

Paljas Complete English Summary of the Drama

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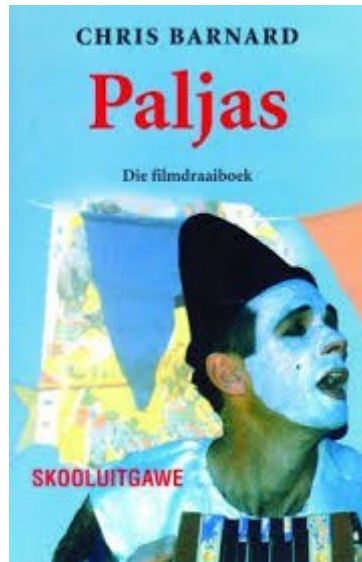
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English summary of *Paljas*



A description of the landscape is given: the setting is somewhere in the Karoo. In the middle of this outstretched, lonely area, there is a dirt road (grondpad) and a railway (spoorlyn). Next to the railway there is a railway stop (spoorweghalte), if it can even be called that. The stop consists of a platform (perron), a sink waiting room and office (kantoor), a few trees, some dilapidated (vervalle) barns (skure), a loading dock for animals, a windpomp and a railway house with a wide front porch (voorstoe). It's the type of place where trains wouldn't stop.

*The farms are big and the nearest farm house is about 5 kilometres away. South of the railway stop is a small town with a few shops (winkels), a koöperasie, a few houses and a massive church (kerk). **The church is an important part of the story!***

1. It's just after daybreak. There is a steam train underway with its black smoke plume clearly visible against the sky.
2. Hendrik and Katrien's bedroom. Katrien gets out of her single bed and covers klein Willem who is sleeping in the same bed as her. She looks at the sleeping Hendrik on his single bed across from her. The

light falls slightly over his face.

3. In the kitchen, Katrien has already packed the coal stove and she starts the fire. She opens the back door and looks out. You can hear roosters in the background the whole time.
4. Katrien is already dressed and puts a tray (*skinkbord*) with four coffee cups down next to Hendrik's bed. She wakes him up and he sits upright. She puts down another cup next to klein Willem's bed. She takes the two remaining (*orige*) cups and goes to the room across the hallway (*gang*).
5. Katrien sits on the bed in Emma's room and puts Emma's coffee down on her bedside table. Emma has her back to Katrien and it looks as though she is sleeping. Katrien doesn't wake her. She drinks her coffee while sitting and looking out the window. The rooster crows again.

Emma says that she is going to get up one morning and go kill that rooster with a stick. She takes her coffee and they both drink in silence. Emma is young and pretty. Katrien mentions that they are going to suffer from the heat again that day.

6. Hendrik and the two kids are at the kitchen table eating bread and jam (*konfyt*). Hendrik is in his railway uniform. Katrien is standing and washing dishcloths (*vadoeke*). Hendrik sits and looks at Willem the whole time while he is busy eating: openly and anxiously, like looking at something you are curious (*nuuskierig*) about, but don't understand. The child is either unaware (*onbewus*) of this or used to (*gewoond aan*) it. Katrien is standing with her back to them: she has eyes in the back of her head and tells Hendrik to leave the child alone. He either doesn't hear or doesn't want to listen because he continues staring. Katrien reprimands him again. The whole conversation (*gesprek*) takes place without Katrien turning around once. But her facial expression is one of pain or maybe frustration.
7. Katrien is busy hanging up dish cloths in front of the back door on the rock hard naked (*kaal*) yard (*werfie*). The passenger train passes and she stands in between the dishcloths with her hands on the line and watches how the compartments flash by.
8. Emma, maybe still in her pyjamas, is standing on the porch and watching.

9. Klein Willem is sitting in his room on the windowsill and watching the last compartments go by. We know it's his room because there are planes (*vliegtuigies*) hanging from the ceiling (*dak*) and the walls are covered in pictures of cars and rugby players.
10. Katrien is still standing outside by the washing line, watching the train. She turns around after watching it get lost in the distance, but her thoughts are still with the train.

Katrien calls to Willem that he is going to be late and that he mustn't forget to say goodbye to his father.

The backdoor bursts open and Willem goes running to the station.

11. Hendrik is busy at the platform (*perron*) with something. Willem stands about ten metres from him and waves.

Hendrik tells him to not do it like that: he must SAY it. Willem sees the school bus coming and shows it to his dad. Hendrik walks closer to Willem, grabs him by the elbow and demands again that Willem say: "Good bye, Dad," but Willem pulls loose and runs to the bus. The whole time he is waving at his dad over his shoulder. Hendrik's face is void of expression. The bus hasn't completely left yet when a green bakkie appears from the same direction as where the bus came from. It's **Frans Lombard**. Hendrik positions himself in such a way that he can see what happens in the yard without being noticed.

12. Katrien is busy scrubbing the kitchen floor. Her hair is a bit messy and when she hears the bakkie, she suddenly stops, tidies up the kitchen and fixes her appearance. She walks to the backdoor just in time to open it for Frans.

Frans has a milk can in his one hand and a basket (*mandjie*) with a cloth over it in the other. He hesitates a bit because he wants to enter the house and Katrien wants to exit because she doesn't want him to see the bucket that she just used to scrub the floors.

They talk about the weather. Frans comes in eventually. Emma appears in the doorway. Katrien lifts up the cloth from the basket to reveal red apples. She tells him that he brings too many things all the time. Emma leans with her back against the wall. She watches them without any expression on her face.

Emma greets Frans and he says to Katrien that he will get her what

she wants from town and drop it off when he returns to his farm. She first hesitates but then relents and says that her flour for baking bread is running low. She moves to a shelf against the wall, takes a can and opens it to give the necessary money to Frans. She asks for 2 packets of flour. He asks if that will be all. It is really a very strained conversation. Frans looks at Emma and she looks right back at him. He then puts the money in his shirt pocket (*hempsak*) and says goodbye.

Katrien stands in the door to watch him leave. Emma is still standing motionless, looking at her mom. Katrien takes one of the apples and takes a bite. When she turns around, she sees Emma looking at her. It is clear that Emma does not like Frans.

Emma leaves. When Katrien asks her where she is going, she says that she is "just going." The door slams shut behind Emma and Katrien turns around to watch Frans's bakkie leave. She eats the fruit. **This is a symbol of the forbidden fruit from Adam and Even in the Garden of Eden. The reader gets the idea that there is something hidden under the surface when it comes to Frans and Katrien.**

13. Hendrik stands on the platform at the station and watches Frans leave. His face is expressionless.
14. Emma stands in a footpath somewhere in the veld and sees how Frans's bakkie causes a long line of dust to hang over the corn fields. She is busy chewing on a grass sprig. Then she throws the sprig to the ground: it is a sign of rejection (*verwerping*). She turns around to start walking along the footpath again, but suddenly stops dead in her tracks because there is someone coming towards her. It is a young man of about twenty years old in cycling clothes (*fietsryklere*) with a backpack on his back. It's **Nollie Kemp**. He stops by Emma: he looks like a nice (*gawe*), innocent (*onskuldige*) type of young man.

He greets Emma but she doesn't answer him back. He smiles and pushes his bike forward. He asks her if she's not talking again and Emma starts to walk around him, back to the footpath, away from him: her shoulders are square and her chin lifted. Nollie stands and watches her: he is amused. Then he gets on his bicycle and goes after her.

He asks her what on earth he has done to her that she is like this towards him. Emma takes a left turn and walks around Nollie again,

back towards the house. Nollie stops his bicycle and just watches her.

He then calls after her, asking her what the world had done to her. When Emma is back on the footpath, she starts to run, so Nollie goes after her. He says that he won't bite and greets her again, asking her how she is doing. Emma then relents and asks why he's not at work.

Nollie manages to catch up with her and tells her how beautiful she looked the previous week in her green dress.

It's then as if Emma stumbles (*struikel*). And the next moment, she falls. Nollie can't brake (*rem*) in time, swerves (*swenk*) away and falls down next to her. Emma struggles to get up on her feet and Nollie sees that she is crying. She twisted (*geswik*) her ankle and she tries to limp away from him now.

He apologizes, but she keeps running. Both his knees are bleeding. Then he punches his bicycle seat (*fietssaal*) with his fist as hard as he can and curses.

15. It's break time at school. Children are yelling (*gil*) and making a noise (*lawaaï*), running around and playing games. Six or seven of these kids, all of them younger than Willem, are all walking behind Willem. They are biting their tongues and they are making a rhythmical sound through their noses: they are basically mocking Willem for not speaking. And klein Willem just continues walking as though he doesn't hear them.

16. Hendrik's office at the station is a separate room at the platform. It is small, with a table, two chairs and a telephone, calendars and time tables against the walls. Hendrik, drenched in sweat (*natgesweet*), is sitting and drinking tea out of his saucer (*piëring*). Katrien is sitting in the other chair, facing the door so she can see outside. She is actually sitting and watching him the entire time, but he doesn't notice it. He continues to drink his tea and read from a piece of paper in front of him on the table.

Katrien's face reveals a kind of hopelessness and frustration, maybe even some disgust of Hendrik. Then she sighs, takes the tray and leaves, but just outside the doorway, she swings around and stands by the threshold again.

She says to Willem that he doesn't really have much to tell a person. Hendrik looks up, surprised, and thanks her for the tea. She starts to walk away. He asks her what he needs to tell her since she already knows everything that he does, in fact: sometimes more than what he does. She just says that it seems to be an ailment of the McDonalds and when Hendrik asks her what she means, she replies: "To keep their mouths shut." She leaves.

17. It's late afternoon. Hendrik and Nollie are sitting on the front porch. Between them on a case is a stack of vinyls (*plate*) and somewhere music is playing. It's **Tino Rossi** singing *Somewhere in France with you*.

Hendrik is busy looking through the records. His car is standing by the porch with the bonnet (*kap*) open and one back wheel off. The old run down (*afgeleefde*) Cortina will always be visible in the yard somewhere, always being worked on.

Hendrik compliments Nollie on his choice of records that he brought with him. Klein Willem is sitting on the front porch step. He is just staring out in front of him. He doesn't hear or see anything. Hendrik mentions that he prefers Tino Rossi and when the music is finished, he sits back and says that he wonders what all those places are like that they are singing about. He thinks they sound happier. Nollie asks if he can play the next record and Hendrik asks Willem if he will tell Katrien to make them some coffee. He also asks him to get Emma because he wants her there.

Nollie is busy putting on the record, but looks up with a worried face upon hearing Emma's name. He apologizes to Hendrik about what happened, but Hendrik says she didn't say anything about her falling.

18. Emma stands in her room next to the window where no one can see her but so she can also hear everything that is said on the stoep (*porch*). Klein Willem motions her to come with him, but she tells him he must leave, she is not going out.

Hendrik and Nollie's conversation is clearly audible and one hears Nollie saying that he was only playing but then he accidentally (*per ongeluk*) hit Emma with his bicycle.

19. Nollie now has Hendrik's full attention. He laughs and remarks that they were canoodling (*kattemaai*), but Nollie replies by saying

she ran away. Hendrik then says Emma needs to stop doing that or else she will never get married.

20. Klein Willem enters the kitchen where Katrien is busy doing ironing (*stryk*). He points to what he wants and she understands that she needs to make coffee.

