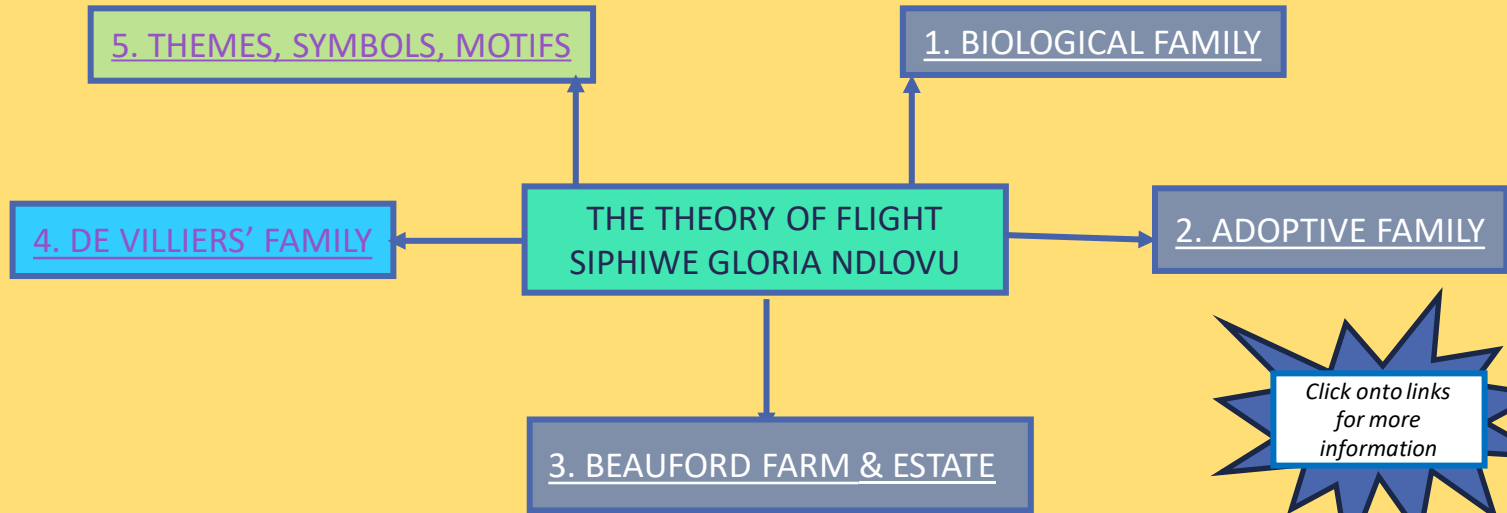




# The Theory of Flight

by Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu

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1. Grandfather: Baines Tikiti *in a bid to quench his wanderlust, walked into the Indian Ocean.*

2. Grandmother: Prudence Ngoma *learned how to build character*

married

son

daughter

3. Father: Golide Gumede *shot down an aeroplane and in so doing created a race of angels.*

5. Aunty: Minenhle Tikiti

partner

IMOGEN ZULA NYONI GENIE  
BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

7. Mordechai Gatiro

married

daughter

6. Imogen Zula Nyoni GENIE

4. Mother: Elizabeth Nyoni *turn of an ankle*

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## GRANDFATHER: BAINES TIKITI

Name: Bafana Ndlelaphi

Born: Ezulwini Estate

*`in a bid to quench his wanderlust, walked into the Indian Ocean'*

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2. [Mr Chalmers' Benevolence](#)
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## BAINES TIKITI: Early Life

1. An enterprising, young, black man, with the opportunity to travel the country.
2. Baines felt he was born in the wrong century with the wrong name.
3. His name, Bafana Ndlelaphi, meant *'boys, which is the way'*.
4. He changed his name to Baines Tikiti, which implied *'a ticket to go on a journey.'*  
He felt it gave him purpose.
5. As an assistant to a travelling Greek salesman, Baines dealt with marginalized communities.
6. He used lies and his charming, seductive personality, to immorally get people to part with the little they had.

[return to: BAINES TIKITI](#)



## BAINES TIKITI: Mr Chalmers' Benevolence

1. Genie's grandfather, Baines Tikiti, was born on the Ezulwini Estate.
2. He was christened Bafana Ndlelaphi.
3. Mr. Chalmers, gentleman farmer of the Estate, taught Baines to read and write.
4. Mr. Chalmers' library had journals of explorers (David Livingstone, Thomas Baines, Henry Stanley).
5. Baines had an affinity with the explorers as he felt that he too was an explorer.
6. He named his son, Livingstone Stanley Tikiti, after the explorers.

[return to: BAINES TIKITI](#)



## BAINES TIKITI: Marriage

1. At Guqhuka (Beauford Farm and Estate) Baines Tikiti meets Prudence Ngoma who does not initially succumb to his sales charm.
2. They later marry, and Prudence moves to Ezulwini.
3. The marriage does not cure Baines' wanderlust. He moves to South Africa to work, and he sends money to Prudence.
4. He returns after 5 years with enchanting stories. A son is born a year later.
5. Baines christens his son Livingstone Stanley Tikiti, by post.
6. After the boy's second birthday, Prudence visits Baines, alone.
7. Prudence learns of Baines' obsession with aeroplanes.

[return to: BAINES TIKITI](#)



## BAINES TIKITI: Wanderlust

1. His marriage does not cure his wanderlust.
2. He leaves beyond the borders of Rhodesia, into South Africa.
3. He gets a job as a travelling salesman for His Master's Voice Gramophones. He was entranced by the magic of the machine.
4. He buys a convertible car.
5. He wants his family to be seen travelling the country.

[return to: BAINES TIKITI](#)





## BAINES TIKITI: Achievements and Challenges

### Achievements:

1. He prepares a life for his family: he buys a house, bed, sofa, stove, convertible.
2. The convertible is a sign of status: *'his family to have the best view; his family to be seen travelling.'*
3. He sends for his family, five years later.

### Challenges:

1. The skin condition of his son: albino, luminescent, translucent, vulnerable.
2. Baines' realisation: he loved the boy, but they could not share the same life.
3. *'his heart breaking, he sends his family back to Ezulwini.'*
4. He continues to send money to his family.

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## GRANDMOTHER: PRUDENCE NGOMA

Name: Prudence Ngoma

*'learned how to build character'*

1. [Baines Tikiti](#)
2. [Strength of Character](#)
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## PRUDENCE NGOMA: Baines Tikiti

1. Prudence meets Baines Tikiti when he visits Guqhuka as a salesman.
2. She initially resists his sales charm.
3. He is charmed by her strong character; he later proposes, and she accepts.
4. When her marriage fails, she returns home to Guqhuka, which later becomes Beauford Farm and Estate, with her two children: Livingstone Stanley and Minenhle (*I, the beautiful one*).

[return to: PRUDENCE NGOMA](#)



## PRUDENCE NGOMA: Strength of Character

*'she could no longer return the love of a man as blinded and foolish as not to see his own son's beauty.'*

1. Prudence religiously sends Baines Tikiti's money back.
2. After receiving another return-to-sender. Baines walks into the Indian Ocean.
3. On hearing the news of her husband's suicide, Prudence hopes he had *'fulfilled his wanderlust'*.
4. Does this convey a sense of bitterness or is she pragmatic?

[return to: PRUDENCE NGOMA](#)



## PRUDENCE NGOMA: Influence on her Children

1. Character is most important.
2. Charm is not important. This hints at criticism of Baines.
3. A person's character speaks of his inner strength.
4. She raises her children to:
  - have character.
  - be proud and strong.
  - not be afraid of humility and vulnerability.
  - never feel or look defeated by whatever life deals to them.

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## FATHER: GOLIDE GUMEDE

Name: Livingstone Stanley Tikiti

*'shot down an aeroplane and in so doing created a race of angels'*

1. [Influence of his Father](#)
2. [Influence of his Mother](#)
3. [Freedom Fighter](#)
4. [Elizabeth Nyoni](#)
5. [Consequences of his Actions](#)

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## GOLIDE GUMEDE: Influence of his Father

1. As the young Livingstone Stanley, he develops a love for planes from his father, Baines Tikiti.
2. He sees pictures of aeroplanes on his father's walls.
3. Livingstone draws and makes aeroplanes.
4. He returns from his father with *'the memory of a distant father and a knowledge and understanding of flight.'*

[return to: GOLIDE GUMEDE](#)





## GOLIDE GUMEDE: Influence of his Mother

1. It was because of his mother, Prudence, that Golide (Livingstone) became a natural leader: self-confident, proud and a visionary.
2. His self-possession made him a natural leader; his self-confidence instilled confidence in others.
3. People gravitated towards him because he was not what they expected.
4. He was not ashamed of his skin.
5. They believed that he saw into the future and the future was good.
6. *`just in being he held a promise and people were happy to follow him.'*

[return to: GOLIDE GUMEDE](#)





## GOLIDE GUMEDE: Freedom Fighter

1. As a visionary, Golide joins the freedom fighters because their cause is just.
2. His nom de guerre, Golide Gumedede, which means '*fields of gold*', is what he envisioned for his people after the war.
3. His obsession with flight takes him to Russia to study aeronautical engineering.
4. September 3, 1978: he shoots down the Vickers Viscount - '*when independence arrives - people would need to know that they were capable of flight.*'
5. He then witnesses the magnificence of the mighty elephants swimming in the Zambezi River. He knows that in the grander scheme of things that he is just a speck.

[return to: GOLIDE GUMEDE](#)



## GOLIDE GUMEDE: Elizabeth Nyoni

1. While on a mission in Victoria Falls, Golide meets and marries Elizabeth Nyoni: he caught sight of an ankle in a high, red, platform shoe. *'He wanted that ankle to be a part of his life.'*
2. He commits to taking her to Nashville to sing.
3. He tells her that after the war he will make a home on the farm, and she promises to go ahead and prepare one for him.
4. After he met Elizabeth, his life makes sense, and the possibility of flight becomes real.

[return to: GOLIDE GUMEDE](#)



## GOLIDE GUMEDE: Consequences of his Actions

1. Golide returns after Independence, a hero, to: ululations, celebrations, warrior dances, dancing, and chanting. This spontaneous excess of joy is not unwarranted.
2. The quality of life on the Estate changes after Independence: more traffic, mobile library, mobile clinic, the MacKenzie bus comes twice a week.
3. He is a hero in the eyes of many and a villain in the eyes of many others.
4. There are no clear lines between cause and effect for Golide to understand.
5. Vengeance for Golide's heroic act will lead to devastation and bloodshed on Beauford Farm and Estate.

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## MOTHER: ELIZABETH NYONI

1. [Meets Golide](#)
2. [Lives on The Estate](#)
3. [Cherishes Genie](#)
4. [Her Impact on Marcus](#)

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## ELIZABETH NYONI: Meets Golide

*'sealed her fate with the turn of her ankle'*

1. Her comment to Golide: *'Waiting. That is definitely no way to treat a lady.'*
2. Country-and-western singer, self-styled after Dolly Parton. Sings sad love songs.
3. She needs to make her way to Nashville Tennessee, to sing.

