

Chapter 1 : Book Review: Too Late the Phalarope by Alan Paton | Mboten

I found "Too Late the Phalarope" (a Phalarope is a bird and no, I cannot explain its meaning in the title), a richer novel than "Cry." It needs an immediate second reading to capture those nuances that run all through the novel that may elude the reader on first reading.

He is a white police-lieutenant and family father and wants to help everybody, especially black people. One day he gets to know the black girl Stephanie and he begins to like her and in the next weeks he tries to help her by finding a job for her and he gives her some money. Stephanie is about 25 years old, her parents are unknown, she has a baby and breaks often the law by brewing and selling liquor. Stephanie is quite a strange woman and this is the reason why Pieter begins to love her and sleeps with her sometimes on a vacant ground at night. After such a night - his wife and children are on holiday - there is a note on his door. It says, "I saw you", he thinks that someone saw him sleeping with the girl and therefore he becomes very nervous and is filled with terror for some weeks. After a talk with his best friend Japie he gets to know that Japie put that note there but he had meant something else. Pieter was so happy but at the end his police captain can prove that he did a crime against the Immorality Act. So he and his family are destroyed because it is one of the most serious crimes in South Africa at that time. Title The name Phalarope is the name of a bird that is very rare. Pieter and his father went to look for it. First Pieter could not see the bird when his father told him. Then when his father gave him his glasses he could see it. This experience was a the point where Pieter first realized what he was doing. The bird could be a symbol for realization of the crime he had done and of the consequences for his family and his friends. Character Pieter van Vlaanderen The main character is Pieter who is a very complex character. On the one hand he is the police-lieutenant who obeys the law and on the other hand he is the dark and silent man who likes secrets. Nearly until he was arrested he did not realize what he had done and that he will be arrested, that his life is destroyed and also the life of his family and friends. In this aspect he really seems to be naive. As a policeman and Jew he is very helpful and does not believe that someone might be completely bad and that was finally the reason why he was accused of the crime. On the one side Pieter is a Jewish person who could not cope with the system of Apartheid. He did not take it so seriously because deep inside he knew that this system is wrong, it is not a human system because it regards people as second class citizens. This is shown when Pieter tries to help the natives in any way he can. On the other side he deceives his wife with the girl Stephanie which is not a catholic behaviour at all. Everybody who believes in any religion or - at least - whose values are similar to the vaues of religious thinking knows deep inside that any system like the Apartheid system is wrong and cannot be justified. Paton has the same attitude as Pieter. His wife has not the sme opinion as Pieter. Before she knew what her husabdn did, she knew something and she said that he has a problem and that he is in a bad mood, in a black mood. She cannot understand why he helps the black because she believes in the Apartheid system, not obviously but in some way. She says she hopes that nobody will recognize their family name. The newspapers, that stand for the society, see in Pieter the criminal who does not regret what he did. Paton critizeses that the media does not express their opinion but the opinion they have to have in the Apartheid system. The media could help to abolish the Apartheid system but it often does the opposite: My opinion Too Late the Phalarope is a book that shows very well the situation in South Africa of blacks and whites; as it is seen by white men and therefore I have an one-sided impression. Sometimes it was difficult to read because there are many Afrikaans words which mostly are not translated. Furthermore I think it is very interesting and gripping because there are many predictions. Besides I was shocked what measures his father took after he had been told of the crime.

Chapter 2 : Too Late the Phalarope | Introduction & Overview

To Late the Phalarope' isn't as explicitly Paton's politics, although admirable for their time and considered dangerously subversive by the Apartheid government, have come under justifiable critique from post-colonial critics.

