

VATMAAR

WRITTEN BY CRAIG FREIMOND

2017

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL "A PLACE CALLED VATMAAR"

BY E.H.M. SCHOLTZ

NOTE- THE SCRIPT WILL BE ALMOST ENTIRELY TRANSLATED INTO  
AFRIKAANS. MOSTLY THE SPECIFIC DIALECT OF THE NORTHERN CAPE.

**A WHITE TITLE APPEARS OVER BLACK SCREEN. IT READS.**

**SUMMER**

**EXT. KAROO COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

The sun bakes the earth, a hot midsummer day in the semi desert. BROER, a rugged coloured man, fourties, his face ravaged by the sun, sits on a rocky outcrop in the vast Karoo countryside. The landscape is arid but breathtaking. Scattered goats nibble on the scant vegetation around Broer. In his left hand, he holds a handmade musical instrument, roughly resembling a violin. The instrument is constructed out of a paraffin tin out of which sticks a wooden arm, strung with knotted horse hair. In his right hand he holds a hand made bow. He pulls the strings tightly over the wood. Tuning the instrument.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET STATION - DAY**

A steam train puffs out short blasts of steam in a bustling train station. The last passengers make their way onto the train. White passengers enter the carriages closest to the engine and people of colour enter the last few carriages.

A handsome, young coloured man, early twenties, clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed "Clarke Gable" moustache stands in front of a young coloured woman in her late teens, dressed in a nurses uniform. His clothes are neat and ordered, a brown suit and tie with a crisply ironed white shirt. His manner confident and upstanding. This is KENNETH KLEYNHANS.

The woman, MIRINDA, is pretty without being beautiful. She gazes adoringly at Kenneth, trying to put on a brave front. She presses a package into his hands.

MIRANDA

Some food for the journey.

KENNETH

Thank you.

The two look at each other.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'll write.

Kenneth leans forward and kisses her gently on the cheek. He then steps away. Mirinda's composure begins to crumple.

Kenneth steps towards a middle aged coloured couple. HANNES AND ESTELLE KLEYNHANS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hannes Kleynhans is conservatively dressed, pressed shirt, tie, cardigan. Estelle is also dressed in a nurses uniform with epaulets on her shoulder. She is a matronly looking woman, who stands very straight. Kenneth shakes his fathers hand firmly.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Make the best of it Kenny. Travel safe and work hard.

KENNETH

I will Pa.

He turns to his mother and kisses her on her cheek, she grabs him tight, hugging him. Then she pulls up and looks at her son in the eyes. Adjusting his collar fighting back tears.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I still don't understand why you have to go off to this horrible place.

KENNETH

Ma...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

You have everything you need here.

She shoots a glance to Mirinda, who stands dutifully off to one side.

KENNETH

Ma, ... we've spoken about this.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

There's nothing out there except dust and drunkards.

The train blows it's last three blasts.

KENNETH

I'll see you in a few months Ma.

The stationmaster blows his whistle. Kenneth removes himself from the small group and climbs on the train.

**EXT. KAROO COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

Broer looks out at the inhospitable landscape in front of him, lifts the bow and plays the instrument. The music is rough, ancient and compelling.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET STATION - DAY**

The train pulls out of the station. Kenneth leans out the window and waves to the threesome standing on the platform. They wave back as the train gets further and further away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenneth getting smaller and smaller in the distance. Mirinda loses her composure completely and starts to cry. Mrs. Kleynhans looks at her and then at her husband.

She makes her way over to Mirinda and holds the sobbing young woman.

**INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - DAY**

Kenneth sits back onto the brown leather seats. He sighs deep sigh and looks out the window. An almost perceptible look of relief passes over his face.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

The train snakes it's way across a mountainous pass. Thousands of large aloes populate the hillside.

**TITLE: NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE- SOUTH AFRICA 1931**

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STATION - DAY**

An overweight white man in a scruffy blue stationmaster uniform and black cap stands on the platform looking down the train tracks. He wipes a bead of sweat off his amble brow. In the distance he hears the hoot of the approaching train. He lifts a silver whistle, suspended on a chain, to his lips and gives three long blasts.

**EXT. KAROO COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

Broer watches the train from his vantage on the slope. His fingers move up and down the makeshift fretboard, his right arm moves the bow, he plays easily, without thinking.

**INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - DAY**

Kenneth leans out the window examining the approaching station.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STATION - DAY**

The train pulls slowly into the desolate station.

**INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - DAY**

Kenneth scans the platform as the train comes to a stop. Besides the stationmaster only one other figure stands on the platform. A young coloured man, mid twenties, with a large head and powerful body watches the train. His face is unrefined but gentle, his clothes threadbare but tidy. He holds his hat behind his back. This is DAWIE STEENKAMP.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STATION - DAY**

Kenneth climbs down the train steps holding a gleaming bicycle in his one hand and a small leather suitcase in the other. A leather bag loaded with carpentry equipment is slung over his left shoulder. As soon as Dawie sees Kenneth alighting the train he lumbers over to him. Although the men are of similar age, they are from very different worlds.

DAWIE

Are you Mister Kleynhans?

KENNETH

Yes I am.

Dawie beams holding out a meaty palm to Kenneth. Dawie's huge hands engulf Kenneth's, squeezing it heartily.

DAWIE

Dawie Steenkamp, pleased to make your acquaintance.

KENNETH

Kenneth Kleynhans.

DAWIE

You come a long way huh Meneer Kenneth?

KENNETH

(looking around)

Uhh... ja. Ja. Are you with Mr. Burns?

DAWIE

Aaah no, Mr. Burns asked me to come and pick you up, said he's been having some trouble with his car Meneer Kenneth.

KENNETH

Oh....

A slight look of disappointment flashes over Kenneth's face.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STATION - DAY**

A middle aged Basotho man with a pot belly and a shining bald head pats the head of an old horse attached to a dilapidated trolley. The man's name is OOM FLIP and the horse's name is OLD SWING. He sees Kenneth and Dawie approaching. Dawie helps Kenneth with his bicycle. Kenneth looks at the depilated cart with disbelief.

KENNETH

Is this the transport?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWIE

Ja, Meneer Kenny. This is the driver Phillipus Schwartz.

OOM FLIP

That is my full name but most everybody calls me Oom Flip.

Flip smiles a toothless grin as they shake. Flip indicates the horse.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And this is Old Swing, my eldest daughter. Isn't she a beauty!

Kenneth raises his hand to the horse, which looks like it has seen better days, as Flip gathers his things and puts them on the back.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Dawie tells me you a carpenter?

KENNETH

Well... I'm a craftsman.

OOM FLIP

Ooh, a craftsman from Graaf Reniet. Smart hey?

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

The rickety cart trundles along a dirt road pulled dutifully by Old Swing. Flip sits up front holding the reigns, while Kenneth and Dawie sit facing each other in the back. Kenneth bounces along, sweating in his rather inappropriate clothes. He wipes his brow.

In a clearing up ahead stands an old rain water tank that has been converted into a dwelling. Outside the makeshift house, on a small stool sits a very old man, his leathery face crisscrossed with a thousand wrinkles. This is TA VUURMAAK. He raises his hand in a wave to the cart. Dawie and Flip wave back. Dawie turns to Kenneth.

DAWIE

That's old Ta Vuurmaak. People say he is more than a hundred years old.

Kenneth nods. The cart shudders along under the watchful eye of Ta Vuurmaak.

**INT. VONNIE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY**

Three women stand in the reception area of a small house. The first is a mousey, middle aged, coloured woman called MARJORIE WINGROVE. She stands with a very attractive middle aged coloured woman, with a golden brown skin and grey hair and a beautiful teenage girl with similar skin tone. The older woman is VONNIE MULLER and the younger, her daughter SUZAN MULLER. Vonnie and Suzan are carrying a small table through the house. Mrs. Wingrove watches the two women, looking uncomfortable. Vonnie smiles at her. A sad smile.

**EXT. VATMAAR MAIN STREET - DAY**

Oom Flip's trolley rolls into a small settlement. With twelve whitewashed houses on either side of the street. Behind the houses are smaller one roomed dwellings.

Outside the first house, Vonnie and Suzan carry the small table around the house. Flip waves to them.

OOM FLIP

I'll come give you a hand later  
Von.

Vonnie smiles a charming smile at Flip. The trolley trundles on. Dawie talks to flip.

DAWIE

Did Vonnie sell the house?

Oom Flip turns back to Dawie.

OOM FLIP

Ja, she had to, the Wingroves  
bought it from her.

DAWIE

Where they going to stay now?

OOM FLIP

In the back room.

DAWIE

Shame.

OOM FLIP

Ja, there is no justice in this  
world.

Kenneth looks at the two woman carrying the table. His eyes scan further up the desolate country street.

KENNETH

(with slight alarm)  
Is this Du Toits Pan?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Oom Flip cackles loudly.

DAWIE  
No, meneer Kenny, this is Vatmaar.  
Where we live.

A look of relief passes over Kenneth's face.

**EXT. VATMAAR MAIN STREET - DAY**

The trolley trundles past a house where a middle aged Qriqua woman with a ebullient face and a large gap between her front teeth, hangs clothes on the line. This is SIS BET. Oom Flip turns to them.

OOM FLIP  
... and that is the most beautiful  
woman in Vatmaar.  
(He calls out to her)  
Hello my buck!

She turns and sees him and waves wildly, shouting.

SIS BET  
Hello My old man!

The cart carries on.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

A dark skinned woman in her mid thirties with a face etched in disappointment puffs up her large hair style whilst examining herself in a handheld mirror. This is SETTIE SEPTEMBER.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Come on Jonnie. Come on, I can hear  
the trolley, hurry up.

JONNY (O.S.)  
Coming my love.

**INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

A dark skinned man, with drunken eyes, and a sunken face sits on the edge of the bed in his underwear. He holds his head as if it might fall apart if he let go. This is JONNY.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

Settie puts down the mirror and heads for the door.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
I can't wait for you any longer, a  
bloody tortoise moves faster than  
you. I'm going out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She heads for the door. In the background Jonny mumbles.

JONNY (O.S.)  
OK, my love...

**EXT. VATMAAR MAIN STREET - DAY**

As the cart nears Settie September's house, she comes out to the front, trying unsuccessfully to make it look like a coincidence. She calls out to the men puffing herself up.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Hello Oom Flip, Dawie.

They wave at her. Settie looks Kenneth up and down, taking in every detail. She hopes the cart would stop but it doesn't. She mutters to herself about their lack of manners.

The cart moves on. Flip turns to Kenneth.

OOM FLIP  
And that's Settie September. The local newspaper.

Dawie cackles. The cart gets to the end of the street. A middle aged Griqua man stands with a bag at the end of the road. Flip sees him and brings the cart to a stop. The man exchanges some money with Flip and climbs on. His clothes are old, his pants held up by a piece of string. He raises his hand to Kenneth and Dawie who greet him back. Flip yells to Old Swing and the horse moves off.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON**

The cart bumps slowly through the expansive landscape along a very long, very straight dirt road.

The horse drawn cart is made insignificant by the epic expanse of the landscape that surrounds it.

Kenneth wipes his brow again looking at the road disappearing over the horizon.

KENNETH  
Is it still far to Dutoitspan?

DAWIE  
Oh no, not far, about five miles.  
Hey Flip?

OOM FLIP  
Ja, only about five miles.

Kenneth's head drops. The cart trundles on.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - DAY**

The trolley pulls into the main street of Dutoitspan. A larger town than Vatmaar but still a tiny country outpost. A few shops line the main street. Kenneth looks out over the street. The trolley passes a General Dealer.

The trolley slows down at the shop and the man on the back jumps off.

MAN

Thank you Flip.

The cart trundles down the road.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - LATE AFTERNOON**

The cart stands in the main street of Dutoitspan. Oom Flip and Dawie unload Kenneth's belongings onto the street in front of a double story house. Kenneth looks disheveled after the bumpy journey.

DAWIE

I'll come by tomorrow morning at  
and take you to the site.

KENNETH

OK.

Oom Flip approaches Kenneth and shakes his hand.

OOM FLIP

I wish you all the luck in the  
world here in the Pan meneer, come  
visit us in Vatmaar..our door is  
always open...

KENNETH

Uhh... yes, thank you.

OOM FLIP

Meneer Kenneth , can I just ask you  
one thing?

Kenneth awaits the question.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)

(continuing)

No... I just was wondering if,  
Mister Kenneth's wife is going to  
join him here?

KENNETH

No, I'm not married.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Settie September stalks around her bare kitchen. Jonny sits at a small table pouring himself an enamel mug of red wine from an unmarked bottle.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
A betcheler. What you think of  
that? Not even married!

Jonnie slugs wine. She turns on him.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Hey! I'm talking to you. Are you  
even listening ?

JONNY  
I'm listening Settie I'm  
listening...

SETTIE  
So what have I been saying?

JONNY  
You been talking about... this...  
builder from ... Beaufort West

She looks at him with derision.

SETTIE  
A builder from Beaufort west. You  
listening with one ear or what? He  
is a craftsman from Graaf Reniet  
and he has obviously got lots of  
money and he is a bachelor. And you  
know what that means ?

JONNY  
Uh.. no ...

SETTIE  
It means that he would be perfect  
for Nellie.

JONNIE  
You are a smart woman Settie.

SETTIE  
Just because I'm surrounded by  
idiots doesn't make me one!

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON**

Sis Bet, Oom Flip, Dawie, Vonnie and Suzan share a simple meal outside Vonnie's new home, the one roomed dwelling behind the main house.

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CONTINUED:

This close knit community has gathered to show their support for Vonnie in hard times. Everyone trying to make the best of bleak circumstances. A modest amount of food is shared equally and relished by the small group.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE - EVENING**

A congealed mass of food is splodged onto Kenneth's plate. He sits in an empty room at a large table with only one place setting. Mrs. D'ALLESANDRO, a very large middle aged Italian woman stands next to him serving the food.

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
I lock the front door at ten o  
clock. You no here, you sleep  
somewhere else.

KENNETH  
Uhh...OK.

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
OK.

Beat.

KENNETH  
Is there anyone else staying here?

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
Not in this side of the house.

She waddles off. Kenneth has no choice but to tuck in to the steaming stodgy mass on his plate. He nervously puts a spoonful into his mouth. It tastes worse then it looks.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT**

The small back room behind Vonnie's old house stands in the bright Karoo night.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT**

Suzan and Vonnie lie facing each other on two animal skins on the floor of their new home. The table they took out the house stands to the one side. The room is tiny, with just about enough space for the two of them to lie down in. Suzan holds back tears. Vonnie pulls a strand of Suzan's hair away from her eyes. She speaks softly to her daughter.

VONNIE  
It's not a bad thing to have very  
little.

SUZAN  
Why Mama?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VONNIE

Cause that way, when you have a lot  
you'll appreciate it even more.

Suzan smiles a tiny smile and squeezes her mothers arm.

**INT. KENNETH'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth has unpacked his stuff in his room. He sits on the bed making the last movement of polishing his shoes. They are now so clean, he can see his reflection in them. He places his shoes neatly under his bed. He lies down on his single bed, he shifts around, the bed is uncomfortable, he moves himself around to a different position, and lies, looking at the ceiling contemplating his new home.

**EXT. TA VUURMAAK'S CABIN - EVENING**

Ta Vuurmaak sits in front of a wood fire, the flames flickering over his ancient face. Broer crouches next to him playing a nostalgic tune on his violin. On Vuurmaak's hand perches a praying mantis. Vuurmaak watches the little insects front legs rubbing together as if he is listening to an old story. He mutters to himself, almost talking to the insect.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - MORNING**

Dawie and Kenneth ride on their bicycles through Dutoitspan. Dawie chats away, Kenneth cycles quietly. Kenneth is dressed for work with his bag of tools slung over his shoulder. He rides easily, proudly. They arrive on the outskirts of the town where a half built temple is under construction.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE OFFICE - DAY**

A chubby middle aged white man with more than one chin sits at a chaotic desk in a makeshift prefabricated site office. This is GEORGE BURNS. There is a knock at the door. Burns speaks in a thick Scottish accent.

GEORGE BURNS

All right. Yes.

Dawie enters the office with Kenneth behind him. Dawie speaks in broken English.

DAWIE

Morning Mr. Burns. This is Kenneth  
Kleynhans.

Burns greets Kenneth like a long lost friend.

GEORGE BURNS

Kenneth!

He thrusts a chubby hand towards him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGE BURNS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Are we happy to see you. Welcome.  
Welcome. Sorry about yesterday, car  
problems, bloody thing gives me no  
end of grief.

KENNETH

I understand Mr. Burns.

GEORGE BURNS

As you know we have been let down  
by a rather unreliable fellow by  
the name of O Driscoll and as a  
result we have fallen a little  
behind schedule.

KENNETH

Yes Mr. Burns.

Burns scratches what is left of his hair.

BURNS

Well not a little behind schedule,  
we are very, very far behind  
schedule, You find us in a bit of a  
mess actually Kenny.

Burns dabs sweat with a handkerchief.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

But I'm not worried because you  
come very highly recommended.

KENNETH

Thank You Mr. Burns.

BURNS

You'll get us back on track Kenny.  
I know you will.

He beams at Kenneth. The pressure showing a little on his  
face.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Excellent. Excellent. Let's go and  
introduce you to the boys.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - MORNING**

Kenneth is standing next to Mr. Burns in front of the half  
constructed temple. They stand in front of a small group of  
coloured men. Dawie has taken his place in the group. The men  
are hard, with sinewy faces. They regard Kenneth with  
suspicion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGE BURNS

Kenneth is going to be taking over  
from Mr. O Driscoll. You will take  
your orders from him from now on.

The men stare at Kenneth.

GEORGE BURNS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Good, good. Well...over to you  
Kenneth. I must get on with things.

Burns moves off. Kenneth looks at the men in front of him. He  
handles the situation with great authority.

KENNETH

Who is the timekeeper?

An elderly man, toothless man holding a book raises his hand.  
This is KOOS BLOU.

KOOS BLOU

That's me, my crown. Koos Blou At  
your service.

KENNETH

Good Koos, every morning you will  
come and tell me what work is  
finished and what has to be done  
next. You will also give me a list  
of material that is needed.  
Understood?

KOOS BLOU

Yessir Meneer Kenny.

KENNETH

Is everyone at work today?

KOOS BLOU

There are a few missing Meneer  
Kenny. You know the weekend,  
usually on a Monday...

KENNETH

I don't care what day it is. Anyone  
who is not here today is fired.

Jonny arrives late. He looks rough as hell.

JONNIE

(smiling)

Sorry, sorry for being late  
Captain.

KENNETH

What is your name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JONNIE

Uhh, Jonnie September Meneer.

KENNETH

If you're late for work once more  
you're out. OK

JONNIE

(not smiling)

Uhh Ja, Meneer.

Jonny takes his place amongst the group, shooting a nasty glance at Kenneth and then to the labourers.

KENNETH

Just because I am coloured does not mean I am your friend. I am the foreman and I am here to make sure the job gets done. I take pride in my work and I want people here who feel the same way. Anyone who doesn't is welcome to leave now.

His words hang in the air.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Right let's get to work. We have already wasted half an hour of the boss's time. It will be worked in tomorrow.

The men disperse and mumbling make their way to the site.

WESSELS

Who the hell does he think he is?

JONNIE

Hoity fokking toity.

WESSELS

As soon as things get back on track, they'll replace him with a white man and he'll be out on his ass.

Kenneth makes his way to the site. George Burns goes roaring past in his car, an old black Mercedes. There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with it. Kenneth watches him go, Burns waves happily out the window at Kenneth. Kenneth waves back, taking it all in.

**EXT. MONTAGE - DAY**

Kenneth and Dawie ride to work together, Dawie babbles, Kenneth says nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Workers stand aside and watch Kenneth perform a complicated carpentry task, he is highly skilled and the men notice it.

Kenneth rides the workers hard. Dawie is a hard worker with unusually great strength. He carries what three men could.

Kenneth and Dawie ride to work together, Dawie babbles, Kenneth is silent.

Kenneth is on Jonny's case.

Burns looks out at the work being done, he looks pleased with progress.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - AFTERNOON**

The workers are lined up in a row to receive their wages. Kenneth stands next to Koos Blou, who dispenses the money to the men. Kenneth makes notes on a clipboard. Dawie receives his money and stands to one side. There is a jovial atmosphere amongst the men. Koos pays the last man. Kenneth hands some money to Koos.