[return to: ELIZABETH NYONI](#)



## ELIZABETH NYONI: Lives on The Estate

1. Elizabeth descends in a cloud of dust on the Estate with a golden egg.
2. She is a foreign concept in Beauford Farm and Estate:
  - blonde hair and colourful clothes.
  - self-confidence and self-esteem.
  - determination, drive and ambition to be a country-and-western singer.
  - marches to the beat of her own drum.
3. She presents Thandi Hadebe with many possibilities.
4. She has an impact on a 'motherless' Marcus.

[return to: ELIZABETH NYONI](#)



## ELIZABETH NYONI: Cherishes Genie

1. Elizabeth treats Genie like a golden egg.
2. Jestina accuses Elizabeth of being proud and vain. Elizabeth accepts it because Genie is as beautiful as she is.
3. She keeps Genie close to her when she is washing and cooking.
4. She combs and plaits their hair.
5. She dresses Genie in bright colours, sings to her and twirls her in the air and giggles with immense joy.
6. They bathe together with laughter and giggles.

[return to: ELIZABETH NYONI](#)





## ELIZABETH NYONI: Impact on Marcus

1. Elizabeth has an impact on a 'motherless' Marcus.
2. He is fascinated by the relationship between Elizabeth and Genie.
3. Elizabeth dresses in the colours of the rainbow. She has long straight, flowing, golden hair.
4. She allows Marcus to be friends with Genie; he has to promise that he will not become a politician, but instead a real revolutionary.
5. MARCUS' GUILT: He has to promise Elizabeth that he will take care of Genie: he holds Genie's hands, but the wind gets stronger until he has no choice but to let her hand go.

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[return to: ELIZABETH NYONI](#)





## MINENHLE TIKITI

Brother: Golide Gumede

Niece: Genie Golide

1. [Incident at The Estate](#)
2. [C10](#)
3. [Relationship with Mordechai](#)
4. [Thandi Masuku](#)
5. [Valentine Tanaka](#)

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## MINENHLE TIKITI: Incident at the Estate

1. Minenhle was Thandi Hadebe's Domestic Science teacher on the Estate.
2. Minenhle's relationship with Thandi Hadebe on the Beauford Farm and Estate results in an incident that deeply affects Thandi.
3. [Thandi Hadebe: Relationship with Minenhle.](#)

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)



## MINENHLE TIKITI: C10

1. As Golide Gumede's sister, Minenhle Tikiti, is taken in by C10 and brutally interrogated.
2. Through it all, she never gives up Golide, nor does she betray herself.
3. C10 falls in love with her during the interrogation and gives up his desire to die.
4. He has found a new purpose in life: to undo the pain he has caused her.
5. C10 is Mordechai Gatiro.

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)



## MINENHLE TIKITI: Relationship with Mordechai

1. Mordechai, during his interrogation of Minenhle, falls in love with her and is intent on undoing the pain he has caused her.
2. Mordechai Gatiro makes changes to himself before he goes for Minenhle Tikiti.
3. [Mordechai Gatiro and Minenhle Tikiti.](#)

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)



## MINENHLE TIKITI: Thandi Masuku

1. Thandi Hadebe and Minenhle Tikiti meet up again, later in life.
2. When looking for Genie, Thandi approaches Minenhle requesting that she withdraw her report of Genie's death in 1987.
3. The Masukus want a DS 8044 Z to report Genie missing.
4. The tension between Minenhle and Thandi is evident in their interaction.

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)



## MINENHLE TIKITI: Valentine

1. Minenhle had reported Genie's death in 1987, as she thought that Genie had died on the Estate, when *the sojas* had attacked.
2. Minenhle approaches Valentine to reverse the report, to report the un-death of Imogen, to enable the Masukus to report Genie missing.
3. Minenhle's strength of character is shown in what she says:
  - She advocates Vida de Villiers' innocence.
  - She confronts Valentine on the role that the state plays in their lives.
  - She suggests that the Masukus will bribe their way to hold Vida responsible for Genie's death.

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)



## GENIE'S EARLY LIFE

1. [Elizabeth Nyoni](#)
2. [Friendship with Marcus](#)
3. [Golide](#)
4. [Jestina](#)

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## GENIE'S EARLY LIFE: Elizabeth Nyoni

1. When Genie is born, Elizabeth realises that she is bound to Golide Gumede for an eternity.
2. Genie's birth is beautiful and golden. Elizabeth sees her as a shiny, golden egg.
3. Elizabeth treats Genie like a delicate egg. She carries her everywhere.
4. Genie believes that she is extra-ordinary because she was hatched from a golden egg.
5. She sees her mother with a rainbow of colour trailing behind her. This adds to her spectacular life.

[return to: GENIE'S EARLY LIFE](#)





## GENIE'S EARLY LIFE: Friendship with Marcus

1. Genie and Marcus discover the sunflowers and play happily amongst them.
2. Through the sunflowers they learn that after death there is life again.
3. *'The friendship that blossomed between Marcus and Genie was a much-needed balm' for the Estate.*
4. [The Sunflowers](#)
5. [The Brown Car](#)
6. [With Marcus](#)

[return to: GENIE'S EARLY LIFE](#)



## GENIE'S EARLY LIFE: Golide

1. Golide has been absent for most of Genie's childhood.
2. Genie does remember that her parents never fought.
3. When he returns after Independence, she recognises him and runs to him.
4. When Genie sits perched on her father's shoulders, she can see the extent of the sunflower fields and the world.

[return to: GENIE'S EARLY LIFE](#)



## GENIE'S EARLY LIFE: Jestina

1. When the *sojas* attack Beauford Farm and Estate, Jestina finds Genie in the Hadebe's home and takes care of her.
2. [JESTINA NXUMALO: Cares for Genie](#)

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## MORDECHAI GATIRO

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [C10](#)
3. [Minenhle Tikiti](#)
4. [Irony of his Relationship with Minenhle](#)

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## MORDECHAI GATIRO: Early Life

1. He grew up in Mokokoba township. He lived in an orphanage.
2. He was bullied as a child. He grew up as an angry child.
3. He was sent to Reform School, but he refused to acquire skills or an education.
4. He was always getting into fights.
5. He wished to die young.
6. He joined the war, as a freedom fighter or a terrorist.
7. He did not care. He hoped he would get caught and killed.

[return to: MORDECHAI GATIRO](#)



## MORDECHAI GATIRO: C10

1. Mordechai did not care for his own life, nor the lives of others.
2. He becomes The Organization's best interrogator, referred to as C10.
3. Through his efforts the Organisation discovers that Golide Gumedé has a sister, Minenhle Tikiti, who lives on The Beauford Farm and Estate.
4. Mordechai interrogates her about Golide: working and walking stealthily, attacking her with gentle words and brute force, with a lit cigarette, a knife, heel of a boot, burning, cutting and crushing.
5. In his interrogation of Minenhle, she gives up nothing, but he gives up something – his desire to die.

[return to: MORDECHAI GATIRO](#)



## MORDECHAI GATIRO: Minenhle Tikiti

1. Mordechai falls in love with Minenhle during the interrogation.
2. With this new purpose in life - to undo the pain he has caused Minenhle- he gives up his desire to die.
3. It takes him years to prepare himself. He leaves his job at The Organisation.
4. At National Archives, with an amending spirit: he repairs and restores books.
5. He mends spines and fixes tears. He changes his voice to avoid recognition.
6. He later goes to Beauford Farm and Estate for Minenhle.
7. 1983: Mordechai leaves with Minenhle on the MacKenzie bus.

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)

[return to: MORDECHAI GATIRO](#)



## MORDECHAI GATIRO: Irony of his Relationship with Minenhle

1. The irony of Mordechai's relationship with Minenhle as reported by Valentine-Mordechai knows how to treat a lady:
  - They share everything.
  - They sit close to each other.
  - She leans on him.
  - He uses his suit jacket as a cushion on which she can sit.
  - He holds the door open for her and holds up the umbrella for her.
2. Her interrogator from The Organisation had butchered her face, burnt her body, crushed her spine.
3. C10 is the nom de guerre for Mordechai.

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7. Eunice Masuku: Dingani's mother

married

8. Mbongeni Masuku: Dingani's father

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for more  
information

son

ADOPTIVE FAMILY

6. The Masukus

1. GENIE'S NEW LIFE

Partner: Vida De Villiers

4. Adoptive Father: Dingani Masuku  
*blue-violet flowers on his mother's dress*

married

5. Adoptive Mother: Thandi Hadebe  
*looked into the distance*

2. Adoptive Brother: Marcus Masuku  
*love under a jacaranda tree*

son

daughter

3. Adoptive Sister: Krystle Masuku  
*welcomes guilt*

9. Valentine Tanaka

Masukus seek his help to find Genie

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE

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2. [Relationship with Marcus](#)
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4. [Genie's Accident](#)
5. [Dr Prisca Mambo](#)
6. [Genie's Life with Vida](#)
7. [Genie: The Firebird](#)
8. [Her Death](#)

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE: With the Masukus

1. Adopting Genie into their family is a surprise for Marcus. Eunice disapproves.
2. Eunice believes that the family is perfect with 4, and with her as the overseer.
3. Genie and Krystle become close. Marcus visits during the holidays from boarding school. Then the 3 spend time together.
4. When Genie hits puberty, she begins changing. She has a new friend, Suzanne.
5. Genie's accident when she is 16 years old, changes the course of her life.
6. Thandi, Dingani and Eunice know of her HIV status and inform Marcus of it.
7. Genie remains with the family for 2 more years and leaves on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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## GENIE NEW LIFE: Relationship with Marcus

1. [MARCUS: Meets Genie Again](#)
2. Genie says to Marcus: *`My letting you go is my way of loving you.'*
3. Marcus taught her about absence:
  - that like a presence, it occupies space.
  - *`It has proportions, parameters, and a sense of permanence.'*
  - *`You cannot take another's presence with you wherever you go, but another's absence need never leave you.'*

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE: Genie's Accident

1. When Thandi does not fetch Genie and Krystle from school, they walk to Dingani's office.
2. Genie overhears the argument between Thandi and Dingani where Thandi accuses Dingani of prostituting her to The Man Himself.
3. Dingani justifies this by saying that that is the price they pay for their lifestyle.
4. Genie decides to leave to go to Suzanne's house. Krystle refuses to accompany her, but later changes her mind and decides to join Genie.
5. When Genie turns back, responding to Krystle calling out her name, she is knocked by Kuki, and goes flying through the air.
6. Genie is saved by Jesus when she lands in his pushcart.

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE: Dr Prisca Mambo

1. Dr Prisca Mambo informs Genie of her HIV status.
2. Genie's only question, at 16 and in her school uniform, is: *'How long do I have?'*
3. Genie's response to Dr Mambo's response is: *'Five years is long enough for me to do something good with my life.'*
4. Dr Mambo sees undeniable wisdom in Genie's eyes, and experiences Genie's defiance.
5. She assumes the HIV is from a contaminated blood transfusion. She treats Genie for more than 20 years.
6. She classifies Vida and Genie's love as inseparable: *'a rare commodity as she has found someone to love and someone to love her. The HIV was theirs.'*
7. With cervical cancer Genie's defiance presents itself as peaceful surrender.
8. Genie, at 39 and in a coma, disappears from Mate Dei Hospital.