21. On the stoep, Hendrik is busy conducting (*dirigeer*) vaguely (*vaagweg*) with his hand: the music is like ointment (*salf*) for his soul. He sings along with the last words of the song and then he suddenly seems sad. He tells Nollie that when he was still dating Katrien, he would write to the radio station (*draadloos*) with requests (*versoeke*) of what to play. Katrien even sometimes played something for him on the piano (*clavier*). Nollie is surprised to hear this: he didn't know that Katrien could play. Hendrik replies that she even taught Emma, but now neither of them touches the piano anymore. Willem comes out with the tray and puts it down next to the vinyls. Hendrik asks where Emma is and Willem just motions that she is gone. Hendrik asks Willem to come and sit on his lap (*skoot*) and he holds him tightly. He says to Nollie that they are having such a nice visit (*kuier*) and if it were Saturday evening, he would pour them a drink (*dop*).

22. Katrien and Emma is in Katrien's bedroom in front of the mirror (*spieël*). Katrien is busy braiding (*vleg*) Emma's hair.

Emma tells Katrien that she has eyes in her head, that she knows her mom is walking around with things that she doesn't talk about. Katrien replies that everyone probably does. Then Emma asks if Katrien that if she could choose again, would she still have gotten married. Katrien replies that she hasn't thought about that and asks Emma why she is asking these types of questions. Emma just replies that she is never getting married and she tells Katrien that she doesn't like Frans.

Katrien looks up and their eyes meet in the mirror. She says that Frans is good to them. Emma responds by saying that Hendrik also doesn't like him. Katrien starts to braid Emma's hair again.

23. It's night time. Katrien is sitting her nightgown in the window and looking out. Hendrik is on his bed, busy looking at the ceiling. He asks Katrien why she is sitting like that and she says that she

can't sleep. After a long silence, he asks her why she hasn't played the piano in so long and she says she can't remember.

A few beats later, he starts to hum the song that Nollie played and that he always requested for her on the radio. He asks her if she remembers it and asks her to play it again for him someday. She replies that she could play it well and he says that it was a long time ago. Then Katrien climbs in bed with Willem next to her. Hendrik asks if she doesn't maybe want to lay with him, but she says that Willem will wake up.

It's quiet for a while. Hendrik looks at Katrien who has her back to him. He then kills the flame of the candle and wishes Katrien a good night.

24. It's after midnight. Emma enters the kitchen with her candle. She sees her dad in his pyjamas by the kitchen table. Hendrik asks why she is not asleep and she says that she can't. She gets a glass and pours herself water from the tap. When she is on her way out, Hendrik calls her back and asks her to sit. He then starts talking about what a good guy Nollie is, but Emma is having none of that. Her body language suggests that she is irritated because she starts to sway a bit (*onderlyf liggies links en regs begin rol*) but Hendrik pushes through. He tries to sound as friendly as possible by saying that Nollie really likes her but he's too shy (*skaam*) to talk and it doesn't make things any easier when she keeps running away. Emma asks if they are going to talk about Nollie Kemp at one in the morning and Hendrik says that they have to talk about it sometime or the other. She wishes him good night and leaves.

Hendrik mumbles to himself that she is just as damn bad-tempered (*beneuk*) like her mother. He then starts humming one of the happier songs that he and Nollie were listening to earlier that evening.

25. It's long before daybreak. Hendrik and Katrien's room is dark: the window is open: you can hear a rooster crow. Then suddenly, without a doubt, a lion roars. Katrien sits up: the lion roars again and then Hendrik sits up as well. They confirm to each other what they heard and Hendrik lights a candle. The lion roars again. It's almost Biblical again when the rooster crowed three times when Pete betrayed Jesus.

26. It's early morning. Hendrik, in his pyjamas and rail way boots, his shot gun (*haelgeweer*) in his hands, approaches the station with uncertainty. Katrien is behind him, Willem three steps behind her and Emma ten behind Willem. Hendrik stops and they all are like sleep walkers because then finally it becomes clear what they see: a train. The train is standing on the side track (*syspoor*). A goods train (*goederetrein*). Full of animal cages. Cages with elephants, horses (*perde*) and lions (*leeus*).

Hendrik and the rest wander from carriage (*trok*) to carriage: there is no locomotive and there is not a person in sight. After the third carriage Hendrik starts talking to himself, saying that nobody told him anything. He repeats it and becomes increasingly agitated.

27. Hendrik is in his office behind his desk by the telephone and now he roars into the mouthpiece (*spreekbuis*). He is cursing and starts over exaggerating about how many carriages there are: 8 of them with lions and elephants and rhinos. He tells the person on the other side of the call to come and have a look themselves and wonders what to do if the animals escape.

28. Katrien is sitting in Willem's room on his bed, trying to comb his hair. He is dressed (*aangetrek*) for school. As usual: his bed has no sheets (*lakens*) or blankets (*komberse*); just the bare matrass.

Katrien tells him to walk straight to the bus stop and not put a foot near the train. Willem pulls his face to show his disappointment (*teleurstelling*) and frustration. They go out.

29. The door opens and Hendrik comes in and puts his shot gun by the doorpost (*deurkosyn*). He says he feels like that train just dropped from the sky (*lug*). Nobody knows anything about it: De Rust, Klipplaat and Willowmore stations all laughed at Hendrik when he enquired about it and they said no such train went pass their stations. Willem wants to quickly exit, but Hendrik grabs him by the arm and says he is walking with him. Willem kisses Katrien, but it is clear that he wants to get out as soon as possible: he wants to see the train.

Hendrik says he is going to phone Oudtshoorn next. He takes his gun and leaves with Willem.

30. Hendrik and Willem walk past the platform on the way to the bus stop. The bus is already coming, but Willem stretches (*rek*) his neck to try and look into the carriages. Hendrik tells him that if the train is still there that afternoon, Willem needs to wait for him by the road because he will give him a hiding (*foeter hom*) if he finds Willem by the carriages. Willem nods (*knik*) and runs to the bus.
31. Willem is in the bus and tries to get everyone's attention by motioning (*beduie*) to the train. He makes noises (*geluide*) and motions excitedly (*opgewonde*), but the kids don't understand a word and all start mocking him by repeating what he is busy doing.
32. Emma crosses the tracks. Hendrik's office is in the background and you can hear him shouting over the phone. Emma is looking at the animals. She stops when she hears the sound of vehicles (*voertuie*) approaching (*naderende*). A run-down kombi and trailer (*woonwa*) parks between two carriages. People climb out and one of them stands so close that Emma can see him through the carriages: a young man (*jong lat*) with a fringe (*kuif*) and a vest (*frokkie*) with tattoos on his upper arms. His name is **Bertie**. He looks straight at Emma. Emma ducks behind a carriage. She is a step away from the lion cage. The two of them look each other square in the eye.
33. Hendrik comes out of his office and sees the newcomers (*nuwe aankomelinge*). One of the men is busy climbing against a carriage to get to the roof and poor Hendrik, who threw the phone down for the umpteenth time that day, is clearly upset because that carriage is railway property (*spoorwegeiendom*).

Hendrik shouts to the man to get off. The man considers it for a moment (*oomblik*) and then continues to the top. That is the last straw for Hendrik and he storms towards the group of people. They wait for Hendrik: one of them put up a little table and put something resembling a briefcase (*aktetas*) on it.

Hendrik asks them who they are and a fellow named **Sambo** asks Hendrik who he is. After informing them, the men look around and a man called **Sollie** makes a rude comment about how pathetic the station is. Hendrik is furious (*woedend*) and shouts to the man to get off of the carriage because it's railway property to which Sambo again rudely replies.

Hendrik wants to give a step forward, but the man at the table,

Barnie, suddenly lets a hunting knife (*jagmes*) fly past Hendrik into a wooden crate (*houtkrat*). He takes out another knife and weighs it in his hand.

Hendrik asks if they are crazy. Sambo says that it's a circus train. He points to the trailer behind him and you can see the circus's name painted on it. Hendrik asks what **Boswell**'s train is doing at his station. Sambo answers that some stupid Dirk like Hendrik hooked it off at the wrong station. This is too much for Hendrik and he walks towards Sambo, but again Barnie throws a knife in the crate, now right next to Hendrik. Sambo continues by saying that they train was supposed to go to Uniondale. Hendrik tells them to take it then and just leave.

Emma, who has been watching all this time, doesn't see Bertie sneaking up on her (*afsluip*). He grabs her on her bum (*boud*) and she screams: she turns around, sees Bertie and screams again. Then she runs towards the house. Bertie is watching her go: standing with his hands on his hips and an amused look on his face. Solly asks him if he is bothering the women again and then Hendrik comes around the corner, demanding to know what happened. Bertie replies that he just wanted to say hello, but Hendrik walks up to Bertie and puts his finger under Bertie's nose telling him to just touch his daughter and he'll be sorry. He turns around to go call the Uniondale station.

The men stand and stare at Hendrik with a surprised look on their faces. Then Barnie throws his third knife into the crate. Sambo is chewing gum and tells the guys to hurry up and offload (*laai af*) the animals so they can stretch their legs a bit.

34. An open piece of Karoo landscape with the horizon close by. Then a head and back of an elephant appears (*verskyn*) and only when he is halfway over the hill (*bult*), can one see the clown (*nar*) walking in front of the elephant, wearing his full clown costume (*volle mondering*). Klein Willem is watching this procession and the clown walks right up to him. He greets Willem and asks him his name, but Willem doesn't answer him. The clown then pushes the rope (*tou*) into Willem's hand and tells him to bring the elephant. He starts walking ahead and when he turns around ten steps further, he tells Willem to pull and that the elephant will then walk. Willem does that and they walk.

35. There is a montage of the elephant walking behind Willem. As they are walking different landscapes, Willem starts walking more confidently
36. It's night time. The family is sitting at the table, eating. Hendrik mentions that they will still have to deal with the circus until the next day. Katrien feels bad because she doesn't know if they have food. Then Hendrik asks Willem if he is going to sleep in his own room that night. Katrien reprimands him and shakes her head. Emma wonders out loud where the people from the circus are going to sleep and then Hendrik notices that she is very dressed up for that evening. Emma denies this and Hendrik says that she never dresses up when Nollie comes over. He then addresses his daughter directly and warns her to stay away from the circus people, from the "foreigners" (*uitlanders*) and says that they are just after one thing.
- Emma jumps up from the table and disappears into the hallway. Katrien is upset with Hendrik about how he addressed the issue, but Hendrik says he just did his fatherly duty (*vaderlike plig*). He mentions that Emma is very cheeky these days and Katrien says that maybe she will stop being like that the day Hendrik tries to force Nollie on her. Hendrik replies by saying that he was referring to those sketchy people from the circus and Katrien answers that Emma is not as stupid (*onnonse*) as what she was. Hendrik doesn't understand what she means. Katrien gets up and also leaves the table. Hendrik looks at Willem and says that he can speak to Willem because he knows that Willem won't tell anyone: women are just different (*anders*). Hendrik points to his head. It is clear that by doing this, Hendrik has no clue how to deal with his wife and / or daughter.
37. The outside of Emma's room is clearly visible (*sigbaar*) in the blue light of the moon. A lion roars. Emma is leaning out of the window. She is wearing her night gown, but the shoulder straps are hanging on her arms.
38. A figure is moving very carefully along the outside wall of the house. It's Bertie.
39. Hendrik and Willem are still sitting in the dining room (*eetkamer*) by the table. Willem is looking directly at Hendrik.

