

The Map Reader
Rated M

By Sebastian Van Der Zwan

Growing up is never easy, especially in a small Kiwi town. And even more so when your mum's an alcoholic. Geeky Michael deals with his difficult teenage years by escaping into maps and imagining all sorts of international adventures. But the real world soon comes knocking in the shape of a blind woman and a best friend who both have their sights on seducing him. Starring the remarkable Rebecca Gibney, *Shortland Street's* Bonnie Soper and a host of talented young things, it's a lovely local film with a slow-but-sweet start that'll soon draw you into its very realistic world. It's no surprise it's caused quite a stir and picked up the odd award on the international film festival circuit.

4/5 stars