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE: Life with Vida

1. [VIDA: Genie Goes to Vida](#)
2. [VIDA: On the Streets with Genie](#)
3. [VIDA: Vida and Genie's Relationship](#)
4. [VIDA: Genie Hospitalised](#)

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## GENIE: The Firebird

1. The sculpture, '*The Firebird*' by artist Vida De Villiers, which is owned by Marcus Masuku, is on display in the National Art Gallery.
2. Marcus can own a piece that represents Genie as he cannot own the real Genie.
3. [BIRDS: The Firebird](#)

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## GENIE'S NEW LIFE: Her Death

1. She chooses her own ending: to die in the sunflower fields, with her toes buried in the red soil.
2. The sunflowers are symbolic of rebirth: Marcus and Genie learnt that after death there is life again, that after an ending there is a new beginning.
3. *'to fly away on a giant pair of silver wings'*: the spiritual ascends.
4. *'and leave her heart behind to calcify into the most precious and beautiful something'*: the physical that remains within the survivors.
5. The survivors on the Estate, those living in a post-colonial state, witness Genie's passing and are left with the hope of something better for the future: to live off the land that belongs to them and benefit from its resources.

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## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN

Adoptive Brother: Marcus Malcolm Martin Masuku

*'love happened under a jacaranda tree while he was listening to a story about swimming elephants'*

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Genie and Marcus](#)
3. [The Gumedes](#)
4. [Meets Genie Again](#)
5. [Esme](#)
6. [Saying Goodbye to Genie](#)

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## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: Early Life

*'love happened under a jacaranda tree while he was listening to a story about swimming elephants'*

1. Marcus is raised by strictly spiritual grandparents, the Hadebe, on the Estate.
2. He is determined to find something in this young life that will give him a sense of belonging.
3. He finds it on his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday in the form of Elizabeth Nyoni.
4. After Independence, Thandi and Dingani arrive to remove Marcus for fear of his safety. Marcus, guilty and embarrassed by their appearance, rips his mother's earlobe and bites her, in resistance.
5. Genie salutes him goodbye, as he leaves.

[return to: MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN](#)



## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: Genie and Marcus

1. Marcus was fascinated by Elizabeth and Genie.
2. Marcus enjoyed their warm scent of vanilla, their soothing voices, generous laughter and genuine happiness – qualities missing in his upbringing.
3. Elizabeth allows Marcus to be Genie's friend. He promises to take good care of Genie.
4. Marcus and Genie discover the field of sunflowers and play happily in it.
5. Through the sunflowers they learn that after death there is life again.

[return to: GENIE](#)

[return to: MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN](#)



## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: The Gumedes

1. When Golide returns after Independence, Marcus experiences great terror when Genie runs to the stranger.
2. It is only when Marcus sees the gap between the teeth does Marcus realise that the man is Golide, Genie's father.
3. Marcus basks in the warmth of the relationship of the Gumedes.
4. He feels a deep sense of belonging when he is with Elizabeth and Golide: when he walks between them, and they hold his hands.

[return to: MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN](#)



## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: Meets Genie Again

1. 1988: Marcus meets Genie again when she is 11. Genie is as colourful as ever, but her smile, like his mother's, does not reach her eyes.
2. This could suggest the loss of her childhood, at 9 years old.
3. At 17 years old, Marcus falls in love under a jacaranda tree as he listens to a story about elephants swimming in the Zambezi River.
4. Genie makes him promise that he will go to see the elephants.
5. He kisses Geni but is dragged off by his grandmother.
6. MARCUS' GUILT: When his grandmother announces Genie's HIV status, he lets go of Genie's hand and wipes his mouth of her kiss.

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[return to: MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN](#)





## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: Esme

1. Marcus undertakes an apprenticeship, in America, in the finance department of one of the nation's Fortune 500 companies.
2. He marries Esme, a lawyer. They are living overseas with their 3 children when he returns to find Genie. When Esme first met Genie, she loved her.
3. Esme was welcomed into The Masuku family but is excluded when it comes to Genie.
4. She was attracted to the beauty of the Masukus, but later realises that they are fragile, a breath away from breaking.
5. Esme understands that she has Marcus during the day because at night he is with Genie in memories, in dreams, in fantasies, in nightmares.

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## MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN: Saying Goodbye to Genie

1. Marcus was holding on to something that Genie let go of a long time ago.
2. Memories linked to:
  - The world atlas with the hand-print of Genie as a child.
  - A photograph of him and Genie in the Brown Car.
3. He questions whether Genie had ever belonged to them.
4. He acknowledges the sense of emptiness and silence in their lives without Genie.
5. He leads the procession to Victoria Falls to see the elephants: a promise to Genie.

[return to: MARCUS MALCOLM MARTIN](#)





## KRYSTLE

*'At puberty welcomed guilt as her constant companion.'*

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Relationship with Genie](#)
3. [Her Guilt](#)
4. [Coming of Age](#)
5. [Later life](#)
6. [Xander Dangerfield](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)



## KRYSTLE: Early Life

1. Krystle was born overseas. She returns to Zimbabwe when she is about 5.
2. She leaves Zimbabwe when she is 17, to live overseas.
3. She has no official documents for the country, Zimbabwe.
4. She does not remember Genie or Beauford Farm and Estate.
5. She feels forced to return home when she hears that Genie is in a coma.
6. If she does not return to be at Genie's side, she feels that she will once again look like the 'bad guy' and Marcus will once again be the hero.

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)



## KRYSTLE: Relationship with Genie

1. At first, Krystle associated the Beauford Farm and Estate with princesses, and thought that she would not like Genie, but she likes Genie when she establishes that Genie will always be inferior to her.
2. Whenever Marcus returns from school, the 3 play games with imagination.
3. When Genie is thirteen, she becomes friends with Suzanna Da Silva and her interests change. This affects her relationship with Krystle; Krystle feels excluded.
4. Krystle considers herself responsible for Genie's illness, believing that Genie contracted HIV through a blood transfusion due to the accident.
5. Every time Krystle said: *'Please forgive me'*, Genie responded with, *'There is nothing to forgive'*.

[return to: GENIE](#)

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)



## KRYSTLE: Her Guilt

1. Krystle believes that she caused Genie's accident.
2. She also feels responsible for Genie's HIV status, believing that Genie contracted it from a blood transfusion following the accident.
3. When she asks Genie to forgive her, Genie says: *'There is nothing to forgive.'*
4. Her guilt is intensified by:
  - her family not talking about the accident.
  - the lengths her family go to to make her not feel responsible for Genie's illness.

[return to: GUILT](#)

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)



## KRYSTLE: Coming of Age

1. Krystle's coming of age is symbolic of her growing up and facing truths.
2. It happens on the same day that Genie's HIV status is revealed to Marcus.
3. The reference to Krystle's menstruation links to Genie bleeding on the mattress, and to Genie's loss of innocence by the *sojas*.
4. Krystle apologises to Genie believing that Genie contracted HIV from a blood transfusion following the accident that Krystle causes.
5. Eunice's harsh erasure of Genie's presence and her slapping Krystle, when Genie leaves 2 years later, forces Krystle to accept Genie's departure from the family.

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)



## KRYSTLE: Later Life

1. Krystle returns home from overseas when Genie is in a coma. Things have changed abruptly. The house and gardens have fallen to ruin.
2. Thandi has chopped down the jacaranda trees: Krystle understands its significance to Marcus, but Thandi does not.
3. A reference to Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem, 'Binsey Poplars', reinforces Krystle's sentiments of senseless destruction.
4. Her room, frozen in time, is a monument to Genie's absence.
5. She recalls Eunice erasing Genie from their lives. She wishes that she had not been home to be witness to that.
6. Eunice has changed from strong and formidable to senile and frail.

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)





### KRYSTLE: Xander Dangerfield

1. Krystle meets Xander when she takes the injured bird to animal rescue.
2. She refers to Xander as a superhero.
3. He flirts with her asking if she is in need of rescuing.
4. She leaves behind, with the bird, her postcard of Victoria Falls from Genie.
5. She meets Xander again when the funeral procession arrives at Victoria Falls.
6. Xander's presence was inspired by Genie's postcard of Victoria Falls:

*'Remember, there will be the time of the swimming elephants'*

7. He comes to see the swimming of the elephants for himself.
8. Genie's postcard message is one of hope for the future.

[return to: KRYSTLE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE

*'looked into the distance as though it held a future in which she was not particularly interested.'*

1. [Beauford Farm and Estate](#)
2. [Relationship with Minenhle](#)
3. [Influenced by Elizabeth Nyoni](#)
4. [Marries Dingani](#)
5. [Minenhle Later in Life](#)
6. [Thandi and Dingani](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)





## THANDI HADEBE: Beauford Farm and Estate

1. Thandi was born on Beauford Farm and Estate, to parents Mr. and Mrs. Hadebe.
2. She saw herself as beautiful because everyone told her so.
3. As she got older, she realised that her beauty gave her power: she never had to struggle; she made friends easily; teachers favoured her; she got special attention.
4. She escapes from the Estate and memories of the bad experience at 16.
5. She returns to leave her son, Marcus Malcolm Martin with her parents, when she focuses on a new life in America with Dingani.
6. Dingani and Thandi return to fetch Marcus in 1988 when they hear of people disappearing from the area in which Marcus lives.

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE: Relationship with Minenhle

1. At 16, Thandi was vain about her beauty because it gained her ease and favour.
2. Minenhle, her Domestic Science teacher, was not charmed by Thandi's beauty. She pushed her to be ambitious. Thandi labels Minenhle's behaviour as jealousy.
3. When the *sojas* came and harassed Minenhle's class, they forced her to choose the prettiest girl. Thandi did not want to be it, but Minenhle pointed at her.
4. Thandi vowed then that she would never forget nor forgive the look of satisfaction she believed she saw on Minenhle's face.
5. The *sojas* humiliated and insulted Thandi, then ordered her into the pit latrine.
6. Her father pulled her out; her mother scrubbed her, but she did not feel clean.

[return to: MINENHLE TIKITI](#)

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE: Influenced by Elizabeth Nyoni

1. Elizabeth suggests to Thandi that she should become a model in the city.
2. It has been Thandi's dream to escape the memories of the Estate.
3. She leaves on the MacKenzie bus.
4. She moves to the city to start a new life, '*unblemished, unbesmirched.*'
5. She meets Dingani Masuku.
6. During their relationship she was a runner-up, twice a first princess, and crowned queen of several beauty contests.
7. She also appeared on the cover of *Parade* magazine.

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE: Marries Dingani

1. Thandi meets Dingani Masuku in the city when his band is playing at a show.
2. When Dingani receives a scholarship to study medicine in USA, Thandi decides that the baby will interfere with them realising their dreams in America.
3. She leaves the baby, Marcus. with her parents, Mr and Mrs Hadebe, on Beauford Farm and Estate.
4. In America, she does not pursue a bachelor's degree, and a modelling career does not pursue her.
5. She was financially very successful, dressing mannequins in windows of a high-end department store.