Hendrik is staring at the wall. The lion roars.

40. Katrien is also wearing her pyjamas. She is sitting in the bedroom in front of the mirror. She is busy studying her face. She has a lipstick in her hand and starts to colour in her lips, very finely. She presses her lips and opens them again, presses them, and opens them again.

The lion roars. She wipes her hair from her face. There are footsteps (*voetstap*) in the hallway. Katrien quickly throws the lipstick in the drawer and wipes her lips clean, but the footsteps walk past the closed door.

41. Emma is standing outside of her bedroom window, her hands on either side (*weerskante*) of her neck and her gown is barely held up by her arms. She is still listening to the lion making ferocious groaning sounds. Bertie is standing by corner of the house, looking at her. A door slams shut somewhere and Bertie runs away.

Hendrik curses and Emma quickly climbs back through her window into her room and closes the curtain (*gordyn*).

42. The morning train's shiny wheels rolls by Hendrik McDonald's station. Katrien is standing by the washing line, her hands on her hips: watching the train. The last carriage leaves and the circus train is visible again. So are Sambo, Barnie and Sollie who are only wearing tight fitting pants, cowboy boots and naked torsos and all of them are staring at Katrien. She doesn't move: she stares back. Sambo lifts his hand in a waving motion: she answers back with the same motion and then goes into the house.

43. The clown and Willem are in the old, dilapidated barn (*skuur*) close to the station. Some of the barn's old roof tiles (*dakplate*) are missing, the windows are shut with wooden planks, there are lots of petrol drums (*petrolkonkas*) on the floor. There is a wrecked car, old hay bales (*hooibale*), leftover parts (*rest*) of farm equipment (*plaasimlemente*).

The clown is showing Willem some of his tricks (*toertjies*). He ties a knot (*knoop*) in a handkerchief (*sakdoek*) around a coin (*muntstuk*), pulls the handkerchief through his other hand and unknots the handkerchief. It's empty. Willem doesn't look impressed (*beïndruk*).

The clown says to Willem that he still hasn't told him his name. Willem doesn't react. The clown says that his name is Manuel. Willem looks at him for a while and then takes a piece of charcoal (*houtskool*) and writes his own name on the wall. The clown takes Willem's hand and shakes it very officially (*plegtig*).

He opens a small bag (*koffertjie*) that was sitting on the floor, takes out a few coloured balls and starts throwing them in the air and catching them again: two, then three, then four and later six balls. Willem is loving this trick.

44. Nollie arrives with his bicycle at the station. He stops and looks with amazement at what has been happening at the station with the carriages and the combi and the washing and someone training horses and music playing from somewhere. Hendrik comes storming towards the station and asks Nollie if he hasn't seen Emma. When the reply is "no", Hendrik says he is going to give her a hiding.

Just then a woman screams. And again: but louder, this time. Nollie looks around, drops his bike, runs to the train and jumps between the carriages: right where Bertie is busy pushing Emma against one of the carriages. Bertie is holding her with his right hand and using his left hand to fondle under her dress. She is struggling for life and death and now screaming at the top of her lungs.

Nollie grabs Bertie from behind and pulls him away. Emma falls. Bertie makes a mistake: he swings at Nollie and he kind of connects actually. Nollie takes a step and gives Bertie one of his best right hands: full on the chin (*ken*) and Bertie falls over Emma like a sack of potatoes. Nollie grabs him back up from the ground and punches (*pot*) him one more time. Bertie falls again, just as Hendrik comes around the corner.

Nollie isn't done yet. He waits for Bertie to get back on his feet and punches again. Bertie tries to stop en duck and try to hit back, but Nollie puts one in Bertie's stomach, making him fold in half and fall forward. He is on the ground like a gaping fish.

Emma is still sitting on the ground, completely dumbfounded (*oorbluf*) and watches what is happening in front of her. Nollie takes her hand and pulls her up.

The only word that is spoken, is: "Come."

Hendrik walks to Bertie and calls him a piece of rubbish, saying how he has been making trouble since the previous day. He takes a step closer and says that if they don't stop him, he is also going to beat Bertie up. Nobody is stopping Hendrik because they left :-D He turns around and sees how far they are already and runs to catch up.

45. Katrien, Nollie and Emma are on the front porch. The gramophone is playing. Katrien is busy washing Nollie's knuckles with Dettol. Emma is holding the dish with the lukewarm water. Klein Willem is on the other end of the porch wall with his back towards them: he is busy with something.

Hendrik comes out on the porch with a bottle of brandy and two glasses. He says that although it's only Thursday, they are having a drink (*knertsie*). Katrien tries to wipe by Nollie's eye where there is also a broken piece of skin, but he tells her it's nothing. Katrien insists and Hendrik says that she has to get Nollie ready because he still has to help Hendrik put on new brake shoes for the car. He pours some water into the drink and says if the brakes are fixed, the car will be running by Monday. Katrien remarks that they have been hearing that for weeks. Hendrik hands Nollie his drink.

Nollie asks Emma if she got hurt, but she shakes her head. Hendrik wants to know what she was doing there and Emma says she told him that she wanted to go look at the horses, but then that guy grabbed her and dragged her behind the carriages. Hendrik tells her that it should be a lesson to her. He toasts to Nollie and his "technical knock-out in the first round."

Katrien is finished with Nollie's face and gets up. He thanks her and then lifts his glass. Hendrik gets up and does a few dance moves. Emma is sitting on the wall and she has a vague smile (*glimlag*) on her face. Hendrik goes to Willem and asks what he is doing. Willem covers his drawing (*tekening*) with his hand, but Hendrik takes it away. It is a colourful drawing of a clown. Hendrik shows Katrien and he is clearly upset about it. Willem jumps off the wall and disappears around the corner.

When Katrien says that it's a clown, Hendrik says it looks more like angel Gabriel to him and asks if Willem wasn't maybe born with powers. Katrien says that long before Willem was born, Hendrik had been put under a spell by the moon (*met die maan geplaat*) and Hendrik runs with it, mentioning the good old days when they were still dating and how they even recited poems to each other. Katrien

gets up and says she is going to look for Willem to which Hendrik responds by just laughing.

46. Klein Willem is in the barn, sitting on a small crate. The audience can hear the clown speaking, but can't see him. He asks Willem if he knows that animals can talk and continues with examples of lions and birds and then the clown moves out from the shadows, starting to make chicken noises and walking around like a chicken as well. Willem starts smiling reluctantly after a while. The clown asks if Willem knows duck language (*eendetaal*) and starts quaking like a duck: this makes Willem laugh.

47. A steam train pulls out of the station: Hendrik yells something to the driver and gives him a thumbs-up. He watches with great satisfaction how the train and carriages start to move past him: the horses, elephants, lions, carriages with lusern and tents. Hendrik walks to his office and slams the door shut.

Across the railway, the combi hooks the trailer and, in the background, the yellow bus comes to a stop. The combi leaves. Willem stands and watches the combi go with a surprised look on his face. He starts running after a few steps and then stops: he waves at it. Then he throws down his schoolbag and runs to the railway: he notices that the circus train is gone, so he goes and grabs his bicycle that was leaning on his dad's office wall and chases after the combi.

48. Willem is tired, but he is giving it is all to find the combi: he reaches the top of the hill and sees a line of dust fading away in the distance where the combi and trailer were riding. He throws his bicycle down: he is very close to tears. **He has this reaction because he thinks Manuel left with the circus people.**

49. Hendrik is in his office busy writing something in a big book, probably (*waarskynlik*) something about the circus train. He looks up as soon as he hears a vehicle (*voertuig*). He can see Katrien when he looks out the window: she is busy washing dish cloths in a bucket. It's Frans's bakkie that's driving towards the yard. Katrien leaves everything just like that and quickly enters the house through the back door.

50. Katrien is in the kitchen, taking off her apron (*voorskoot*) and quickly (*haastig*) hanging it behind the door. She tries to pretty-up her hair and clean the kitchen then Frans starts speaking from the direction of the door.

He greets her and she pretends to be surprised. They talk about the circus leaving and how he brought Willem's schoolbag that he left by the bus stop. Frans mentions that he is going to town if Katrien needs anything and she notices the hay in his hair. When she asks who he has been frolicking around with, he says that the only girl he has ever wanted, is already married. Katrien asks who that girl is married to and he replies: "To Hendrik McDonald."

Both of them are uncomfortable (*ongemaklik*) for a moment (*oomblik*). Then Frans asks if she needs anything from town, but she declines. He smiles at her and says her name, but there is no reaction, so he tries to brush off the hay in his hair and then leaves.

51. Willem is on his way home on his bicycle. There is a freshly stripped piece of cornfield next to the road he is on. Piles what was left of the stripped corn are tied in bales which are stacked on top of each other. Someone whistles (*fluit*). Willem looks around, sees nothing and keeps riding. Someone whistles again, so Willem stops this time: he looks around again and stands and waits. Again, the whistling. It's coming from the bales.

Willem drops his bicycle and runs towards the bales: two, then three small balls jump over the bales and falls on the other side. It's Manuel. Willem climbs onto the haybales and grabs the balls: he now has Manuel's attention. Willem motions to where the combi was going and Manuel says he knows they left, but he's staying. He is done with the circus. Willem smiles and then Manuel teaches him the trick with the balls.

52. It's a montage of Willem and Manuel in different clothes and in different places. Manuel teaches Willem's magic tricks, they play on Manuel's concertina and run in the vel. Willem brings Manuel food. He draws on the walls and in the background one can hear the concertina playing.

53. It's Friday afternoon. Everyone is sitting on the porch. They are playing music on the gramophone. Willem is showing them tricks. They are all enjoying it and laughing. Hendrik says that Willem is still going to become president one day. Emma replies that he must first learn how to speak again and then asks if anyone wants coffee. Katrien tells her to leave it and Hendrik says Willem will speak again someday then says she must rather focus on kissing and that she should ask Nollie because he will teach her. Emma was busy pouring coffee, but stops and looks at her father

then drops the coffee pot and storms off. Katrien is upset with Hendrik and scolds him.

Willem is still standing in the middle of the floor. Then one yellow plastic ball appears (*verskyn*) out of his mouth. He catches (*vang*) it in his hand and stands motionless (*roerloos*) with the ball in his hand while the argument continues.

Katrien says that Emma is a shy (*skaam*) girl: she is nineteen years old and shy. Hendrik fires back that when Katrien was nineteen, she was basically married. He asks if she wants Emma to become a spinster (*oujongnoot*) like Katrien's sister, if she wants Emma to sleep alone for the rest of her life like her father. Katrien looks at Hendrik in disbelief (*ongelowig*). He tells Willem to go play. A red plastic ball falls out of Willem's mouth and onto the floor. Katrien doesn't see it: she enters the house. Nollie shuts down the music. The child just stays standing like that. A blue ball comes out of his mouth and falls on the floor. Hendrik doesn't see it. He says to Willem that he told him to go play. Nollie takes Willem inside.

