

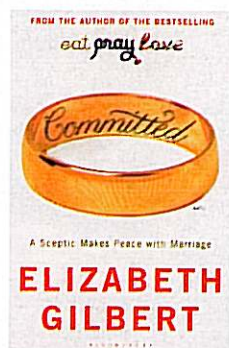
## HOT READS

16 **COMMITTED: A SCEPTIC MAKES PEACE WITH****MARRIAGE** BY ELIZABETH

GILBERT (Bloomsbury, R190)

**THE STORY** After falling in love with Felipe at the end of *Eat, Pray, Love*, Gilbert continues with this memoir that sees the couple being 'sentenced' to marry so that he can remain in the US (even though they both swore never to remarry).

**WHY WE LOVE IT** It's an honest exploration of marriage that debunks myths, unthreads fears and ultimately celebrates love.

17 **THE PATIENCE STONE** BY ATIQ RAHIMI

(Vintage, R219)

**THE STORY** A woman in modern-day Afghanistan keeps vigil by her husband's bed as he lies in a coma. Empowered by his silence, she seizes the opportunity to speak without censorship and begins her shocking confessional. **WHY WE LOVE IT** There isn't a great deal of literature that explores the stories of this troubled country – this is refreshing.



## HOT TALENT

## 18 Actress Maggie Benedict has come a long way from Mamelodi township.

She studied musical theatre at Pretoria Technikon before moving to New York to hone her craft. Now 29, she feels she's finally making her mark on TV. After a breakthrough role in SABC3's drama series *Hard Copy 3*, Benedict was offered a role in *The #1 Ladies Detective Agency* alongside US actresses Jill Scott and Anika Noni Rose. Presently she's gracing our screens in SABC2's *The Mating Game* as one of three sassy women trying to make sense of love. Her goal is acting longevity. 'Luck has a lot to do with success but I help it along with dedication, knowledge and hard work,' she says.

## HOT DATE

19 **GOOD LIFE FINE BRANDY FESTIVAL**

**WHEN** 5 to 7 May at the Sandton Sun, Sandton, Johannesburg. **WHAT TO EXPECT** This festival, presented in association with Standard Bank, has the largest collection of South African brandies under one roof. Sample your favourites and learn why our country makes some of the best brandy in the world. Features such as the Raising the Bar challenge, where mixologists whip up brandy cocktails, make it a must-do for connoisseurs and enthusiasts alike. **WHAT TO BRING** A designated driver and a well-lined stomach. **COST** Tickets cost R195 and include a brandy glass and beverage vouchers. Tickets are available through [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za) or at the door. Visit [www.brandyfestival.co.za](http://www.brandyfestival.co.za) to find out more.

Maggie Benedict



## JUST HOT

20 *Go green in 'eco-plastic' Batucada jewellery, designed in Paris and made from ecofriendly components (no phthalates, lead or petrol), using nonpolluting manufacture. Call ☎ 082 881 4471 for stockists. (Neckpieces cost around R240 and bangles R140).* ▶

