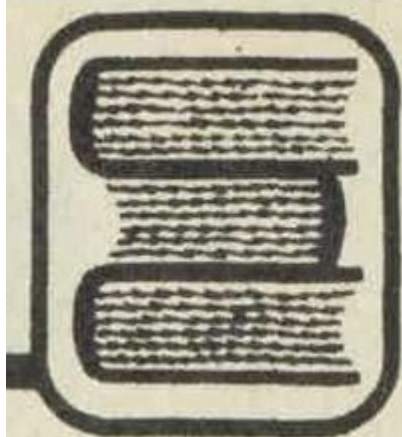


# POST-WAR CHILDREN

## Books: Nina Valentine's choice

### Nina Valentine



**W**HEN you set a novel in Central Europe and offer all the ingredients that spell best-seller you've got another best-seller like "TO THE OPERA BALL."

It is Sarah Gainham's latest novel following the success of her popular trilogy about Vienna. Although hardly known in Australia, her masterly plots, characterizations and command of English are writing at its best.

And Miss Gainham knows her subject.

**THE MISS GUMMAM KNOWS HER SUBJECT.**  
Although born in England, she has lived in Europe since 1947. This is almost two books in one, as its two sections seem almost divorced from one another. How could the ecstatic meeting in 1970 of Leona Helene Chavanges and Rolf Almeric Forstmann at the glorious Opera Ball in Vienna have any connection with two women walking across Europe in the bitter winter of 1945, hoping for survival not only for themselves but also for the unborn child of the younger woman?

The novel develops from the theme sung by Leona and Rolf, against a background of parental disapproval, and almost mad interference from the aristocratic Monsieur Chavanges.

The second part is given over to Rolf, and his unlikely, unpromising background. For he is the child who is to be born after the months of struggle, the depths of degradation, the sad humiliation and the terror which accompanied every moment of that primitive journey through the remnants of German and Russian armies.

The two stories merge with a compelling quality that makes you read on. The novel is published by Macmillan at a recommended \$9.95.

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**DO** you remember the excitement some years ago when a Stone Age tribe was discovered in the Philippine rain forest region? It was headline news for weeks. Now it is more, a book by John Nance.

Head of Associated Press in Manila from 1968 to 1971, Mr Nance came to know these people through his working association with anthropologist Manuel Elizalde. The book he wrote is "THE GENTLE TASADAY," priced at a recommended \$17.65 by its publishers, Victor Gollancz.

With an easy style, Mr Nance describes each of the tribe's 28 people as a cameo. Perhaps the most engaging is Balayam, whose life is changed by the advent of the men from the outside world and whose

growth we can trace in the book as well as in the many photographs.

Ethnobotanist Douglas Yen, who visited the Tasaday after the discovery, said: "This is one of the most exciting experiences I've ever had . . . I mean, it's the first time for me to see, actually see, gatherers like this,

me to see, actually see, gatherers like this, people whose subsistence level is so low. There are ripe fruits on the trees, not taken, so they obviously have enough."

This was only one of the many puzzles about the Tasaday. Others were if they had lived in the forest for centuries, why were there only 28 of them? Why hadn't they ventured from the forest, taken a walk of about eight kilometres? Were yams their main source of food? Why did they have no word in their language for either enemy or war? Had they never been threatened? What could we learn from them? They from us?

**T**HERE seems to be a spate of UFO books. Three landed on my desk this week — books — not UFOs!

Corgi paperbacks have released "UFOs FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN," by Ion Hobana and Julien Weverbergh, priced at a recommended \$2. It appears to prove the sightings in the East parallel those in the West, following much the same flight plan. There are many illustrations to support theories and sightings.

Mayflower paperbacks have "UFO,

**FLYING SAUCERS OVER BRITAIN?"** going at a recommended \$1.50. It's written by Robert Chapman, who lists sightings, mysteries and hoaxes, including the famous hoax of Mr Allingham and his man from Mars. The supposed witness could not be located after the book was published and "Mr Allingham" died in Europe soon afterward. Robert Chapman thinks the real author of the mischief is still quietly chuckling over it all somewhere!

Then there is a hardback edition of **"UFOs OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE,"** by Michael Hervey, published by Robert Hale, at a recommended \$10.50. Mr Hervey has devoted almost 30 years to research on unidentified flying objects and this book lists more than 800 sightings in our part of the world.

The writer begins by putting the case against the probability of UFOs, then gives the case for a belief in the unexplained. The book includes sightings and some photographs from all States and New Zealand. Unsensational and carefully documented, this is the book for flying sorcerers to study!