Synonyms Steganopus A phalarope is any of three living species of slender-necked shorebirds in the genus Phalaropus of the bird family Scolopacidae. The English and genus names come through French phalarope and scientific Latin Phalaropus from Ancient Greek phalaris, "coot", and pous, "foot". Coots and phalaropes both have lobed toes. Two species, the red phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius, called grey phalarope in Europe and red-necked phalarope P. Predominantly grey and white in winter, their plumage develops reddish markings in summer. A fossil species, Phalaropus elenorae, is known from the Middle Pliocene 4–3 million years ago mya. A coracoid fragment from the Late Oligocene c. The divergence of phalaropes from their closest relatives can be dated to around that time, as evidenced by the fossil record chiefly of the shanks and supported by tentative DNA sequence data. Ecology and behavior[edit] Red and red-necked phalaropes are unusual amongst shorebirds in that they are considered pelagic, that is, they spend a great deal of their lives outside the breeding season well out to sea. Phalaropes are unusually halophilic salt-loving and feed in great numbers in saline lakes such as Mono Lake in California and the Great Salt Lake of Utah. Feeding[edit] When feeding, a phalarope will often swim in a small, rapid circle, forming a small whirlpool. This behavior is thought to aid feeding by raising food from the bottom of shallow water. The bird will reach into the center of the vortex with its bill, plucking small insects or crustaceans caught up therein. It has been shown that phalaropes use the surface tension of water to capture food particles and get them to move up along the bill and into their mouths. Females are larger and more brightly colored than males. The females pursue and fight over males, then defend them from other females until the male begins incubation of the clutch. Males perform all incubation and chick care, while the female attempts to find another male to mate with. If a male loses his eggs to predation, he will often rejoin his original mate or a new female, who will lay another clutch. Once it becomes too late in the season to start new nests, females begin their southward migration , leaving the males to incubate the eggs and care for the young. Phalaropes are uncommon among birds and vertebrates in general in that they engage in polyandry, one female taking multiple male mates while males mate with only one female. Specifically, phalaropes engage in serial polyandry, wherein females pair with multiple males at different times in the breeding season.

Chapter 3 : TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE by Alan Paton | Kirkus Reviews

Too Late the Phalarope is the second novel of Alan Paton, the South African author who is best known for writing *Cry, the Beloved Country*. It was published in 1948, and was the last novel he published before *Ah, but Your Land is Beautiful* in 1952.

This second novel continues to be overshadowed by its predecessor, despite considerable critical opinion that it is the more polished of the two. As a dedicated political activist, Paton saw his writing as a means to a higher end. *Cry, the Beloved Country* centers on the black experience in South Africa, while *Too Late the Phalarope* depicts the lives of Afrikaners descendants of Dutch settlers who traveled to South Africa three hundred years ago. Specifically, Paton depicts a heroic protagonist, Pieter van Vlaanderen, grappling with private issues in the face of a strict law forbidding interracial sexual relationships. His inability to resolve his dilemma with self-control leads to his ruin. Numerous critics regard *Too Late the Phalarope* as a modern-day Greek tragedy. The story features an extremely virtuous and upright hero whose downfall comes about as the result of his own tragic flaw. The narrator, Sophie, is somewhat re-moved from the rest of the characters because of her disfigurement, and thus serves as the chorus, commenting on the action of the plot. By updating the Greek tragedy, Paton refers to the universality of human suffering and weakness while demonstrating the dangers of an unjust social structure. Author Biography Alan Paton is remembered as an exceptional writer, a passionate activist, and a compelling educator. Although he was a tyrant at home, James Pa-ton also passed along his love of literature and writing to his children. Alan Paton married in 1928, had two children with his wife, and was widowed in 1931. He remarried two years later. After completing his education at Pietermaritzburg College and Natal University, Paton taught for three years in rural Ixopo, which would later serve as the setting for *Cry, the Beloved Country*. In 1934, he became the principal of Diepkloof, a school for delinquent boys. Paton changed the dynamics in the school from force and conflict to trust and respect. This experience prompted him to travel around the world to study prison systems. He wrote his first novel during these travels. Upon his return to South Africa, Paton went to live on the south coast of Natal, where he wrote articles about issues pertinent to South Africa. In the early 1940s, he became a founder of the liberal Association of South Africa, which would later evolve into a political party. This did not, however, slow him down in his fight against racism and apartheid on his native soil. In 1948, Paton published his first and best-known work, the novel *Cry, the Beloved Country*. Paton also wrote poetry and short stories, but felt too strongly about remaining politically active to devote all of his time to writing. For a short while, members of the South African black community criticized Pa-ton for depicting black characters as either victims of uncontrollable passions or as members of a beaten-down race. This controversy soon subsided, and the continued popularity of his works today suggests that readers around the world are still responsive to his writing. Paton died of throat cancer on April 12, 1972, at his home in Natal, South Africa. Because Sophie has lived with her brother and his family for many years, she has known Pieter his entire life. His relationship with his father has always been strained because his father is harsh and distant. Because she tells the story in past tense, she often foreshadows events to come. Pieter has grown up and was a decorated soldier in the war, after which he was given a high-ranking position with the police. As second-in-command, he is resented by Sergeant Steyn, who is older and more experienced than Pieter, and yet must report to him. Pieter is a well-known rugby player who often plays with the younger men in the town. One night, he catches one of the players pursuing a young black woman. Because of the Immorality Act of 1927, which forbids sexual relationships between blacks and whites, the young man could face serious charges. Instead, Pieter talks to him and allows him to go free. The next day, Pieter visits his friend Matthew Kaplan "Kappie", with whom he shares an interest in stamp collecting. This interaction brings about one of his "black" moods that haunts him throughout the story. A man named Smith is sentenced to hang for murder. He had impregnated one of his black servants, and knew that it would be obvious that he was the father. To avoid punishment under the Immorality Act, he and his wife killed the girl and cut off her head so that the body could not be identified if it was found. The crime is discovered, however, and Smith faces murder charges, of which he is found guilty and sentenced to hang. Pieter is sent to find Stephanie, a young woman who makes a living for herself and her illegitimate child by brewing and selling illegal liquor. She is

