

By Shauna Bartlett READS WONITOR

Yes, page turning does count as exercise

Hoffman

Skylight
Confessions

If to emphasise everything is to first man to out of it is that seems

AMOLID Skylight Confessions by Alice Hoffman (Chatto & Windus, £14.99)

Hoffman's books all have a touch of the fairytale about them, and *Skylight Confessions*, with its story of lost loves and wrong paths, is no exception. Life is a fragile thing and as

if to emphasise this Hoffman makes the home and heart of the novel a glass house — somewhere where everything is transparent except people's emotions. Left alone when her father dies, Arlyn marries the first man to come along, which, unsurprisingly, proves a loveless match. The only good thing to come out of it is her son, Sam. Years later, with Arlyn gone, it's Sam's turn to be lost, floundering in a world that seems alien and without love. Hoffman's signature is dealing with real emotions in a surreal way, and her latest book is a magical, haunting read, full of hidden passions, heartbreak and ghosts.

The Trouble With Valentine's Day by Rachel Gibson (Little Black Dress, £3.99)

Fancy a bit of froth for
Valentine's Day? Then
look no further. This
is Mills & Boon for a
younger, hipper, sexier
generation — and it
seems destined to
become a girl's best
friend. And if you haven't

got a significant other to spoil you on February 14th, The Trouble With Valentine's Day should be the perfect antidote. Kate Hamilton is firmly in the 'Valentine's Day sucks' camp after being blown out by a handsome stranger in a hotel bar. Crestfallen, she returns to her hometown, Gospel, to lick her wounds in solitude, only to find herself the centre of Gospel gossip when she has an unexpected reunion with Mr Handsome Stranger in the local store. A huge bestseller in the US, where this kind of escapist, page-turning romance flies off the shelves, it'll be interesting to see if the genre replaces chick lit as the next big thing in the UK.

What Did I Do Last Night? A Drunkard's Tale by Tom Sykes (Ebury, £10.99)

Tom Sykes was your typical teenage rebel. Despite a privileged background and private education, his parents' divorce during his adolescence

had him seek solace in rebellion - first at Eton and then at Edinburgh University, where his drinking soon spiralled out of control. After that, he embarked on a career in journalism, where he was sacked from a series of jobs until he moved to New York to become nightclub and gossip columnist for the New York Post. The job gave him the perfect excuse to party 24/7 - not ideal for someone whose daily diet of neat alcohol seems destined to lead to self-destruction. This is no holier-thanthou memoir, however, as Tom admits to having had a lot of fun along the way. It's a compulsive, salutary and entertaining true story of social intoxication.

Naturally by Jo Wood (Macmillan, £12.99)

As a Rolling Stones wife,
Jo Wood (wife of Ronnie)
is an original rock chick.
But far from living
a life of rock'n'roll
excess, these
days she's

greener than green, having embarked on

an organic lifestyle when she was struck down by Crohn's Disease some years ago. At the time of her organic conversion, eating muddy vegetables and living a chemicalfree lifestyle was far from fashionable, but illness is a great motivator, and the minute she saw the difference a chemical-free diet made to her health, there was no looking back. There's also enlightening stuff on the harmful chemicals in many of the household products we buy. The tone is gentle. not preachy, as this is a book born out of a desire to share her experiences with anyone interested in going green, and since it's a movement that's gaining momentum, we're sure this will fly off the shelves.

LOVING WORDS Find (and keep) your perfect Valentine

Sextrology by Starsky & Cox (Vermilion, £14.99)
Want to know if you and your man are sexually compatible? This guide to every star sign's sexual traits is a must. The authors are astrologers to the celebs and the witty pop culture references put

a whole new slant on astrology and sex.

THE Cox (Corgi, £7.99)
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GLAMOUR's own
Relationship Coach
is on top form with
this informative but
humorous guide to

great sex. You'll love the advice on keeping your sex life sizzling and should find some of the adventurous tips eye-opening! Not Tonight Mr Right by Kate Taylor (Penguin, £6.99)

TV sexpert Taylor advocates a good old-fashioned date-before-you-mate approach in this book of girl's rules for the

21st century. She claims abstinence is the key to lasting love — read it and see if you agree (though your date might not!).