

reviews

THE WEEK'S BLOCKBUSTERS AND BESTSELLERS

FILMS

Hot Fuzz 15

Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Timothy Dalton • Following up on their inspired zom-rom-com *Shaun Of The Dead* was never going to be easy, but partners in crime Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright strike the bullseye again with their buddy-cop spoof, which has no zom, very little rom, but plenty of riotous com. Pegg plays an over-zealous policeman banished from the Met to the bucolic village of Sandford, where he's saddled with Nick Frost's blundering sidekick. But Sandford's hiding some nasty secrets (and a cavalcade of British telly and film faces), which enables *Hot Fuzz* to mock the excesses of the testosterone-fuelled Hollywood action movie. A winning cocktail of mayhem and laughter.

★★★★★ MATT MUELLER



Simon (left) and Nick play the buddy-cop movie for laughs in *Hot Fuzz*

The Science Of Sleep 15

Gael García Bernal, Charlotte Gainsbourg • Bernal's childlike effervescence is contagious in this whimsical love story from *Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind* director Michel Gondry. Playing a shy French/Mexican graphic designer who lets his dream world seep into reality, Bernal tries to woo Gainsbourg to endearingly comic effect.

★★★★★ SLOAN FREER

The Truth About Love 15

Jennifer Love Hewitt, Dougray Scott, Jimi Mistry • Hewitt's bizarre British accent is one of many missteps in this clunky rom-com. She plays a nurse whose marriage descends into sex-game chaos after an anonymous Valentine. Scott and Mistry provide eye-candy for female viewers, but the insights are shallow, the twists farcical and the gags as broad as a barn door.

★★★★★ MATTHEW LEYLAND

DVD



Volver 15

Penélope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas • Cruz earns her Oscar nod with an electric performance in this witty, poignant portrait of a woman embracing life with humour and humanity – and all in high heels. A capable Spanish mother, she juggles dark secrets and money woes with family problems – among them the ghost of her mother. Director Pedro Almodóvar tones down his trademark flamboyance for this classy comedy-drama celebrating female family ties.

★★★★★ ANNA SMITH

BOOKS by Aileen Easton

What Would Barbra Do?

EMMA BROCKES, BANTAM PRESS, £14.99

When we are young, we all come under pressure to like the things our peers do – cigarettes, boys with earrings, yes, even legwarmers. But, in the safety of our bedrooms, it was OK to still sleep under a Holly Hobbie bedcover and dream of boys with nice teeth. Emma Brockes, however, lived a real double life. While she followed her friends into every new kind of music, she secretly harboured a love of musicals. But this is no high-kicking, luvvied-up tribute. Instead, it's a witty, incisive look at how a mother and daughter's relationship can thrive and grow through the unlikeliest of mediums.

★★★★★



The Shoe Queen

ANNA DAVIS, DOUBLEDAY, £12.99

Society beauty Genevieve Shelby King has a rich husband, a glamorous apartment and a huge shoe collection. But when she spots a rival's exquisite footwear, everything in life seems suddenly worthless. The man who makes them hand picks his clients and has no time for Genevieve. But the Shoe Queen will stop at nothing to slip into his designs.

★★★★★



The Secret Life Of A Slummy Mummy

FIONA NEILL, CENTURY, £10

If the fashion parade at the school gates has you sweating into your tracksuit bottoms, then the dilemma of Lucy Sweeney should strike a chord. In a world of domestic goddesses, she toils to keep her three boys and Husband-On-Short-Fuse happy. Who said giving up a well-paid job to spend more time with the family was a good move?

★★★★★