often arrested and seems unaffected by serving jail time. When Pieter finds her, he experiences a strange attraction to her, which he terms "the mad sickness. The judge warns her that if she does not find legal work, she may lose her child. She reacts strongly; this threat pierces her veil of nonchalance. A new minister arrives in town and everyone comes to see him, having heard that he is an impressive speaker. Pieter gives his father a book, which is a bold gesture because Jakob only reads from the family Bible. Chapters Nella leaves with the children to visit her parents for an extended stay. Her marriage to Pieter has been tense; both are relieved but also anxious at the prospect of being apart for a while. She senses danger and from here on is nervous for her nephew. Plagued by his attraction to Stephanie, a woman who should repulse him, Pieter decides to talk to Kappie about his problem. However, he cannot bring himself to confess the desire that shames him. Kappie can tell that something is wrong, but does not try to push Pieter into telling him. A few days later, Pieter meets with his cousin Anna, and they talk and drink brandy. Pieter does not usually drink, so the brandy takes effect and he goes to a place where he knows he will see Stephanie. He finds her, and they sleep together, and when Pieter returns home there is a note on his door that reads, "I saw you. He imagines that everyone has found out about his crime and judged him until Kappie tells him off-handedly that he left the note because he saw Pieter drinking brandy with his cousin. Deeply relieved, Pieter returns to his routine. Sergeant Steyn leaves on vacation with his family, where his daughter picks up small seashells as souvenirs. Sophie mentions this in a mysterious, foreshadowing way. Nella returns home with the children and she and Pieter enjoy a very romantic evening that rekindles their love. The joy is only temporary, however, because they soon return to their old habits and patterns. Chapters Once again filled with guilt, Pieter feels profoundly ashamed of himself. The young minister visits, asking Pieter if he thinks Jakob will allow him to marry Martha. In a lightened mood, Pieter assures him that Jakob will approve and gives the young man advice on dealing with Jakob. Pieter, Jakob, Sophie, and the rest of the family go on a picnic. Sophie describes it as the last time they were all truly happy before they were destroyed. In an unusual moment of togetherness, Jakob takes Pieter on a walk to show him some of the birds from his book, most notably the phalarope. Back at work, Pieter learns that Stephanie has lost her job. She is distraught at the thought of losing her child, and when she runs into him in the street, she explains that she needs a lawyer but has no money. He offers to give her some money, but they must meet privately so as not to arouse suspicion. They agree to meet at night, and when they do, she seduces him, even though he promised himself he would not have sex with her again. The captain is the highest-ranking police authority and he tells Pieter that a charge has been made against him of violating the Immorality Act. Pieter denies it repeatedly until evidence mounts against him. Steyn has given it to her for that very purpose. Jakob disowns Pieter, crossing his name out of the family Bible. He changes his will, removing Pieter and adding Nella and the children on the condition that they never have anything more to do with Pieter. Pieter loses his job and faces imprisonment, but his aunt, Kappie, and the captain stay by his side. Martha is forced by the scandal to break off her engagement to the minister, who leaves town shortly thereafter. The townspeople whisper about the incident, and soon after, Jakob dies. Before he goes to prison, Pieter gives Sophie his diary that tells the story of his downfall. He says it is for Nella to read, in hopes that she will come back to him. It is the diary that enables Sophie to tell the story of the novel. She claims that she is not married because the only man she would have married was Pieter, and he married someone else. Anna is a modern woman who smokes and wears "yellow trousers" that Sophie detests. Esther is the elderly woman with whom Stephanie and her child live. Esther is reportedly the oldest woman in the village "more than a hundred years old" and claims to remember when the Boers first came to the area although Sophie doubts this. He and Pieter attended school and college together before their careers took them in different directions. Japie is always joking, so Jakob does not take him seriously. Japie works hard to try to help Stephanie find a job when she is threatened with losing her child. While Pieter pushes him to find work for her, Sophie suspecting trouble for Pieter, her nephew encourages Japie to send her away, which he cannot do because there is no law for it. A friendly Jewish man, Kappie respects Pieter and enjoys having him for coffee and to listen to music. When Pieter considers telling someone about his strong attraction to Stephanie, he chooses Kappie as his potential confidant because he knows that instead of being judgmental, Kappie will be sympathetic and supportive. Pieter cannot bring himself to talk about his problem, however, although Kappie