KENNETH

Thank you Koos.

KOOS BLOU

Thank you Meneer Kenny. A very good weekend to you. Oooh, am I lus for a lekker can of Khadie.

He ambles off whistling. Kenneth makes his way towards the site office. Dawie approaches Kenny.

DAWIE

Uhh, Meneer Kenny

KENNETH

Yes Dawie...

DAWIE

Uhh.. Meneer Kenny.. I just wanted to say.. Friday nights... most of the people in Vatmaar go to Bets place for a drink, she makes the best Khadie in the district, you got to be careful though cause it's got the kick of a wild horse...

Kenneth looks at him impassively.

DAWIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

.. uh..

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWIE (CONT'D)

so I was just thinking if Meneer  
Kenny is all alone in the boarding  
house , that maybe you wanted to  
join us tonight for a few  
drinks...just a few...to be on the  
safe side...

KENNETH

Uhhh.. not tonight Dawie...I've got  
work stuff to take care of.

DAWIE

OK...thank you Meneer Kenny.

Dawie wheels his bicycle away, disappointed.

KENNETH

Dawie.

Dawie turns, with anticipation.

DAWIE

Meneer Kenny?

KENNETH

I have been meaning to say, it is  
not necessary to ride with me in  
the mornings anymore. I know the  
way by now.

DAWIE

Yes Meneer Kenny.

Dawie turns away and leaves. His face flushed with  
embarrassment.

**INT. BUILDING SITE OFFICE - AFTERNOON**

Burns tries to restore some order to his chaotic desk. There  
is a knock at the door.

BURNS

Come, come.

Kenneth enters the office.

KENNETH

I have the payslips Mr. Burns.

BURNS

Ah yes, thank you Kenny. Thank You.  
What a difference you are making on  
this site Kenny. You are good. Ha  
ha aaa!

KENNETH

Thank you Mr. Burns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

An awkward pause between the two men.

BURNS

Uhh well I must fly, My wife will be chewing my ear off if I am not back in time for supper.

KENNETH

Right. OK, have a good weekend.

BURNS

You too Kenny. Keep up the good work!

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - EVENING**

Kenneth cycles slowly through Dutoitspan, all around him, people are preparing for the weekend.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kenny walks through the guest house about to enter the area where he eats, he sees his one place setting at the long table. He hears voices coming from another section of the house. Mrs. D'allesandro is not around so he walks closer to the sound of the people. He comes to a door, behind which he can hear loud voices. He waits a second at the door and then opens it.

Inside the room is a long table of white men who are drinking and eating. Mr. Burns is at the table, sitting very close to Mrs. D' Allesandro, the only woman in the room. The table is laid out with abundant food, far more appetizing than Kenneth's fare.

Everyone at the table, stops talking, the people facing him, stare at him. Burns looks down. A horrible silence ensues. Kenneth does not know what to do.

KENNETH

Sorry...

He pulls the door closed behind him. He stands at the door for a moment. Laughter is heard from within.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kenneth sits alone at the long table. The usual lump of macaroni sits on his plate. He has lost his appetite.

**EXT. VATMAAR CHURCH - DAY**

A small ramshackle church building.

**INT. VATMAAR CHURCH - DAY**

Virtually the entire community of Vatmaar sits in the church. Vonnie and Suzan are there as are Oom Flip, Sis Bet and Ta Vuurmaak. Settie and Jonny are also there. There are about twenty other people in the church including Marjorie Wingrove and her husband ERIC WINGROVE. They are all coloured people. They sing Nearer to God am I to thee. They sing roughly but proudly. The preacher stands in the front singing loudly, slightly off key. He is a middle aged man called REVEREND COBB. To his right holding the collection plate is a stout middle aged man called HENDRUK JANUARY.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN CHURCH - DAY**

A stone NGK church stands firm in the Sunday morning sun. Robust Afrikaans singing can be heard from inside.

**INT. NGK CHURCH - MORNING**

The congregation sings the same hymn but in Afrikaans.

They sing loudly with a steely faith. Mrs..BOSMAN, a rotund puffed up white woman in her mid thirties sings feverishly, next to her is her husband EUGENE BOSMAN, a gaunt looking man with sharp cheekbones. Other members of the Du Toitspan community stand together and sing. This congregation is completely white.

**EXT. NGK CHURCH - MORNING**

Outside the church a young coloured woman sits on a stone. The woman's skin is golden brown and her blonde hair tumbles down over her shoulders. This is KATRINA MULLER (KAITJIE).

The singing reverberates in the background. Katrina wears a simple white cotton dress but she looks like an angel.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - MORNING**

Kenneth, looking dapper on this Sunday morning, cycles down the empty streets of Du Toits Pan.

He turns into the street that the church is on and sees Katjie immediately. He slows down, immediately taken with her beauty. She also notices him. Kenneth can't take his eyes off her and as a result drives his bicycle straight into a bush. Kaitjie giggles.

Kenneth tries to hide his embarrassment and starts extracting himself from the bush.

KENNETH

Hello...

KAITJIE

Hello Meneer....are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Uhh... ja...ja.

Awkward pause and then.

KAITJIE

Terrible place to plant a bush,  
just in the middle of nowhere like  
that.

Kenneth can barely utter a word.

KENNETH

Yes... I agree.

Kaitjie makes her way over to him, her beauty intensifying,  
the closer she gets.

KAITJIE

You have... a twig...

She reaches over and lifts a small twig from his hair. The  
sight of her, the smell of her makes Kenneth weak.

KENNETH

Thank you.

KAITJIE

Pleasure.

She smiles at him.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Aren't you hot dressed like that...  
It's boiling today...

KENNETH

I am.. a bit hot...

KAITJIE

There is nothing I would like more,  
then to go to the waterfall today,  
there is this great place not too  
far from here where I used to go  
with my sister.. there is a natural  
pool and you stand under the water  
and it falls on your head...it is  
just...like a hundred little people  
dancing on your head ...its  
brilliant.

Kenneth smiles at her enthusiasm.

KENNETH

That does sounds.... good...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She smiles at him.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Are you ....waiting for someone?

KATJIE  
Ja meneer. I'm waiting for Mrs.  
Bosman. I look after her children.

KENNETH  
You're working, even on Sunday?

KAITJIE  
Jaa, I work everyday except the  
last Sunday on the month I have  
off...and then I ...

She is about to continue when the doors of the church burst open and the congregation spews out. Mrs. Bosman is walking next to a sharp edged woman in a garish pink dress. This is MARIE KOSTER. Mrs. Bosman bustles like a hen followed lethargically by Eugene.

MRS. BOSMAN  
OK Marie, we'll see you at 3. I'll  
make some Koeksusters. Come Eugene,  
don't drag your feet like that.

Eugene looks stoically at her.

MRS. BOSMAN (CONT'D)  
Now where is that nursemaid of  
mine? Kaitjie. Kaitjie!! Oh there  
she is! Kaitjie!!

Kaitjie sees this and says to Kenneth.

KAITJIE  
I must go.

KENNETH  
I....

Before Kenneth can say another word she is gone. She runs up to the Bosman family, as she gets there, she trips a little. Mr. Bosman puts a hand out and holds her arm.

KAITJIE  
Thank you.

He smiles at her. This little moment has been witnessed by Marie Koster and Mrs. Bosman.

MARIE KOSTER  
You better keep your eye on that  
one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Mrs. Bosman watches Kaitjie intently, scowling at her husband. Kenneth watches her from a distance. His world has been turned upside down. At that moment Kaitjie turns and smiles at him, a devastating smile. He smiles back and tries to wave nonchalantly immediately wishing he hadn't.

**INT. KENNETH'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth sits on the edge of his bed. He holds a shoe in his right hand and a brush in the other. He can not seem to focus on this rather mundane task.

**EXT. OLD SECTION OF DU TOITSPAN - DAY**

Jonny mooches around the old section of Du Toits pan looking for a luck. He passes by a gloomy house with a green door, he walks a little faster as he passes this house. Suddenly the green door bursts open and two men come flying out of the house. Jonny sees them and tries to run but they have a head start on him and easily catch up to him, throwing him to the ground. The one man GIELIE is a gangster and has the face to prove it, the other is CAPEY, more of a henchman. They grab him, kicking and screaming and drag him towards the green door. Jonnie does not want to go into this house. They take him into the house and slam the door.

**INT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY**

The house is dank and dark and has an ominous feel to it. A few pictures with Arabic writing hang on the wall. A ruthless looking Malay woman in her fifties, MOTTA, sits on a chair wiping off a piece of wire bent into the shape of a hook. A young woman's cries can be from another room. The two men ignore the woman and drag Jonny through a back door and into another room.

**INT. JANNEMAN'S ROOM - DAY**

A vicious looking man with a body covered in tattoos and a large scar on his face sits on a wooden box. He uses a jagged knife to pack a broken bottleneck with a mixture of dagga and tobacco. This is JANNEMAN. The two men throw Jonny on the floor in front of him. Janneman does not speak immediately, but when he does, he speaks quietly with extraordinary menace.

JANNEMAN

You owe me Jonneyboy. You owed me for a while now.

JONNIE

I been looking for you Jann.

JANNEMAN

So you got my money?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONNIE

..uh...no Jan.. but I'll get it. I promise.

Janneman puts down the bottle neck and with a swift move jumps up, kicking Jonny in the face. Jonny falls over. Janneman pounces on him, straddling him. He holds the knife to his face.

JANNEMAN

I'm tired of your stories Jonnyboy. If you want to gamble you must have the money to pay for it.

JONNIE

I'll get it Jan...I'll get it.

JANNEMAN

If I don't get it by month end ...I'm coming to get you.

JONNIE

OK... Jan...OK.

Janneman stabs his knife into the wooden floorboards dangerously close to Jonny's head.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Out in the field Broer takes out a battered harmonica. He wipes it on his trousers. Lifts it to his lips and plays. It is a melancholic love song.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - DAY**

Kenneth rides dreamily to work, without Hendruk.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Kenneth stands with Mr. Burns looking up at the construction. Burns points to the top section. The construction is now intimidatingly high. Kenneth is not his normal alert self.

BURNS

When we start up on top, we are going to have to put up a lighting conductor... otherwise this whole place could go up in flames...

KENNETH

Yes Mr. Burns...

BURNS

I got to be careful about the building inspectors but they're only coming at the end of next month so lets wait on that...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

OK Mr. Burns...

Burns looks at Kenneth, who looks dreamily up at the structure.

GEORGE BURNS

Are you all right Kenny?

KENNETH

Uhh yes Mr. Burns.

GEORGE BURNS

I'm sorry about that business at the house the other day.. it's just.. well Mrs. D'allesandro isn't even supposed to take coloured guests at all... and so... she is sort of doing me a favour.... on the side.

KENNETH

I understand Mr. Burns.

Burns slaps him on the arm and moves off.

BURNS

Good Man.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - EARLY EVENING**

A summer thunderstorm rings through the countryside. Precious rain falls on the Karoo countryside

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - EVENING**

Mr. Bosman sits in the living room reading a newspaper. Ollie Bosman perches on her chair crocheting maniacally. The rain falls on the tin roof. Katrina enters the room.

KAITJIE

Evening Mr. Bosman.

He looks up from his paper warmly.

MR. BOSMAN

Evening Kaitjie.

KAITJIE

Missus I have put the girls to sleep.

MRS. BOSMAN

Good, good, there is some bread on the table in the kitchen. Good night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAITJIE

Thank You Missus.

MR. BOSMAN

You going to be OK getting outside,  
it's raining pretty heavily.

KAITJIE

Oh...I'll..be fine...

MR. BOSMAN

I can walk you out with an umbrella  
if you like...

KAITJIE

Uhh no.. I..

MRS. BOSMAN

Don't be ridiculous Eugene...it's  
ten steps to her room, what are you  
talking about?

(to Kaitjie)

Go,go!

Mrs. Bosman makes little flicking gestures with her hand.  
Kaitjie turns and goes. Mrs. Bosman glares at her husband.

MRS. BOSMAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I don't like the way you look at  
that girl.

MR. BOSMAN

What are you talking about?

MRS. BOSMAN

You heard me Eugene. You heard me.

He glares back at her, annoyed, and flicks up his newspaper,  
she crochets even more maniacally.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN CHURCH - DAY**

Kenneth stands holding his bicycle in the same place that he  
met Kaitjie. The same staunch singing emanates from the  
church in front of him. There is no sign of Kaitjie.

**EXT. ROAD TO VATMAAR - DAY**

Kaitjie walks the long road back to Vatmaar. She carries a  
few bags of provisions.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN CHURCH - DAY**

The congregation spills out of the church. Kenneth sees Mrs.  
Bosman, her husband and her children. Kaitjie is clearly not  
with them. Kenneth climbs on his bicycle and rides off.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Kaitjie sits on a small bench outside the back room. Suzan stands behind her plaiting her hair. Vonnie bustles around cleaning up after the meal.

VONNIE

We had no choice Kaitjie. We had nothing when we got back from Sannah Vosloo.

Beat.

KAITJIE

But Ma, how can you and Suzan stay in this tiny room, it's not right.

VONNIE

We'll be OK my child. We still have a lot to be thankful for. We have never been to bed hungry.

Kaitjie and Suzan can't help smiling at their mothers eternal optimism. Kaitjie takes some money from her skirt.

KAITJIE

Here is the money from Mrs. Bosman Ma.

Vonnie accepts it warmly.

VONNIE

Thank you my child.

KAITJIE

I wish it could be more, then you wouldn't have had to sell the house.

VONNIE

Every bit helps.

SUZAN

It's horrible, not having you here. Horrible. How long do you still have to do this job?

KAITJIE

Only ten more months.

SUZAN

Ten months! That's long!

KAITJIE

Ten months isn't so long.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUZAN  
It's forever!

Suzan finishes the plaits.

SUZAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
There you are, you look beautiful

KAITJIE  
Thank you my sweet.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBERS HOUSE - DAY**

Settie pins a new dress on her daughter NELLIE. Nellie is a plain looking girl in her late teens, with the dark skin of her mother. Jonny mooches around contemplating his fate.

NELLIE  
Einaaaaa...

SETTIE  
Stand still, stand still....

NELLIE  
How can I stand still when you are sticking pins in me?

Settie looks at her daughter who is dressed up in a rather gaudy attempt at looking smart.

SETTIE  
We're getting there, we're getting there. All you need now is a hankie?

NELLIE  
A hankie?

SETTIE  
Jonny go find a hankie in my cupboard. Quickly come, come.

Jonny reluctantly mooches off to another part of the house.

NELLIE  
What do I need a hankie for?

SETTIE  
Well not to blow your bloody nose on that's for sure.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SETTIE (CONT'D)

We know that he goes to the shops after work, so we wait till we know he is in the shop and then when he comes out you walk past and you drop the hankie and he picks it up and you start chatting and one thing leads to another and so goes the song.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBERS ROOM - DAY**

Settie's voice babbles in the background. Jonny looks through a small cupboard for a hankie when he comes across an old sovereign ring. He holds up the ring and studies it. An idea coming to mind.

SETTIE (O.S.)

Jonnie, what the hell are you doing in there?

He sees a hanky and grabs it.

JONNY

Coming my love....

He thinks for a second and then pockets the ring.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Kaitjie looks up at the sun.

KATJIE

I should be getting back.

VONNIE

What? It feels like you just got here. Stay tonight and go back tomorrow.

KAITJIE

I can't Mama

VONNIE

When last did the three of us spend the night together?

KATJIE

I know Ma. But if I am not back on a Sunday Night Mrs. Bosman goes on and on about it

(she imitates Mrs. Bosman)

What if something went wrong? What is the point of having someone of you're not here when you need them.

Suzan smiles at the impersonation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VONNIE  
But it's your day off.

KATJIE  
I know Ma but it's just easier if I  
get back.

Kaitjie goes to her mother and kisses and hugs her tenderly.

KATJIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
I'll see you next month ...

VONNIE  
Take care of yourself my child.

Vonnie hugs her daughter tenderly. Suzan comes up and hugs  
Kaitjie, desperately.

SUZAN  
I hate this. I hate it.

The three women have to part from each other, a painful  
separation.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - DAY**

Kenneth pulls his bicycle up next to Chetty's General dealer,  
stands his bicycle with a pedal on the pavement and enters  
the shop. From behind a house a few hundred metres away  
Settie and Nellie approach. They serpentine closer to the  
shop until they are pretty close. Settie hisses at Nellie.

SETTIE  
Right, you've got the hankie?

NELLIE  
Ja ma.

SETTIE  
As soon as you see him, you go. OK?

NELLIE  
Are you sure about this??

SETTIE  
Course I'm sure. Don't you think  
he's a catch?

NELLIE  
Ja, Ma.

SETTIE  
So? You want to be alone all your  
life? This is your chance to get a  
better man than your drunk father.  
Grab it girl. Grab it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NELLIE

OK Ma.

They watch the edge of the shop and there he is, Kenneth leaving the shop and making his way to his bike.

SETTIE

Go, go go go!

Nellie half trips, but makes her way towards Kenneth. She manages to get between Kenneth and his bike. She drops the hankie in front of him. Unfortunately the hankie catches on the end of her skirt and doesn't fall on the ground. So she has to keep walking. Kenneth sees the woman behaving a bit oddly but ignores it and starts putting groceries in the basket on his bicycle. Settie jumps up and down in the distance. Nellie stops and gets the hankie off her skirt. Settie is motioning for her to come back quickly. Nellie grips the hankie in her hand and makes her way back towards Kenneth, whose back is now to her. She gets just behind him and then drops the hankie, he doesn't notice, she coughs a little and starts moving off. Kenneth turns around sees the hankie lying there and says.

KENNETH

Excuse me...

Nellie turns around, trying to look her most attractive. Kenneth moves towards the hankie scoops it up and hands it to her. She is totally overwhelmed by him.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You dropped this.

NELLIE

Oh thank you.

KENNETH

Pleasure.

With that he turns around and hops back on his bike and is off. Nellie stands there quite unsure what to do. She watches him go. Settie darts out from behind a house. Then behind the next one. She serpentine her way back to Nellie.

SETTIE

Well, what happened, what did he say?

NELLIE

He said "you dropped your Hankie"

SETTIE

And what did you say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NELLIE

Thank you.

SETTIE

And what did he say?

NELLIE

Pleasure.

SETTIE

And what did you say?

NELLIE

Nothing.

SETTIE

Nothing?

NELLIE

Well what could I say? He was back on his bike driving off?

SETTIE

What could you say? What could you say? This whole thing was to get you an opportunity to say SOMETHING! And you say nothing. Aaaaaaaaaaaghg! I'm surrounded by idiots.

She stomps off.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - DAY**

Kenneth rides through the back streets of Du Toitspan. He stands up on his pedals, casting his eyes left and right looking for any sign of Kaitjie. There is no sign of her or the Bosman's.

**EXT. ROAD TO DU TOITSPAN - AFTERNOON**

Settie and Nellie are walking home on the long road back to Vatmaar. Settie continues her tirade.

SETTIE

You think you going to get another chance to drop the hankie? No my girl, you only get one chance at dropping the hankie and then its gone, no more hankie dropping. No, now you have to come up with a new plan and I repeat you are going to have to come up with a new plan. Because I had a plan AND YOU MESSED IT UP!

Nellie does not look up, just keeps walking.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - MORNING**

Kenneth waits with his bicycle outside the guest house, looking down the main street. He sees Dawie coming down the street. He grabs his bike and times pushing it out as Dawie rides past. He greets Dawie warmly.

KENNETH  
Morning Dawie.

Dawie stops, a little taken aback by Kenneth's friendliness.

DAWIE  
Uhh, morning Meneer Kenny.

KENNETH  
Shall we ride together today ?

DAWIE  
Uhh.. ja. OK.

Kenneth pushes his bike off and they ride together.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Kenneth and Dawie push their bicycles up to the site.

KENNETH  
Uh Dawie, there is something I wanted to ask you?

DAWIE  
Ja, meneer Kenny.

KENNETH  
I was, I just wanted to know if you knew of people here in Dutoits Pan called the Bosman's.

DAWIE  
Ja.. I know them. They're the people that Kaitjie works for.

KENNETH  
Kaitjie?

