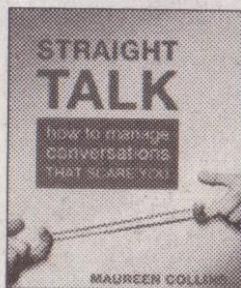


## STRAIGHT TALK: HOW TO MANAGE CONVERSATIONS THAT SCARE YOU

by Maureen Collins  
(Zebra Press, R150)



DO YOU have a problem explaining to individuals that they have terrible body odour, verbal diarrhoea, pathetic management of money or their noses stuck too deeply in your business?

Then, at the risk of sounding like a glib medication advertisement, *Straight Talk* is your prescription.

Collins has put together a blueprint of how to polish conversations in a way that gets the message across, sets an open tone for dialogue, and most importantly, provides results.

The book presents scenarios in

which tension can easily overflow between parties. You need to gain a clear understanding of tone, body language and how conversations are led lest they lead to a clash. It is these seemingly minute factors that could

change a conversation that chars relationships, to one that ends in the relieved smoking of the peace pipe.

After each example Collins provides a short list of Straight Talk Tips that elucidate the lessons in the given situations. You get a thorough breakdown of ideas and purposes behind each conversation, keeping the desired outcome in mind.

Collins takes into consideration work, family and friends in her tips for dialogue, allowing many to relate to her advice. – Tshepo Tshabalala

## BOOK EVENTS

● The Friends of Sandton Library hold a book sale tomorrow from 9am until 5pm, and again on Saturday from 9am until 1pm. It will be held at the Library on the Square. Contact Keith Elliot: 011 802 6054.

● A book club will be held today from 2.30pm at the Rosebank Library. Farida Karodia will talk about her books, her writing and the Kindle. The next meeting will be on October 6 at 2.30pm. For more info contact 011 880 5986 or 083 267 7070 or Juliet Mabulana at 011 442 8988 or rosebankL@joburg.org.za

● From September 8 to 10, Museum Africa in Newtown will be the central hub for National Book Week activities and will include reading tents for children, the youth and the visually

impaired, providing a fun environment to promote reading. There will also be a book donation programme. Free entrance. For info visit [www.nationalbookweek.co.za](http://www.nationalbookweek.co.za)

Pieter Toerien's Montecasino Theatre & Studio  
[www.montecasinotheatre.co.za](http://www.montecasinotheatre.co.za)  
Box Office: (011) 511-1818

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Leon van Niekerk/ Artslink.co.za  
Wed to Fri @ 8:15pm,  
Sat @ 5:15pm & 8:15pm, Sun @ 3:15pm

The Star Thursday September 1st 2011