is sensitive enough to see that something is troubling his friend. Captain Massingham The only man of higher authority than Pieter, the captain is a respectable and wise man who thinks highly of Pieter. He is a serious man who respects duty above all else. He does not joke or laugh, having lost his son in gunfire and his wife soon afterwards. He lives with his mother, and although he is English, he speaks Afrikaans like a Boer.

Chapter 4 : Phalarope - Wikipedia

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I think that Paton deserves to be listed among the all-time greats of English literature. He writes about universally understood concepts like love, parenthood, broken families, etc. Mostly, Paton writes about sin--from temptation to commission to confession to consequences. The fact that his work is layered with the massive institutional sins of the South African racial laws simply makes his portraits of the multiplying and ravenous destruction of personal sin that much more powerful. The plot centers around an adulterous affair between an Afrikaner man and a black woman, the racial and cultural consequences of which seem almost greater than the marital brokenness. The result is a powerful parable, not just of the consequences of sin, but of the dangers of a graceless, unforgiving response to the failings of loved ones. January 1, Mika This book had a completely different feel from Cry, the Beloved Country, although the writing style was obviously similar. Although some readers assume that Too Late the Phalarope is about apartheid or Puritanical morals, I disagree. What I saw as the central theme of the book was the inability to let other people see weakness, even if they can help. The protagonist had countless opportunities to stop the destruction he knew would come but each time his silence won. In a way it reminded me of people who suffer from depression and are unable to admit their need, are unable or unwilling to cry out. The writing is captivating, the story compelling. However, Cry, the Beloved Country is in many ways a richer, more textured work that may be easier and more enjoyable for many people to read. January 1, Hannah "Yet it comes to me that it is not the judgment of God but that of men which is a stranger to compassion; for the Lord said, go thou and sin no more. I had to give this book some space before I wrote about it. Paton has long been one of my favorite authors, solely on the strength of his book Cry, the Beloved Country. While some girls were having normal childhoods and writing A Walk to R "Yet it comes to me that it is not the judgment of God but that of men which is a stranger to compassion; for the Lord said, go thou and sin no more. I still know some of them by heart. I tried to start it once and was frightened away by the promise of tragedy in the first few pages. The novel is written from the perspective of a family member after a family tragedy has already passed. The aunt of the main character, our narrator reveals in the first few pages that her nephew brought destruction on her family, but that she feels compelled to tell his story without judgment. He forces us to look at the complexity of good and evil, demanding justice for systematic evil, but refusing to condemn. January 1, Elizabeth Young This is my touchstone book. I check out every book store to see if they have a copy of it. I love everything by Alan Paton but I think this tells more about the repressive nature not only of apartheid but the society that produced it. It is a very personal experience. I lived this man's fear and loneliness and intense personal struggle with his demons. It is told through the loving and sensitive eyes of his aunt, herself an outsider, and that gives it such a wonderful depth of emotion. January 1, John Sharrock This is my favorite book ever. Paton has such profound insight on the topic of justice. I enjoyed this book even more than Cry the Beloved Country! It was very hard for me to relate to the characters and culture. Not just the extreme racial segregation but their South African patriotism, their Dutch heritage and their contempt for Europe. It was all so foreign that it was sort of difficult to follow. It disturbed me that Pieter saw his sin to be a relationship with a black woman rather than his unfaithfulness to his wife, which should have been the real reason for his guilt. As a result, the reader who understands that racism should not be a moral issue, is left feeling sympathy for Pieter, when what he did - cheating on his wife - was totally wrong. I have to admit though that there is some beautiful prose. It has a moving rhythm to it. January 1, Diane Gihring I love this book. It is so powerful, especially to discuss in a class situation. And it is well written. The story is a classic Greek Tragedy: He has a tragic flaw-pride-and he makes a mistake in judgment and then he falls and hard! But he is not completely destroyed and actually in this case, I think the end result is all the better for Pieter and his immediate family. I like how Paton has adopted the Greek Tragedy I love this book. I like how Paton has adopted the Greek Tragedy,