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE: Minenhle Later in Life

1. When looking for Genie, Thandi approaches Minenhle in an awkward meeting.
2. Thandi later confesses to Marcus that she bought the florist shop that Minenhle wanted to buy as an act of revenge against Minenhle for her part in Thandi's humiliation on the Estate.
3. She justifies her actions by stating that Minenhle would not have been able to afford it.
4. Thandi mocks Minenhle's living conditions.
5. Thandi sees herself as a saviour to Genie, taking her out of the poverty in which Minenhle would have raised her.

[return to: MINENHLETIKITI](#)

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## THANDI HADEBE: Thandi and Dingani

1. The Masukus lived a lavish lifestyle.
2. Genie is witness to Thandi's anger when she confronts Dingani about the familiarity of The Man Himself towards her: *'he comes into my house, my home, and says because he owns you, I'm his property too.'*
3. Dingani's response is: *'the house, the lifestyle, it came at a price.'*
4. Thandi is angry with Dingani who, in prostituting himself, has prostituted her.
5. She later leaves Dingani and moves to Belgium.

[return to: THANDI HADEBE](#)



## ADOPTIVE FATHER: DINGANI MASUKU

Wife: Thandi Hadebe

Son: Marcus

Daughter: Krystle

*`came to be haunted by the blue-violet flowers on his mother's dress'*

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Later Life](#)
3. [Dingani and Politics](#)
4. [Guilt](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)





### DINGANI MASUKU: Early Life

1. Dingani did not understand the hardships he experienced under his father.
2. When he was 9, he saw his mother transform from a baby-pink housemaid's uniform into a beautiful dress with large blue-violet flowers.
3. He accompanied his mother and watched how fearlessly she reclaimed her life, and he felt fear of his mother.
4. He was determined never to disappoint her; he ensured he excelled in everything.

[return to: DINGANI MASUKU](#)





## DINGANI MASUKU: Later Life

1. Dingani formed a band with his friends, Xolani and Jameson.
2. His band paid tribute to 50s and 60s pop music rather than the politically conscious music of the time.
3. On Dec 31, 1974, at a show, he fell in love with Thandi Hadebe, who wore a pink carnation in her hair.
4. He received a scholarship to study medicine in USA, where he qualified as a doctor.
5. He married Thandi Hadebe.

[return to: DINGANI MASUKU](#)



## DINGANI MASUKU: Dingani and Politics

1. Dingani believed that if his father had not been imprisoned for politics in 1965, Dingani would not have caused the deaths of the people on the Estate in 1987.
2. Whenever Dingani thought of politics, he remembered the blue-violet flowers on his mother's dress and felt fear.
3. His friends, Xolani and Jameson, were politicised and radicalised at the state university.
4. After Independence, they questioned Dingani on his political views. He thought he needed politics in his life, especially when he witnessed the passionate debates of his friends.
5. To impress Xolani and Jameson, he exposes and identifies Golide Gumede.
6. He is picked up by The Organisation and exposes Golide to The Man Himself. This results in the killing of the Beauford Farm and Estate residents.

[return to: DINGANI MASUKU](#)



## DINGANI MASUKU: Guilt

1. Dingani tries to convince himself that there was no connection between himself, The Man Himself and the events on Beauford Farm and Estate.
2. The attack on the Estate is a result of Dingani's exposure of Golide Gumede.
3. He is haunted by the images of the blue-violet flowers of his mother's dress.
4. His guilt is evident in his adoption of Genie. He does everything in his power to adopt Genie, including the possibility of bribery.
5. He hides the cheques for exorbitant amounts, his payoff, made by The Man Himself.
6. When The Man Himself convinces him to deposit the cheques, he creates a trust for Genie.
7. Financial difficulties caused by the faltering economy and their lavish lifestyle, force him to squander the trust fund.

[return to: GUILT](#)

[return to: DINGANI MASUKU](#)



## THE MASUKUS

1. [Lifestyle](#)
2. [Claiming Genie](#)
3. [Reaction to Genie's Death](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)



## THE MASUKUS: Lifestyle

1. Dingani and Thandi returned from America in 1988 for Marcus, when they heard of disappearances taking place in the area.
2. They entered the highest echelons of society.
3. Dingani purchased Emil Coetzee's mansion.
4. They entered respectable circles.
5. They sent their children to the best schools.
6. They belonged to the most exclusive clubs.
7. They vacationed at high-end resorts.

[return to: THE MASUKUS](#)



## THE MASUKUS: Claiming Genie

1. The Masukus set out to reclaim Genie.
2. They ask Minenhle to retract her report on Genie, to declare her undead.
3. They need to file forms DS 8044 Z to declare Genie missing.
4. They want to reclaim Genie from Vida whom they believe has put Genie in a hospice to die naturally.
5. They attempt to bribe Valentine Tanaka for the DS 8044Z form.

[return to: THE MASUKUS](#)



## THE MASUKUS: Reaction to Genie's Death

1. Thandi and her children deny that the body found on the Estate belongs to Genie. Dingani is silent.
2. Eunice's utterances take her back to the betrayal of her husband:
  - *'They are plotting to overthrow the government.'*
  - *'You are one of them.'*
3. Dingani puts it down to her dementia and a stroke, and states: *'We don't do politics'.*

[return to: THE MASUKUS](#)





## EUNICE MASUKU

Son: Dingani

Husband: Mbongeni Masuku

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Exacting Revenge](#)
3. [Reclaims her Identity](#)
4. [Living with The Masukus](#)
5. [Dislike of Genie](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)



## EUNICE MASUKU: Early Life

1. She met Mbongeni Masuku in South Africa when she was working in a shebeen as a prostitute.
2. After marriage, she was emotionally and physically abused by Mbongeni as he did not believe that Dingani was his son.
3. Her dreams of becoming a teacher or nurse were thwarted by Mbongeni.
4. She, the wife of a respected headmaster, worked as a housemaid.

[return to: EUNICE MASUKU](#)



### EUNICE MASUKU: Exacting Revenge

1. Eunice waited 36 months, when Mbongeni had finished paying for the yellow formica table and chairs, to exact her revenge that she had been plotting.
2. She transformed from a baby-pink housemaid's uniform into a beautiful dress with large blue-violet flowers.
3. Her strength of character and determination are seen when she enters her employer's home as a visitor, rather than a maid, and demands to speak to Emil Coetzee.
4. Eunice informs Emil Coetzee (Head of Domestic Affairs) that Mbongeni and his friends were plotting to overthrow the government.

[return to: EUNICE MASUKU](#)



## EUNICE MASUKU: Reclaims her Identity

1. After Eunice betrayed her husband, she burned her maid's uniform.
2. She went to Mpilo Hospital and explained that she had no means to support her son and herself as her husband was imprisoned.
3. She filled in an application for the nursing school.
4. She claimed (at the table) that in 1965, her son and herself became truly respectable, and that politics was not for them as it was too messy.
5. She became a State Registered Nurse and built a respectable life for them.
6. She put Dingani in the best schools that he was allowed to attend.
7. She erased all traces of Mbongeni Masuku from their lives, save for the table.
8. She moved with her table and chairs into the Masuku home.

[return to: EUNICE MASUKU](#)



## EUNICE MASUKU: Living with the Masukus

1. As Thandi's mother-in-law, she likes Thandi because Thandi showed decisiveness when dealing with her unplanned child, Marcus.
2. As Marcus' grandmother, she protects him from Genie, whom she does not like.
3. She drags Markus away when she sees him kissing Genie.
4. Eunice shakes Genie when Marcus holds Genie's hand, screaming, '*You can't have him.*'
5. She divides Krystle's room using adhesive tape and makes sure that Krystle has the bigger section.

[return to: EUNICE MASUKU](#)



## EUNICE MASUKU: Dislike of Genie

1. Eunice could not understand Dingani's insistence that Genie joins their family.
2. Genie's family had dabbled in politics and rightfully paid the price.
3. She divides Krystle's room with adhesive tape, giving Genie a smaller section.
4. She informs Marcus about Genie's HIV status.
5. When Genie leaves, Eunice rips the adhesive tape, strips the bed, empties the clothes chest, the laundry basket, and bookshelf on Genie's side.
6. She sets Genie's belongings on fire, in the yard, consuming Genie's existence.
7. She sees Genie's departure as a betrayal and an embarrassment to the Masukus.
8. She slaps Krystle for crying for Genie.

[return to: EUNICE MASUKU](#)



## MBONGENI MASUKU

Wife: Eunice Masuku

Son: Dingani Masuku

1. [Public Image](#)
2. [His Wife, Eunice](#)
3. [Incarcerated](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)





## MBONGENI MASUKU: Public Image

1. Mbongeni Masuku was a respected headmaster.
2. Like most middle-class men in the township, he was respectable, Christian and educated.
3. He would invite teacher friends over and talk about current affairs in the country.
4. These talks led to debates, and then to drunken screaming and sometimes fighting.
5. All was considered as '*no harm done*' as they were models of how the colonial system was good for the Africans.

[return to: MBONGENI MASUKU](#)



## MBONGENI MASUKU: His Wife, Eunice

1. Mbongeni was detached from his wife, Eunice, and his child, Dingani.
2. He was seen as respectable, Christian and educated by the community, yet he physically, emotionally and mentally abused his wife.
3. He suspected that Dingani was not his son.
4. He refused to sign Eunice's application forms for nursing.
5. He refused to provide for his family with his salary.
6. Eunice and Dingani ate every meal on the cold floor.

[return to: MBONGENI MASUKU](#)



## MBONGENI MASUKU: Incarcerated

1. Mbongeni was picked up from school by The Organisation of Domestic Affairs, when Eunice reported that he and his friends were plotting to overthrow the government.
2. After a short trial, he was found guilty of being an African nationalist.
3. He was sent to prison to serve a life sentence for treason.
4. His wife and son never visited him.
5. He died a few years later and was buried in an unmarked grave.

[return to: MBONGENI MASUKU](#)



## VALENTINE TANAKA

*'Became a hunchback with a heart of gold'*

1. [Meets Genie](#)
2. [With the Organisation](#)
3. [The Masukus](#)
4. [Later with Genie](#)

[return to: ADOPTIVE FAMILY](#)



## VALENTINE TANAKA: Meets Genie

1. Valentine's first case as a member of The Organisation is with Imogen: 15 years old, in a school uniform, and picked up for suspected shoplifting.
2. She shows no signs of apprehension or fear: *'The naked girl did not shiver, nor attempt to hide her body, nor was she disconcerted by the interrogating voice.'*
3. Imogen says to the two-way mirror: *'You cannot break me. You see, I know for certain that my parents were capable of flight.'*
4. He understood who she was when he learnt who her father was.

[return to: VALENTINE TANAKA](#)



## VALENTINE TANAKA: With the Organisation

1. As Chief Registrar of the Organisation, Valentine has a relationship with The Man Himself.
2. Lawrence Tafara, a colleague, called Valentine certifiably ugly.
3. Valentine does not have friends.
4. He is a crippled hunchback without any redeeming qualities.
5. As a result of being treated cruelly and harshly, he has no heart of gold and no empathy for the plight of others.