DAWIE  
Ja, she's the daughter of Vonnie Muller, we saw her in Vatmaar the day you arrived..

KENNETH  
The one who was moving house?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWIE

Hey Meneer Kenny, you look like you not interested but you see everything that's going on.

Beat.

KENNETH

Can you show me where they live?

DAWIE

Sure, I'll show you after work.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

The labourers work hard in the late afternoon sun. Kenny paces up and down looking at his watch. Kenneth sees Koos Blou and calls him.

KENNETH

Koos...

KOOS BLOU

Ja meneer Kenny.

KENNETH

You can call time.

Koos looks at his watch.

KOOS BLOU

Eyy meneer Kenny, it's only ten to five usually its five on the dot. You in a hurry today.

Kenneth hides his feelings. Keeping it formal with Koos.

KENNETH

The men have been working hard, it doesn't hurt to finish a bit early every now and then.

KOOS BLOU

Yes sir, Meneer Kenny sir.

He takes a whistle out of his pocket and blows sharply on it. The men all look around a little puzzled.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE- DAY**

Kenneth and Dawie ride their bicycle down a side road. Dawie stops his bike and Kenneth pulls up alongside. The two Bosman girls are playing on a swing hanging from a large tree.

DAWIE

This is the Bosman's house meneer Kenny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Thank you Dawie.

DAWIE

You have some business with the  
Bosman's?

KENNETH

Uhh... yes, work stuff.. with Mr.  
Bosman...you know

Dawie smiles. He knows exactly what is going on.

DAWIE

Yes. I know, Meneer Kenny. I'll see  
you tomorrow at work.

He climbs on his bike and rides off. Kenneth pushes his  
bicycle towards the two girls, he checks that Dawie has  
disappeared.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

...sorry to bother you...

The children look at him.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Can you tell me where the maid is?

The two children look in the direction of a tree and Katjie  
emerges from behind it.

KATJIE

That must be me meneer.

Kenneth is reduced to rubble. She looks more beautiful then  
before. He tries to compose himself. Out of his depth.

KATJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What can I do for Meneer?

He steps towards her and offers his hand.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

Uhh hello yes... I...my name is  
Kenneth.... I...

KATJIE

Yes I remember you, from the  
church...the bush.

KENNETH

Yes, yes, good... I'm glad, that's  
good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kenneth's relief that she remembered him is evident.

KATJIE

I'm Katrina, but everyone calls me  
Kaitjie.

They shake hands. An awkward silence ensues. Kenny is  
battling to speak.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

I went to look for you at the  
church the week after I saw you  
there but you weren't there

KAITJIE

Oh, that was my day off. I went to  
visit my family in Vatmaar.

KENNETH

Oh, yes, I see. How is your mother  
and your sister?

KAITJIE

You know my family?

KENNETH

No, no, I just, we saw them moving  
house the day I arrived.

KAITJIE

Oh, no they are very well, my  
mother manages to see a silver  
lining on every dark cloud...

Kenny smiles, awkward silence.

KENNETH

Uh, Kaitjie, I would, I would like  
to, to come and visit you if that's  
OK. I promise I'll behave myself.

She looks at him.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
What do you say?

KAITJIE

I'll have to ask my Missus.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman chops figs as if her life depended on it. Helping  
her is a chubby black woman called LENA. Kaitjie stands in  
front of her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BOSMAN

No, no, no. I know where that ends up. Marie Koster tells me they were running a shebeen in the back rooms. No thank you very much.

Kaitjie, disappointed, turns and makes her way off. Mrs. Bosman takes a jar and puts it at the far end of the kitchen. From this vantage she can see her husband Eugene sitting in the lounge smoking his pipe. Kaitjie is almost out the door. She turns slowly back towards Kaitjie.

MRS. BOSMAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

This visitor, is it a man or a woman?

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Kenneth waits, battling to breathe. The two Bosman girls have been watching this unfolding romance with great interest. Katjie's head pops out of the door. She smiles broadly. She nods to Kenneth who throws his head back in relief. The girls giggle.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - DAY**

Kenneth cycles along the street singing to himself and weaving his bicycle around. On the verandah in front of one of the shops sits an elderly woman in a smart dress and hat playing a guitar, a man next to her plays the home made violin. They play an upbeat number. Another woman in a smart dress stands to the side of them. She claps her hands softly to the rhythm and dances around with little footsteps and sings a cyclical song.

**INT. KENNETH'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth shaves meticulously in front of the small mirror of his room.

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - EVENING**

Katjie's room is very sparse. A skin on the floor and a blanket, a makeshift table. The room is lit by a candle. She has fashioned two makeshift chairs out of wooden crates. She looks at them, moves them around. There is a soft knock on the door. She starts, adjusts the hair around her face. Clears her throat and makes her way to the door. Composes herself.

**EXT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - EVENING**

Kenneth stands in front of the door looking pale. In his one hand he holds a glass bottle of ginger beer and in his other a paper bag containing a large vetkoek. He blinks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The door opens and there stands the most beautiful girl in the world smiling the most beautiful smile he has ever seen. They look at each other.

KENNETH  
Hello...

KAITJIE  
Hello....

A while passes.

KENNETH  
I bought Vetkoek and Ginger beer...  
I didn't know whether, what you, if  
you would have preferred something  
else. I can go back to the shop.

KAITJIE  
I love Vetkoek and Ginger beer!

KENNETH  
Good. Good. Excellent. Here.

He hands her the goodies.

KAITJIE  
Come in, come in.

He steps in.

KENNETH  
Thank you...

Only one step take them into the centre of the room. The cramped space adds to the romantic awkwardness.

KAITJIE  
Sit, sit..

Kenneth sits on the makeshift chair and falls right over. He quickly rights himself. Dusting off his shirt.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Sorry...

KENNETH  
It's fine. I'm fine.

KAITJIE  
I wish I had some chairs. One day  
when I have money I am definitely  
going to get some chairs, there is  
a man in Vatmaar Oom Gert, who  
makes beautiful teak chairs...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENNETH

These are great.

Kaitjie gets a metal plate and cup. She sits on the other chair, puts the vetkoek on the plate between them. Pours half the ginger beer into a cup and hands it to him.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Thank you.

She hands the plate to him. He breaks the vetkoek in half. He eats his vetkoek and drinks his ginger beer as does she.

**EXT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

Tant Vonnie hangs washing outside Settie's house. Suzan stands at her side, handing her wet clothes. The train whistles in the distance. Vonnie looks in the direction of the train's whistle. Considers it all for a while and then

VONNIE

Almost ten o'clock...

SUZAN

Jaaa.

Suzan hands her mother another piece of clothing. Vonnie walks with her tiny little footsteps to the line and starts hanging the clothing. She is being watched from inside the house by Settie September and her best friend MAGRIET, a rakey woman with her hair in a doek. They sip tea and gossip.

SETTIE

I have to think of something  
Magriet. I'm tired of living like  
this. I should have better things.

MAGRIET

It's no so bad Settie.

SETTIE

No so bad! I've got nothing! That  
dronklap gambles all our money  
away. The only thing I have worth  
anything in the world is the ring  
that his father gave me. That's it.

She gulps tea. Settie looks at Vonnie outside, her eyes zoning in on Vonnie.

SETTIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Just look at her. With those tiny  
little footsteps of hers,  
everything takes twice as long.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAGRIET

It's because of breeding that she walks like that.

SETTIE

I don't know about that all I know is because she has a pale skin she thinks she is better then all of us.

MAGRIET

Jaaaaa.

SETTIE

Well answer me this? Who is doing who's washing? Huh? Answer me that Magriet. You answer me that!

Magriet can't find fault in this logic.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - DAY**

Kenneth hurtles down the road on his bike holding a bag of goodies from the shop.

**EXT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

A faint light emanates from inside the small back room.

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth and Kaitjie sit facing each other. Kaitjie talks excitedly.

KAITJIE

For fifteen years my mother nursed this old lady till the day she died, even though she was a white woman, they became friends, she didn't want anyone with her except Mama, and then when she died, her son, just told her to get lost, and so they came back to Vatmaar with nothing. Listen to me I'm talking the hind leg off a donkey...

He watches her lost.

KENNETH

It's fine, really, I like it.

KAITJIE

Tell me about yourself. Are your parents still alive?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Yes, yes, my mother is a nurse and my father is a headmaster.

KAITJIE

Shoe Kenny. We come from very different worlds, me and you...

KENNETH

Ja, I suppose, doesn't feel like it when we are together.

KAITJIE

No, it feels like I've known you all my life.

There is an awkward silence.

**INT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY**

Jonny sits in front of Janneman. Capie and Gielie lean against the wall in the background. Jonny takes a folded up rag out of his pocket. He opens the rag to reveal the gold sovereign ring. He takes the ring and hands it to Janneman. He studies it, bites it, tries it on his finger. It fits. He smiles a toothless smile. Jonny smiles too.

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth and Kaitjie sit on the floor looking at an old Huisgenoot magazine. Kenneth is reading to her from the magazine.

KENNETH

The small house was perched on the top of the mountain and the view was breathtaking ....

KAITJIE

Breath taking, that's beautiful. Show me the word.

KENNETH

Look here aa-sem-ro-wend..

KAITJIE

Aasemr.owend....The view was breath taking....read more read more.....

KENNETH

Let's stop now you must be exhausted.

KAITJIE

No.. I don't want to stop. I want to know everything that you know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He looks into her big brown eyes, taken by her beauty.

KENNETH

Kaitjie

KAITJIE

Yes...

KENNETH

You are so beautiful to me.

She blushes turning away.

KAITJIE

Kenny...

KENNETH

I'm sorry to be so... it's just  
that's how I feel...

She looks at him with her big beautiful eyes. He leans forward. She does not move away. Their lips move slowly towards each other. Their lips touch gently. Nirvana. The moment holds. They break away, the moment too much, Kaitjie takes his hand. She looks at Kenneth's hand which has a cut on it. Roughly covered with mecurcrome. To cover the awkwardness left by the kiss, she becomes fixated on his hand.

KAITJIE

What did you do to your hand?

KENNETH

I cut it the other day at work. I  
can't concentrate anymore. It's not  
serious.

The wound has congealed and does not look good.

KAITJIE

... it doesn't seem to be healing,  
very well.

She studies the wound for a little longer

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I know someone who could sort this  
out for you ...

KENNETH

Who?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAITJIE

My mother and Sis Bet know every herb and plant that grows in the Karoo...they can fix anything, we never once been to a doctor, except the dentist, we hated going to the dentist when we were kids. He was actually a horse doctor and he pulled your tooth out while you were wide awake, cause no one had any money for pain killers.

Kenny smiles.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Sunday is my day off... maybe we could go together to Vatmaar. You could meet my family...

KENNETH

Uhh... I dunno...

KAITJIE

You don't want to?

KENNETH

No, it's not that it's just...

KAITJIE

Just what?

KENNETH

It's just, most of my workers are from there. I don't know if, you know, they should see me there.

KAITJIE

See you there doing what?

Kenneth looks down.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Visiting with the maids?

KENNETH

No, no, Kaitjie.

KAITJIE

Well what then Kenny, I don't understand.

There is nothing Kenneth can say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What is it with you Kenny? You're a coloured man. Why do you have to be embarrassed about visiting us in Vatmaar?

KENNETH

I'm not embarrassed.

KAITJIE

(softening her tone)

You are Kenny, you are, you don't want to be seen by your workers with a servant girl and her poor family.

KENNETH

No...

KAITJIE

It's true Kenny, since we met, we haven't been out of this room once. You don't want to be seen with me. Outside.

Kenneth looks down. What she is saying is true.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Sooner or later we are going to have to go into the outside world.

Kenneth looks into her eyes.

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY**

Kaitjie sits on Kenneth's bike as he cycles towards Vatmaar. They wheel headlong into this brave new world under a spectacular blue sky.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Kenneth and Kaitjie cycle down the main street of Vatmaar. People stare at them. They arrive outside Vonnie's old house. She gets off the bicycle and stands looking into his eyes. He leans in and kisses her gently on the cheek. They inhale each other for a second.

At that moment Nellie walks past the house carrying a bucket of water. She sees this moment between Kaitjie and Kenneth, shocked, she drops the bucket of water which splatters onto the floor. She turns and runs off. Neither Kenneth or Kaitjie see her.

They push the bicycle past the back of the house. Mrs. Wingrove sweeps the stoep of Vonnie's old house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She waves to Kaitjie who waves back. They continue round the back of the house. Suzan prepares food outside the house, she sees her sister and runs to her hugging her. She then opens herself to Kenny.

KAITJIE

Kenny, this is my sister Suzan.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

Hello Suzan I am Kenneth Kleynhans,  
but you can call me Kenny.

SUZAN

Can I call you ouboet?

KENNETH

Of course. I think I'm the eldest,  
hey Kaitjie?

She nods. He and Suzan shakes hands.

SUZAN

Hello ouboet.

Suzan can't contain her excitement, she yells out to her mother.

SUZAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Mama, Mama!

Vonnie makes her way towards them. Suzan turns to her.

SUZAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Mama, this is Kenneth Kleynhans.

VONNIE

Hello Kenneth. I am Yvonne Muller.

The shake and smile at each other.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

Nellie september is howling her eyes out. Settie attempts to understand her distress.

SETTIE

What is it? Talk child....

NELLIE

(sobbing)

It's Kenneth...

SETTIE

What about Kenneth?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NELLIE  
He's here, in Vatmaar.

SETTIE  
Well why is that making you cry?

NELLIE  
He's with Kaitjie.

SETTIE  
What do you mean with Kaitjie.

NELLIE  
I saw them, they were kissing.

A fury comes from deep within Settie September. She paces the room like a wounded animal.

SETTIE  
Daai bitch! Daai bleddy Bitch. That bloody family of bastards. They think that they can just take everything with their white skin. Think they better than us. We'll see about that!

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth sits on a half tree trunk drinking a mug of tea. Sis Bet and Vonnie examine his wound. Mutter and cluck to themselves.

SIS BET  
What is this red stuff?

KENNETH  
It's called Mecurocrome...

SIS BET  
What nonsense is that?

Kenneth shrugs.

KENNETH  
I think it's like an antiseptic.

SIS BET  
It's nonsense is what it is. Everything you need to fix anything in this world is growing out there. What you think Von?

She fiddles with his wound.

VONNIE  
A little bit of crushed lucerne leaves...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIS BET  
And maybe a bit of lavender.

KENNETH  
I don't want it to be any  
trouble...

VONNIE  
What trouble? We've got to get  
herbs for lunch anyway, we'll get  
some at the same time.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Vonnie and Sis Bet move through the countryside picking bits of herbs.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth sits and talks to Suzan and Kaitjie. Suzan relates a story with great gesture and excitement. Kaitjie laughs like crazy, when Suzan finishes the story, she has to hold onto Kenny she laughs so much. Kenny laughs in his reserved manner.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Sis Bet and Vonnie crush the herbs making a mixture with a little oil.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Vonnie and Sis Bet put the mixture on Kenneth's wound. They work gently and with great care.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Vonnie, Suzan, Kaitjie, Vonnie, Sis Bet, Dawie and Kenneth sit outside her room sharing a meal. Vonnie says grace and they all tuck in.

**INT. SIS BET'S PLACE - DAY**

Inside Sis Bets outside room is a simple Tavern, people are sitting and standing around, drinking cans of Khadie. There is a jovial atmosphere. Vonnie helps Sis Bet with selling Khadie.

Kenneth is with Kaitjie and Dawie. Dawie hands Kenneth a mug of Khadie. In the tavern are many of the Vatmaar locals, including some of Kenny's workers, who are trying to hide their astonishment at seeing him there.

A small group of musicians arrive to a great cheer from the locals. The musicians get to the corner of the room and waste no time in playing out an upbeat Dance number.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kaitjie begs Kenneth to dance, he refuses shyly and Dawie takes Kaitjie's hand . They dance with great gusto. Kaitjie dances like there is no tomorrow. Kenneth can't take his eyes off her. The band finishes the song and plays a slower number. Kaitjie and Dawie make their way back to Kenneth. Kenneth puts out his hand to Kaitjie who takes it. He takes her arm and they dance together. Everyone watches them with huge smiles on their faces, except Settie September who stands in the corner glaring at Kenneth and Kaitjie.

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY**

Kenneth and Kaitjie glide down the road on Kenneth's bicycle.

KAITJIE

Stop here.

Kenneth stops his bicycle.

KENNETH

Why?

KAITJIE

Are you hot?

KENNETH

Yes.

KAITJIE

Are you very, very, very hot.

KENNETH

Ja.

KAITJIE

Are you so hot that you feel like if you don't sink your body into ice cold water immediately, you will go crazy.

KENNETH

Yes, yes I'm that hot.

KAITJIE

OK, put your bicycle there and come with me.

He does so and follows her on a dirt path that heads towards a small Koppie.

**EXT. WATERFALL - DAY**

Kaitjie and Kenneth stand on a rocky outcrop overlooking a natural pool with a small waterfall cascading into the pool. They admire the little oasis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH  
It's beautiful.

KAITJIE  
Feel like a swim?

KENNETH  
I..uh...how do you get down...

KAITJIE  
Turn around.

Kenneth turns away from her. She takes off her dress, she has a light petticoat underneath. Kenneth is still looking away when Kaitjie jumps off the rock landing in the pool below. He is amazed. She emerges from the water looking up at him.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Like that! Come.

KENNETH  
I, no, I

KAITJIE  
It's beautiful. Come on Kenny!

Kenneth, turns around, and starts taking off his pants and shorts, leaving only a pair of boxer shorts. He neatly piles his clothes to one side. He turns and walks gingerly to the edge.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Come on Kenny!

Kenny takes a deep breath and jumps.

Kenneth is submerged in the cold water. He emerges from the surface, invigorated, and swims towards Kaitjie. She leads him until, they are underneath the waterfall, they kiss as the water cascades over them, like a hundred little people dancing on their heads.

**EXT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Candlelight shines through the window of Kaitjie's room.

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kaitjie and Kenneth sit facing each other on the floor of her room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Kaitjie, I don't know if it's the same for you but I have never ever felt what I have felt in the last few weeks.

She takes it in.

KAITJIE

No, I have never felt it...

KENNETH

I think, when they talk about love, this is what they mean. I love you.

KAITJIE

I know ...I love you too... .

Kenneth looks at this beautiful woman in the light of her one candle. She looks up at him. He kisses her, gently, softly. Then gets nervous and pulls away. This time she leans in towards him and kisses him. It is too good. They move down slowly together, until they are lying down, facing each other. They look into each other eyes, and kiss again, this time with more urgency.

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth and Kaitjie lie naked on the floor, holding each other. Her head lies on his chest. He leans his head over and kisses her forehead. They hold each other, scared to let go in case they never feel this feeling again.

**A white title appears on the black screen it reads.**

**AUTUMN**

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

The colours of brown and yellow are beginning to signal the end of summer and the approach of Autumn.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Workers are all over the construction site, the structure has gone up another level. Two figures are perched high on the top level. Kenneth and Hendruk are fastening a beam together. The drop beneath them is considerable. Kenneth fastens a bolt into the wood. Dawie watches him.

KENNETH

I need one more.

Dawie looks over the box of tools which sit on a beam a couple of meters away. Dawie turns around slowly and makes his way over to the box of equipment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He grabs another bolt and turns too quickly, losing his footing, he slips off the beam. He grabs hold of the beam with both hands. He now hangs perilously from the beam.

DAWIE  
Aaaagh, Kenny, help me...

Kenneth reacts fast and crawls along the beam towards Dawie.

KENNETH  
Give me your hand...

DAWIE  
I can't let go.

KENNETH  
Hold with your one hand, give me your other and then swing your leg over...

DAWIE  
But what if...

KENNETH  
Just do it Dawie.

Dawie steels himself, slowly bringing his one hand over, Kenny clasps his hand and pulls hard, Dawie's swings his leg towards the beam, but doesn't have enough lift to reach the beam with his legs, he nearly unbalances Kenneth.

DAWIE  
I can't.

KENNETH  
You can, do it once more. I'll pull, one two three

Kenneth pulls hard on Dawie hand, he swings his leg over just reaching the beam, with Kenneth's help he manages to maneuver himself back onto the beam. Kenneth assists him getting back up. The men breathe heavily.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Kenneth prepares to leave work on his bike. Dawie wheels his bike up to Kenny.