but set it into South Africa during the time of Apartheid, which also plays a big part in the novel. The main character is Pieter, who has a dualistic nature, half all hard and strong like his father, and half all soft and sensitive like his mother. The struggle between his two sides is one of the struggles that we see in the book. The other really interesting aspect of the writing is the point of view. I highly recommend to anyone interested in reading a good book. Found it at one of my favorite used book stores and snatched it up for a buck or two. Cry, The Beloved Country literally makes me cry every few pages, and this book was an excellent read as well, though I only teared up once or twice, it also made me laugh a few times. A Phalarope is a bird. But then, I want to be reading books that push me a little bit, and if that means maybe I feel a bit stupid for missing a major piece of symbolism, oh well. And it could just be a cultural thing. January 1, Michele Diving into this book is taking a trip to South Africa. He puts you there so fast and so effectively with his beautiful writing and thoughtful prose. I think this book has a bit of weak start. Once I got that straightened out the pages really flew by. Also, when you find out the narrator is his weak, fragile aunt he may have done this perfectly. He must have been ahead of his time to do it so well. And laughter heals mankind and makes the darkness light and eases pain and it makes the eyes light up, and the soul throw off its heaviness, and send the blood quicker through the veins, so that it casts out its evil humours. I find his writing style poetical and profound. It made my list of all time favorites and is a book you will never forget. January 1, Fergie No one speaks to the human soul through the use of language like Alan Paton. His exquisite use of prose is as powerful as it is lyrical. While not as emotionally rich as his masterpiece, "Cry, The Beloved Country", this novel is almost as enduring in its scope of human nature. One begins to really feel what it must have been like to be a white South African in a racially-divided world in post WWII almost as much as one can suppose the issues covered in the book are still faced to varying degrees No one speaks to the human soul through the use of language like Alan Paton. One begins to really feel what it must have been like to be a white South African in a racially-divided world in post WWII almost as much as one can suppose the issues covered in the book are still faced to varying degrees by all South Africans today. Reading Paton is like reading poetry January 1, Allie Magnificent. This is a book that I bought years ago, perhaps as long as a decade ago, and never read until this past fall. What a marvellous book Paton has written. First published in , the story could have taken place anytime during South African apartheid. It is the story of young police lieutenant Pieter van Vlaanderen, whose illegal and suspect relations with the black residents in his district eventually lead to his downfall. His relationship with his father is particularly poignantly d Magnificent. January 1, T. Too Late the Phalarope offers a devastating look into human brokenness, confession, and ultimately a failure of redemption. How many of us have secret selves? How many of us struggle to share those selves with others and fail? A painful, and beautiful book, although a bit rambling in style, this is the Paton that people should read just as often as cry the beloved country. January 1, David Dunlap What are the consequences when an otherwise outstanding member of a community knowingly breaks the law, whether it be civil or moral or both? But he gets involved in the life of a poor black woman Stephanie -- and this is the age of apartheid in South Africa. Crossing the color line is to have drastic repercussions for all aspects of his life. The book as a whole packs quite an emotional wallop -- there are brilliant insights into the human condition, as well as into the strict racial divides of South Africa at the time. Somehow, though, it struck me that there was perhaps too much build-up to the revelation, and the denouement was rather sketchily impressionistic. But, then again, this was not the story the author set out to tell. Reading this book was a perfect escape in time in another end of the world. Alan Paton is indeed a wonderful story teller. It was sad to see the end of happiness of such a beautiful family. Tante Sophie is my favourite character. What makes me sad is Peter got "caught" when he was going to help Stephanie. The way family reacted when captain told them about their son was really a trip to mindset of history. It was a sad end. But as Tante Sophie said at the end, I do hope that character of Peter finishes his sentence, take his wife and kids and leave South Africa, may be go to UK, get a job there and settles down. January 1, Erin Hecker On the surface, this is a simple story of forbidden desire. But, the themes stay with you long after: It is haunting and tragic and real.