54. A wide-open Karoo landscape. Katrien is walking down a dirt road (*stofpad*). She is crying. She is holding herself as if she is cold.
55. Emma climbs through her bedroom window into her room. She closes the curtains (*gordyne*) and lays on the bed. Her face is completely expressionless.
56. Nollie is sitting on the porch wall with his back towards Hendrik. It's dead quiet. Willem is gone. Hendrik is sitting on his chair and just stares out in front of him.
57. Katrien is walking in the road. A green bakkie drives towards her and stops. It's Frans who gets out. She just holds herself even tighter and tries to suppress (*onderdruk*) her sobs (*snikke*), but she can't.

Frans says her name in a questioning manner and she tells him to please just leave, but he asks her what is wrong, if it is Hendrik. Now Katrien can't control her crying any longer. Her whole body is shaking and she goes onto her haunches (*hurke*). Frans comes and sits next to her on his haunches and puts his arm around her. He asks her to come sit in the bakkie. Katrien gets up, but walks into the veld. Frans goes and stands in front of her and takes her in his arms. He strokes (*streek*) her hair and pushes (*druk*) his cheek (*wang*) against hers. They stand like that until she has calmed

down.

Katrien says that it's not Hendrik; that it's her. Frans says that she is lonely (*allendig*) and that he sees it all the time. Katrien says that it's her fault and that Hendrik is also very lonely. Frans admits that he lies awake every night thinking about her, saying that he can't get her out of his mind. Katrien says he mustn't say that. Frans still has her in his arms; he asks her why not and confesses that he loves her. They suddenly look each other straight in the eye, their faces almost touching each other. He brings his mouth towards hers and she wavers or hesitates (*weifel*) for a moment as if she is considering (*oorweeg*) it, but then at the last moment (*oomblik*), she turns her face away.

They stand still for a few moments and then Katrien gets out of Frans's embrace (*omhelsing*). He looks at her and apologizes. She stands with her back to him. He climbs in his bakkie. Katrien walks in the road: towards the house. Frans stays in his bakkie.

58. Hendrik and Nollie are still on the stoep. Nollie is still sitting on the wall, but now with his back towards the railroad. He says to Hendrik that he knows Hendrik means well (*bedoel dit goed*), but that it is only making things worse (*erger*), the fact that Hendrik tries to "sell" (*verkoop*) Emma to Nollie the whole time. And he asks Hendrik to please stop with it.

59. Emma is standing in her room by the door. She hears everything that Nollie is saying.

Nollie continues by saying that everything will work out, that Hendrik just needs to be patient (*geduldig*).

60. Hendrik and Nollie continue their conversation (*gesprek*) on the porch. Hendrik asks what will happen if Nollie becomes impatient and wants to give up and Nollie assures him that it won't happen. Hendrik thinks about it for a while. He gives a sigh and says he doesn't know anymore. Nollie replies by saying that if they are patient and do everything the right way, he will take Emma to the Volstruisdans that year still. Hendrik tells him to get his bum into gear then.

Nollie puts a record on. They both listen to the music. Then Katrien appears in the door. There is almost no expression (*uitdrukking*) on her face. She sees the tray and starts packing the mugs onto it. Nollie gets up and says he will take it, but Katrien tells him to leave

it and walks away with the tray.

Nollie goes off the porch. He stands with his back to the house, his hands tensely behind his head.

61. Katrien is in the kitchen busy packing the coffee mugs from the tray into the sink (*wasbak*). Hendrik appears in the door and Katrien freezes, even though she doesn't look up. Hendrik apologizes. She doesn't react. She doesn't want to look at him. He stands in the door for a while but it is clear that she doesn't want to talk to him, so he leaves.

62. Hendrik, Katrien and Willem are around the dining table busy eating, actually, it's just Hendrik who's eating. Katrien is just pecking at her food and Willem is busy fidgeting (*vroetel*) with something under the table. Hendrik looks at Katrien, but she is looking at her plate. He asks if Emma isn't hungry. Katrien merely shakes her head. They continue eating, but it is very uncomfortable (*ongemaklik*) around the table.

Willem is wearing a jacket (*baadjie*). He fidgets (*vroetel*) with something in his sleeve (*mou*) and then pulls something out. It's a handkerchief (*sakdoek*). At the end of the handkerchief is another one tied to it. And a third and fourth and fifth one. He pulls twelve, twenty, thirty handkerchiefs out of his sleeve. It is a heap on the floor next to him.

Hendrik curses and says he apologized that afternoon and if she can't just now stop with this. Katrien pushes (*stoot*) her plate (*bord*) away. She is trying to contain her tears, but they are now streaming over her cheeks. Hendrik sees the handkerchief in Willem's hand and asks him to hand it to Katrien. Willem hesitates (*huiwer*). Hendrik takes the handkerchief and the two-dozen other come along. Hendrik asks where Willem got them all from and Willem answers by pulling up his shoulders (*skouers*). Katrien takes the handkerchiefs and wipes her face. Hendrik tells Willem to stop being funny and untie the things.

63. Hendrik and Willem are in the doctor's consulting room (*sprekkamer*). The doctor is old (*bejaard*), relaxed and fatherly. Hendrik is neatly dressed.

He tells the doctor how he talks nicely, shouts, threatens, but all in

vain (*als verniet*). The doctor responds by saying that he tells Hendrik every time: they must just be patient. Hendrik says it's been two years already and he's starting to think that the only thing Willem needs, is a hiding (*pak sla*). Oudokter tells Willem to wait outside a bit. Hendrik asks if the doctor isn't going to check Willem's pulse or look at his throat (*keel*) or something but Oudokter asks what for? He's not sick. Willem leaves and Oudokter tells Hendrik that it's Hendrik's fault that Willem doesn't speak. This agitates Hendrik and Oudokter says he told Hendrik this last time: it's a state of anxiety (*angstoestand*):

Willem either got a fright (*geskrik vir iets*), or he is scared (*bang*) of something of maybe he saw something that he can't process (*verwerk*). Oudokter's personal opinion is that Willem is just plain unhappy about life. He knows that Willem wants to talk, but he can't.

Hendrik asks what he must do now: just sit and watch. Then Oudokter says Hendrik must stop trying to fix the world by fighting. Fighting and shouting is not going to help. Hendrik says it's easy for him to say since he doesn't live with Hendrik under the same roof. Hendrik gets up and takes out his wallet (*beursie*), asking what he owes (*skuld*) Oudokter, but the doctor shakes his head and says he owes him nothing. Willem looks at Oudokter with new eyes and says Oudokter might not be very smart, but at least he is honest (*eerlik*).

64. Hendrik's car is standing on the side of the road with the bonnet (*kap*) open. Willem is standing in the middle of the road, behind the car, trying to do magic with three rocks.

Hendrik shouts at Katrien to try again: she is sitting in the passenger side, so she leans over and turns the starter (*aansitter*). It just makes a sound without the engine actually starting. Hendrik yells at her to stop because she is tiring the battery. He gets out from underneath the bonnet. His sleeves are rolled up, his hands black and there is a black smear (*blerts*) over his face. He walks around the car to the driver's door and says the engine isn't getting petrol.

Katrien is busy putting on her new blue earrings (*oorkrabbers*). He is leaning in through the window and asks Katrien where she got those from. She says she bought them with her own money, in a bit of a defiant (*uitdagend*) way. Hendrik asks her where she got the money from and she says she saved money that she got from selling their chicken eggs. Hendrik says that whenever he gets a little extra money, it always goes back to the house: he never buys himself

earrings. Katrien says yes, he never buys anything for himself, not even shotgun shells (*haelgeweerpatrone*) and Hendrik replies that it is to shoot game that they can eat. Katrien asks what about the vinyls then and Hendrik then loses it. He shouts about how she is busy buying earrings and there he is struggling himself to death with the car. Katrien is also furious now: she asks what car, basically calling the Cortina a piece of junk.

In the meantime, Willem is busy trying to do magic with the three rocks. Katrien gets out of the car and slams the door shut, shouting that Hendrik can't even afford wheel covers. He tells Katrien to watch her words and she asks why: it's her earrings, it's her money, it's her life. He told her what to do long enough now. She paid R100 for it and she bought powder on credit (*op skuld*) as well and asks Hendrik what he is going to do about it? She says she is done struggling like that and she is going to take care (*sorg*) of herself now.

Hendrik moves around the car to her side: he is more surprised than aggressive. He curses at her and Katrien says he dare touch her and he will see what happens. Hendrik asks if she is used to him touching her and she says no, he is too much of a wimp to do so: he is just all talk and nothing else. She says he is 45 years old and what does he have? Nothing. He looks after a station that everyone has forgotten about. He pretends to be an important man and he has a lot to say, but he can't even afford (*bekostig*) two stupid (*simpel*) earrings. He sleeps alone at night because he doesn't know anything about women: the only thing he understands, is cars and women aren't cars! She walks off after this.

Hendrik looks at her, astounded (*verbysterd*), and yells to her that she can walk because his car isn't good enough, so she can walk by foot! Katrien continues walking. Hendrik starts working on the car again.

Willem is nowhere to be seen.

65. Hendrik stops in the yard and gets out: Emma comes out the backdoor and asks where Willem is. Hendrik tells her to ask her mother and Emma says she told Emma to ask Hendrik. He looks at her and says that Willem left that afternoon at 12 with Katrien and that Emma should go ask her. He disappears around the corner.

66. Katrien comes out onto the porch. She calls Willem's name, but gets no answer. She runs into the house and keeps calling his name in every room, but still no answer. Emma searches for him too. Hendrik is looking for him at the station.
67. Hendrik's car sputters and stops in a puff of smoke on the same place where it broke down (*onklaar geraak*) earlier (*vroeër*). He gets out and looks around: he seems a little lost. When he finally calls out, it is almost an animalistic (*dierlike*) sound (*geluid*).
68. The clown and Willem are in the barn together. They are sitting in a spot of sunshine. The clown is in casual (*gewone*) clothes. He is trying to cheer Willem up with his chicken concert, but Willem is just looking at him blankly (*strak*).

The clown gives in and says it's ok, he can see Willem doesn't want to laugh and asks him what is bothering him. Willem just stares out in front of him. Manuel asks if Willem wants to write it down maybe and gives him a pencil (*potlood*) and now the tears (*trane*) start streaming down Willem's cheeks, but his face is still expressionless (*uitdrukkingloos*). The clown responds by saying: "No, no, no, no, no, no. NO tears. LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR TEARS (DIE LEWE IS TE KORT VIR TRANE). Let's rather (*liever*) play. Playing is always better than tears. Always."

He takes out a make-up pencil from his pocket and draws two big bows (*boë*) over Willem's eyes. He takes out another pencil and paints Willem's mouth and says now they are going to draw the tears away, that they are going to wipe out (*vee uit*) the old Willem and draw a new Willem.

This whole scene (*toneel*) is part of the following montage.

69. Montage of the drawing process (*tekenproses*). It is alternated with Hendrik, Katrien and Emma's search for Willem. Willem changes from a depressed (*bedrukte*) boy (*knaap*) to clown who is laughing at his own face in an old piece of mirror. The sun is setting (*sononder*).
70. Willem and Manuel are sitting in the barn next to (*langs*) each other (*mekaar*). There is a small fire (*vuurtjie*) burning in the middle of the floor. You can only vaguely (*vaagweg*) see the two figures.

