Jackson, on the other hand, is a reminder of a time when pop stars didn't look like you might bump into them in Tesco. If you're lucky enough to have tickets, get ready for a show that will go down in history. Visit michaeljackson.com

ENTERTAINMENT USA

The best new US TV coming to a small screen near you

You've come to the end of *The Wire* box set, so it's just in time for the new, quality US shows. Get ready for *Generation Kill* (yet during the Iraq invasion of Iraq), *Dying Country* (astronauts embark on a strange space mission) and *True Blood* (*Twilight* for grown-ups) - see below. But why are American dramas so irresistible?

- 3 KEEP IT BUFF** Even the whole as they strip down, so we can admire their toned physiques
- 4 KEEP IT CATCHY** A good theme song can do wonders for a show's brand identity.
- 5 KEEP IT BRITISH** Cast a Brit and prove their superior talent by making them do a US accent. *Generation Kill* (C4) ★★★ *Dying Country* (Hulu) ★★★ *True Blood* (FX) ★★★

1 KEEP IT REAL Scripts everything in incomprehensible street/policemedical jargon

2 KEEP IT MYSTERIOUS Happen a disparate group in an impossible situation, so they never know exactly what they're doing or why.