Chapter 5 : Too Late the Phalarope - Wikipedia

Too Late the Phalarope clearly exhibits the author's disgust with injustice in a supposedly "moral" society. *Cry, the Beloved Country* centers on the black experience in South Africa, while *Too Late the Phalarope* depicts the lives of Afrikaners (descendants of Dutch settlers who traveled to South Africa three hundred years ago).

I think that Paton deserves to be listed among the all-time greats of English literature. He writes about universally understood concepts like love, parenthood, broken families, etc. Mostly, Paton writes about sin--from temptation to commission to confession to consequences. The fact that his work is layered with the massive institutional sins of the South African racial laws simply makes his portraits of the multiplying and ravenous destruction of personal sin that much more powerful. The plot centers around an adulterous affair between an Afrikaner man and a black woman, the racial and cultural consequences of which seem almost greater than the marital brokenness. The result is a powerful parable, not just of the consequences of sin, but of the dangers of a graceless, unforgiving response to the failings of loved ones. To view it, [click here](#). This book had a completely different feel from *Cry, the Beloved Country*, although the writing style was obviously similar. Although some readers assume that *Too Late the Phalarope* is about apartheid or Puritanical morals, I disagree. What I saw as the central theme of the book was the inability to let other people see weakness, even if they can help. The protagonist had countless opportunities to stop the destruction he knew would come but each time his silence won. In a way it reminded me of people who suffer from depression and are unable to admit their need, are unable or unwilling to cry out. The writing is captivating, the story compelling. However, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is in many ways a richer, more textured work that may be easier and more enjoyable for many people to read. I had to give this book some space before I wrote about it. Paton has long been one of my favorite authors, solely on the strength of his book *Cry, the Beloved Country*. While some girls were having normal childhoods and writing *A Walk to R* "Yet it comes to me that it is not the judgment of God but that of men which is a stranger to compassion; for the Lord said, go thou and sin no more. I still know some of them by heart. I tried to start it once and was frightened away by the promise of tragedy in the first few pages. The novel is written from the perspective of a family member after a family tragedy has already passed. The aunt of the main character, our narrator reveals in the first few pages that her nephew brought destruction on her family, but that she feels compelled to tell his story without judgment. He forces us to look at the complexity of good and evil, demanding justice for systematic evil, but refusing to condemn.

Chapter 6 : Too Late the Phalarope Summary and Analysis (like SparkNotes) | Free Book Notes

More importantly, though, Too Late the Phalarope underscores the rigidity of Afrikaner society, especially here in its rural bastions. Paton demonstrates how South Africa's 'apartheid' program was in practice as a part of Afrikaner society even before it became the law of the land.

Chapter 7 : Too Late The Phalarope - Alan Paton - Google Books

The story of a young white South African police lieutenant, idolized in his Afrikaner community, who violates one of the strictest laws of that country governing the relationship between white and black.

Chapter 8 : Too Late The Phalarope Quotes, Quotations & Sayings

(From my review of Cry, the Beloved Country) Too Late the Phalarope is more nuanced and metaphorical in its storytelling than Paton's other novels, but it is perhaps the best showcase of his grasp of the effects of sin on the soul from an internal perspective.

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Chapter 9 : Too Late the Phalarope

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