Manuel is pleading with Willem to please go home, but Willem keeps shaking his head. The clown then makes an ultimatum: either Willem goes home or he leaves and Willem will never see him again. The clown tells Willem that it is eight o'clock already and that Katrien must be so worried. He offers to walk home with Willem, but Willem shakes his head. He asks if Willem is scared and again: he shakes his head. The clown says they can play again the next day and tells Willem to wash his face before his family sees it. He wishes him goodnight and Willem disappears around the corner of the barn door.

71. Hendrik, Katrien and Emma are sitting at the kitchen table. They are all staring at nothing. They are not talking. There is a coffee pot and mugs between them. After a while Emma suddenly gets up and leaves.

Katrien, almost inaudibly asks Hendrik if he thinks that Willem heard them arguing. Hendrik says he doesn't know and asks Katrien if she doesn't want to go to bed because it's after 2 in the morning. She says she won't be able to sleep anyway. Hendrik goes and stands by the backdoor and asks Katrien if she meant everything that she had said that day. She says maybe not everything and he asks which things she then meant to which she responds none of them.

Hendrik can't look at her. He stays by the door and says in a defeated tone of voice that she then actually meant everything. Katrien replies that she hopes Willem didn't hear it. Hendrik puts on his jacket and takes his hat: he is going to the police. He says he can't sit and wait all night until the sentrale (*the phone system they used in the olden days*) opens. Katrien calls out his name as he leaves and when he turns around, she asks him how they got to that place. Hendrik gives two careful steps back towards the kitchen. Katrien continues by asking what happened that everything became like that and Hendrik says he doesn't know. Katrien exclaims that they were happy once. Hendrik says that they were, that he still is, sometimes.

Katrien just sits and looks at the wall. Then she says that 20 years ago when they were still living in Touwsrivier everyone said that Hendrik would be station master before he was 30. Then Emma came. Then Lydenburg. Then Soekmekaar. Then Willem came. Then everything started going wrong: every station a little smaller, a little paler (*valer*), a little further away from everything. Katrien then looks straight at Hendrik and says now they are sitting there: look at them. Hendrik says that he likes it there because there is no one

that wants to take her away from him. Except maybe Frans, but Hendrik tells her that he can take Frans. Katrien is flabbergasted: she has no idea what he is talking about. He explains:

In Touwsrivier it was the station master: he couldn't keep his hands off of Katrien. In Lydenburg it was the teacher AND the auctioneer (*afslaer*).

In Soekmekaar it was just about everyone.

In Twyfelfontein it was a guy with the surname Pieterse and his Mercedes and his ostrich boots (*volstruiskamaste*) and his beach house (*strandhuis*) and his damn presents!

(Look at the names of the stations: they are all representations of Hendrik and Katrien's relationship in various stages:

"Touw" basically refers to row: she had the men queue after her.

"Ly" means to suffer.

"Soekmekaar" means to search for each other.

"Twyfel" means to doubt.

Katrien says she can't believe her ears and Hendrik exclaims that he just wanted her to himself. Katrien says that Hendrik is the only man she has ever loved and he is the only one who never wanted to believe it. Hendrik stands and looks at her for a long time. Then says he has to leave and closes the door behind him. Katrien just sits and looks at the closed door.

72. The sun is just busy rising. Emma comes walking back home from the veld. In the background, Hendrik's car is driving towards the house.
73. Emma walks up the step by the front porch. She opens the door, but just as she wants to go in, something catches (*vang*) her eye: klein Willem is sleeping on the sofa at the end of the porch. Emma storms into the house to call Katrien. They run towards him, but he is still sleeping. His face is still painted. Hendrik comes up the step and stops as soon as he sees them. Katrien softly touches Willem and he wakes up. She asks him where he was. He sits up and looks around him. Hendrik takes a step closer and stops again. Emma asks Willem about his face. He touches it, sees the paint and tries to rub it off, but just manages to smear it even more in the process.

Hendrik turns around: he is crying. He is trying to wipe the tears

away with his arms and goes to sit in the chair next to the door. Emma asks Willem if he painted his face like that and he shakes his head. Katrien asks where he was, where did he sleep and he points to the sofa. He shows 8 fingers when she asks what time he came home and pulls up his shoulders when she says they were worried to death about him. Emma takes Willem's hand and says they are going to wash his face.

They walk past Hendrik and when the child sees Hendrik's tears, he stops. To maybe hide his embarrassment (*verleentheid*), Hendrik picks Willem up and puts him on his lap (*skoot*) and hugs him tightly, but in such a way that Willem can't see his tears. Emma takes a piece of her dress and tries to wipe away Hendrik's tears. Hendrik takes his one hand and puts it around Emma. Willem sits up and looks at his father. There is some make-up on Hendrik's forehead (*voorkop*).

And then Willem wipes (*vee*) with his finger over his own face and then draws a spot (*kol*) on each of his father's cheeks. And when Katrien goes on her haunches (*hurke*) next to him to see what he is doing; he draws her a big smile.

Emma says to Willem he must come with her: she is going to wash him. He allows Emma to lead him into the house. Hendrik wipes his tears again with big, clumsy (*lomp*) movements as if he doesn't have hands. Katrien walks to the door, but then turns around and looks at Hendrik. She asks Hendrik sympathetically what he is crying about and he replies: "About everything."

74. It's still early the same morning. Katrien comes out the backdoor with her bucket full of dishcloths. She starts hanging them up over the washing line (*wasgoedlyn*). The passenger train comes past with its usual (*gebruiklike*) noise (*rumoer*). When that sound dies down, you can hear dogs barking: twenty or thirty of them storming towards the house and running behind them are about three or four police constables.

75. Hendrik is coming out of his office: he stops as soon as he sees what is busy happening. He still has two bright spots on his cheeks. Then he jumps forward, arms in the air.

He yells at the men to stop. One of the constables walk towards him, but the others are storming past. Hendrik tells the man that he was just busy phoning them. The constable asks if they still haven't

found anything, but Hendrik replies that Willem returned. The constable is surprised to hear this and Hendrik says he couldn't phone them any sooner because the sentrale only opens at seven o'clock. The constable asks if Willem is ok and Hendrik replies that he doesn't even have a scratch. The man asks where Willem was and Hendrik pulls up his shoulders and replies that they can't find out because Willem doesn't speak. A police van and two cars stop at the station.

The constable looks at the rest of the search party and whistles. The policemen and their dogs now arrived at the barn. They don't hear the constable's whistle so Hendrik and the man start jogging towards them. As they are running, the constable yells to the new arrivals that the little bugger (*swernoot*) is back and that they wasted their time.

76. The dogs storm into the barn, barking. The police follow.

77. Katrien is standing in the yard, looking worriedly at the barn. She still has the painted smile on her face. Then Willem comes out the backdoor. Just one half of his face is clean; the other half is still painted.

Emma is still in the house and calls to Willem to come back because she isn't finished yet. Willem stops in his tracks when he sees the dogs. Then he gives one scream and storms past his mother. She tries to stop him, but he is too quick. She runs after him and yells at him to stop because the dogs are going to bite him. But Willem keeps running towards the barn: screaming and deaf to her cries.

78. The dogs are barking inside the barn. Willem keeps running towards the barn and screaming: Emma and Katrien and eventually Hendrik also comes to try and calm him down, but he tries to wrestle himself free from them. The policemen get their dogs to calm down and watches this drama in front of them. They see the child's half painted face and the markings on Katrien and Hendrik's faces as well: they give each other strange looks.

Emma and Katrien manage to carry the screaming child home and Hendrik approaches the policemen again. There are about three or four men in civilian clothes amongst them.

Hendrik apologizes for Willem's behaviour. One of the policemen

asks Hendrik if someone is living in the old barn and when Hendrik replies with a “no”, the man asks Hendrik to come with him: he needs to show Hendrik something.

They enter the barn.

79. It's dark in the barn so the sergeant switches (*skakel*) on his flashlight (*flits*). Hendrik says the place has been empty for years: the farmers (*boere*) in the area used it long ago to store away their feed.

The flashlight shines on the walls: there is a colourful drawing of something like a joker-card. And next to it are big, colourful circles and crosses and squares (*vierkante*). There is something that resembles a dragon (*draak*) on another wall, it may also be a dog spewing fire. And a clown's face, but the way Picasso would have drawn it. And a gigantic snake.

Hendrik innocently says he asked his wife if Willem wasn't born with powers to see the supernatural. The sergeant shines the flashlight on a door that is laying on two petrol drums (*konkas*) and asks if Hendrik is certain that those are all Willem's things. There is a black cloth over the door and on top of the cloth something that looks like a few lion teeth, a baboon's skull (*kopbeen*), crayons (*vetkryt*), tubes (*buisies*) and an apple.

Hendrik replies that it's Willem's magic-things (*toorgoed*). When the sergeant asks Hendrik what he is talking about, Hendrik explains that Willem just started doing magic the one evening: how he makes things disappear from his hands and how an egg just pops out of his mouth. **Hendrik is of course referring to the tricks Manual has been teaching Willem, but the way it sounds to an outsider, seems really sketchy.**

The sergeant shines the flashlight now on a fire pit, but now, in the light, it looks strange (*vreemd*): almost like an altar of rock with ash and charcoal on top. The sergeant asks Hendrik if he is certain that nothing satanic has been going on in there because it looks a lot like an altar to him. Hendrik laughs and says Willem doesn't know anything about those kinds of things, but the sergeant counters by asking why Willem was so adamant in trying to stop them from entering the barn.

80. The exit the barn. The sergeant tells Hendrik to keep an eye out and to let him know if he sees anything strange. He motions to the rest of the men and starts walking to the cars. Everyone follows in dead silence. Two or three of them turn around a few times to look at Hendrik as though he is a Martian (*maanmannetjie*).

The sergeant says he thinks the whole lot of them are crazy (*lotjie getik*). A man called Jan Mol walks next to the sergeant: he is one of the civilians who tagged along. He accuses Willem of devil worship (*duiwelsaanbidding*).

Hendrik just stands and watches them leave.

81. Katrien and Willem are walking in town. People stop and stand to watch them. Willem doesn't realize anything. Katrien knows, but doesn't show it.

82. Nollie rides with his bicycle over the railroad, climbs off at the backdoor and leans the bike against the wall. It almost falls over and, in the process, the bell (*klokkie*) hits the wall.

83. Emma is sitting in a sink bath in the yard. The bath is full of bubbles and only her head and legs are sticking out. Next to the bath is a towel (*handdoek*) hanging over a chair. Her clothes are nowhere to be seen. Emma's bath is on the opposite side of the railway.

She is enjoying her bath when she suddenly hears the little bell. She sits upright and the next moment she tips over: bath and all. The bath is now upside down over her and water is pouring all over the yard.

Nollie appears from around the corner. He stops when he sees the bath and slowly walks closer, asking who is underneath. Emma tells him to go away when he says her name and he softly laughs, asking how much her towel is worth (*werd*) to her. The bath suddenly starts moving sideways and stops again. Nollie laughingly tells her that she's going the wrong way and says that if she accompanies him to the Volstruisdans, he will give her her towel. She declines and he says she better watch out because she might run out of oxygen (*suurstof*) and then mentions that her parents are approaching.

The audience can see Hendrik's car crossing the railroad, driving

towards the yard.

Emma eventually agrees to go with Nollie and he puts her towel next to the bath, saying that he is going to wait on the porch.