DAWIE  
Meneer Kenny.

KENNETH  
Yes Dawie...

DAWIE  
You saved my life up there today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH  
I did what had to be done.

DAWIE  
I just wanted to say thank you  
Meneer Kenny.

KENNETH  
OK Dawie.

Dawie smiles and pushes his bicycle away.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Dawie...

DAWIE  
Ja Meneer Kenny.

KENNETH  
You don't have to call me meneer  
just call me Kenny.

DAWIE  
OK Meneer Kenny....

Kenneth laughs and gets on his bicycle.

KENNETH  
I'll see you on tomorrow Dawie.

DAWIE  
OK.

He can't quite bring himself to say it.

**EXT. WATERFALL - DAY**

Kaitjie sits between Kenneth's legs, leaning against him. He holds her close to him, they watch the water falling over the rocks.

KENNETH  
I have to go home on Sunday.

KAITJIE  
Oh...

KENNETH  
I don't really want to but I told  
my parents I would visit after  
three months...

Beat.

KAITJIE  
How long will you be gone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Just one day. I'll leave first thing and be back late Sunday night.

Long beat.

KAITJIE

Are you going to tell them about us?

KENNETH

No.

KAITJIE

Why not?

KENNETH

I'll tell them when the time is right.

He presses his face against hers and holds her tight.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

The train to Graaf Reniet steams through the countryside.

**INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - MORNING**

Kenneth looks out at the countryside. Lost in his thoughts. He looks down at his hand, the wound has healed perfectly, he smiles.

MR. KLEYNHANS (O.S.)

And how are things going with the temple?

KENNETH (O.S.)

Good Pa , very good, we started putting the roof up this week....

MR. KLEYNHANS (O.S.)

Good, good.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - DAY**

Lunch is being finished off by Kenneth, his mother, his father and Mirinda. They are all seated around a formal dining room table in the Kleynhans home. The home is middle class, tidy, somewhat stiff. Most things about the Kleynhans family could be described by the Afrikaans word opregtig. Upstanding, proud, traditional.

MR. KLEYNHANS

...and what are the local people like?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

Uhh... friendly.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I hear they have a massive alcohol problem in those parts.

KENNETH

Well, I haven't seen any....

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I don't understand what is wrong with those people. They give coloured people a bad name.

Kenneth chews in silence.

MRS. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Anyone can make something of their life, it just takes a bit of hard work. But that seems to be too much to ask for some people.

Silence. Knives and forks are placed on plates.

MIRINDA

Kenny, how long till you are finished in that place? We all miss you like crazy here.

KENNETH

We should be done in about three months.

MIRANDA

I wish you could come home tomorrow. There is so much going on here.

Kenneth smiles weakly at her.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Tea and milk tart for everyone?

Mr. Kleynhans and Kenneth nod.

KENNETH

Thank you Ma.

MIRINDA

Yes please Mrs. Kleynhans.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Why don't you and Kenneth have it on the stoep, I'm sure you two have a lot to talk about.

**EXT. VERANDAH KLEYNHANS HOUSE - DAY**

Kenneth and Mirinda drink tea and eat milk tart.

MIRINDA

Eben and Marie are getting married in three weeks, I have seen her dress, it is soo beautiful. I am going to have to go to the wedding all by myself. She is so excited she is glowing...

Kenneth, looks at her, he can't let this go on.

KENNETH

Mirinda

MIRINDA

Yes ...

KENNETH

I...need to talk to you about something...

MIRINDA

Yes?

Kenneth looks down.

KENNETH

I never meant for this to happen, it just happened...I'm sorry

MIRINDA

What is it Kenneth? Is something wrong?

Beat.

KENNETH

I... I ...

MIRANDA

Tell me...

KENNETH

I have met someone ...

Mirinda stops eating.

MIRINDA

What do you mean... what do you mean Kenneth. Met who?

KENNETH

I have met a woman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mirinda stops in her tracks.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Her name is Katrina. I am in love with her. I'm sorry I didn't want to....

Mirinda drops her fork on her plate, pushes herself away from the table sending the plate and milk tart falling to the ground.

MIRINDA

I must... just...

She runs off the verandah and away. Kenneth stands up.

KENNETH

Mirinda! Mirinda.

She is gone. Mrs. Kleynhans has heard the noise and comes through the front door.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth...what's going on?

Kenneth turns slowly and looks at his mother.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

Kenneth's mother sits on a straight back chair she is sobbing in chunks. His father is attempting to comfort her. Kenneth watches it all with discomfort.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

A nursemaid? A servant! Can she read Kenneth. Can she write?

Kenneth looks down.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Look at what you are doing to your mother Kenneth.

KENNETH

What am I doing to her....I just...

Mrs. Kleynhans sobs. She composes herself. She speaks softly and clearly through her anguish. She changes from raw emotion to well thought out prejudice.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth. You are our only child. You have to understand that. The future of our family, lies with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

So?

MRS. KLEYNHANS

So this servant girl ..

KENNETH

Her name is Kaitjie...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kaitjie is, I'm not saying she isn't a lovely person.. I'm sure she is... but it's just....

KENNETH

Just what Ma?

MRS. KLEYNHANS

She is not like us....

KENNETH

How do you mean Ma ?

MRS. KLEYNHANS

She's not from our class.

KENNETH

Our class? What class is that Ma. We are all coloured people. We are not white Ma, and we never will be! No matter how much you try

MR. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth that is enough now.

Kenneth looks down.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth....

Kenneth's mother looks at her son, now with strong eyes.

MRS. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Kenneth, listen to me. I know it's hard for you to understand but you have to believe me. I know what is best for you. You must end this relationship.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - EVENING**

The trans karoo express makes it's way back to Vatmaar. Kenneth leans his head against the window.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - MORNING**

Kenneth and Dawie ride in silence to work. Kenneth is not happy.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

It is mid morning Kenneth is studying plans of the temple. Jonny arrives for work. He looks hungover. He makes his way unsteadily towards Kenneth.

JONNIE

Uhh, morning meneer Kenny.. Sorry for being late. My wife was supposed to wake me and then she had to go...

KENNETH

Sorry Jonny that's it.

JONNIE

Meneer?

KENNETH

I made myself very clear the last time. I've given you two warnings. I'll pay you what's owing to you and then I don't want you to come back.

JONNIE

Meneer it won't happen again.

KENNETH

My mind is made up Jonny. You only have yourself to blame.

Jonnie looks at Kenneth with venom.

**EXT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth knocks softly on the door. His face ashen. The door opens and Kaitjie envelops him in her arms.

KAITJIE

Kenny, I was worried you would never come back.

He attempts a smile and fails.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Come inside, I want to show you something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He walks into the tiny room. She closes the door and moves towards the small table where some food lies. A piece of paper is there and a pen.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Look here ... I have been practising all weekend... look.

She picks up the pen and very slowly in childlike writing writes her name on the paper. K-A-T-R-I-

KENNETH

Just leave it Kaitjie...

KAITJIE

But I can do it now ...

KENNETH

Kaitjie...

KAITJIE

Look, just like you showed me...

KENNETH

(hard)

I SAID LEAVE IT NOW.

Tears well in her eyes. She puts down the pen. He looks at her beautiful face. She looks up at him.

KAITJIE

Did you tell them about us?

He nods. Long pause.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

...are you going to leave me?

He looks at her for a long time then gets to his knees and crawls over to her, taking her in his arms.

KENNETH

No. I'm not Kaitjie, I love you, with all my heart. And my parents are just going to have to get used to it. I'm sorry I'm sorry for shouting, it's just you don't have to do things to impress me...

KAITJIE

I just want to be good enough for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENNETH

You are, you are. I love you ....  
just like you are.

They kneel on the floor holding each other for a long time.

KAITJIE

Kenny, when you aren't here I feel  
like I can't breathe.

KENNETH

I know, I know, it's the same for  
me.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Jonny sits at the table his head in his hands. Settie is on the prowl. Nellie sits in the corner. Settie stews.

SETTIE

Now what are we going to about  
money/

Jonny says nothing.

SETTIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
What Jonny?

JONNIE

I don't know Settie.

SETTIE

Damn them. Damn the whole bloody  
lot of them!

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

An autumn wind blows over the dry landscape.

**EXT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Vonnie stands at Settie's front door. She knocks. The door is ripped open. Settie looks at her with venom.

VONNIE

Hello Settie, I...

SETTIE

The clothes are in the bedroom.

Vonnie walks towards the room as Settie watches her small footsteps with disdain.

**EXT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Vonnie sits on her knees washing Settie's clothes. The work is hard, but she does the work happily, humming a little melody as she works.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Settie tidies her few possessions in her cupboard. She closes her little box with her few personal things in. She opens the box again and shoves a few thing around. She starts moving a few other things around. A moment of blind panic hits her. Where the hell is her ring? She moves through the rest of the room more aggressively. The panic is rising within her. She turns the room upside down but cannot find what she is looking for.

She looks out the window and sees Vonnie washing the clothes. Her eyes focus in on her object of hatred.

SETTIE  
(under her breath)  
Bloody bitch was in my bedroom.

Like a leopard that has seen it's prey, she makes her way towards Vonnie.

**EXT. SEPTEMBER HOUSE - MORNING**

Settie leaves her house and walks towards Vonnie, stopping right next to her. She glares at Vonnie.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
I want to talk to you!

Vonnie looks up at her.

VONNIE  
Skies Settie?

Louder. Furious.

SETTIE  
I said I want to talk to you!

TANT VONNIE  
OK, let me just finish this shirt.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Finish what? Finish what?? I want to talk to you now!

She steps forward and yanks the shirt out of Vonnie's hands causing Vonnie to fall forward her arms getting wet in the bath. She tries to rectify herself but it's an awkward position.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TANT VONNIE

Settie what are you doing? I don't understand??

Settie shrieks hysterically.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

You're a thief! You stole my ring!

Vonnie looks at her in confusion and slowly makes her way to her feet.

TANT VONNIE

What ring?

Settie pushes her hard, this time sending her sprawling backwards.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

What ring? What ring? You know what ring you bloody thief. You white Baster! Someone call the police!

A few people have been drawn by the noise and are gazing at the unfolding spectacle. Settie proclaims loudly.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

This baster stole my wedding ring.

The onlookers are shocked at the accusation and mutter to themselves. Vonnie is slowly trying to get up on her feet again. The commotion has drawn the attention of the mounted policemen Constable Prins, who works his horse into the yard.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'm telling you, you can't trust them! Bloody bastards.

BYSTANDER

Vonnie would never steal anything. You're mad!

SETTIE

Liar, liar she stole it as true as I am standing here now! She was the last person in the room!

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

Hey, hey heyyyyy. What's going on here?

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

Baas, this woman stole my wedding ring. That ring has sentimental value! And she has taken it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Vonnie attempts to wipe the mud of her dress. In the commotion she can't find one of her sandals. She half mutters to herself.

TANT VONNIE  
I have never had a ring on my  
fingers, not since I know myself.

The policeman ignores her, dismounts off his horse and approaches Settie.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN  
So you want to lay a charge?

Looking around at the people watching the commotion.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Ja, my baas.

The policeman takes out a notepad.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN  
Full name?

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Mevrou Martha September.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN  
Address?

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Vatmaar!

**INT. VENTER'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Suzan holds a glass bottle into which goats milk is being poured by a portly middle aged coloured woman called Mrs.. VENTER. The bottle is half full when Mrs. Venter stops pouring.

MRS. VENTER  
There, that's enough.

Magriet bursts into the kitchen puffing with excitement. She looks straight at Suzan.

MAGRIET  
Hetta Hetta. Have you heard? The  
mounted policeman caught a thief.

MRS.. VENTER  
No, what thief is this?

MAGRIET  
Come see quick....quick!

The three of them make their way out the room. Fast.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Suzan comes round the corner and sees her mother in handcuffs walking in front of the Constable Prince's horse. Suzan drops the milk bottle. It shatters on the floor and she rushes to her mother.

SUZAN  
Mama? MAMAAAAAA!

She runs to her mother and throws her arms around Vonnie's neck. The small crowd of people have followed the procession and watch the commotion.

SUZAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Mama, what's going on? What have they done to you?

TANT VONNIE  
Go back home my child.

SUZAN  
No, no I can't. What is happening?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN  
Hey you, leave the prisoner alone or I'll arrest you as well.

SUZAN  
Do what you like with me? You hear, do what you like. What is going on here?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN  
She's a thief and she's been arrested. Come get moving. Heyyyyyy, move!

Vonnie has no option but to carry on moving. Suzan takes off her one sandal and gives it to her mother. She then takes her by the arm and they start to walk together. A single solitary tear comes out of Vonnie's eye. Suzan guides her mother away from the crowd who are all clucking and shaking their heads in astonishment. The humiliation and pain is unbearable for Vonnie. On the verandah of the shop sits a small man who holds a battered guitar in a strange position. In his mouth is a teaspoon. He starts to play a kind of soulful blues using the teaspoon to play slide guitar.

**EXT. ROAD TO DU TOITSPAN - MORNING**

The strange threesome make their way along the deserted country road. Vonnie walks with her small little steps. She mouths a prayer as she walks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VONNIE

It has been so long since I walked to the Pan. How long will it still take from now?

SUZAN

Its about 3 a miles from here Mama, its not so far.

VONNIE

Three miles....

Suzan can't handle her mothers discomfort she looks up at the mounted policeman.

SUZAN

Constable....

He ignores her.

SUZAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Constable my mother is tired can she have a rest?

CONSTABLE

She can rest when she is sitting in the jail. Come on. Mooove.

SUZAN

Can she at least have some water...

CONSTABLE

Mooooooooooooooooooooove!!

They carry on walking. Vonnie looks at Suzan with pain in her big eyes.

VONNIE

What have I done to deserve this Suzan?

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Kenneth sits high up on a beam. He holds a hammer in his hand, he smacks out his frustration on a poor unsuspecting nail.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - DAY**

Exhausted Vonnie and Suzan are paraded down the main street of Du Toits Pan, people gather on the sidewalks watching them.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN JAIL - DAY**

Suzan stands with Vonnie at the counter in the charge office. A sergeant stands behind the counter and speaks to the mounted policeman.

SEARGENT

Did you tell her Madam to be in court tomorrow?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

I did Seargent.

He writes in book with fountain pen. Theft of wedding ring.

SEARGENT

Name of her Madam?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

Martha September.

He writes in the book.

SEARGENT

Take the prisoner to the cells.

SUZAN

Noooo

Suzan holds on to her mother.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

Let her go. Let her go!

Suzan has to be peeled away from her mother. Vonnie is escorted away by the policeman. Suzan is desperate, she stands unsure what to do. The policeman sees her vulnerability and pounces on it.

SEARGENT

And what are you going to do now little one...

Suzan stares at him.

SEARGENT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

It's too late to go back to Vatmaar now. Why don't you come and stay with me tonight. I'll take care of you.

Suzan turns and runs.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN JAIL - LATE AFTERNOON**

The door closes loudly behind Vonnie. The cold dark cell terrifies her.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - LATE AFTERNOON**

Suzan runs down the street, she does not really know where she is going. She just wants to get far away from the policeman. She runs the full length of the street. When she feels safer she stops and gathers her breath. The night is approaching fast. She sees Oom Flip standing next to Old Swing. Suzan rushes towards him.

OOM FLIP

Suzan my child why are you running like this?

Suzan can't speak. Oom Flip puts his hand on her shoulder.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Come sit, here drink some water.

He takes her to his cart and pours her a cup of water. Suzan sits and gulps out of the tin of water, the first thing she has drunk since breakfast that morning.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Suzan what is going on, tell me.

SUZAN

Oom Flip my mother has been arrested!

OOM FLIP

Vonnie arrested, for what?

SUZAN

Settie September says she stole her wedding ring.

OOM FLIP

That is rubbish, Vonnie never stole anything in her life.

SUZAN

Oom Flip I need to find my sister. Do you know the house where she works? The Bosman's house.

**INT. JAIL CELL - EVENING**

Vonnie crouches in the cold dark room. She sways and hums to herself.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - EVENING**

Oom Flips cart pulls up outside the Bosman house.

OOM FLIP

Go round the back, they're the kind  
of people who believe a coloured  
should know his place.

She looks at him. Tries a smile and runs off.

**EXT. BOSMAN GARDEN - EARLY EVENING**

Suzan runs behind the house looking for Kaitjie. Kaitjie pushes one of the Bosman girls in a swing. Kaitjie looks up and sees the distraught Suzan standing there. Her eyes battle to adjust the image of her sister standing there.

KATJIE

Suzan??

At the sight of her sister, Suzan, who has been holding it all together, breaks into sobs and rushes towards Kaitjie. Kaitjie holds her. Comforting her baby sister.

KAITJIE

Hey, hey, it's OK. It's OK.

**INT. JAIL CELL - EVENING**

Vonnie sits in the silent darkness of the cell. She hears footsteps along the corridor. The footsteps stop at her door. A plate of dry yellow mielies is pushed under the door. She looks at the plate and a single tear runs down her cheek.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - EVENING**

Kaitjie stands next to Mrs. Bosman who makes boerewors in a big sausage machine. The ever present Lena helps her. Mrs. Bosman perspires from the work.

MRS. BOSMAN

All right she can stay with you  
tonight. As long as there's not a  
new sister every week OK...

KAITJIE

No Missus....

Mrs. Bosman hands her a plate of food, just a hunk of bread.

MRS. BOSMAN

I don't have food to feed your  
sister as well.

KAITJIE

Thank you Missus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She takes the plate and leaves. Mrs. Bosman watches her go, with her shark like eyes.

MRS. BOSMAN

I knew it wouldn't stop with that Hotnot. You know, the other day he passes me on the street and he says Middag Mevrou. Can you imagine that a hotnot calling me Mevrou.

Lena clucks her tongue at the audacity of the coloureds.

**INT. JAIL CELL - EVENING**

Vonnie takes the plate of mielies and picks up a handful and attempts to eat them. She can't. She puts the plate down.

**INT. KATJIE'S ROOM - EVENING**

Suzan and Kaitjie have shared out the food. They sit in silence pondering what to do about their mother.

SUZAN

You know what can happen in these courts, remember what happened to Piet De Bruin, he didn't do anything.

KAITJIE

I know....

There is a soft knocking at the door. Suzan is startled. Katjie looks at her reassuringly.

SUZAN

Who is that now?

KATJIE

I'm sure it's Kenneth.

Katjie opens the door to reveal Kenneth standing with ginger beer and vetkoek. He looks straight at Katjie, not seeing Suzan.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

May I come in?

Kaitjie opens her arms and he steps in and embraces her. Kaitjie steps away from Kenneth revealing Suzan. Kenneth sees Suzan and steps towards her.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I am so sorry I didn't see you there Suzan, what are you doing here?

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - EVENING**

Kenneth's bicycle hurtles down the street. On the handlebars sits Kaitjie holding a brown paper bag.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN JAIL - EVENING**

The two approach the policeman behind the desk. It is a coloured man in his fifties. CONSTABLE PLAATJIES.

KAITJIE

Good evening Mister, we have brought some food for my mother.

He looks up with a flick of his eyes and then looks down at a large charge book in front of him.

CONSTABLE

Mother's name?

KAITJIE

Vonnie...Yvonne Muller sir.

He scans the book and looks for the name.

CONSTABLE

Yes. Here it is Yvonne Muller, theft of a wedding ring. She will appear in court tomorrow.

KENNETH

Any bail constable?

CONSTABLE

That's not for me to decide. Do you have a lawyer?

KENNETH

No.

SEARGENT

There is a phone book at the post office, the lawyers numbers are in there.

KENNETH

Thank you. Would it be possible to see her?

CONSTABLE

Visiting hour is three o'clock.

KENNETH

Please constable, please, we'll be two minutes I promise you.

The constable looks around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONSTABLE

All right, just make it quick. I could lose my job for this.

SEARGENT

Constable!

A black constable appear. A tall thin man. This is CONSTABLE MSIBI.

SEARGENT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Take this food to cell five. Pour the milk into a tin dish before you give it to the prisoner.

He turns to Kenneth and Kaitjie.

SEARGENT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Come with me quickly.

**INT. JAIL - NIGHT**

Vonnie sits against the wall when she hears people approaching. She sees the constable, approach the bars, then she sees Kaitjie and Kenneth.

KAITJIE

Mama...