[return to: VALENTINE TANAKA](#)



## VALENTINE TANAKA: The Masukus

1. When Valentine meets the Masukus, he does not like them.
2. They look superficial and are judgmental.
3. Valentine is perceptive. He sees:
  - Dingani's unsettled demeanor suggesting that he has something to hide.
  - Thandi's outward appearance as a veneer for her shameful past.
  - Marcus as a pretty boy, with the determination in his eyes of a man.
  - that something is broken in Krystle: a rebel held together by force of will.
4. He stands his ground when the Masukus attempt to bribe him.

[return to: VALENTINE TANAKA](#)





### VALENTINE TANAKA: Later with Genie

1. Valentine displays a *'heart of gold'* in his relationship with Genie.
2. He recognises Genie as Golide's daughter when he helps them with the mattress. Vida senses that Valentine offers them something he rarely offered: his friendship.
3. Valentine was inspired by Golide's idea that flight was possible for someone 'ugly' like him.
4. Valentine kept in touch with Genie. He recalls Imogen using the word *'glitter'* to describe the Masukus.
5. The glasses in Genie and Vida's bathroom suggest that Valentine helped Genie in choosing her ending, as he cannot recall where he had left his glasses.
6. He defends Genie against The Man Himself saying that she had lived a life that mattered:  
*'She was never just a statistic. She was always more than just a tragic life. She was a special and beautiful something. She deserved to choose her own ending.'*

[return to: VALENTINE TANAKA](#)





## BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD

1. [Bennington Beauford](#)
2. [Early Life](#)
3. [After Oxford](#)
4. [Relationship with the State](#)
5. [After Independence](#)

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)



## BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD: Bennington Beauford

1. Bennington Beauford bought Guqhuka after the Great War:
  - He was an enterprising man who put *'the land and people to good use'*.
  - He was a fair-minded man, who established himself.
2. He married Rosemary, who died soon after Beatrice's birth.
3. He grew a few acres of sunflowers for his daughter.
4. He was indispensable in WW2 supplying his cotton, canned foods and leather.
5. He became the wealthiest man in the colony.
6. He died in a car accident in 1948.

[return to: BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD](#)



## BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD: Early Life

1. When her father died, Beatrice Beit-Beauford, at 11 years old, became the wealthiest person in the colony, and heiress of Beauford Farm and Estate.
2. At 13 she went to Eveline High School.
3. Her father's status gained her respect and easy passage.
4. She was liberal-minded on the rights and treatment of Africans.
5. Her ideas terrified those around her, especially her lifelong friend, Kuki Sedgwick.
6. She returned from Oxford 5 years after school, as a hippie of the 60s.

[return to: BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD](#)



### BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD: After Oxford

1. Beatrice turned the Estate into a multiracial commune and artists' colony.
2. In 1965, she gave birth to coloured, twin boys.
3. She was evicted from the Estate, by the State, for unlawful behaviour.
4. She started to support the terrorist group, the freedom fighters (African Nationalists).
5. On her return from court for charges of treason brought against her by Emil Coetzee, the plane she was travelling in, crashed, killing her twin sons.
6. This strengthened her beliefs in an equal society.

[return to: BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD](#)



## BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD: Relationship with the State

1. The State was reluctant to act on Emil Coetzee's charge of unlawful conduct against Beatrice:

- She was the wealthiest person in the country.
- Her farm was vital to the nation gearing for a civil war.

2. When she flouted the State's anti-miscegenate laws, she and her guests on the Estate were evicted for unlawful behaviour and for being unfit residents.

3. The charge of treason for supporting the Nationalists was dropped, and the trial dismissed due to the public support Beatrice received on the death of her sons.

[return to: BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD](#)





## BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD: After Independence

1. Beatrice was placed in The Princess Margaret Retirement Home because of Alzheimer's.
2. Genie would visit her twice a month for girls' day – manicures, pedicures, massages, and Kuki would visit her once a week for tea and sympathy.
3. Despite the plane crash, a beautiful relationship developed between Genie and Beatrice based on commonality: love for sunflowers; having lived on Beauford Farm and Estate; a hero for a father; having a brave and defiant spirit.
4. The Man Himself sends Valentine to obtain the title deeds from Beatrice. She announces that she had sold the Estate to the survivors for 1 dollar.
5. Her memories and her Alzheimer's give insight into the decline of the country after Independence.

[return to: BEATRICE BEIT-BEAUFORD](#)



## MR AND MRS HADEBE

1. Mr. and Mrs. Hadebe are the parents of Thandi Hadebe.
2. Mr. Hadebe was the Beauford School's messenger and caretaker.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Hadebe lived comfortable lives, with housing and a substantial monthly ration provided.
4. They were very Christian and very proper.
5. Thandi returns once to leave her son, Marcus Malcolm Martin, with her parents.
6. Jestina is coerced by the *sojas* to poison The Hadebes.

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)



## KUKI SEDGWICK

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Beatrice Beit-Beauford](#)
3. [Emil Coetzee](#)
4. [Everleigh Coetzee](#)
5. [Todd Carmichael](#)
6. [Vida De Villiers](#)

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)



## KUKI SEDGWICK: Early Life

1. Kuki never had an independent thought.
2. She accepted the opinions and beliefs of her family, community and country.
3. She never saw fault in contributing to an establishment that was unfair and unjust.
4. She was attracted to brave people because she could not find much strength in herself.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)



## KUKI SEDGWICK: Beatrice Beit-Beauford

1. Kuki and Beatrice were lifelong friends.
2. Kuki did not agree with Beatrice's ideas but lived vicariously through her as she found Beatrice's irreverence seductive.
3. A threat to their bond was Emil Coetzee.
4. He was hated by Beatrice and loved by Kuki.
5. Kuki marries him.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)



## KUKI SEDGWICK: Emil Coetzee

1. Emil Coetzee was a brave man in Kuki's eyes and a dare-devil when she met him.
2. He was 25, tall, muscular, blond; she was fifteen.
3. Beatrice thought him a popinjay, a buffoon, too enamoured with himself to be of value to anyone else.
4. Kuki's English parents would never allow her to marry Emil, an Afrikaner.
5. Kuki was not born with beauty nor grace, was not brave, but she was determined, and gave herself 3 years to become beautiful and graceful.
6. Soon after her eighteenth birthday she catches the eye of Emil.
7. Their marriage is troubled.
8. She divorces him and later marries Todd Carmichael.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)





## KUKI SEDGWICK: Everleigh Coetzee

1. Everleigh was the only son of Kuki and Emil. Kuki felt that her life began when she gave birth to this beautiful, golden-haired boy.
2. She understood that her son was different, artistic, but she loved him.
3. He was different from his father. Everleigh wrote poetry, sang at eisteddfods, refused to go hunting, and thought that killing for sport was barbaric.
4. Emil could not understand Everleigh's over-friendly relationship with a coloured boy, Vida De Villiers, when he, Everleigh, was in a relationship with Rosamund.
5. Kuki did not support Everleigh going to war. Emil felt it would make him a man. Angry exchange between father and son tore the family apart.
6. Kuki has difficulty accepting his death when he steps on a mine and is killed.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)





## KUKI SEDGWICK: Todd Carmichael

1. Todd was in Geneva, Switzerland trying to bring a peaceful end to the war, when terrorists attacked his homestead, killing his wife, son, daughter, maid, gardener and dog.
2. Kuki divorces Emil Coetzee after her son's funeral and later marries Todd.
3. She feels that she betrays her son's memory by leaving her mourning bed and being in a relationship with Todd Carmichael.
4. She feels guilty about laughing with Todd, trying to be attractive for him, being comfortable in his presence and accepting his marriage proposal.
5. She feels guilty about allowing herself to be joyful again.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)



## KUKI SEDGWICK: Vida De Villiers

1. Kuki felt that her betrayal to Everleigh's memories would not have seemed so great had Vida not become a vagabond.
2. After Everleigh's death Vida decides not to carry on without him.
3. Kuki sees Vida as wrapped in his unrelenting pain and unbearable sadness, refusing to propel his life forward.
4. She envies him for finding a way not to betray her son.
5. While watching Vida, she knocks Genie, who lands in Vida's cart, thus propelling Vida's life forward.

[return to: KUKI SEDGWICK](#)



## EMIL COETZEE

1. [Marriage to Kuki Sedgwick](#)
2. [His son, Everleigh Coetzee](#)
3. [Ambitious Intentions](#)
4. [Mordechai Gatiro](#)

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)



## EMIL COETZEE: Marriage to Kuki Sedgwick

1. At 28 he was considering marriage for 2 reasons:
  - he was a single Afrikaner man, born and raised in South Africa.
  - he wanted to be head of a centralised intelligence unit that will gather necessary intelligence on all its citizens.
2. He felt that the country was changing rapidly and the African no longer knew his place, so he proposed a programme for a state domestic unit.
3. Although Kuki had nothing to offer him in his bachelor days, in his ambitious years, her surname, Sedgwick, would fast-track his domestic affair proposal.
4. In their marriage, he exposed his real intentions in marrying her, slowly whittling her fragile self-esteem.

[return to: EMIL COETZEE](#)



### EMIL COETZEE: His son, Everleigh

1. Emil had difficulty accepting his son who was so different from him: Everleigh wrote poetry that he shared publicly, and he sang at eisteddfods. He refused to go hunting or fishing because he thought that killing for sport was barbaric.
2. Emil could not understand Everleigh's over-friendly relationship with a coloured boy, Vida De Villiers, when he, Everleigh, was in a relationship with Rosamund.
3. Everleigh who did not believe in killing living things, had no desire to enlist. It was also not a war in which he believed.
4. Emil wanted this son to fight to defend his country, believing it would make him a man.
5. An angry exchange between father and son, with both showing each other their deficiencies, tore the family apart.

[return to: EMIL COETZEE](#)



## EMIL COETZEE: Ambitious Intentions

1. Emil Coetzee sets out to deal with Beatrice Beit-Beauford. He finds incriminating evidence of interracial commingling on the Estate, but the State is reluctant to go against her.
2. When she produces twin, coloured sons, she and her guests are evicted from the Estate.
3. Emil brings another charge of treason against Beatrice for financially supporting the nationalist terrorist attacks.
4. The charge of treason is dropped, and the trial is dismissed due to the public support she receives when her sons are tragically killed in the crash.
5. The outpouring of public sympathy makes Emil use Beatrice's tragedy to gain him public support, by calling for the imprisonment and execution of Golide Gumede.
6. He turns to Mordechai Gatiro, who actually fails to find Golide.
7. Emil commits suicide in his house on the eve of the country's independence.

[return to: EMIL COETZEE](#)



## EMIL COETZEE: Mordechai Gatiro

1. Emil uses Beatrice's tragedy, the death of her sons, to boost his position, by committing to finding Golide.
2. He employs Mordechai as a spy for The Organisation for 2 reasons: Mordechai did not care for his life, nor for the lives of others.
3. He is so valuable to Emil that his name is never recorded in The Organisation's files. He is simply referred to as C10.
4. When Mordechai leaves The Organisation, Emil is relieved as he had felt great disappointment at C10's failure to capture Golide.