84. A door slams and Hendrik is angrily mumbling, more to himself than anyone else, about how rude the people in town were by staring at Hendrik and his family as though they were a bunch of monkeys. He throws his tie (*das*) on the chair and then sees Nollie walk up the step by the porch. They greet and Hendrik asks where Emma is, but Nollie says he has not yet seen her.

Katrien also walks out onto the stoep and Nollie greets her too. He says that he was actually just coming to hear if Emma doesn't want to go with him to look at the dandelions (*perdeblomme*) by the creek (*spruit*). Katrien says those flowers only blossom (*blom*) in November, but Hendrik asks why does it matter and she replies that it's only September now. In the meantime, Emma has joined them. Nollie pretends uncomfortably (*ongemaklik*) that this is the first time that day he has seen when he says hallo. Hendrik tells Emma that Nollie wants to show her the dandelions and at first Emma declines, but then Nollie says that Emma agreed to go to the Volstruisdans with him. Emma says only if her mom and dad go too and Katrien replies that she will go if Hendrik asks her. Hendrik is surprised at this and Katrien says she would have gone the previous year as well if someone had asked her and then she goes into the house. Hendrik can only stare at her with a surprised look on his face.

85. Willem is walking through the eucalyptus trees. He is carrying four thick slices (*snye*) of bread with butter and jam in his hands. Two young men, in their early twenties, are watching him from a distance (*afstand*). He puts it down close to the barn, looks around and whistles. Then he turns around (*swaai om*) and runs back home.

86. Nollie and Emma are sitting on either side of a creek. She scoops (*skep*) the water in her one hand and throws it back in the stream. Nollie sits and watches (*dophou*) her. Emma asks him when he is going to show her the flowers and he answers that they are only in full bloom later that year. She continues scooping the water and throwing it back, closer to Nollie each time until she eventually throws him with it full on. They both laugh and splash each other, but then see a car a few metres away from them with people hanging out the windows in order to see Nollie and Emma a little

better. Emma says they need to leave.

87. Katrien and Willem are on the front porch: she is trying to take a thorn (*doring*) out of his foot. Hendrik comes out the front door with a bottle of brandy in his hand and asks Nollie if he would like a drink. Nollie and Emma are busy washing the car. Nollie declines. Willem yelps when Katrien pushes the needle in too deep. Hendrik says Willem should take the thorn out with his magic and Katrien tells Hendrik to stop with that nonsense.

Willem wants to run away, but Hendrik catches him, puts him on his lap and asks him to do the trick with the handkerchiefs again. He offers Willem R2. Willem shakes his head and Katrien protests. Hendrik ups the ante to R5, so Willem hops off of his lap and disappears into the house. He comes out and does the trick: everyone applauds him. Katrien hugs Willem. Hendrik asks Willem who is teaching him these tricks, so he stands and looks at everyone around him and then jumps off the front porch. He stops by the corner of the house and motions them to follow him. They start walking after him.

88. They walk across the yard. Over the railroad. Between the eucalyptus trees (*bloekombome*).
89. They arrive at the barn. Willem opens the door and whistles. He waits and then whistles again. He motions them to wait and goes into the barn.
90. Willem looks for Manuel, but he is not there. He whispers Manuel's name, but after no response he starts shouting Manuel's name.
91. Willem runs out of the barn towards the trees, looks around and yells Manuel's name again and again, louder every time.
92. Katrien is in the dining room busy setting the table (*tafeldek*). Hendrik is outside, speaking to Nollie and Emma who are coming from the railroad. Katrien goes out quickly as well.

93. Hendrik asks if they found anything and Nollie replies no. Both Nollie and Emma look tired.

Katrien wants to confirm that she heard Willem say “Manuel” and Emma says that he did, all the way until they couldn’t hear him anymore. Hendrik is upset that Willem doesn’t want to say “Pa” or “Ma” and then asks Emma if she knows of anyone living in the barn. Emma says she has seen him carry food there, but always pretended to feed to rabbits (*hase*). Katrien says they are going to pretend as if they heard nothing and just carry on as always and when Hendrik wants to protest, she re-iterates it.

94. Hendrik, Katrien, Nollie and Emma are eating. After a while they hear the backdoor slam. Katrien whispers to them to continue eating. She sees Willem standing in the door and invites him to eat as well. Everyone is trying to look at Willem without him noticing. They eat in silence except when asking for someone to pass the butter or such. Hendrik opens his mouth to say something and Katrien reprimands him. Emma can’t keep pretending any longer and asks to be excused. Katrien says her father is still busy eating, so Emma just sits and fidgets with her dress under that table. She can feel Willem looking at her until she can’t stand it anymore and asks him what he wants.

He gets up and stands next to Emma with a vague little smile on his face. He then walks to the piano and lifts the lid, saying one word: “Play.”

Hendrik lowers the piece of bread he was about to put in his mouth. Katrien puts down the plate she had just picked up. Nollie looks at Emma, at Willem, at Emma again. Willem walks back to Emma and takes her by the hand, leading her to the piano.

Emma sits at the piano and just stares at the notes. She tells Willem that she can’t play anymore. He lifts up his hand and pushes a note very carefully. After a while Emma does the same. She looks at Willem, he nods (*knik*) and smiles. He tells her to play.

So, she plays 😊 Searchingly, at first, and she makes mistakes along the way, but she plays. She plays one of the songs her father likes to play on the radio on Saturday afternoons. Hendrik gets up and stands behind Emma. He is literally listening with his mouth open and also slightly bent over (*geboë*) as if he is standing on holy ground and watching a miracle (*wonderwerk*) happen. Katrien comes and stands next to Hendrik; she puts her hand on Willem’s

head.

95. A young man called Thys Briekman, is standing on the front porch of the *koöperasie* and is busy loading bags of *mieliemeel* onto Frans's *bakkie*. Frans is standing and watching. Four other farmers are standing close to the *bakkie* on the porch: Pieta Benade, Sakkie du Toit, Jan Mol and others.

Frans asks what stories people are talking about and Thys replies that people are say Willem can do magic. Pieta says Willem is crazy and Frans asks why, just because he doesn't speak? Pieta replies that they say Oudokter says Hendrik cut out Willem's tongue. Jan Moll responds to that by saying it was probably part of a sacrificial offering. Frans tries to defend Willem and his family, but Jan Mol keeps hammering on the same thing about Willem worshipping the devil and when Frans says he doesn't know where they come up with this rubbish since he is there every weekend, Jan Mol responds by saying Frans won't notice anything because he only has eyes for Katrien.

Jan Mol and Frans start fighting.

96. Hendrik stands and watches as Frans washes his bloodied face by the station tap (*stasiekraan*). Hendrik asks why Jan Mol beat Frans up and Frans tries to make it off as nothing major. Willem jogs past them on his way to the veld and when Hendrik asks him where he is going with the bread in his hand, he makes bunny ears as if to suggest that he is going to feed rabbits. Frans says to Hendrik that there are lots of stories about klein Willem doing the rounds in town. Hendrik answers that he knows because Nollie told him: he hears there are stories about Frans as well.

The two men look each other straight in the eye for a few seconds and Hendrik says they have to figure out for themselves which ones are true and which ones aren't. Hendrik smiles and it's a smile that says: "I am not stupid (*onnosel*)."

97. Katrien is in the kitchen, busy washing the dishes. Willem comes in with a drawing of a clown in full costume and he basically asks her to make him a clown outfit. She asks him where she is going to find material to do this, so he takes her by the hand and leads her further into the house.
98. Hendrik is busy fixing the windpomp. Emma is busy practicing the piano. Katrien is on the porch at the sewing machine

(*naaimasjien*) busy making Willem a clown outfit (*narrepak*).

99. Willem and the clown are sitting in the veld eating bread with jam (*konfyt*), apples and pears.

Manuel asks whether Katrien doesn't wonder where Willem is taking all the food when he leaves the house. When Willem answers, he speaks slowly, almost as though he is searching for every word. He laughs when he tells Manuel that he says to them he is feeding a rabbit. The clown goes onto his haunches and pretends to be a rabbit. Willem imitates him and they laugh.

Montage of the two acting like rabbits. Manuel plays the concertina. Then a car appears on the horizon and drives towards the house.

100. Hendrik is sitting and writing. He looks up when he hears a car. It's the same one that was seen in the montage: an old man climbs out. He is wearing a black suit (*swart pak klere*), book under the arm. He looks around and then walks to the front door.

101. Hendrik and the dominee are sitting in the anteroom (*voorkamer*). Katrien enters with a tray. Hendrik is visibly annoyed.

The dominee and Hendrik keep interrupting each other but it basically boils down to this: the dominee is there to condemn Willem and the rest of the McDonald family. He says that Willem is busy with devil worshipping and saying that it is his duty to speak to them about this. Hendrik is annoyed because he can't believe that such rubbish is being said about his child. He says the only times they have seen the dominee in the 5 years they have lived there, was when he came to condemn them or collect money. He says to the dominee if that is all the church does, then he is perfectly fine without it. He gets up, takes his hat and leaves the room.

The dominee turns his attention now to Katrien, but he is visibly shaken. He says that it is worse than he thought. Katrien tries to remain calm when he says how full of hatred, envy (*nydigheid*) and pent up anger their house is. Emma is standing in the hallway, listening to all of this.

Katrien speaks her mind, telling the dominee that there are people living in that house: people who make mistakes. They may be very poor and they may not be as highly educated (*geleerd*), but they are still people. People who struggle, who sometimes feel lonely or sad or happy about something, or scared, but he does not know

anything about them: only what people say about them and he still comes over to judge? He says he can only pray for them so Katrien gets up and thanks him for that, saying he needs to pray for her especially (*veral*) but only when he has left their property.

102. During the previous scene the audience sees Willem walking across the yard. Then he stands by the window where he hears everything that was said inside. He leaves when he sees the dominee exiting the house and getting in his car to drive away.

103. The clown and Willem are sitting next to some footpath. Willem's bicycle is laying between them. They are busy fixing a puncture on the back tyre.

Willem asks Manuel if it is a sin (*sonde*) to draw on walls and on your face. Manuel is surprised by this and Willem tells him what the dominee said. Manuel then asks Willem if he can borrow his bicycle that Sunday: he wants to go to church (*kerk*).

104. The church is seen from outside. One can hear the congregation (*gemeente*) singing.

105. A long piece of tar road. The clown is riding a bicycle. He is wearing his circus costume and his face is painted. The church is big and white. The moon is sitting next to the church tower.

106. In church, the congregation is listening intently (*aandagtig*) to the dominee's booming (*dreunende*) voice (*stem*).

He is basically preaching about hellfire and how God is god of wrath. The clown walks through the front door. He tries to sneak in as quietly as possible and sits in the back bench. The dominee now completely loses his train of thought. He is just standing and looking at the clown. The clown is sitting expressionlessly and solemnly (*plegtig*) just staring in front of him. One member of the congregation (*gemeentelid*) turns around, then two others and so on. The dominee looks at the elder bench (*ouderlingbank*) and says: "Brother, please." No one moves, so the dominee addresses a man with the surname Bothma and tells him to remove (*verwyder*) the "joker (*grapmaker*)."