Vonnie gets to her feet and makes her way over to her daughter. They try and hold each other through the bars, tears streaming down their faces.

VONNIE

Why is this happening?

KAITJIE

I don't know Mama but we have brought food, and we are going to see if we can find a lawyer, it's going to be all right. I promise.

VONNIE

I'm scared here Kaitjie. I didn't do anything. I don't understand ...

Kenneth watches the two women, it is horrible.

KAITJIE

It's all right Mama, Kenny is going to help us. You mustn't worry.

CONSTABLE

OK, OK, we must go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The two women let each other go, Kaitjie is shattered.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN POST OFFICE - EVENING**

Kenneth pages through a telephone directory in the post office. He scribbles down some phone numbers and addresses onto a piece of paper. Kaitjie stands watching him, still shaken from the meeting with her mother. Kenneth takes the piece of paper into a small phone booth. He dials a number and Kaitjie watches him through the square glass of the booth. Kenneth speaks to someone on the phone. He puts the phone down and opens the door. Kaitjie looks up at him, expectantly. He comes up to her and cups her face in his hands, he kisses her gently on her cheeks.

KENNETH

I spoke to a lawyer, he can help us. I need to meet him first thing tomorrow and pay a deposit.

KAITJIE

Kenny, we don't have money to pay that.

KENNETH

Don't worry about it, I'll sort everything out.

He holds her head to his shoulder.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - NIGHT**

Kenneth and Kaitjie ride down the street in silence.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - NIGHT**

Suzan sits on the side of the road, she jumps up when she sees the bicycle approaching. The bicycle stops and Kaitjie jumps off. She leans on the handlebars. Kenneth speaks to the two sisters.

KENNETH

I'll go to work at seven and tell my boss I've got something to sort out. Then I'll go to the lawyer. I'll be here tomorrow just before eight. I promise you two everything is going to be OK. You mustn't worry.

They nod tentatively. Kaitjie leans over the handlebars and kisses him. Suzan looks down, the public moment just became very intimate.

KAITJIE

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He smiles warmly at her.

KENNETH  
Night Suzan.

SUZAN  
Night ouboet.

Kenneth rides away slowly waving over his shoulder as he does. The two girls watch him as he disappears down the street. Katjie says half audibly.

SUZAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
He is a good man Kaitjie.

KATJIE  
There is only one man for me. And  
his name is Kenneth Kleynhans.

**INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT**

Vonnie sits against the wall. She has no blanket to keep warm. Her eyes are wide open. A plate of food is pushed under the door followed by the milk in another plate. She looks up. Constable Msibi looks sympathetically at her.

CONSTABLE  
Some food Missus. From your  
daughter.

VONNIE  
Thank you William.

She attempts a smile but doesn't quite get there.

**INT. KATJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Suzan and Katjie lie on their backs on the floor, sharing a blanket. They hold hands in silence. Neither of them can sleep.

**INT. KENNETH'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth lies on his back. Looking at the ceiling. His mind racing with the new complications that seem to be entering his life by the hour.

**INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT**

Vonnie lies on her side on the hard ground, cold and scared. Her eyes wide open.

**EXT. KAROO COUNTRYSIDE - DAWN**

Dawn breaks over the majestic countryside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A storm threatens on the horizon.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN JAIL - DAWN**

The sergeant and the constable herd the prisoners from the different cells into a central courtyard area. There are two men and Vonnice. The first man is a middle aged man called HENDRUK JANUARY, who does not look like a criminal at all. The other is BENNY O GRADY, a very rough looking half caste man in his late thirties. The constable shepherds Vonnice to stand next to the men.

SEARGENT

Answer to your name please. Benny O Grady.

BENNY O GRADY

Here my crown.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - MORNING**

The motley group of prisoners make their way to the courtroom led by Constable Msibi. The only weapon he has on him is the assegai tied to his bicycle. Onlookers stare at the unusual sight of a woman in chains.

**INT. COURT HOLDING CELLS - MORNING**

The prisoners are put into two holding cells. Hendruk January and Benny in the first cell, then Vonnice in the second cell. The door slams shut.

SEARGENT

Wait here until your name is called. You will then be taken to the court.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - MORNING**

The storm is closer, the skies are dark.

**INT. MR. BURNS OFFICE - EARLY MORNING**

Kenneth stands in front of Mr. Burn's chaotic desk.

KENNETH

It will just take a few hours Mr. Burns.

MR. BURNS

Aaagh, what a bloody inconvenience but I suppose if it has to be done, it has to be done.

KENNETH

Thank You Mr. Burns, I appreciate it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenneth turns to go, he reaches the door when Burns speaks again.

MR. BURNS

Kenny...

Kenneth turns with trepidation.

KENNETH

Mr. Burns?

MR. BURNS

I wonder if you could do me a small favour before you go

Burns looks out the window.

MR. BURNS (CONT'D)

It looks like it might rain, can you wait for one of the others and just fit a temporary lightning conductor. The roof of the temple is now the highest point in area.

KENNETH

Uhh well.. it's just I'm...in a rush.

MR. BURNS

We should have done it ages ago. We don't want all our hard work burnt to the ground. Do we?

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

(Distracted)

No Mr. Burns but I really need to get going...

MR. BURNS

OK. Kenny don't think of it as a favour then. Think of it as an order!

The two men stare at each other.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE OF TEMPLE - EARLY MORNING**

Kenneth looks up at the half built temple. He looks at his watch, he looks around. No-one has arrived for work. Agitated he moves towards a ladder.

**INT. COURT HOLDING CELLS - MORNING**

Vonnie sits alone in the court holding cell. In the cell next to her are Benny O Grady and Hendruk January. She can hear their hushed conversation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hendruk and Benny are sitting next to each other leaning against the wall.

BENNY O GRADY

Listen to me and listen good  
Hendruk. Always say you're innocent  
and do your best never to look  
guilty.

HENDRUK JANUARY

What about the "so help me God"  
that they make us say meneer..

BENNY O GRADY

Many an innocent man has been found  
guilty by telling the truth.

Hendruk January battles to understand Bennie's morality.

HENDRUK JANUARY

If Meneer says Meneer is not guilty  
even though meneer has stolen the  
sheep then meneer must be guilty...

BENNY O GRADY

In a manner of speaking...

HENDRUK JANUARY

God saw meneer steal the sheep.

BENNY O GRADY

True. And God will hear me when I  
say Not guilty and God knows that  
I've burnt the evidence, which the  
magistrate doesn't know. So I am  
not lying to God.

Hendruk January looks puzzled.

**EXT. TEMPLE ROOF - EARLY MORNING**

Kenneth climbs higher and higher up the temple roof.

Koos Blou has arrived at the temple he sees the figure  
climbing high on top of the structure.

Kenneth reaches the peak of the structure and looks down. He  
averts his eyes from the long drop down. He takes a copper  
band from his belt and fastens it to the highest beam. He  
then starts moving down, he moves faster than he should and  
in his haste he loses his footing, he starts grabbing for  
something to hang on to, but there is nothing.

Koos watches in horror, unable to do anything.

KOOS BLOU

Ohh shit....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenneth starts sliding off the beam, then he manages to hook himself onto an attached plank, he is being suspended above the ground by this thin piece of wood.

He tries to swing his arm around to catch the main beam but he misses. The piece of wood creaks under the strain.

He swings his arm round again, the movement is too much. The small piece of wood snaps and he falls. His body hits the ground with a sickening thud. Koos Blou looks at the crumpled body.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - MORNING**

Suzan and Katjie wait for Kenneth. Kaitjie paces up and down in a panic.

KATJIE

If Kenneth says he will be here  
then he will be here...

SUZAN

Maybe his boss wouldn't let him off  
work.

KATJIE

(Not convinced)  
Ja maybe but still he, aaaagh,  
Suzan, if he doesn't get that  
lawyer we are finished...

A horrible silence.

KATJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
I can't wait any longer. I have to  
get the children ready for school.

SUZAN

Can't you ask Mrs. Bosman for some  
time off.

KAITJIE

I already did.

SUZAN

I'll wait a bit more, then I'll go  
to the courtroom.

Worried, Kaitjie walks towards the house. She looks up the empty road in desperation.

**INT. MR. BURNS OFFICE - DAY**

Burns scratches around on his desk when the door of his office bursts open. Koos Blou stands in the doorway, breathing heavily.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOOS BLOU  
Mr. Burns... come quick. It's  
Kenny.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - MORNING**

Burns kneels at Kenny's inert body.

BURNS  
Oh for God's sake. This is bad..  
this is very very bad, we need to  
get him to a hospital.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - MORNING**

In the parking area Koos and Burns load Kenneth's body into the back seat of the car. He closes the door and runs to the passenger door then turns.

BURNS  
Koos listen to me, don't say  
anything about this to the others.  
If they find out , then no-one is  
going to want to go up there. If  
the safety inspector finds out  
they'll close us down and everyone  
will be out of a job Please... OK?

Koos is not convinced. He says nothing.

BURNS (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
I'll make it worth your while...

He rummages in his pocket and takes out a five pound note.

BURNS (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Here take this, I'll give you more  
when I get back...

Koos looks at the note, it is a lot of money to him.

KOOS BLOU  
What must I say?

BURNS  
Just say that Kenny had to go back  
to Graaf Reniet urgently, family  
reasons.

Koos takes the banknote. Burns opens the door and climbs in and guns the engine.

KOOS BLOU  
Mr. Burns...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BURNS

What now?

JAKOB

I heard Kenny saying that his mother is a nurse at the hospital in Graaf Reniet.

Burns reverses the car at high speed.

**INT. COURT ROOM - MORNING**

Suzan is settling into the public gallery of the court. Sis Bet bursts into the courtroom and comes to sit next to her. Bet puts her arm around Suzan who gets immediately teary.

The MAGISTRATE is a severe looking white man in his mid fifties with dark hair and greying on the side. Benny is led into the courtroom. The magistrate reads from a charge sheet in front of him.

MAGISTRATE

Benny O Grady you are charged with the theft of a sheep. Guilty or not guilty?

BENNY O GRADY

(Softly looking innocent)  
Not guilty your honour.

A bored looking white man in his mid thirties stands up. He is the PROSECUTOR.

PROSECUTOR

Swear that you will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Say so help me God.

The prosecutor takes the bible to Benny, who puts his hand on the bible.

BENNY O GRADY

So help me God.

He shakes his head, his eyes welling up with tears.

BENNY O GRADY (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
So help me god. The carcass that the policeman took is mine your honour it belongs to nobody else but me. How can anybody steal his own goat?

A large farmer with a massive beard jumps up in the public gallery. This is FRIK VAN ROOYEN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRIK

He's lying he's lying. It wasn't a bloody goat. It was a sheep and it wasn't his sheep it was my bloody sheep!

General shouting and screaming in the public gallery.

MAGISTRATE

Order order in court!!

The magistrate slam the gavel down!

**INT. COURT HOLDING CELLS - MORNING**

Vonnie can hear the commotion from upstairs it only serves to make her more nervous about her fate.

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STREET - DAY**

Dawie cycles past Kenneth's boarding house. He doesn't see any sign of Kenneth. He pulls his bike up outside for a few seconds, looks around, then cycles off.

**INT. COURT ROOM - MORNING**

The courtroom has been calmed.

MAGISTRATE

Is there any evidence in this case?

PROSECUTOR

There is your honour. Bring in the evidence.

A clerk of the court brings in a stinking piece of meat.

The magistrate holds his nose.

MAGISTRATE

How am I supposed to tell anything from this rotten meat. Get it out of here. Now.

The clerk scuttles off.

MAGISTRATE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Is that the only evidence?

PROSECUTOR

Yes your honour.

The magistrate slams his gavel down.

MAGISTRATE

Case dismissed!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Benny looks like justice has triumphed. The farmer storms out furious.

**INT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - MORNING**

Burns is burning rubber down the road. He screams to Kenny in his mania.

BURNS

You've got to stay with me Kenny.  
Stay with me! What the hell did you  
have to go and fall off for. Shit!

The Mercedes screams across the Karoo. Burns puts his foot flat.

**INT. COURT ROOM - LATE MORNING**

Hendruk January makes his way onto the stand. He looks nervous.

MAGISTRATE

Hendruk January you are charged  
with being in possession of an  
uncut diamond which you tried to  
sell. Guilty or not guilty?

HENDRUK JANUARY

Guilty and not guilty.

MAGISTRATE

We will record that as not guilty.

The prosecutor gets up wearily with his bible.

PROSECUTOR

Swear that you will tell the truth,  
the whole truth and nothing but the  
truth. Say so help me God.

HENDRUK JANUARY

So help me God.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Kaitjie helps the Bosman girls into the car. Mrs. Bosman wedges into the front seat. Kaitjie scans the road for any sign of Kenneth. There is none. She bites her lip.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

The men have arrived for work. They stand around in a small huddle, sensing that something is wrong. There is no sign of Mr. Burns or Kenneth. Koos Blou approaches the small group. Dawie looks around for Kenneth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOOS BLOU

OK, listen up you's lot. Mr. Burns told me to tell you that Kenneth has had to go home urgently, for family reasons. So you'll take orders from me for now,

WESSELS

Where is the boss?

KOOS BLOU

He uh..had to go pick up some supplies... he'll be back later.

DAWIE

How long is Kenneth going to be away for?

The other men look sideways at him.

KOOS BLOU

Uhh we are not sure of that... so just...until further notice... carry on with what you were busy with.

Dawie looks puzzled. The men ambling off, enjoying the fact that they have no boss peering over their shoulders. Dawie walks over to where they park their bicycles. Kenneth's bike stands in it's usual place. He looks into the distance, puzzled.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - LATE MORNING**

A praying mantis perches on the side of the road rubbing it's front legs together. The car carrying Burns and Kenneth zooms past. Burns is pushing the car as fast as it can go.

Burns drives past a sign that reads GRAAF RENIET 20 MILES.

He sweats profusely. Kenneth has not moved.

BURNS

Twenty miles Kenny and then we'll be at the hospital. OK?

Suddenly the car starts shuddering, jolting. The petrol gauge on the dashboard reads empty.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

No, no, noooooooo ....

The car comes to a stop. Burns gets out of the car, beside himself. He throws his hat on the ground and kicks it along the ground.

**INT. COURT ROOM - LATE MORNING**

Hendruk has a pained look on his face.

MAGISTRATE

Do you have anything to say before sentencing?

HENDRUK JANUARY

Your honour. I did not steal the stone. I picked it up, It belonged to the earth. Just like food can be taken out of the earth and sold for money people should be allowed to sell these shiny stones too.

The gallery, packed with local people, mumble in agreement with Hendruk.

MAGISTRATE

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Eight years hard labour. Take him away.

The gallery let's out a gasp of horror. Hendruk January can not believe what is happening. He moves in a dream like state. Suzan and Sis Bet are deeply shocked by what they have witnessed.

SUZAN

But Hendruk January is not a thief  
Sis Bet...

SIS BET

I know my child...

**INT. COURT HOLDING CELLS - MIDDAY**

Vonnie sits in her cell. She hears footsteps.

SEARGENT (O.S.)

Yvonne Muller. You are called.

She gets to her feet unsteadily, terrified.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Burns tries to flag down a passing car but it just drives past him. He screams abuse at the disappearing car.

**INT. COURT ROOM - DAY**

Tant Vonnie has taken her place on the stand. Jonny sits in the public gallery. Suzan and Sis Bet sit in the courtroom looking anxious. There is no sign of Kenneth or a legal representative of any kind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAGISTRATE

Yvonne Muller you are charged with the theft of a wedding ring. Guilty or not guilty?

TANT VONNIE

Not guilty.

The prosecutor approaches her with a bible.

PROSECUTOR

Place your hand on the bible and swear that you will tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Say I do.

TANT VONNIE

I do.

PROSECUTOR

The plaintiff, your honour. Mrs. Martha September.

Settie September walks to the witness stand trying to look important, glaring at Vonnie.

PROSECUTOR (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Tell us in your own words mevrou September how your ring was stolen?

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

Yes jor orner.

She points to Vonnie.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You know she is my washerwoman. My farder, he make dat ring from an old coin dey call a sovereign, for my mudder in law when dey get married. My mudder in law died, and when her son got married to me his farder in law sed his son must put his mudders ring on my finger, to welcome me into de family. So you see jor orner de ring got sentimental value.

The magistrate looks puzzled. That seems to be the end of Settie's statement.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Burns has managed to flag another car down, he transfers some petrol to his car, huffing and puffing into the siphon pipe.

**INT. COURT ROOM - DAY**

The magistrate looks at Vonnie.

MAGISTRATE

Do you have anything to say Mrs. Muller?

TANT VONNIE

Meneer I have never in my life had a ring on my finger.

MAGISTRATE

Have you never been married?

TANT VONNIE

Yes meneer.

MAGISTRATE

Without a ring?

TANT VONNIE

Yes meneer. When my mother was very old and sick a man called Heinrich arrived from German West Africa, he had nowhere to sleep and he didn't know anyone. My mother was also from German West Africa and she took him in. He got a job but he gave all his wages to my mother. We lived together like brother and sister. Just before my mother passed away she took my hand and Heinrich's hand and put them together and told us it was her wish that we be married.

MAGISTRATE

Yes...

TANT VONNIE

Heinrich had never been with a woman nor me with a man. Then one winters night I crept into his bed and threw his blanket over us. The next day he said, now we are married. That day I took his name.

PROSECUTOR

This has got nothing to do with the theft of a ring, Your honour.

MAGISTRATE

Let her continue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TANT VONNIE

This is the first time I speak to anybody about my marriage meneer.

**EXT. BOSMAN GARDEN - DAY**

Kaitjie sits playing a hand patting game with the Bosman children, they squeal in delight as they make a mistake. She puts on a brave face.

**INT. COURT ROOM - DAY**

The magistrate persists with his questions.

MAGISTRATE

Did you have any children?

TANT VONNIE

Yes meneer, eight. Heinrich went to fight in the big war. He said when he returns from the war we will get married with a ring. But he never came back from the war. That is why I never had a ring. And these days a slice of bread is much more valuable to me and my two daughters than all the rings in the world.

MAGISTRATE

You say two daughters, you said you had eight children?

TANT VONNIE

Yes meneer, I lost six children in the Big Flu of 1918. They were all buried together in a trench in Vatmaar.

Suzan watches her mother. Settie huffs and puffs.

MAGISTRATE

Do you get a war widow's pension?

TANT VONNIE

No meneer.

The magistrate looks at the gallery.

MAGISTRATE

Who arrested this woman?

The policeman stands up in the gallery. Very proud of himself.

CONSTABLE PRINS

I did, your honour, Constable Rigard Prins

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAGISTRATE

Did you find a wedding ring on this woman's person?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

No, your honour, I thought she had it on her finger.

MAGISTRATE

Did you see it on her finger Constable?

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

No, your honour.

MAGISTRATE

(Sternly)

Constable Prins I want you in my office at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Prins looks down, the magistrate turns to the prosecutor.

MAGISTRATE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

See that this woman gets a new pair of shoes and a new dress. Also transport back to her home, some food and money for a days wages.

PROSECUTOR

Yes your honour.

MAGISTRATE

Report to me within seven days whether she has received a war widows pension. Case dismissed.

He slams his gavel. Then looks at Vonnie kindly.

MAGISTRATE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You are free to go Mrs. Muller. Come see me in my office about the marriage certificate.

Vonnie looks disbelievingly at him. The magistrate starts packing up his things. Settie September looks furious. Tant Vonnie's tattered dress, her bare feet and her unkempt hair didn't matter, her inner being beamed out past her outer circumstances, earning the respect of everyone. Suzan and Sis Bet watch her with tears in their eyes. She makes her way over to Suzan and Sis Bet, who engulf her with hugs.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON**

The car screeches to a halt outside the hospital in Graaf Reniet. Burns exits the car and runs inside.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON**

He runs straight to reception. A young white nurse Magda stands at the desk.

BURNS  
Help me. I need help. I have an injured man in the car.

MAGDA  
What race is the man?

BURNS  
What?

MAGDA  
Is he white, African, coloured?

BURNS  
Uhhhh...He's coloured.

MAGDA  
The coloured section is next door.  
Burns runs off.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL COLOURED SECTION - DAY**

Burns runs into the coloured section of the hospital. A young coloured woman is at the desk.

BURNS  
I have a man in the car who needs help, quickly!