[return to: EMIL COETZEE](#)





## JESTINA NXUMALO

1. [Elizabeth Nyoni](#)
2. [Cares for Genie](#)
3. [Arrival of the \*Sojas\*](#)
4. [Returns to The Estate](#)

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)



## JESTINA NXUMALO: Elizabeth Nyoni

1. Jestina Nxumalo (MaNxumalo to Marcus) worked for the Hadebes. She took care of Marcus.
2. Jestina made fun of Elizabeth for still strapping Genie, who was no longer a baby, to her back.
3. Elizabeth defended her actions by saying that Genie was a golden egg, and just because Jestina sees Genie in the flesh that does not mean that Genie was not a golden egg.
4. Elizabeth and Jestina were friendly. They allowed Marcus and Genie to play together.

[return to: JESTINA NXUMALO](#)



## JESTINA NXUMALO: Cares for Genie

1. Golide's fall from grace: residents of the compound blame Golide for the attack because the *sojas* had specifically asked for Golide.
2. The residents are angry with Elizabeth and Golide, accusing them of believing that they were better than the residents. The residents order Jestina and Genie to leave.
3. Jestina becomes protective over Genie, reassuring her that her parents will find her. *'We should not let this change us.'*
4. Genie takes her packed suitcase, and Penelope and Specs. Passing the sunflowers, Genie states *'this is not an ending of my choosing. From now on I will choose my own endings.'*
5. *'Holding hands and watching the day break, Jestina and Genie waited for the MacKenzie bus that would carry them away from the Beauford Farm and Estate.'*

[return to: GENIE](#)

[return to: JESTINA NXUMALO](#)



## JESTINA NXUMALO: Arrival of the *Sojas*

1. Jestina wonders if the attack on the Estate was related to Bhekithemba's story on Golide Gumede and his race of angels, who believed they were capable of flight.
2. The senseless destruction and horrific deaths create a silence that was socially unacceptable as a form of grieving.
3. Jestina, the maid to the Hadebes, was forced by the *sojas* to poison the Hadebes.
4. Jestina had kept quiet about her experiences at the hands of the *sojas*.
5. Memories resurface when she returns to Beauford Farm and Estate looking for Genie, after hearing about Genie's death.

[return to: JESTINA NXUMALO](#)



## JESTINA NXUMALO: Returns to The Estate

1. Jestina calls Marcus from Australia when Valentine informs her of Genie's death.
2. Memories resurface when she returns to the Estate looking for Genie:
  - *'... they brought more than their hatred and AK-47s; they brought AIDS.'*
  - *'They gang-raped, shot and pillaged their way through the compound.'*
  - They raped Mrs Hadebe (Thandi's mother). They forced Jestina to poison the Hadebes, and to watch them drink the poisoned tea.
  - She suspects that Genie, who was only 9 at the time, could have been raped by the *sojas*, and chose to remain silent.
3. Knowing Genie's HIV status, Jestina states *'What did they do to Genie? They have to answer for this.'*
4. Marcus is confused as he does not know who *'they'* are.

[return to: JESTINA NXUMALO](#)



## THE SURVIVORS

1. After Independence, the Estate is occupied by the war veterans:
  - mud huts, barren fields.
  - stacks of neatly arranged skeletons in a cold-storage unit.
  - bones from the war and bones after the war (HIV& AIDS). They differentiate the two by the lack of coins in pockets of post-independence victims.
2. When the group returns to the Estate to look for Genie, they find Goliath living there.
3. Goliath reveals that he bought the Estate from Beatrice for one dollar.
4. The place was damaged by the war veterans who had occupied the place, unlawfully.
5. He fell in love with the place when he saw the sunflowers Genie had passionately described.
6. The Survivors are harvesting bodies, human remains following the war.

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)





## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI

1. [Cosmos Nyathi](#)
2. [Bob Marley](#)
3. [As a Journalist](#)
4. [The Man Himself](#)
5. [Meets Golide Gumedede](#)
6. [Returns to the Estate](#)

[return to: BEAUFORD FARM AND ESTATE](#)





## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI: Cosmos Nyathi

1. Bhekithemba's grandfather, Cosmos Nyathi, left his village at 16 years to work as a stock boy for Mr. MacKenzie at the MacKenzie General Goods Store.
2. At 17 he suggested that Mr. MacKenzie open a bottle store. Under Cosmos' management, its success prompted the opening of another store. The success thereof revived the failing MacKenzie General Goods Store.
3. Mr. MacKenzie returned to Scotland in 1938 and bequeathed the bottle stores and goods store to Cosmos. Cosmos then added on MacKenzie buses and a bioscope.
4. Whenever there was a royal tour, Cosmos was brought forward as an example of the progress of the African population, and he shook hands with royalty.

[return to: BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI](#)



## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI: Bob Marley

1. Bhekithemba at 18, went to the Independence celebrations in the stadium.
2. He was hoping to shake Prince Charles' hand, acknowledging his grandfather's connection with royalty.
3. He became mesmerized by the dreadlocked man who had the power to move, unite and inspire people - the power Prince Charles lacked.
4. When Bob Marley looked at him through the tear gas, and called him a real revolutionary, he became a changed man.
5. He wrote of the encounter as a 'Letter to the Editor' for the local state-run newspaper.

[return to: BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI](#)



## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI: As a Journalist

1. When Bhekithemba's article was published in the local state-run newspaper, THE MAN HIMSELF offered him a scholarship to study journalism at the local state-run university.
2. After graduating he worked for the local state-run newspaper. He wrote about his country with pride and passion.
3. He saw this as an opportunity to redeem himself from being so colonized, and proud to be a British subject, that he had not joined the liberation movement.
4. Believing that the real revolution was the creation of an equal, discrimination-free, all-inclusive society, he wrote objectively to promote equality and justice.

[return to: BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI](#)



## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI: The Man Himself

1. The Man Himself instructed Bhekithemba to promote a positive image of the new state.
2. The Man Himself promoted 25-year-old Bhekithemba to head of investigative reporting.
3. Bhekithemba's status changed when he highlighted the illegal reselling of cars by corrupt state ministers. The piece was not printed.
4. Bhekithemba was ordered to write only when instructed by The Man Himself.
5. For three months he reported to work, received no instructions, but received a paycheck.
6. Then The Man Himself instructed him to investigate a crazy man on Beauford Farm and Estate who believed he was capable of flight and was cultivating a race of angels who believed that they would fly. He was going to fly the woman he loved to Nashville.
7. The Man Himself saw it as a story to amuse the masses during difficult times and Bhekithemba saw it as redeeming his fall from grace.

[return to: BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI](#)



## BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI: Meets Golide Gumede

1. Bhekhithemba goes to interview Golide.
2. He can see there that there is something different about Golide: a difference that goes beyond the colour of his skin; he possesses a special kind of power - the power to move, inspire and unite people; he has charisma, like Bob Marley.
3. Golide says that he was inspired by the elephants swimming in the Zambezi River: the first elephant only swam across because he could see the river-bank. The other elephants followed because of the success of the first elephant.
4. If he believed in flight, then his people too would believe that they could fly.

[return to: BHEKITHEMBA NYATHI](#)



## BHEKITEMBA NYATHI: Returns to the Estate

1. Bhekithemba returns to the Estate in 1988, a few months after his first visit.
2. The sunflower fields are barren; there is an eerie silence and no signs of life.
3. *'Something glimmered at the bottom of the well, shocking him with its sudden unexpectedness.'* Is this the precious and beautiful something that The Man Himself has?
4. He steals away from the compound feeling both relieved and wary that he had found nothing - no one in the well.

[return to: BHEKITEMBA NYATHI](#)





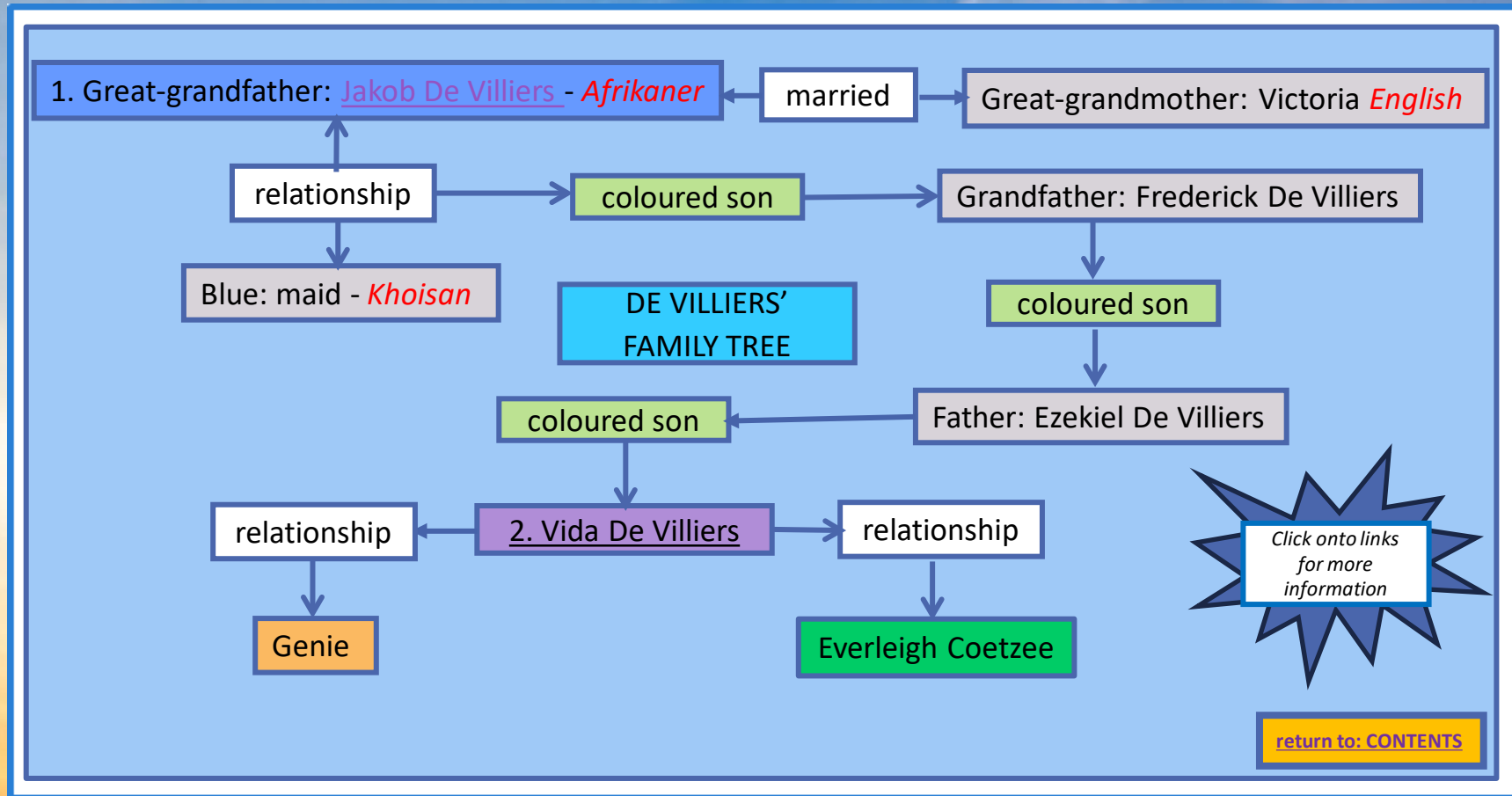
## THE MAN HIMSELF

1. Pretentious: you smoke a cigar to make a statement.
2. He has a narrow-minded view of Valentine's relationship with Imogen.
3. His opulence is evident when he occupies Emil Coetzee's room.
4. He changed the name from 'The Organisation of Domestic Affairs' to 'The Organisation'. He changed the stationery *'to reflect his contribution, then sat back and did nothing as Emil Coetzee had done.'*
5. He needs to be seen at the funeral.
6. His response to Valentine Tanaka's 'Why?': *'I did it because I could. Power... A man like me does not let a man like Golide Gumede build an aeroplane. I did it because power is a very delicate thing.'*

[return to: BHEKITEMBA NYATHI](#)







## JAKOB DE VILLIERS

1. [Jakob's Biography](#)
2. [The House that Jack Built](#)
3. [The House and Vida](#)

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## JAKOB DE VILLIERS: His Biography

1. Vida's eccentric Afrikaner great-grandfather built a spectacular house referred to as 'The House that Jack Built'.
2. He married Victoria, a very English wife, who died to some tropical disease.
3. Her legacy was an English garden that became the pride of the country.
4. Jakob De Villiers then had a coloured son, Frederick De Villiers, with his Khoisan maid, Blue.
5. Frederick De Villiers was Vida's grandfather.