The elder walks towards the clown. Manuel can't believe what is happening. Bothma is now two feet from Manuel and motions with his head that the clown must get out. Manuel points to himself with a question mark on his face. The elder now motions with his head

AND thumb that Manuel must get lost. The clown shakes his head. Then Jan Mol gets up and points with his finger to Manuel and says loudly that HE is the one that the McDonald-child keeps drawing!

The clown realizes that this means trouble and flees (*vlug*) out of the church. About ten, twenty men storm after him.

107. Outside the church, Manuel grabs his bicycle and races down the street. The men get out the church, look around and see Manuel far down the street. Some start running after him, others run to their bakkies.
108. A way further down the street Manuel is racing on his bicycle. He looks back and sees the horde coming after him, so he swings into a side street, jumps off his bicycle at a fence (*heining*) and hides it there while he climbs into a tree standing on the side walk (*sypaadjie*). He sees how the cars and bakkies race by underneath him.
109. The yard at Hendrik's place looks abandoned (*verlate*). Someone is playing the piano inside.
110. It's Emma playing. Nollie is sitting on the windowsill (*vensterbank*). Emma and her music have his full attention. She now plays effortlessly and faultless.
111. Hendrik is laying on his back on his bed. He is also listening to the piano. The door opens and Katrien enters.

She asks him if he's sleeping and he says no. She asks if he has seen Willem and Hendrik answers that he probably went to the veld. He tells her to leave Willem alone and to go lay with him.

She goes and sits on the side of Hendrik's single bed. He says he will hold her a bit. She looks at him with an amused expression on her face and eventually leans back and picks up her feet from the ground. They both lay and listen to the music contently.

Katrien mentions how Emma is playing better and better every day. Then Hendrik looks at her and asks if he may kiss her on the cheek. She doesn't oppose and he kisses her. She takes his hand and holds it. Then they hear something that sounds like a vehicle and doors slamming. Katrien says it's a car and Hendrik questioningly says it's two in the afternoon.

112. A few bakkies and cars drive towards the station. Some of the men have gotten out and are smoking. Some have guns (*gewere*) with them. Some are still wearing their church clothes. Nobody is talking.

Then they see Hendrik approaching. Katrien is standing in the backyard. By the way he walks, one can see that Hendrik is furious.

He shouts at them from a distance asking if there is anything he can do for them. Jan Mol, Sakkie du Toit and ouderling Bothma are among these men. They move closer to Jan who puts his gun over his shoulder and throws his cigarette on the ground. Hendrik asks who gave them the right to come onto his property with guns and Jan Mol asks where the Beelzebub is, referring to Manuel. When you call someone a Beelzebub, you basically call them a demon or a fake idol that is worshipped. ***Ironic how Jan Mol uses the Bible to hunt down a man when Christianity is the religion that preaches of love and acceptance.***

Hendrik has no clue what Jan Mol is talking about and Jan Mol tells Hendrik not to be stupid: he is looking for the red nose. Hendrik still doesn't get it, so ouderling Bothma comes to the rescue saying they are looking for the clown. Hendrik asks them if they have gone mad, what clown? So, Jan Mol tells the clan to forget about Hendrik because he is just wasting their time and he says they must start looking for the clown by the barn. He then turns to Hendrik and says they are going to shoot to kill. Hendrik tells them to just fire one shot, just one shot and they will see what happens but nobody hears him.

113. In the montage that follows, the search at first seems rather orderly. The men move quietly on either side of the old barn. Then they are inside: things are being thrown around and things start becoming erratic. Doors are being kicked in, windows are shattered, people are jumping from one train carriage to the next. And the whole time one hears Emma playing the piano in the background. And somewhere one sees Willem high up in a tree, watching everything and becoming more anxious by the moment. He is wearing his homemade clown suit. He slides down from a tree, runs to the next one and climbs up, then again and again.
114. The clown comes walking through the veld. He is carrying Willem's bicycle on his shoulder and the broken bicycle chain (*ketting*) in his one hand. He is still wearing his clown suit, but his make-up is ruined. Then he suddenly stops because he heard a

gunshot (*geweerskoot*).

115. The ouderling is standing by the corner of the barn with his gun still by his shoulder. It's him who made the shot. Sakkie du Toit comes around the corner and asks what happened. The ouderling says he thought he saw something move (*beweeg*). Sakkie says he can't just shoot because now the whole world has woken up.
116. Nollie and Emma are hanging out the window by the lounge room. Nollie climbs out, saying that there is trouble. Emma tells him to wait, but he says that her dad is there.
117. The clown stands and looks at the McDonald's yard. He is about 300m from the house, half hidden behind some trees. He sees Nollie running across the yard towards the barn and Katrien is standing by the washing line, calling to Willem. Then she starts running.
118. Katrien is running straight towards a few of the hunters (*jagters*) who are walking directly to her. She pleads that it is her child. They walk past her as if she doesn't exist (*bestaan*). Katrien shouts to Hendrik and asks where Willem is. One can hear Hendrik's voice further away: he is arguing with someone.
119. Hendrik is at the barn, trying to wrestle (*stoei*) Sakkie's gun away from him. He tells Sakkie that he warned him and Sakkie anxiously says that the gun is loaded (*gelaai*), but Hendrik continues by saying that he warned him and Sakkie shouts out that it was Bothma who fired the shot. Hendrik plucks the gun from Sakkie's hands, takes the thing by the barrel (*loop*) and whacks Sakkie with it.
120. The hunters burst through the backdoor of the house. In a montage the viewer sees them going from room (*vertrek*) to room, plucking open cupboards and pushing open doors, searching wordlessly, sweating and determined (*verbete*). Emma waits terrified by the piano for the noise that is coming closer. Thys Briekman speaks and asks Emma where he is. She is too scared to answer and he shouts at her that he is looking for the clown. Emma doesn't know what he is talking about. He then pushes his face against hers and asks if her tongue has also been cut out.

He pushes her so hard that she lands on the piano. They leave the room.

121. Willem climbs out from an old car wreck and runs into an open field.
122. In the background one can see the clown running with the bicycle. Men in a bakkie are charging towards him: he throws the bicycle away and runs into another direction (*rigting*).
123. Willem is running between some trees. And it looks like the same piece of veld that the clown is running in.
124. The bakkie slams brakes (*rem woes*), everyone jumps out and takes aim. A few shots sound simultaneously.

A guy called Pieta yells: "Rubbish!" Jan Mol shouts that he got him and Pieta replies that if anyone asks him, he thinks it was a headshot (*kopskoot*). Then Jan Mol tells him not to worry because they have the dominee on their side. **As if death can be justified by a dominee. Seriously?**

They jog closer. Hendrik is coming from the other side. He has Sakkie's gun with him. He is first on scene at the heap of a person on the ground. The hunters are running towards them in the background. Hendrik turns around, gets up and waits them in. They stop because they can see that Hendrik's finger is on the trigger (*sneller*).

Jan Mol tells Hendrik to get away. Hendrik asks who took the shot and Jan Mol said he did but before he can finish his sentence, Hendrik lifts the gun slightly. Katrien is running towards Hendrik, but suddenly stops. Hendrik looks in the direction he sees her looking to: it's Willem. He is standing about 20 feet behind Hendrik. He lifts the gun again slightly when he tells Jan Mol to dare move and commands Willem to come to him. Willem looks like he is walking in his sleep and when he finally reaches Hendrik, he asks Willem who the person on the ground is. Willem answers that it is Manuel, that it is his friend. Hendrik looks at Jan Mol and throws him the gun, telling him to take his toy.

He bends over and picks up Manuel. The clown is just hanging in his arms. There is blood everywhere. Then Katrien, Nollie and Emma are all there as well. Nollie says he will carry Manuel but Hendrik tells him he will take him. They walk home. Jan Mol picks up Sakkie's gun. He and his three men stand and watch the procession.

125. Manuel is on the spare bed in Willem's room. His torso is naked. There is a wound underneath his collarbone (*sleutelbeen*) and one in the palm of his hand. Katrien and Hendrik are busy tending (*versorg*) to the wounds. She washes them with wet cotton and he keeps handing her fresh ones. Willem is standing by Manuel's head: his eyes are open, but he is in a state of shock (*skok*). He is just staring at the ceiling.

Katrien says she just hopes there is nothing left in the wound and Hendrik says he believes the bullet went straight through. He asks Manuel how he is feeling, but it seems as if he doesn't hear Hendrik. Hendrik asks Willem if he understands Afrikaans and upon hearing Willem's voice when he answers, Manuel searches for Willem with his eyes.

Hendrik asks if Manuel came with the circus train and if it was him that Willem gave all the food to. Willem nods and when Hendrik asks why Willem hid him from them, he replies that Manuel was his secret (*geheim*).

Hendrik turns to Manuel and tells him to get healthy so he can teach them some tricks, asking if he can do magic by making money appear. Katrien reprimands him, but Hendrik winks at Willem: Willem smiles and puts his arm around his dad's neck.

126. Emma is at the washing line hanging up Manuel's clothes. About six cars are parked by the railroad, their noses all pointing towards the house. Emma picks up the bucket and walks home.
127. Jan Mol is standing by the cars with his gun on his bakkie's open door, aiming at the washing line. Two, three shots sound. Everyone laughs. Then he climbs in his bakkie and they all leave.
128. The family are sitting around the dining table. Manuel isn't there.

Hendrik is furious, asking who do they think they are. Katrien tries to calm him down, but he carries on with his rampage, saying they never did anything to anyone. Katrien tells him to go to the police, but Hendrik says the police are in cahoots with them. Willem enters the room and Katrien asks if Manuel has said anything yet, but he replies that Manuel is sleeping.

Hendrik continues by saying that he is Hendrik McDonald and he is allowed to be who he is. And that Emma is allowed to be Emma and

so on. He suddenly looks at Willem and asks what he thinks. Willem says Manuel never did anything to anyone.

129. Manuel is in bed, staring at the ceiling. Willem is standing next to the bed, trying to get a reaction out of him like he used to do with Willem: he is clucking like a hen, but Manuel doesn't respond. So, Willem goes and stands next to the bed, asking Manuel if he can hear him. Manuel nods after a while. Willem asks why he's not speaking and not to be scared because he is there. Manuel asks Willem to tell Emma to play for them.
130. Manuel is sitting in a chair. He is wearing casual clothes. His arm is in a sling. Willem is wearing other clothes as well: it is obvious that it is a different day. Emma is playing one of Hendrik's favourite (*geliefkoosde*) songs. Everyone is enjoying it.
131. Hendrik is on his trolley: busy with inspection. He is coming around the corner at full speed and singing at the top of his lungs.
132. Frans's bakkie stops at the McDonald's yard. He gets out with a basket in the one hand. A piano is playing somewhere.
133. Katrien is in the front of the house where Emma is playing. Manuel has his concertina on his lap and he is looking for the notes to fit in with Emma's music. She is playing fluently (*vlot*) and faultlessly. Katrien enjoys it. Then she hears someone knocking and goes out.
134. Katrien enters the kitchen and stops: Frans is by the kitchen table, the basket with fruit next to him.

They greet each other and Katrien immediately looks uncomfortable (*ongemaklik*). She tries to hide it, but he notices it. The music keeps playing uninterruptedly.

Katrien says that Frans hasn't been there in a while and he says he has been busy. She tells him to please stop bringing things and things become even more uncomfortable, if that is even possible. He says that he is going to town if she needs anything, but she declines the offer. She quickly empties the basket. He stands and watches her back: it is clear that he has a lot to say and it is also clear that his throat is closing up.