NURSE  
Hilton... Daniel... come help quickly.

Two orderlies head for the car outside.

BURNS  
Is there a Mrs. Kleynhans that works here?

NURSE  
Yes sir, she's over there..

Kenneth's mother stands at the doorway to an office. Burns makes his way towards her.

BURNS  
Mrs. Kleynhans....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Yes...

BURNS

My name is George Burns...I'm  
afraid have bad news ...

**INT. MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE - DAY**

Vonnie sits at the magistrate's desk. He has a marriage certificate book in front of him. He stamps the certificate and signs it. He hands it to her. Another small tear runs out of her eye.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON**

A doctor and several nurses crowd around Kenneth's body trying to stabilize him. A young white doctor called DR. SMITH attends to him. Kenneth's mother is trying to fulfill her normal duties but she is in shock. The doctor sees this

DOCTOR SMITH

Estelle, sit down . Someone get the  
sister a glass of water.

A nurse rushes off. Mrs. Kleynhans moves in a trance to a chair.

**EXT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Kaitjie stands in the middle of the road outside the Bosman house. She scans the road. Mrs. Bosman's voice screeches in the background.

MRS. BOSMAN (O.S.)

Kaitjie. Kaitjie.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Kenneth's parents stand facing the young doctor. Mrs. Kleynhans has pulled herself together as best as she can. She holds a scrunched up tissue in her hands.

DR. SMITH

I can't lie to you. It's not good.  
He's taken a hell of a knock. He's  
shattered his pelvic bone. We are  
going to have to operate on that.  
As far his head injuries go, we  
just don't know, only time will  
tell...

MR. KLEYNHANS

But how long till he wakes up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. SMITH

I'm sorry Mr. Kleynhans, we just don't know...it could be tomorrow, it could take a few days...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

It could be never.

A horrible pause as everyone takes it in.

DR. SMITH

.... there is a chance that he will never regain consciousness but at this point we don't know

MR. KLEYNHANS

And if he does, will he be OK.. will he be able to walk?

The doctor finds this very hard to answer.

DR. SMITH

I'm sorry, I don't want to give you false hope, we just don't know....

This time it is Mr. Kleynhans who loses it, his composure destroyed by the sob which racks through his body. His wife holds him.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - AFTERNOON**

The goods have been loaded onto Oom Flip's cart. Suzan and Vonnie sit on the cart. Vonnie looks transformed, in a new yellow dress, and new shoes, her hair combed. Oom Flip climbs onto the front. He turns around and looks at Vonnie once more.

OOM FLIP

Hey Vonnie, all these years I known you and I never sent you looking so beautiful!

Vonnie smiles at Flip.

VONNIE

Thank You Flip.

OOM FLIP

Come on Old Swing, it's going to be dark soon. Yeahhhhhhaaaaagh!

The trolley starts it's bumpy journey to Vatmaar.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON**

Mr. and Mrs.. Kleynhans are locked in a very serious conversation in a back room at the hospital.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. KLEYNHANS

I just don't think, he isn't ...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Hannes, we don't know what is going to happen, let us just call the priest , and let him do the last rights, then it's done..

MR. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth is not going to die...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I want him to have his last rights.  
I want my only child to have his last rights....

She breaks on the last line. He holds her.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Okk, OK. Shhhhhhh...

**EXT. ROAD TO DU TOITSPAN - AFTERNOON**

Settie September and Jonny walk the long road home to Vatmaar.

JONNY

Agg come on now Settie...

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

Hey, what did I say. I don't want to hear another word from you.

JONNY

What have I done?

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

You don't think, that's your problem. You don't think.

In the distance Jonny sees Oom Flip's trolley approaching.

JONNY

Quick take your shoes off and lean on me ..

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

Why?

JONNY

Here comes the trolley, I'll tell Oom Flip you can't walk anymore

Settie takes her shoes off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SETTIE SEPTEMBER

Now you're thinking. It's just a pity you don't do it more often.

**INT. OOM FLIPS CART - DAY**

The cart approaches and Oom Flip sees the forlorn figures of Settie and Jonny. Jonny waves him down. Settie and Jonny are unable to see who is in the cart.

OOM FLIP

Ho, ho, ho...

He brings the cart to a stop. Jonny acts his heart out.

JONNY

Agggg please Oom Flip, my wife can't walk anymore. Her poor feet are full of blisters. Have mercy meneer. I can walk just take my Settie with you. She is an honest woman, God will bless Oom Flip.

OOM FLIP

I saw her walking just fine and then suddenly she took her shoes off when she saw the cart coming.

JONNY

No meneer...

STOFFEL JONES

You've always got a clever story Jonny boy. I'll load you up for two shillings.

JONNY

I don't have a penny on me, I'll pay you in Vatmaar.

OOM FLIP

Never, I don't trust you further then I could throw you. I'll make it one shilling then. Now for the last time, pay the money or get out of my way.

Vonnie reaches into her pocket and gives it to Oom Flip.

TANT VONNIE

Here is a shilling Oom Flip. Let them get on.

Settie and Jonny see her for the first time and are visibly shocked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONNY  
Afternoon Tante.

OOM FLIP  
Yehaaaaaaa.

The cart takes off again towards Vatmaar.

**EXT. ROAD TO DU TOITSPAN - EARLY EVENING**

Oom Flip's trolley with it's motley crew of inhabitants barrels towards Vatmaar.

**INT. CAPE CART - EARLY EVENING**

Settie September sees the half bottle of ginger beer in Vonnie's cardboard box. She motions with her eyes to her husband.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
You know Jonny, I am so thirsty.

She looks at Vonnie with big eyes.

JONNY  
Tant, can my Settie have some ginger beer, she is so terribly thirsty.

TANT VONNIE  
(To Suzan)  
Give them the ginger beer.

Suzan takes the bottle, Settie grabs it and starts drinking slowly.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
You know Jonny I'm so thirsty, I can't drink fast.

JONNY  
Take it slow darling.

She drinks the bottle about halfway down and then hands it to Jonny who flattens the bottle in one gulp like a seasoned boozer. He holds up the empty bottle.

TANT VONNIE  
Give it to me, I need an empty bottle.

Jonny holds it up again and tosses it out the cart, then burps loudly.

What happens next happens so fast it takes everyone by surprise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vonnie grabs Jonny with both hands , lifts her foot up high and half kicks and half pushes him out the wagon.

JONNY  
Aaaaggggggggggh.

She then grabs Settie by her woolly hair and tries to throw her out. But settie grabs onto the cart and won't budge.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER  
Los my uit you witch!

Suzan grabs Settie's shoe of her foot and whacks her on her big toe with the heel.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Eiiignaa you bitch!

Suzan does not stop, she lays into Settie's big toe for all that she's worth. Settie can't take it anymore and reaches forward to grab her toe which gives Vonnie and Suzan the opportunity to throw her off the cart.

SETTIE SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Eignaaaa . Aaaaaaaaagh.

Unspeakable swearing can be heard from the two Septembers. Oom Flip has heard the commotion but is staying well out of it. Vonnie throws Settie's shoes after her. Vonnie has composed herself. Suzan and her exchange glances. They can't help breaking into laughter. Vonnie composes herself.

TANT VONNIE  
Suzan I have never done anything  
like that in my life but no  
civilized person will first forgive  
someone and then let them think  
you're scared of them.

SUZAN  
(Still giggling)  
Yes ma.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Old swing pulls the trolley down the main street of Vatmaar. The people stare as they clip clop down the street.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE - EVENING**

Burns is with Mrs. D'allesandro in Kenneth's room. Burns packs all Kenneth's things into a suitcase. She watches him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BURNS  
Kenneth, has had to go back to  
Graaf Reniet for a while.

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
Oh...

BURNS  
I'll pay you for the next two  
months...

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
OK...

BURNS  
And if anyone comes poking their  
nose around here, you just tell  
them he has gone back home.

MRS. D'ALLESANDRO  
If that's what you want George.

BURNS  
that's is what I want Maria

He moves closer to her wrapping his chubby arms around her.

BURNS (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
..and maybe something else as well.

He looks lustily at her.

**EXT. TA VUURMAAK'S CABIN - NIGHT**

Vuurmaak and Broer are sitting in front of the fire. Their  
nightly ritual. Broer plays a bittersweet tune on his  
harmonica.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT**

Suzan and Vonnie prepare for bed. Vonnie lights the candle,  
that illuminates their world.

SUZAN  
I can't remember when last we had a  
new candle.

TANT VONNIE  
I know. What a day my child.

They lie down to sleep.

**INT. KATJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Katjie lies on the floor of her room. She is wide eyed.  
Panicked.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth's room has been transformed into a space for a religious ceremony. Kenneth lies motionless on the bed. His legs in two plaster casts held up by two ropes. A catholic priest performs the last rights on Kenneth. His mother and father stand in prayer.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

The landscape is now fully painted in the colours of Autumn.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kaitjie baths the Bosman children.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Mirinda changes the dressing on Kenneth's wounds. He has not regained consciousness.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE - DAY**

Dawie is with Mrs. D'allesandro in Kenneth's room. Everything has gone. He looks at her, she shrugs.

**INT. TANT VONNIE'S ROOM - DAY**

Suzan sits bathing her sisters feet and removing thorns that have broken in her feet. She works quietly. Suddenly.

KATJIE

Suzan, quickly put your hand here.

Suzan puts her hand on her sisters stomach.

SUZAN

I don't feel anything.

KATJIE

Just wait.

Then Suzan feels the kick. She gasps.

SUZAN

Yes I felt it.

The two sisters smile at each other.

SUZAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

So you're going to have a baby?

KATJIE

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUZAN  
Is it ouboets baby?

KATJIE  
Yes.

There is a silence. The mood changes.

SUZAN  
Still nothing from him?

Katjie bites her lip and shakes her head.

KATJIE  
Maybe he, maybe he just didn't want  
to be with me anymore

SUZAN  
No, Katjie don't say that...

KATJIE  
Most of the time I don't believe  
it...but sometimes I think I'm just  
being stupid, thinking he'll come  
back...thinking that he would love  
someone like me...

SUZAN  
He'll come back Katjie. He'll come  
back.

She rubs her sisters arm, also starting to doubt her  
assurances.

**EXT. DAWIE'S HOUSE - DAY**

Dawie sits fixing a puncture on his bicycle. Kaitjie  
approaches him. He looks up and sees her.

KAITJIE  
I wanted to know if, there was any  
news from the building site about  
Kenneth.

DAWIE  
Nothing Kaitjie. Still the same, he  
had to go home urgently.

Kaitjie looks away.

DAWIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
It just doesn't seem right. Kenneth  
was so, he liked to do things  
right. Why would he just leave  
without telling anyone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAITJIE

I don't know...

DAWIE

I went to his room at the boarding house and all of his things were gone.

KAITJIE

It's because of me.

DAWIE

But he loved you Kaitjie

KAITJIE

But his parents didn't want us to be together, maybe he listened to them.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Kaitjie makes her way back to DuToitspan.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN MAIN STREET - EVENING**

Katjie half walks half runs the last bit of the journey.

**EXT. KATJIE'S ROOM - EVENING**

Katjie arrives at her room, there is no sign of anything unusual. She opens the small room, closes the door and sits down and starts to cry.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

Mrs. Kleynhans sits at Kenneth's bed, knitting methodically. Kenneth lies in his bed. His one eye opens slightly. His mother immediately sees the small movement. She puts down the knitting and leans in to Kenneth. She sees her son open his eyes.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenny, Kenny, can you hear me?

Kenny makes tiny nodding movements with his head. His mother is delirious. She shouts out the room.

MRS.. KLEYNHANS

Hannes, Hannes, come quickly he's woken up. Kenny's woken up.

KENNETH

(softly)  
Kaitjie, I, need... the lawyer..

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Don't try and speak Kenny....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH  
What has happened?

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
You had a fall Kenny, at the  
building site, you have been  
unconscious...

KENNETH  
But how long ...

Mrs. Kleynhans.

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
You have been unconscious for five  
weeks Kenny.

Kenneth is shocked.

KENNETH  
...five weeks...

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
But you've woken up now.

KENNETH  
Mama, I need to tell Kaitjie what  
happened?

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
I'm sure she has found out Kenny,

KENNETH  
Have you heard anything from her?

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
No, please don't worry about  
anything, you're safe now.

Kenneth's father comes hurtling into the room. As soon as he  
sees his sons open eyes, his eyes mist up.

MR. KLEYNHANS  
Kenny, we thought that you would  
never wake up.

He sits with his son, holding him.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Burns addresses the workers, next to him stands a pale white  
man in his late thirties this is Mr. O DRISCOLL.

BURNS  
You all know Mr. O Driscoll. He has  
decided to join us again.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BURNS (CONT'D)

Which I am obviously very pleased  
about. So, it's business as usual.

The workers start disbanding, Dawie looks puzzled. Wessel  
turns to his friend and says.

WESSELS

What did I tell you!

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman stands working in the kitchen. She looks out the  
window onto the back garden where Kaitjie is pushing the  
girls on the swings with Mr. Bosman. From the angle that she  
is standing Katjie's pregnancy has started to show. Mrs.  
Bosman notices it, she looks at her husband. Lena scrubs pots  
on the other side of the kitchen.

MRS. BOSMAN

Lena

LETTIE

Yes Missus...

MRS. BOSMAN

I want you to watch my husband  
whenever he is near Katjie and tell  
me what you see.

LETTIE

Ja, missus I will, you've got to be  
careful. The white man like that  
kind because they never say no.

Mrs. Bosman shudders.

LETTIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

When I was still working with Baas  
Regard, I heard a friend of him  
saying, "they don't lie still"

MRS. BOSMAN

Yes Lena, thank you.

LETTIE

(Getting animated)

Hulle le nie still nie! That's what  
he said.

MRS. BOSMAN

Thank you Lena. I've got a terrible  
headache. I'm going to lie down for  
a bit.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth lies in his hospital bed. He has a small piece of writing paper on his chest. He holds a pen in his one hand and a small mirror in the other. He attempts to write a letter by looking in the mirror. It is almost impossible. All he really manages to write is " Kaitjie, my love" then he tires and closes his eyes.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Dawie is halfway up the construction of the temple. He hammers a nail into a beam. He looks up and he sees Kaitjie standing forlornly to one side. She looks lost. He puts down his hammer and starts climbing down the beams.

On ground level Burns and O Driscoll are with a white man, late thirties dressed in a suit, holding a clipboard. This is THE BUILDING INSPECTOR. Burns points up to the top.

BURNS

..and as you can see we have the lightning conductor installed.

The building inspector makes a tick on his list.

Dawie has reached the bottom of the construction and he makes his way to Kaitjie. She looks forlorn.

KAITJIE

I just came, Mrs. Bosman doesn't even know I'm gone. I just wanted to know...

DAWIE

There's no news, only that...

KAITJIE

What?

DAWIE

Kenneth has been replaced by Mr. O Driscoll...

KAITJIE

What does that mean. He's not coming back?

DAWIE

I don't know Kaitjie....

She is desperate.

KAITJIE

What must I do Dawie, I don't know what to do.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

I'm pregnant with Kenneth's child,  
and he doesn't even know. I don't  
even know where he lives... and  
maybe he wanted to leave...

She stops and looks behind her.

KAITJIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I .. I have to go....bye

DAWIE

Kaitjie...

KAITJIE

I have to go...

She runs off. He watches her go and turns back to the site.  
Mr. Burns and O Driscoll have seen this meeting from a  
distance. Dawie passes them on his way back to work.

BURNS

Try and keep your personal visits  
to lunch time, or after work Dawie.

DAWIE

Yes Mr. Burns. It, that was  
Kenneth's girlfriend. She wanted to  
know if there is any news from him.

Burns is curt.

BURNS

No.

DAWIE

You don't maybe have an address for  
him?

Burns squashes this immediately.

BURNS

No, I do not Dawie. Kenneth left us  
in the lurch at a critical time in  
our building and I don't want to  
have anything more to do with him.

DAWIE

But Mr...

BURNS

That's enough Dawie, we are busy  
with the building inspector. Thank  
You.

Dawie glares at him and the small group move away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

O' DRISCOLL  
 Maybe the size of the maids stomach  
 had something to with Kenneth's  
 sudden departure.

Dawie overhears this comment and glares at the men.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth's mother tucks his sheets in. He reaches over and takes three letters and gives them to her.

KENNETH  
 Ma, could you post these letters  
 for me, just letting people know  
 what is going on.

MR. KLEYNHANS  
 Of course my son...

She takes the letters, looks at Kenneth warmly.

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
 One of these days we are going to  
 get you back home.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON**

Mrs. Kleynhans stands at the postbox with the three letters. She reads the address of the first one. It is to Mrs. D'allesandro, she pops it into the postbox. The second is to Mr. Burns, she posts that. The third is to Katrina Muller. She looks at it for a time. She does not post it.

A white title appears on a black screen. It reads

**WINTER**

**INT. KAITJIE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kaitjie lies awake. Uncomfortable, she sits up. Massaging her stomach. She feels completely alone. She starts to cry, she can't stop. She sobs bitter tears. Out of nowhere there is a soft knocking at the door. Kenny? She jumps up and makes her way over to the door. She opens it to reveal not Kenny but a slightly inebriated Mr. Bosman. He steps into the room.

MR. BOSMAN  
 Hello Kaitjie.. I'm sorry I didn't  
 mean to startle you but I was just  
 coming back from the hotel and I  
 heard you crying...

KAITJIE  
 Oh....yes... I ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. BOSMAN  
Is everything all right....

KAITJIE  
Yes... I'm sorry Mr. Bosman, it's  
just I get a bit homesick  
sometimes...

MR. BOSMAN  
Don't be sorry, of course it must  
be hard for you....

She looks down.

MR. BOSMAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
If there is anything I can do to  
help.. will you let me know...

KAITJIE  
Yes I will...

MR. BOSMAN  
Anything....

He hangs around for a few seconds and then.

MR. BOSMAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Good night then...

KAITJIE  
Good night.

He still stands there as if waiting for something.

**INT. LENA'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Lena's room is adjacent to Kaitjie's, behind the Bosman house. She peers out of the window, to see Mr. Bosman stumbling out of Katjie's room. She gasps.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - MORNING**

Lena is with a visibly disturbed Mrs. Bosman.

LENA  
And I got up to get some water and  
I looked over at the maids room and  
I saw Mr. Bosman coming out ...

Mrs. Bosman blanches.

MRS. BOSMAN  
What time was this Lena?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA

Uhh around 11 I think.

MRS. BOSMAN

You absolutely sure it was Mr.  
Bosman.

LENA

Yes Missus. Strues.

MRS. BOSMAN

Thank you Lena, that will be all.

Lena carries on with her duties, Mrs. Bosman sways to her  
bedroom.

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth's mother sits at his bedside.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

..and your suitcase and all your  
things arrived at the house  
yesterday...

KENNETH

But why?

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I suppose Mr. Burns thought you  
would need your clothes. Very kind  
of him I thought.

KENNETH

But what about my job, I still have  
to go and finish with my work  
there.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth, my son, you are very badly  
injured. It is going to take you  
several months to recover, that job  
would be long finished.

KENNETH

But Ma what about Kaitjie...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

There has been no word from her.  
Nothing. I think you must put all  
of that behind you now.

Kenneth looks away.

**INT. POST OFFICE - DAY**

Vonnie stands in a queue behind another old woman. The woman in front of her gets her money and Vonnie steps up to the counter.

TANT VONNIE

My name is Yvonne Muller and I am here to pick up my war widows pension.

The woman behind the counter, scans a list, sees it and ticks. She counts out three pounds and ten shillings.

POST OFFICE WORKER

Sign here please.

VONNIE

I... don't know how to sign...

POST OFFICE WORKER

Just make a cross over there.

Vonnie marks the space with an X, glowing with pride. This is a big moment for her.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - NIGHT**

Mr. and Mrs.. Kleynhans klink cutlery.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

...all I am saying is the longer he stays here, the longer he is away from that...maid.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Estelle...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I'm sorry Hannes but that's what she is. I am not trying to be unkind. She is a maid.. and so is her mother....

MR. KLEYNHANS

I just think our main focus is to make sure that he gets his health back.. That's all that matters.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

That is the most important thing.... of course... but after we have done that the second most important thing is that he never goes back to that place....