[return to: JAKOB DE VILLIERS](#)



## JAKOB DE VILLIERS: The House That Jack Built

1. Jakob De Villiers' coloured son, Frederick De Villiers, was Vida's grandfather.
2. Frederick and his son, Ezekiel de Villiers, could only live in the house as servants because of the zoning laws.
3. Vida, Ezekiel's son, had no desire to live in the house and left in 1975, at age 13.
4. When Jakob died in 1975, the house and gardens were declared national treasures, and later visited by locals and tourists.
5. The maintenance of the property was supported by the City Council.
6. The Man Himself stopped government maintenance in 1995.
7. The property fell to ruin. Matilda, the housekeeper, and Stefanos, the gardener, stayed and cared for the property.

[return to: JAKOB DE VILLIERS](#)



## JAKOB DE VILLIERS: The House and Vida

1. 1980: At 18, Vida returns from the war. His great-grandfather has bequeathed the house to him. He sees it as an embarrassment of riches.
2. He leaves the house vacant until Genie and he decide to move in.
3. The house is overwhelming, but they clean it up and turn it into a home.
4. They search the house for evidence of the lives of Vida's people, of his history.
5. He finds his grandfather's living quarters, servants' quarters, that he thought was a tool shed.
6. Genie searches for evidence of Blue's life. The absence of any trace of her life fills Genie with sadness.
7. She finds a pair of baby-blue silk slippers. She takes it, assuming it be Blue's.

[return to: JAKOB DE VILLIERS](#)



## VIDA DE VILLIERS

1. [Early Life](#)
2. [Nicknamed `Jesus`](#)
3. [Genie Goes to Vida](#)
4. [Genie's Impact on Vida](#)
5. [On the Streets with Genie](#)
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12. [Genie's End](#)
13. [After Independence](#)

*`How Jesus came to be saved`*

[return to: DE VILLIERS' FAMILY TREE](#)



## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Early Life

1. At 13, Vida kissed Robbie McKop as a dare, and liked it. The boys he had always known, bullied him, called him names and threw stones at him.
2. He feared his father's disappointment in him.
3. Ezekiel, his father, reassured Vida of his love and taught him that there were '*many ways to be a man*', by reassembling an engine.
4. At 16, he fell in love with Everleigh Coetzee, and later with Rosamund Pierce, Everleigh's friend. Everleigh supported Vida in accepting his bisexuality.
5. At 18, Everleigh, is conscripted. He steps on a landmine and dies. Rosamund enters a convent.
6. After Vida's parents die in a car crash, he joins the army, hoping to die.
7. September 3, 1978: In the tall elephant grass, he meets Golide.

[return to: VIDA DE VILLIERS](#)





## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Nicknamed Jesus

1. After the war, he lived on the streets. His hair and beard grew long from lack of care.
2. People of the street christened him Jesus.
3. Kuki thought he was the bravest man she had ever known.
4. Dr Mambo sees him as giving Genie what her heart desired: he had parted seas, moved entire mountains, slashed through fortresses and slain dragons for Genie.
5. His compassion and sense of morality lead him to intervene in the affairs of others:
  - He removes Jospheh Pereira's body, hanging from the tree, before the police arrived because it deserved dignity. He breaks a fight between David and Goliath and is cut with a jagged edged bottle; he tries to prevent a young girl from prostituting herself.
  - He willingly intervenes when he breaks Genie's fall with his mother's quilt in his Scania pushcart and decides that he wants no other meaning for his life but to save her.

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Genie Goes to Vida

1. When he saves Genie with his pushcart, he notices the gap between her teeth and decides that he wants no other meaning for his life but to save her.
2. When she turns 18, Genie goes to Jesus with her suitcase, a rag doll and a teddy bear: *'You saved my life. And now I'm here to save yours.'*
3. A comment from street dweller, Mick, to Vida: *'You're Jesus. Shouldn't you be the one doing the saving?'*
4. Genie is uninvited and unwelcomed in the beginning, but Vida grows accustomed to the changes she brings into his life.
5. They never defined their relationship – they were just together.

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Genie's Impact on Vida

1. With Genie, Vida experiences the intense feeling of sunshine, the smell of scent vanilla and woodsmoke.
2. To Vida there is something intimate about smelling another human being. He had delegated most of his human interaction to just hearing and seeing.
3. In a few seconds Genie's scent of vanilla had invaded his body and become a part of him. Something fluttered in his stomach and made him uneasy.
4. She was radiant, like she had a light within her that made her luminescent.
5. He tries to convince Genie to go home: *'Go home before you see things you were never meant to see.'* *'You don't belong here. Please go home.'*
6. Genie's only reply is: *'I am already home.'*

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: On the Streets with Genie

1. They were an incongruous pair: *'he with his pale skin and military fatigues, and she with her dark skin and colourful clothes.'*
2. He salvaged metal for a specific purpose which he kept secret.
3. Genie joined him, and her eye for the colourful, the unique and the precious proved useful when salvaging. She never asked him what he did with the metal.
4. The moment when she cuts herself salvaging scrap metal, is a moment of liberation for Genie and Vida:
  - she tells him about sunflowers, *sojas*, saviours and secrets.
  - he tells her about his tragedies, lost loves, his deep anger and his heralding through Golide Gumedé.
5. When he shared his art with Genie, she looked at his works and whispered: *'I knew you were something special.'*

[return to: GENIE](#)

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: His Art

1. His art depicted life: a collection of his life. Vida became an overnight sensation.
2. He felt that Genie entered his life to reassure him that he could create beauty.
3. Genie showed his art to Beatrice Beit-Beauford, who purchased '*The Street Dwellers*' and donated it to the city at a lavish ceremony.
4. The mayor presented him with The Key to the City. '*The Street Dwellers*' were displayed in the city: street dwellers felt honoured; the city was proud; the art was a tourist attraction; the city benefitted economically.
5. Journalists labelled him a 'truly postcolonial artist':
  - to Vida this meant an artist working after Independence.
  - to critics he showed an understanding of how salvaged metal depicted the condition of post-colonialism as no other metal could.

[return to: VIDA DE VILLIERS](#)



## VIDA DE VILLIERS: The Theory of Flight

1. Vida's most famous work of art is: *The Theory of Flight: In Three Movements*.
2. It was a sculpture that consisted of three pieces: *Golden*; *Lady in Waiting*; *Firebird*.
3. The sculptures were dedicated to Genie.
4. The art successfully toured the world before settling in the National Gallery.
5. When the state became politically unrestful, tourists stopped coming. Fortunes changed and the sculptures were vandalised for metal.
6. The Man Himself ordered the sculptures, which he considered 'too white', to be dismantled and thrown away.
7. International outcry resulted in the works being bought and displayed in prominent places around the world.
8. The Man Himself commissioned work of Himself. These were placed outside state buildings, with the threat of life imprisonment for defacing his statues.

[return to: VIDA DE VILLIERS](#)





## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Vida and Genie's Relationship

1. The mattress establishes the relationship between Vida and Genie.
2. Vida cares for her through her HIV: he bakes marijuana goodies and makes moringa tea.
3. He experiences intense loneliness when she is admitted into Mater Dei Hospital for 6 weeks to be treated for tuberculosis.
4. He is devastated when Genie chooses to die. He saves her again, because he wants her to live.
5. When Genie decides to stop taking her medication, she prepares Vida's clothes for her funeral, and packs her suitcase – Penelope, Specs and Blue's baby-blue silk slippers, as a sign for Vida.

[return to: GENIE](#)

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Through Her Illness

1. Vida is invited to artists' retreats in Stockholm, every year.
2. When he returned from Stockholm, before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, he found that Genie had resigned herself to her death: *`You need to let me go. I'm tired.'*
3. She had stopped taking her medication and he realized that she was deliberate and determined in her decision.
4. Vida saves her. He takes her to Matar Dei Hospital. Dr Mambo says that they were able to deal with the lesions on her cervix before they turned cancerous. It was a blessing in disguise.

[return to: VIDA DE VILLIERS](#)



## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Genie Hospitalised

1. Vida gets a shock when he sees Genie in hospital, with tubes everywhere.
2. Genie has been in a coma for 7 days.
3. Genie's body is in distress. He feels her absence.
4. He realises that *'she is not coming back... not to this body... not to this life... not to him.'* He feels defeated.
5. He realises that the body *'is a threshold... [for] something elusive and ephemeral, something precious and beautiful, something that can fly away...He knows what he must do next.'*

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Bhekitemba

1. When Genie is hospitalised, Vida returns to the streets.
2. He encounters a beautiful bird with a broken wing on the mend. He reaches out to it, but it flies off when someone shoves '*The Chronicle*' at him.
3. Vida decides to confront Bhekithemba about the misinformation in '*The Chronicle*' that Vida was a white farmer, and 'The Messiah of the Streets'.
4. Vida tells him to write the facts: he is back on the streets because he cannot go to a home without Imogen, because she's lying in a coma in Mater Dei Hospital.
5. Bhekithemba admits that his stories are based on sensationalism.
6. He proudly admits that he broke the story about Golide Gumede and that if he had not, all of this would not have happened.

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## VIDA DE VILLIERS: Genie's End

1. Vida meets Goliath at the Estate. Goliath and the Survivors are occupying the Estate after buying it from Beatrice for 1 dollar.
2. Beatrice, Kuki, Vida, Jestina, Bhekithemba, Minenhle, Mordechai, and the Masuku Clan all return to the Estate to fetch Genie.
3. Vida places Genie's suitcase in the coffin with Penelope, Specs and Blue's baby-blue satin slippers, but later retrieves it as he's not able to let Genie go.