Katrien turns around and puts the basket in front of him by the corner of the table. Her hand is still on the hinge and he puts his

hand over hers. He says that he doesn't know how to say it because he is staying away due to, but then his words dry up. Katrien finishes his sentence by saying he is staying away due to all the stories and adds that she heard he got beaten up. He tries to hug Katrien, but she takes a step back. She asks him to rather not do that and he says she allowed him last time and wants to continue, but then she says that Willempie started talking again. He replies that he heard. She puts her hand over his and repeats that Willem started talking again. He says that he is happy and kisses her lightly on her hair. He walks without the basket, but Katrien calls him and hands it to him. **This is basically her saying to Frans that things are getting better with her family. This is Katrien saying goodbye.**

135. It's night time. Willem is in his bed and Katrien is sitting with him. She asks if he said goodnight to his father and he nods. She reminds him to pray (*bid*), kisses him on the forehead and as she gets ready (*gereed*) to blow out the candle (*kers*), three, four rocks rain down on the roof and the next moment the window shatters to pieces next them. They listen to Hendrik running out and cursing. Katrien tells Willem to rather sleep with them in the room, but he shakes his head and tells her to blow out the candle.

136. Hendrik's trolley is approaching the station. He looks tired and full of dust and angry. He takes his lunch box and hears someone laughing loudly. It sounds like Katrien, and it sounds like she is being tickled (*gekielie*). When he looks towards the yard, he sees Frans's bakkie. He throws his lunch box down and storms towards the house. One can see that he has had enough now. He's almost at the house when he changes his mind: he's first going to check things out instead of just storming in. So, he moves around the side of the house because the cajoling is coming from the front porch.

He suddenly bumps into Frans when he turns the corner, who, just like Hendrik, is trying to figure out what is going on. Hendrik hesitates just for a moment and then walks past Frans to the porch. The clown and Willem are busy doing tricks with a few balls. Katrien and Emma are watching and laughing at Manuel's antics because he keeps pretending to miss the ball and catches it then at the very last moment. Hendrik also finds it pretty amusing. Frans comes closer and stands next to Hendrik.

Hendrik turns to Frans, a sudden serious look on his face, and says Frans can consider himself lucky. When Frans asks why, Hendrik says he's just saying: talk about luck! Then he disappears around

the corner of the house. **Hendrik is obviously referring to Frans not being the cause of Katrien's laugh and happiness otherwise he would probably have gotten one good beating from Hendrik that day, for sure!**

137. Hendrik, Katrien, Emma, Willem and Manuel are all in the dining room together. It's after supper (*aandete*). Hendrik is busy fixing the hinge of an old leather bag with some heavy-duty string (*pikgare*) and a thick needle (*naald*). Emma is busy clearing the table (*af te dek*). Katrien is busy fixing Manuel's clown suit.

She says she is still not convinced that he is doing the right thing: he is not healthy yet. Hendrik says Manuel has ants (*miere*) in his pants. Manuel replies that it probably is the case, but he misses the circus. Hendrik says all he knows is that the hinge on the leather bag won't be breaking off again any time soon. Manuel takes the bag and thanks Hendrik.

Willem is busy making wall puppets with the light of the candle. He asks Manuel to look and then catches the clown in a moment of sadness (*aangedaan*), as if he wants to cry. Willem asks him what is the matter and he replies that it's nothing. Willem says Manuel said that laughing is better than crying. Manuel immediately shakes it off and says they have been so good to him, but Hendrik says he is the one who untied Willem's tongue. Manuel is surprised to hear this and Katrien confirms it by saying that Manuel put the "paljas", the magic, on Willem.

Willem sees how Manuel wipes his eyes. He takes out some drawing pencils from his pocket and says they are going to draw Manuel a face that isn't crying. Manuel asks who is crying and Willem says they are going to draw a clown to which Manuel replies that it's a good plan.

Willem starts drawing a clown-mask on Manuel's face.

138. A passenger train is in the station, ready to leave. Hendrik is standing on the platform and handing Manuel's things to him through the train window. Willem, Katrien, Emma and Nollie are there as well. Hendrik hands Manuel his concertina, but he shows him no.

He says that it's Willem's now and that he must learn how to play it. He turns to Willem and reminds him that he promised him to do it and to practice the notes he showed him. He turns back to Hendrik

and says Willem is going to learn how to play the concertina and he is going to keep smiling.

The train starts moving.

Hendrik tells Manuel to take something else: all his magic-things. They laugh. The train leaves. Everyone stands and waves. Willem runs next to Manuel's window and waves.

139. Katrien and Emma are busy getting ready. Katrien is wearing a pretty dress: it matches the blue earrings (*oorkrabbers*). Katrien asks Emma if she doesn't look a bit like a tart (meaning if she doesn't look a bit cheap), but Emma says she can't look like one even if they smeared her full of jam. There is a knock on the door. It's Hendrik. He is wearing a tie and jacket and white pants.

He remarks how beautiful Katrien looks and starts reciting Shakespeare. Emma finds it very funny. **Who knew that Hendrik of all people could recite Shakespeare's poems?! 😊**

140. It's dusk. It's the evening of the Volstruisdans. There are about fifty vehicles parked by a big sink structure. In a short montage one can see braaivleis fires, kids running around and screaming, people standing and laughing, ladies carrying trays filled with koeksisters, men at a beer tent ordering beer and passing it along.

At the end of the montage, Hendrik's car parks between the others. They all get out and Hendrik tells Willem to come to the car at ten o'clock to sleep. He tells Emma and Nollie to behave (*gedra*) themselves, then takes Katrien by the arm and asks her to dance with him.

At that very moment something hits Katrien on the chest (*hals*). It's something like an overripe tomato that bursts to pieces. She stops, shocked, touches the mess and looks at it. Then an egg hits Hendrik against the head. Another one hits Emma on her dress. People start laughing and then the eggs and tomatoes rain on Hendrik and his family.

Nollie tries to stand in front of Emma to stop her from getting hit. He tries to get her and Katrien back in the car. Willem looks like he has been petrified: he is still and quiet as a salt statue. Hendrik, on the other hand, flies into the crowd, trying to find where the eggs and tomatoes are coming from. Two, three men try to stop and hold

Hendrik down, but at the same time one can see how they try to convince (*oorreed*) the tomato-throwers to stop what they are doing.

The men manage to get Hendrik to the car and force him into the back. The rest of the family get in with Nollie behind the steering wheel and they drive off. Jan Moll and a few other young guys run after the car, throwing it with rocks.

141. It's pitch-black and dead quiet. Then a light goes on and Hendrik is standing in the front room with a lantern in his hand and his jacket over his arm. His face is dirty, his shirt torn (*geskeur*) and his bow tie is skew. Katrien is behind him. Her hair is messy and her dress full of egg. Then Emma and Willem enter. One can see that Emma has been crying. Nollie enters last. Emma sits down in a chair and Nollie sits on the armrest with his hand on her head. Katrien is leaning with her hands on the buffet.

She turns around and wishes everyone goodnight as she walks towards the hallway. But Hendrik stops her: he says they are all going to neaten up and then they are going to figure something out, but they are NOT going to bed. Emma is upset and asks why she has to go make herself look pretty again: what is the point. Hendrik says they are just going to continue as if nothing happened. Emma says that is what they have been doing all along and Hendrik asks if she wants to go sit on a heap and sulk again.

Emma points out what Katrien looks like, what they all look like and then she continues, now uncontrollably angry, about how those people chased them away like they were lepers (*melaatses*), but now they have to pretend like it didn't happen?! Hendrik asks her what she does: she runs away into the veld and Emma asks him why they are sitting at this backwards-station: because nothing happened?

Nollie tries to intervene, but Katrien pushes him away and goes to stand right in front of Hendrik. She says her mom walks around the house during the day, crying when she thinks no one can see her: why? Willem hasn't spoken in 2 years, but everyone just pretends like nothing happened: why? She continues by saying that they are going to talk about everything, even if it hurts. She looks at Katrien and Katrien agrees and when she looks at Hendrik, he says that he HAS been talking. About nonsense, yes, Emma says: he talks about nonsense all the time so they don't have to talk about what truly is bothering them.

Hendrik looks at Katrien and says they can talk: they will get clean and dressed again and then they can sit and talk.

Emma and Nollie leave the room. Hendrik looks at Katrien and says that Emma is a child, that she doesn't understand. Katrien puts her arms around Hendrik and says it's BECAUSE Emma understands.

There is suddenly a light from outside shining in to the window.

142. Three, four cars are driving towards the house. Hendrik appears and watches the car lights. He tells the others, who came out to see what is going on, to go back into the house. The cars shut off their lights: Sakkie du Toit is the first to get out of his car. Ouderling Bothma and Thys Briekman also get out. There are other people in the cars, but they remain there.

Hendrik greets them. Ouderling Bothma greets back. He looks uncomfortable. Sakkie says they just came to apologize about for what happened at the Volstruisdans and what the other people did, wasn't right. Hendrik says it's fine and opens his arms saying they are all ok. Ouderling Bothma says the people started leaving: the dance is an epic fail. Hendrik invites them in, saying he was just about to pour some drinks. Sakkie says their wives are still in the car and Hendrik tells him to go get them.

He motions them to come over as two more cars park by the others.

143. Nollie and Emma are alone in the dining room. There are voices and music and laughing coming from next door in the anteroom. Emma stands next to a chair with her hand on the armrest. Nollie puts his hand over hers: they both know what is going to happen next. They kiss. The middle door flies open and Willem catches them kissing. He has the concertina in the one hand and an egg in the other. He is staring at them and Emma asks if he is unable to knock before entering a room. Nollie asks where he is going with the egg and Emma asks if he is doing tricks again to which Willem replies that Hendrik asked him to. He goes out onto the porch with a bunch of handkerchiefs bundling under his shirt.

144. The McDonald's porch is full of people laughing and making a noise. One can hear Hendrik's music over the noise. He is walking around with his watering can (*tuinigietertjie*) topping up people's drinks.

145. Katrien comes out onto the porch with a tray full of glasses. Willem stands and watches his parents. Katrien says something to Hendrik in his ear and he laughs. He puts his watering can down and tries to hug Katrien, but the tray is in the way.

Willem goes and sits on the porch wall with the concertina by his ear and he presses a few notes, but he can't hear anything. He gets hold of a piece of black string (*lyn*) that is sticking out of his sleeve (*hempsmou*). He starts to pull on it. A metre, two, five, ten metre line. He ties the one point of the line to the concertina's handle (*handstuk*).

There is sudden laughter and Willem sees how his parents are dancing. Everyone is clapping rhythmically as they are dancing.

146. Willem jumps off on the outside of the porch wall and walks across the yard. There are about 20 cars now.

147. Against the light from the house one can see how Willem starts climbing up the windpomp. He sits on the platform. The people are still rhythmically clapping hands. Willem starts to hoist (*ophys*) something up: it's Manuel's concertina.

The music on the porch stops. The laughing and the noise now sound far away. Willem takes the concertina and starts playing with his ear against the instrument. A simple (*eenvoudige*) melody (*wysie*). Four or five notes over and over again. One can vaguely see the silhouettes of the people at the house, but now one can just hear Willem playing the concertina.

THE END