**INT. KENNETH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Kenneth lies on his bed. He looks out the window into the Karoo winter night.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - NIGHT**

The wind howls through the deserted streets. The full moon lights up the small town. Kaitjie, heavily pregnant walks down the street with a paper bag. In the distance Jonny lopes towards her. He has already had a few too many. She tries to pass him but he stands in her way.

JONNIE

Where is your fancy boyfriend now  
Kaitjie Kaitjie?

She tries to pass him again but he stops her.

KAITJIE

Just leave me Jonny.

JONNIE

You want to know what I heard?

KAITJIE

No...

JONNIE

Well I'll tell you anyway. I heard  
that he went back to Graaf Reniet  
to get married to his fiancée

KAITJIE

That's not true...

JONNIE

I think it is Kaitjie, I think he  
was just having a bit of fun with  
the maids before his marriage...

She pushes past him roughly. He shouts after her.

JONNIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And now look who is left holding  
the baby.

Kaitjie tries not to show emotion but she is devastated.

**INT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

A frenetic game of cards is being played. Giellie is the dealer and Jonny the only player. Janneman sits to the side watching proceedings. Gillie has dealt the cards. Jonny looks at his cards. Two kings. He is very drunk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIELIE  
What you want to do Jonny Boy?

JONNIE  
I want to double.

GIELIE  
You got the money?

JONNIE  
I don't have it on me...

GIELIE  
Jan, Jonny needs a loan.

Janneman looks over at Jonny.

JANNEMAN  
You got the money to pay it back  
Jonny.

JONNIE  
(lying)  
Sure I've got it at home.

Janneman considers the situation and nods to the dealer who takes a pile of bank notes from a small pile and gives them to Jonny. Jonny grabs the notes. He makes a note on a piece of paper.

JONNIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Double.

He puts the entire pile of notes down. The dealer has one card to pull. The dealer sits on 16. The dealer reaches over and slaps the last card down., It is a 5 leaving him with 21 beating Jonny. Jonny is shattered as he watches the dealer taking his money. He gets to his feet unsteadily and makes his way out the room. Janneman smiles to the dealer.

**EXT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Jonny vomits against a wall.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - NIGHT**

Mrs. Bosman lies wide awake. Her husband sleeps next to her, snoring slightly. She can't sleep. She opens a drawer next to her bed and takes out a small vial of pills. She takes a few pills and throws them back washing them down with a glass of water. She lies back onto her bed. Wide eyed. Dark rings have formed around her eyes.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

Kenneth lies in bed. Mirinda sits next to his bed, shaving his face. She is very gentle but does not speak.

KENNETH  
Mirinda...

She stops shaving immediately.

KAITJIE  
Did I hurt you?

KENNETH  
No, no... I just wanted to say...  
I'm sorry about what happened.

MIRINDA  
Leave it Kenny.

KENNETH  
it's just we never got a chance to  
talk about it and I'm sorry if I  
hurt you...

She pushes his head gently to the side to continue shaving, smiling to herself.

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN CHURCH - DAY**

A few white woman are milling around outside the church. Mrs. Bosman is with Marie Koster. Mrs. Bosman looks gaunt and tired.

MARIE KOSTER  
You're getting too thin Ollie,  
what's going on with you?

Mrs. Bosman fights back tears.

MRS. BOSMAN  
I know I can trust you Marie, after  
the meeting I'll tell you  
everything.

MARIE KOSTER  
What is it?

Ollie looks down.

MARIE KOSTER (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Is it your husband?

She nods, fighting back tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BOSMAN

Yes.

MARIE KOSTER

Come, we can attend the meeting next month, your feelings are more important.

**INT. MARIE KOSTERS CHEVEROLET - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman has told her friend everything. She cries in heaving chunks of emotion. This is a very different woman to the one we have seen. Vulnerable, terrified.

MARIE KOSTER

Cry, cry, my friend, let it all out. I feel it with you.

She cries more, the emotion pouring out of her. The cries eventually subside her breathing returning to normal. She looks over to her friend, who sits pensively next to her.

MRS. BOSMAN

What are you thinking?

She pauses for a while.

MARIE KOSTER

I know someone who will take away that big stomach very quickly.

**EXT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY**

Marie Koster and Ollie Bosman are outside Janneman's house in the old section of Du Toits Pan. Marie knocks on the door. A very dark elderly Malay man answers the door and ushers them inside.

**INT. JANNEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY**

The two woman enter the house. The man disappears down a dingy passage to call Motta. Mrs. Bosman eyes are on stalks. Then Motta Fatima enters. She greets Marie Koster warmly.

MARIE KOSTER

Motta this is a friend of mine Ollie Bosman.

MOTTA FATIMA

Pleased to meet you Mrs. Bosman .  
What can I do for you ladies?

MARIE KOSTER

The usual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOTTA FATIMA

I can do it, but the price has gone up. It's now two pounds for the hook and five pounds for the pump and lysal. Payment in advance like always.

Mrs. Bosman has a steely look on her face.

**INT. GRAAF RENIET HOSPITAL - DAY**

Kenneth attempts to walk. He holds Mirinda's shoulder. She encourages him. His mother, ever present hovers in the background.

MIRANDA

...that's it...that's it...

He walks with small steps , with great difficulty.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

That's good Kenny, very good.

MIRANDA

Let's see if we can make it to the chair.

KENNETH

I don't know if..

MIRANDA

Just try....

The progress of her son, is very emotional to Mrs. Kleynhans. Kenneth, with great effort and pain struggles on. He makes it to the other side of the room. His mother claps excitedly.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Brilliant. Brilliant.

MIRANDA

Rest for a bit. I need to go do some rounds, then we can carry on.

KENNETH

OK...

His mother sits down next to him.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Isn't she a brilliant nurse ?

KENNETH

She is Ma, ...

Mrs. Kleynhans beams.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 Ma...

Mrs. Kleynhans looks at her son.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 Did you post my letters?

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
 Of course I did....why?

KENNETH  
 It's just I haven't heard anything  
 from Katrina....

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
 Oh.. well... maybe she is waiting  
 for someone to read the letter for  
 her.

Kenneth glares at her.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN CHURCH - DAY**

The congregation of the church belt out a loud hymn. Mrs. Bosman sings loud and proud, trying to draw strength for the actions that lie ahead.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - NIGHT**

Katjie sits on the edge of the bath with the two Bosman girls. Her stomach has grown considerably. She dries the one girl, the other sits in the bath. The door opens and Mrs.. Bosman enters. Kaitjie looks up quizzically.

MRS. BOSMAN  
 Evening Kaitjie.

KATJIE  
 Evening Missus. Is there something  
 wrong?

MRS. BOSMAN  
 No, no I just came to see how you  
 are doing, let me give you a hand  
 there. It must be getting hard for  
 you know what with the pregnancy  
 and all.

She takes the towel and starts drying the girl. Katie takes the other girl out the bath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BOSMAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You know that I'm very fond of you Katjie, you're so good with the girls. And I just wanted you to know that we will help in any way we can .. you know with the birth and everything..

KATJIE

Thank you missus...

MRS. BOSMAN

... and the baas says that when your baby is born he or she can play with the girls so that it doesn't have to be all alone in the room.

Katjie smiles, confused.

MRS. BOSMAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I would like to take you to see the midwife, just to see that everything is all right.

KATJIE

Oh...OK.

MRS. BOSMAN

Good, we'll go tomorrow.

She smiles sweetly. Katjie looks at her, perplexed.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

Mrs. Kleynhans moves Kenneth back into his room at home. He uses a cane to walk and still moves with great difficulty. Mirinda is there as well, supporting Kenneth. Kenneth sits on his bed.

MIRINDA

I'll be round twice a week to keep working...

KENNETH

OK.. thank you...

She goes up to him.

MIRINDA

Kenneth...

KENNETH

Mmmmm

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She takes his hand.

MIRANDA  
I just wanted to say....

KENNETH  
Yes...

MIRANDA  
...that you are doing... so  
well...you have been so brave.

Her eyes mist up.

KENNETH  
Thank you.

MIRINDA  
..and that I forgive you for  
everything...

She leans over and gives him a kiss on the cheek that lasts just a fraction to long. She pulls away. Kenneth and her look at each other. She gets up and leaves the room, beaming from ear to ear.

**INT. MRS. BOSMAN'S CAR - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman drives her car. Katjie sits next to her, trying to look relaxed. Mrs. Bosman gives her a little smile.

**EXT. MOTTA FATIMA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman knocks on the door of the house. Katjie stands at the car unsure.

MRS. BOSMAN  
Come girl, don't stand there like a  
block. I'm your missus, I'm trying  
to help you.

Katjie moves slowly to the door of the house. Mrs. Bosman knocks again on the door. The same elderly man answers and ushers them in.

**INT. MOTTA FATIMA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

They enter the house. Katjie's eyes are wide.

MOTTA'S HUSBAND  
She's through there.

Mrs. Bosman leaves Kaitjie standing there and goes into an adjacent room and sees Motta. Katjie can just see them and make out bits of their hushed conversation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BOSMAN (O.S.)  
I've brought the girl, you know  
what to do.

MOTTA FATIMA (O.S.)  
Yes.

MRS. BOSMAN (O.S.)  
Here's the money, seven pounds.

MOTTA FATIMA  
I'll do it straight away Mrs.  
Bosman.

Mrs. Bosman comes through the main entrance does not even look at Katjie and exits through the front door. Kaitjie looks at her , puzzled. Motta enters the room and looks at Katjie, scathingly. She walks over to the front door and locks it. Katjie hears Mrs. Bosman's car pull off. Motta's servant brings in a long bench and a pile of newspaper. She leaves and returns with a jar of Vaseline and something wrapped in newspaper and puts them on the table. The servant then starts spreading the newspaper on the table. The servant then leaves outside the back door. Katjie stands in the same place as when she entered.

MOTTA FATIMA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Pull off your bloomers and go and  
lie on the bench, just like when  
you did it, with your legs open.

Katjie does not move. Motta opens the newspaper parcel to reveal a pice of wire shaped into a hook. Both points have been sharpened.

MOTTA FATIMA (CONT'D)  
(continuing; Shouting)  
Vela, Vela come here.

The back door opens and the servant enters leaving the door open.

MOTTA FATIMA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Hey you, on the bench. Vela take  
the hook and rub it warm.

Katjie looks at the two woman, she sees the open door. Motta makes her way over to Katjie and grabs her by the arm. Kaitjie reacts instinctively and pushes the woman so hard she falls over. Then Kaitjie bolts.

MOTTA FATIMA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Hey, heeeeeey, come back here.

**EXT. MOTTA FATIMA'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Katjie runs as fast as she can out the back yard, past Motta's husband. Motta appears out the back door.

MOTTA FATIMA  
Do something, do something

MOTTA'S HUSBAND  
What must I do?

MOTTA FATIMA  
Stop her! Tell Janneman to send his men quickly.

She carries on running, running and running. The screams of the others disappearing into the background.

Motta's husband emerges from Janneman's room with Capie and Gielie. Janneman emerges after them.

MOTTA'S HUSBAND  
She went that way, that way.

JANNEMAN  
Go, go!

**EXT. DU TOITSPAN STREET - DAY**

Katjie runs through the onderdorp she hears the men calling behind her. She ducks down a side street. The men see her. She hides herself in a small crevice. The men run past her. She pops out of the crevice and runs in the other direction.

**EXT. KATJIE'S ROOM - MORNING**

Katjie arrives at her room breathless. She opens the door.

**INT. KATJIE'S ROOM - MORNING**

Katjie works fast throwing her few belongings onto her blanket. She ties the blanket together in a knot and throws it over her shoulder. She leaves the door standing open and half walks half runs towards Vatmaar.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - DAY**

Lena, the housemaid catches a glimpse of Katjie heading off. She scuttles through the house.

LETTIE  
Missus, missus, I saw her, I saw her leaving her room with all her things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BOSMAN

Thank you Lena. How did her stomach look?

LETTIE

I think it looked flat missus.

Mrs. Bosman nods.

**EXT. ROAD TO VATMAAR - MIDDAY**

Katjie walks as fast as she can, her face strained with tears on the long road back to Vatmaar.

**EXT. HALFWAY TO VATMAAR - DAY**

Katjie rests at the tree at the halfway mark. She breathes heavily, the walk is taking it's toll on her.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN POLICE STATION - DAY**

Mrs. Bosman stands indignantly at the counter.

MRS. BOSMAN

I want to lay a charge against my nursemaid for breaking her service contract.

SEARGENT

Name of the accused.

MRS. BOSMAN

Katrina Muller.

SEARGENT

How long did she still have of her contract.

MRS. BOSMAN

Just a few weeks, but a contracts is a contract not so?

SEARGENT

Absolutely. We'll be sending a patrol to Vatmaar on Monday. Were going to use our new motorbike with sidecar.

MRS. BOSMAN

That's all right. I just want to teach her a lesson and put her in her place. Thank you Oom Piet. I'll see you at holy communion on Sunday.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Vonnie and Suzan are making their way down the street, Vatmaar kids are rolling a bicycle with no spokes down the street. They reach their room when mousey, busy Mrs.. Wingrove runs up to them.

MRS. WINGROVE

Oooh there you two are, I've been waiting to talk to you..

TANT VONNIE

Is something wrong Marjorie?

MRS. WINGROVE

No, no, not at all It's just, I've been talking to my husband, well we heard about you getting a pension and everything and that made up our mind, its time for us to move to the Pan to be with our daughter, and we wanted to know if you wanted to buy your house back. For exactly what you paid for it. What do you say?

TANT VONNIE

(Breaking into smile)

I.. of course, yes, of course yes.

MRS. WINGROVE

Obviously you can pay us off, you know whatever you can afford, a little bit every month.

TANT VONNIE

Yes...

Suzan jumps up and hugs the diminutive Mrs. Wingrove.

MRS. WINGROVE

Oooh Suzan let me go you're squashing the life out of me.

Suzan puts her down and she bustles off.

MARJORIE

I must go and tell Eric.

She leaves Vonnie and Suzan looking at each other disbelievingly.

VONNIE

We're going to get our house back.

Their delight is short lived. Suzan is the first to see the exhausted figure of Katjie walking down the street.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Katjie is wrecked, she sways over the last few steps. Suzan runs towards her screaming as she runs.

SUZAN  
Mama, mama, come quickly it's  
Katjie.

Suzan runs to her sister who falls into her arms. Vonnie comes running to her daughters aid.

**INT. TANT VONNIE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Katjie has been laid out on the floor. Tant Vonnie and Sis Bet are with her. Suzan hovers in the background.

SIS BET  
She's completely run down, she's  
going to need lots of rest and some  
herbs to get her strength back.

TANT VONNIE  
I'll make some parsley and red bush  
tea.

SIS BET  
That'll help.

Looking at Vonnie, smiling.

SIS BET (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
I see you're on your way to  
becoming an Ouma.

Vonnie smiles.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - NIGHT**

Mirinda and Mrs. Kleynhans help Kenneth into a chair at the dinner table. He sits down slowly. The two woman then take their seats. Mr. Kleynhans already sits at the table. The evening meal has been laid out in front of them.

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
I never thought this day would  
come, when we would all sit around  
a table together. Welcome home  
Kenny.

KENNETH  
Thank you Ma.

She looks at her husband.

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
Your father has some good news for  
you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She looks at him again as if waiting for him to speak.

MR. KLEYNHANS

I spoke to Mr. Fourie who is in charge of building the new school next year. I told him that you were back now and he says that if you want it, the job is yours.

Mrs. Kleynhans beams. Kenneth considers this all, the fight has gone out of him.

KENNETH

Thank you Pa...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Good, good. Let's eat. But first a toast.

She raises her glass.

MRS. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

To family.

Everyone clinks glasses and repeats the toast. Mrs. Kleynhans smiles at Mirinda who looks adoringly at Kenneth. They lift their knives and forks and start eating.

**EXT. TANT VONNIE'S ROOM - DAY**

Suzan and Vonnie bustle outside the room holding carrier bags. Kaitjie stands in the doorway looking a bit better.

TANT VONNIE

So we'll get calico, flannel and buttons for the babies clothes and nappies.

SUZAN

And safety pins

TANT VONNIE

And safety pins.

SUZAN

And maybe something nice for Katjie..

TANT VONNIE

And maybe something nice for Katjie.

Katjie smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATJIE

Come on you two hurry Oom Flip is going to leave without you.

Suzan and Vonnie get the point and head off waving to Katjie.

TANT VONNIE

Just rest Kaitjie. Rest.

KAITJIE

Yes Ma.

**EXT. ROAD TO DU TOITSPAN - DAY**

The sergeant, his face covered with goggles and a helmet, motors along the dirt road on the new motorbike with a sidecar.

**EXT. TANT VONNIE'S ROOM - MORNING**

Katjie sweeps outside her mothers room. The motorbike pulls up outside the house. The sergeant gets off the bike and approaches Katjie.

SEARGENT

Are you Katrina Muller?

KATJIE

Yes...

SEARGENT

I need you to come with me to the police station...

KAITJIE

..for what Meneer?

SEARGENT

It's nothing serious....

KAITJIE

Is it something to do with Kenny?

SEARGENT

Something like that, I'm really not quite sure...

She runs to the door of the house and pulls it closed. She runs to the motorbike and the Seargent instructs her to get into the sidecar.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

The motorbike races down the road with Katjie sitting in the sidecar. She waves to Sis Bet as they speed past. Sis Bet waves back, concerned.

**INT. JAIL CELL - AFTERNOON**

The outside door is closed leaving a devastated Katjie in darkness.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - AFTERNOON**

Suzan and Vonnie walk down the street with their shopping. Sis bet runs down the road and tells them what has happened. Vonnie instructs Suzan to go back to the house. She turns and heads back to flips trolley.

**INT. OOM FLIPS CART - DAY**

Tant Vonnie is hurtling again along the road to Du Toits pan.

**INT. DU TOITSPAN JAIL - DAY**

Tant Vonnie and Oom Flip enter the jail. She breathes heavily.

TANT VONNIE

I'm trying to find out what happened to my daughter. Kaitjie., Katrina Muller.

Looking at his book.

SEARGENT

Katrina Muller has been sentenced to fourteen days hard labour without the option of a fine

TANT VONNIE

But what for?

SEARGENT

For breaking her service contract with Mrs. Bosman.

TANT VONNIE

But she is very pregnant, she can't do hard labour.

SEARGENT

The usual sentence is 28 days half labour. The magistrate halved it because of her condition. You should be thankful for that.

Vonnie glares at him. She is broken by this news. She turns to Flip, unsteady on her feet. Everything in her wants to howl but she says calmly say to Flip.

VONNIE

Well 14 days must also come to an end. Come Phillipus. Let's go.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

A cold wind blows through the arid countryside. Winter has arrived.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - EVENING**

Suzan weeps inconsolably. Vonnie and Dawie attempt to comfort her.

**INT. SIS BET'S PLACE - NIGHT**

Dawie sits on the porch of Bet's place, alone, with his thoughts, sipping Khadie out of a can. The last few stragglers are drunkenly making their way home. Bet appears out the front door.

SIS BET

Dawie, can you take Koos home, I think he has had a little to much.

Dawie looks up at her.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Dawie makes his way down the street with a very inebriated Koos Blou hanging on to him. Koos sings and mumbles drunkenly. They get to Koos's house and Dawie pushes the door open.

**INT. KOOS BLOU'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Dawie takes Koos and lays him on his bed. Koos's words are very slurred when he speaks.

DAWIE

Sleep it off Koos...

KOOS BLOU

Thank you Dawie, you're a friend.

Dawie makes his way to the door.

KOOS BLOU (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Dawie.....

DAWIE

Ja...

KOOS BLOU

Can you keep a secret...

Dawie feigns interest in the drunk mans ramblings.

DAWIE

Uhh.. sure Koos what is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOOS BLOU  
I've kept this with me for a long  
time... its burning me man..

DAWIE  
What is it?

KOOS BLOU  
You remember that .. that  
Kleynhans....

DAWIE  
Kenny..

Suddenly Dawie becomes interested in the drunken ramblings.

KOOS BLOU  
Ja.. Kenny...

DAWIE  
What about him?

KOOS BLOU  
You remember how he just  
disappeared?

DAWIE  
You said he went back to his  
family.

KOOS BLOU  
Snot true...

JONNY  
What do you mean?

KOOS BLOU  
He fell on his head... from the top  
of the temple... I was the one who  
found him...

DAWIE  
What?

KOOS BLOU  
Ja...

DAWIE  
But why didn't you say anything?

KOOS BLOU  
It was Burns... he gave me money to  
not say anything... you know ..we  
all need money Dawie...

DAWIE  
Koos, was he still alive...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KOOS BLOU

He was still breathing but it was bad, very bad. I ...must sleep.

He is gone. Snoring. Dawie stands there shaken by the news.

**INT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Burns stands with O'Driscoll looking at a set of plans of the table.

BURNS

...if we can get the far left roof on by the end of the week, we might still finish on time,

O' DRISCOLL

The only problem is...

The door to the office is flung open , Dawie stands in the doorway, his large frame breathing heavily, staring at Burns with venom. Burns looks at him, taken aback at Dawie's audacity.

DAWIE

I need to talk to you Mr. Burns.

BURNS

I am in the middle of a meeting Dawie, can you wait outside.

Dawie approaches Burns. His large frame is distinctly threatening.

DAWIE

No, I can't. I need to talk to you now.

O' DRISCOLL

Oi, who do you think you are talking to?

Dawie stands his ground looking firmly at Mr. O Driscoll.

DAWIE

This has got nothing to do with you Mr. O ' Driscoll. I need to talk with Mr. Burns.

Beat.

BURNS

Well what is it then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWIE

Koos Blou told me last night that  
Kenneth fell off the building and  
that you paid him to keep quiet!

Burns wobbles.

BURNS

What? That's, that is absolute  
nonsense...

Getting closer to Burns.

DAWIE

I don't think it is, ever since  
Kenneth left, the whole thing  
hasn't felt right, why would he  
just disappear without telling  
anyone??

BURNS

How must I know! I don't know  
what's going on in his personal  
life.

Dawie getting closer.

DAWIE

You're lying. You're lying and you  
better start telling me the truth.

He is two inches away from Burns, who is cowering. O  
Driscoll, who is no physical match for Dawie, feel he has to  
do something and steps towards the two men.

O' DRISCOLL

OK, that's enough now.

DAWIE

You take one more step towards me  
and I'll bliksem you so hard you'll  
land up in hospital.

O Driscoll stops in his tracks. Dawie now grabs Burns by the  
throat and pushes him against the wall.

DAWIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You can tell me the truth right now  
or I am going straight to the  
building inspector to tell him  
about this....

Burns is trapped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BURNS

It didn't have anything to do with me. He was putting up the lightning conductor.

DAWIE

Why was he doing that before anyone was here for work?

BURNS

Listen Dawie, please help me here. I'll make it worth your while. Tell me how much you want, anything.

Dawie hurls him against the wall.

DAWIE

I don't want your stinking money Mr. Burns I want to know what happened to Kenneth?

BURNS

I took him to the hospital in Graaf Reniet. I didn't have to but I did....

DAWIE

...and was he all right?

BURNS

I don't know...

DAWIE

Let me tell you something Mr. Burns if Kenneth is dead, I am going to come back here and finish you. And whatever happens I'm going to the Building inspectors office. Do you have any idea what you have done? You pig.

Dawie lunges at Burns, who cowers away. Dawie turns and heads out of the office. O'Driscoll steps away leaving a clear path for him.

**EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY**

Dawie leaves the office, he stands in the early morning sun, a little unsure what to do. In the distance he hears the hoot of the train heading for Graaf Reniet. Instinctively he makes a decision. He runs to where his bicycle is standing, grabs it and starts cycling off at great speed.

**INT. JAIL - DAY**

Katjie stands on a cold cement floor washing clothes in a huge basin. The work is brutal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Not far away from her sits an extremely gaunt Hendruk January. There are other prisoners standing around as well. She can see that Hendruk is struggling with his work, She checks that there are no guards around and goes and helps him with his work. He smiles his thanks to her.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Dawie cycles like crazy along a dirt path. In the background the train blasts it's whistle. Dawie cycles towards the train tracks. He stops his bike and hides it in the grass and waits. The train approaches going slowly as it heads out of the small town. Dawie waits for the train to get halfway past him, then, when the last carriage, is next to him, he runs alongside it and climbs on. He levers himself over the edge ,falling into a large coal container.

**EXT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

A knuckle with the large sovereign ring on the finger knocks hard on Settie September's door.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - DAY**

Settie opens the door to reveal Janneman. His tone with Settie is cordial, almost gentlemanly.

SETTIE

Uhh.. hello Jan...

JANNEMAN

Hello Settie... Is Jonny home?

SETTIE

No.. Jan, he isn't.

JANNEMAN

Would you mind if I waited for him?

SETTIE

Uhh , no, of course not, is there a problem Jan?.

JANNEMAN

Jonny owes me some money, and I have been waiting and waiting. I just want to speak to him about it.

Settie scurries into her home, terrified.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

The train heads towards Graaf Reniet. Dawie pops his head over the container, scanning the landscape.

**INT. SEPTEMBER HOUSE - DAY**

Janneman sits at Settie's kitchen table, drinking a mug of tea. Settie stands to one side of the Kitchen her eyes fixed on the large sovereign ring on his finger.

JANNEMAN  
Lovely tea Settie.

SETTIE  
Thank You Jan.

Settie knows she shouldn't but she can't help herself.

SETTIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
That's a beautiful ring you got there Jan.

JANNEMAN  
Ja, it is lekker. Suits me don't you think?

SETTIE  
Ja...

She goes further.

SETTIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Where does a person get such an unusual ring?

JANNEMAN  
I don't know. Jonny gave this one to me, to pay off his last debt.

These words are like a blow to Settie September.

Jan slugs the rest of his tea and stands up.

JANNEMAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
I say thank you for the tea Settie, very nice. Unfortunately I can't wait any longer. Would you be so kind as to tell Jonnie that I am looking for him.

SETTIE  
I will Jann. I promise.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET ROAD - DAY**

Dawie walks along a road in Graaf Reniet. He stops an elderly man and asks for directions to the Kleynhans house. The man points down the road and explains.

**INT. KENNETH'S ROOM - DAY**

Kenneth lies on his bed, staring at the ceiling. There is a soft knock on the door and a young coloured woman, MIRIAM, opens the door.

MIRIAM  
Meneer Kenny...

KENNETH  
Yes Miriam...

MIRIAM  
There is a man to see you.

KENNETH  
What man?

MIRIAM  
I don't know, he says he is from  
Vatmaar.

In a flash Kenneth gets himself upright and grabs his cane.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - DAY**

Dawie waits at Kenneth's front door, his face covered in Soot. Kenneth walks with difficulty out of his room and sees Dawie standing there. The two men look at each.

KENNETH  
Dawie

DAWIE  
Kenny...

Beat

DAWIE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
You're alive.

The move towards each other and embrace each other.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET ROAD - DAY**

Kenneth sits on a bench as Dawie explains what has been happening. Kenneth realises the full extent of the confusion and deception. He drops his head into his hands.

**INT. SETTIE SEPTEMBER'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Settie is in full flight. She hurls Jonny's belongings at him. He sits on his bed, defeated.

JONNIE  
Please Settie...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SETTIE

Please Settie what? I want you  
out.... for good.

JONNIE

I didn't know what to do, Jann was  
going to kill me.

SETTIE

So you steal from me. Your wife?  
All you do is drain me Jonny I want  
you to get out of my life once and  
for all. Get out!

JONNIE

Settie ...

Settie goes crazy screaming,

SETTIE

(screaming)

GET OUT, GET OOOOOUUUT!

Jonny realises there is no talking his way out of this one  
and starts gathering his clothes.

**EXT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Kenneth battles along with his crutches back towards his  
house. He is sweating profusely. He can hear his mother  
flapping in the house. Then she sees him and runs outside

MRS. KLEYNHANS

There you are, we didn't know where  
you, we have been so worried...

He carries on hobbling towards her. He does not look at her  
just moves straight past her brushing past his father who  
stands at the front door.

MRS. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Kenneth...Kenneth?

Kenneth enters the house she stares at her husband and they  
both follow him into the house.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON**

Mrs. Kleynhans enters the house followed by her husband.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth what is going on?

Kenneth looks straight at his mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNETH

What did you do with my letters to Kaitjie?

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I... I posted them.

KENNETH

Did you? Did you really? Because she didn't get them.

Kenneth stares at his mother. She is unable to lie. She looks down, her face cracking.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What have you been doing Ma?

Mr. Kleynhans looks at his wife.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Estelle, what is happening. I don't understand.

Mrs. Kleynhans, looks up at Kenneth her eyes brimming with tears.

KENNETH

What did you do with my letters?

She looks at him, hard.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

I destroyed them.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Estelle...

Kenneth looks despairingly at his mother. She looks back at him.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

Do you know what its like to watch your only child making a huge mistake that you know is going to effect him and his family for the rest of their lives....do you...?

KENNETH

No I don't.... but this is my life Mama... not yours. I am not a child anymore. I have been going crazy because she hasn't responded to my letters and now I find out THAT SHE NEVER GOT THEM!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MRS. KLEYNHANS  
Kenneth.. please I'm begging you.

KENNETH  
Ma, Kaitjie is carrying my child,  
we are going to make a life  
together.

Mrs. Kleynhans pales at this news.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
if you would like to be part of our  
life together, that is obviously  
what I would choose but if you  
don't then that is your choice!

He turns and hobbles off. Mrs. Kleynhans sobs. Mr. Kleynhans does not comfort her.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - EVENING**

Jonny walks along a deserted road, carrying a small bag of his worldly possessions. He walks slowly on the road to nowhere.

**INT. JAIL - DAY**

Kaitjie stands in a line of prisoners watching a stretcher being carried out. The blanket covering the prisoner has fallen off his face. Kaitjie sees immediately that the dead body is Hendruk January. Kaitjie's hand shoots to her mouth. She walks up to the stretcher and puts the blanket over the old mans face. When she turns around a single tear runs down her cheek. A warder approaches her telling her to get back to work, she walks in a trance to her work station and starts the days backbreaking work.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAWN**

Dawn breaks over the mid winter Karoo landscape. Broer leads his flock onto the mountain. When they are grazing he takes a harmonica out of his pocket. He blows it once, twice and then launches into a melodic, melancholic tune.

**INT. KAITJIE'S JAIL CELL - DAWN**

Kaitjie sits in her cell. She looks gaunt and exhausted. She stands up slowly. A warder comes in to her cell.

WARDER  
Pack your things!

KAITJIE  
What do you mean mener?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WARDER

Pack up you're leaving today...

KAITJIE

Sorry meneer ...but I'm only supposed to go home tomorrow,

WARDER

Well you're a lucky girl then.

KAITJIE

..but meneer no-one knows that I am coming today...They are coming tomorrow, please can I leave tomorrow.

WARDER

I said pack your things. Are you deaf?

He leaves the cell, Kaitjie's head is spinning.

**EXT. JAIL - DAWN**

Kaitjie moves through the large jail gate. She stands there, holding her large pregnant stomach, not sure what to do. The gate is locked behind her. She looks out at the long road ahead of her and starts walking.

**INT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - MORNING**

Mr. and Mrs. Kleynhans eat breakfast at the dining room table. They eat in silence. Mrs. Kleynhans's eyes are puffy. Kenneth enters the room, using his cane to walk, he is fully dressed and has a small bag slung over his shoulder. His mother turns and looks at him.

KENNETH KLEYHNANS

Ma... Pa....I'm saying goodbye.

MR. KLEYNHANS

Kenneth...

MRS. KLEYNHANS

..but you're not ready....Kenneth, no, you are not strong enough, you are not recovered. Hannes, Hannes...speak to the child...

KENNETH

My mind is made up. I'm taking the train to Du Toitspan this morning.

MRS. KLEYNHANS

You can't go Kenneth...As a nursing sister I insist...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenneth heads for the door. Mrs. Kleynhans turns top her husband.

MRS. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Stop him Hannes. Stop him.

Mr. Kleynhans stares at his wife. He speaks in a way that he hasn't before.

MR. KLEYNHANS  
No Estelle, I will not stop him. I will not listen to you about Kenneth anymore. We nearly lost our son. Estelle. It was a miracle that he survived and you insist on trying to control his life. Enough now. Let him live his life.

She sobs and he leaves the room after Kenneth.

**EXT. KLEYNHANS HOUSE - MORNING**

Kenneth is hobbling down the road with Dawie. His father walks after him.

MR. KLEYNHANS  
Kenneth!

Kenneth turns and looks at his father.

MR. KLEYNHANS (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Kenny... are you sure about this?

KENNETH  
I have never been so sure about anything in my whole life Pa.

Beat. Father looks at son.

**INT. KLEYNHANS CAR - MORNING**

Kenneth sits in the passenger seat of his father's chevrolet. His father drives, looking straight ahead. Dawie sits in the back of the car.

**EXT. ROAD TO VATMAAR - DAY**

Kaitjie walks slowly step by step closer to home. With each step her body uses up a little more strength.

**EXT. GRAAF RENIET STATION - MORNING**

The steam train lets of three long blasts. Kenneth stands with his father on the platform.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. KLEYNHANS  
Kenneth, just promise me one thing.

KENNETH  
Yes Pa.

Mr. Kleynhans's eyes fill with tears.

MR. KLEYNHANS  
Promise me, you won't climb on any  
high things anymore.

KENNETH  
OK Pa.

The two men hug each other.

**EXT. HALFWAY TO VATMAAR - DAY**

Katjie's lifeless body lies under the tree at the halfway point between Vatmaar and Dutoitspan. Oom Flip trundles past the tree on his way to the Pan. He does not see the body on the ground. He is almost past the tree when Old Swing stops and neighs loudly.

OOM FLIP  
What is it now Old Swing?

The horse turns towards Kaitjie.

OOM FLIP (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
What is it, where you going now  
girl? We've got to get to the  
station...

As the cart turns Flip sees the inert body and jumps off the Cart.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

The steam train winds it's way through the Karoo.

**INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - DAY**

Kenneth leans against the window watching the countryside move past. Dawie sits next to him.

**EXT. VONNIE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY**

Vonnie, Bet, Suzan and Oom Flip carry Kaitjie gently off the back of Flip's trolley. She is barely conscious. They carry her into the house.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

They enter the room and lay Kaitjie down on a bed. Bet is checking her. Feeling her stomach. Kaitjie groans almost involuntarily.

SIS BET

Suzan, run, tell the midwife to come quickly, I think this baby is coming early.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Suzan runs down Vatmaar's main street. She runs up to the front door of a small house and bangs on the door.

**EXT. VATMAAR MAIN STREET - DAY**

SISTER GOUS, the middle aged midwife and Suzan hurry down the Vatmaar street.

**EXT. OPEN COUNTRY SIDE - DAY**

Broer plays his harmonica. He watches as the train pulls in to Du Toitspan station.

**INT. VONNIE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY**

Katjie is in labour, she hardly has any strength to push the baby out, everyone stands around her encouraging her. Wiping her face with cloths, holding her hand. Eventually after huge effort the baby is delivered. The child screams it's first scream as the midwife holds it up.

MIDWIFE

..it's a boy..

**EXT. DU TOITS PAN STATION - DAY**

Kenneth emerges from the station with Dawie, hoping to see Oom Flips trolley standing there. There is no sign of anyone.

DAWIE

Oom Flip should be here... he always comes for the train...

Dawie is still musing over where Flip might be when he turns around and sees Kenneth heading down the long dusty road towards Vatmaar. Dawie follows him.

**EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY**

Kenneth struggles along putting one foot in front of another. Step by step closer to his destination. Dawie holds him, and helps him along the way.

**EXT. VATMAAR STREET - DAY**

Kenneth and Dawie have made it to the main street of Vatmaar. Kenneth is exhausted but carries on slowly. He can see the outline of Vonnie's house.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Suzan stands in the room, her face tear stained. She looks up and catches a glimpse of a figure outside making it's way towards the house. She moves to the window and makes sure. She runs to the front door , opens it and rushes out.

**EXT. VONNIE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY**

Suzan sees Kenneth hobbling towards her. She break into a run towards him.

SUZAN

Ouboet...Ouboooooeeeeet!

She runs to him, embraces him and does not let go.

SUZAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ouboet, where have you been?

KENNETH

Suzan, where is Kaitjie?

SUZAN

Ouboet, Kaitjie is very , she...

Kenneth hobbles towards the room.

KENNETH

I need to see her....

He heads towards the room with grim determination.

**INT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - DAY**

Kaitjie lies on the floor, Sis Bet and Vonnie are wiping her brow. She is only semi conscious. The two older women have deep concern etched over there faces. Kenneth enters the room. The two women look up at Kenneth.

VONNIE

Kenneth?

KENNETH

Vonnie...Sis Bet... Is she all right?

VONNIE

She is very weak Kenneth...I think the birth was too much for her...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenneth goes down on his knees. The two woman stand and give him space, he takes Kaitjie's hand.

KENNETH  
Kaitjie...Kaitjie...it's Kenneth...

There is no response.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Kaitjie, my love...

With her last bit of reserves, she rolls her head over and forces her eyes open. She sees Kenneth and smiles. She speaks very softly.

KAITJIE  
Kenny... you came back...

KENNETH  
I am here my love.

KAITJIE  
You came back...

KENNETH  
I am here for ever.

He leans over and kisses her gently on the cheek. She smiles, using the last drop of her reserves. Her eyes close. She is gone. Kenneth looks at her with a horrible realisation.

KENNETH (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Kaitjie... Kaitjie...No, no, nooo

He looks up at Sis Bet and Von, who move towards him. Vonnie engulfs him in her arms. Kenneth lets out a primal scream that is heard throughout the streets of Vatmaar.

**EXT. VONNIE'S NEW ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Kenneth sits on a small bench, his face tear stained, his body hunched over. His world shattered. Vonnie sits next to him, holding him. Suzan walks towards him, carrying a bundle.

SUZAN  
Ouboet...

Kenneth looks up, his face almost unrecognisable through the grief.

SUZAN (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
...this is your son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suzan walks up to him and hands the child to him. He holds his son. Looking into the infants eyes.

TANT VONNIE

His name is Heinrich. After his Grandfather.

Kenneth stares at the baby, transfixed. Suzan walks over to him and puts her arm around him. The three people sit huddled together looking at the baby.

**INT. BOSMAN HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

Mrs. Bosman arrives home in the afternoon. She bustles into the house. She hears a noise coming from the bedroom. She goes and opens the bedroom door. The bed is unmade and to one side of the room stands her husband holding a towel around him. She is perplexed.

MRS. BOSMAN

Eugene?.

The door of the bedroom swings closed by itself. Standing behind it, holding a sheet around her body is Mrs. Bosman's best friend Marie Koster. Mrs. Bosman looks between Marie and her husband as if she is seeing a strange apparition. She collapses.

**EXT. VATMAAR GRAVEYARD - DAY**

The whole community of Vatmaar is gathered around an open grave in a small graveyard. Kaitjie's coffin is lowered slowly into the ground. The small community sings and cries as they bury one of their daughters. Nailed to her coffin with small tacks is a piece of paper which reads simply "Katrina 22 years old". Once the coffin is in the ground, various people take turns to shovel the earth into the grave. People move to Suzan and Vonnie hugging them. One of these people is Settie September who hugs Vonnie and wails into her shoulder. To express their condolences with Kenneth the people make a rough line and then embrace Kenneth or shake his hand. Sis Bet steps forward, tearful.

SIS BET

Your loss is my loss my child.

Kenneth is humbled by this show of emotion. One of his workers from the construction site approaches him.

JAKOB

I feel it with you Meneer Kenny.

Ta Vuurmaak makes his way to Kenneth his old face crinkled. He holds Kenneth's hand.

TA VUURMAAK

Stay with us and become one of us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ta Vuurmaak moves away. The small community stands around the family, tears are streaming down Kenneth's face. The people of Vatmaar begin to clap their hands together to express compassion with them. They clap a slow tempo without singing or speaking.

**EXT. VONNIE'S OLD HOUSE - DAY**

Oom Flip's trolley is piled with goods. Mr. and Mrs. Wingrove sit on the trolley and wave as Old Swing slowly moves away from the house. Kenneth, Suzan and Vonnie stand outside the house. Suzan holds the baby. They are huddled together. This new family. They wave as the trolley make's it's way slowly down the street.

**End.**