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## VIDA: After Independence

### The Undertaker:

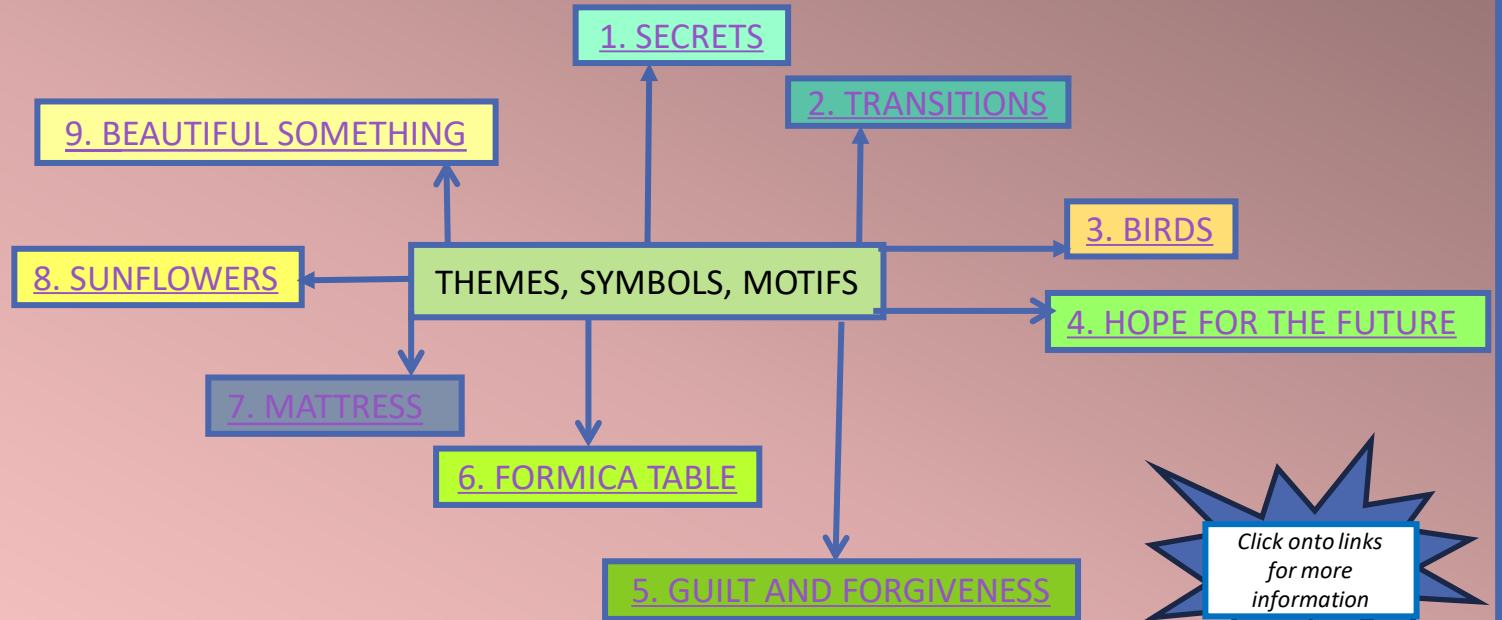
1. When Vida talks to the undertaker arranging Genie's funeral, he learns about the country 30 years after Independence.
2. Death is prosperous; the funeral business is booming. HIV and AIDS have increased. Tourism has ended and unemployment is high.

### Goliath:

1. The street dwellers had conducted themselves with dignity. They had a code of ethics.
2. After Independence, the people trading on the streets were ruthless, unprincipled, undisciplined. The undesirable elements were too hungry to care.
3. A span of 30 years after the liberation war saw an increase in ethnic genocide, civil unrest, political disturbances, and massive emigration.

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## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS

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## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: Vida

1. September 3, 1978: In the tall elephant grass, Vida was in the presence of something that filled him with a sense of wonder. The gap-toothed smile of Golide Gumedde left an indelible mark in his memory.
2. When Vida saves Genie with his pushcart, he notices the gap between her teeth and decides that he wants no other meaning for his life but to save her.
3. When Vida shares his art with Genie, he sees Genie looking at the things he has created with awe and wonder. The look in Genie's eyes lets him know that he can create something precious, something beautiful for the eye to behold.

[return to: BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS](#)



## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: Valentine

1. Valentine sees that Minenhle is in possession of a most precious something.
2. Her interrogator was never able to get at her most precious thing.
3. He broke her physically but left her most precious thing intact.
4. Had he understood why he was doing what he was doing he would have understood that he was trying to get at something precious in her and that he needed to be careful, or that precious thing would be lost to him for ever.
5. He sees the bird settle on Minenhle's palm and then perch on her shoulder.
6. He realises that Imogen is special when she says: *'You cannot break me. You see, I know for certain that my parents were capable of flight.'*

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## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: Genie

This could be the incorruptible spirit of the people; the magic and freedom that transcends the physical; the dreams of the collective; or the belief in something greater for the future.

1. She believes in what is magical: *'You cannot break me. You see, I know for certain that my parents were capable of flight.'*
2. Her accident: Genie flying through the air, looked like something wondrous.
3. Genie trusts that Marcus will receive the Atlas, and Krystle the Victoria Falls postcard.
4. She decides to send a colourful bird to Minenhle and Mordechai.
5. She takes Beatrice to the Spa.
6. She stops taking her meds without Vida noticing.
7. Her death: she flies away on a giant pair of silver wings. Her heart calcified into the most precious and beautiful something.

[return to: BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS](#)



## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: The Man Himself

1. The Man Himself wants The Organisation to take ownership of the Estate for the precious and beautiful somethings.
2. To his knowledge the Estate still belongs to Beatrice and the war veterans are squatting.
3. The Man Himself shows Valentine the most precious and beautiful something he has ever seen. It glimmers like a beacon.
4. He got it from the Estate; it was probably given to him by Bhekithemba.
5. He wants Valentine to obtain the title deeds of the Estate from Beatrice.

[return to: BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS](#)



## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: Beatrice Beit-Beauford

1. *'She was a liberal-minded young woman whose ideas, especially on the rights and treatment of the African, terrified those around her.'*
2. She turned the Estate into a multiracial commune and artists' colony.
3. Her beliefs in an equal society became stronger following her eviction from the Estate, by the State, for unlawful behaviour.
4. She started to support the freedom fighters (African Nationalists).
5. Despite the plane crash, a beautiful relationship developed between Genie and Beatrice based on commonality: love for sunflowers; living on Beauford Farm and Estate; a hero for a father; a brave, defiant spirit.
6. Beatrice sells the farm to The Survivors for 1 dollar. She gives the land back to its people. The sale makes it legal and untouchable.

[return to: BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS](#)



## BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS: Minenhle

1. As Golide Gumede's sister, Minenhle Tikiti, is taken in by C10 and brutally interrogated.
2. Through it all, she never gives up Golide, nor does she betray herself.
3. She stays true to her mother's teachings: a person's character speaks of his inner strength.
4. Mordechai falls in love with her during the interrogation.
5. He has found a new purpose in life: to undo the pain he has caused her.
6. It takes him years to change himself, to prepare himself for her.

[return to: BEAUTIFUL SOMETHINGS](#)



## MATTRESS

1. [Genie and Vida](#)
2. [Genie and Marcus](#)

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## MATTRESS: Genie and Vida

1. The mattress establishes a relationship between Vida and Genie.
2. Vida's discomfort when buying the mattress is symbolic of the awkwardness of their relationship. By the third mattress he is comfortable with the mattress and their relationship.
3. In their 20 years together, they had 3 mattresses. Genie is sad for bleeding on the third mattress and damaging it. The mattress will have to be thrown away, symbolising the end of their relationship.
4. The blood stain on the mattress has taken the shape of the country. This suggests her sacrifice for her country's independence.

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## MATTRESS: Genie and Marcus

1. The mattress offers Marcus an opportunity for closure.
2. Marcus approaches Genie on the street to offer to take her home, to take her away from Vida. When he sees the mattress tied to the roof of the Austin, he desperately declares his love for her and offers to take her with him.
3. Genie says: *'You want to love me, but wanting to love me is not the same as loving me.'*
4. Genie adds: *'My letting you go is my way of loving you.'*

[return to: MATTRESS](#)



## YELLOW FORMICA TABLE

1. Eunice waited for 36 months, when Mbongeni had finished paying for the table and chairs to exact the revenge that she had been plotting.
2. Mbongeni did not allow Eunice and Dingani to sit at the table.
3. Eunice takes the table and chairs with her wherever she goes, as a reminder of the time Dingani and her became respectable.
4. Dingani remembers the table as being central to happier times as a family.
5. MASUKUS' GUILT: Sitting at the table:
  - Dingani and Thandi look guilty.
  - Eunice announces Genie's HIV status.
  - Dingani, confesses to his contribution to the killings at the Beauford Farm and Estate in 1987.

[return to: GUILT](#)

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## TRANSITIONS

1. [Suitcase](#)
2. [Brown Car](#)
3. [The MacKenzie Bus](#)

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## TRANSITIONS: Suitcase

1. The suitcase is a stabilising element through Genie's transitions: a source of security and comfort, and a reminder of a past. It is her identity as the child of Elizabeth and Golide.
2. Genie adds Blue's baby-blue silk slippers to the suitcase, as evidence that Blue lived.
3. The suitcase contains clothes that no longer fit her, and toys with which she no longer plays: mementoes of her childhood, of a time before the arrival of the *sojas*.
5. She takes the suitcase when she leaves the Estate with Jestina, after the *sojas* attack.
6. She arrives at the Masukus with her suitcase when she is ten and leaves only with it when she is 18.
7. She packs her suitcase when she prepares to die.
8. Vida, realising the importance of the suitcase to Genie, places it in her coffin; but his lack of courage in letting Genie go, makes him retrieve it.

[return to: TRANSITIONS](#)



## TRANSITIONS: Brown Car

1. Marcus only finds the brown car when all the sunflowers have died.
2. Marcus keeps the discovery of the car to himself; he didn't have a connection with the sunflowers, but his connection is with the car.
3. When Genie discovers the car, they plan and travel to exotic places. The world atlas presents them with possibilities.
4. The Brown Car is symbolic of other cars that bring and take people:
  - Golide's return
  - Marcus is taken away by his parents
5. Genie sends the atlas to Marcus when she prepares to die. It serves as a reminder of the past: of the dreams they planned together, and of home.

[return to: GENIE](#)

[return to: TRANSITIONS](#)



## TRANSITIONS: The MacKenzie Bus

1. Thandi escapes from her terrible ordeal on the Estate, to the city, on the MacKenzie bus.
2. Mordechai takes a broken Minenhle away, on the bus, to start a new life.
3. The MacKenzie bus takes Genie and Jestina away to new beginnings after the horrifying attacks by the *sojas*.

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## SUNFLOWERS

1. [Beauford Farm and Estate](#)
2. [Genie](#)
3. [Genie and Marcus](#)
4. [Genie's Loss](#)

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## SUNFLOWERS: Beauford Farm and Estate

1. The sunflowers connect Beatrice to the Estate. They symbolise her father's love.
2. When returning to find Genie, Beatrice only recognizes her old home when she sees the sunflowers.
3. Goliath settles in Beauford Farm and Estate because he was enticed to see the sunflowers that Genie spoke of, so enchantingly.
4. Goliath: *`Greyish, black, ugly things they are [the seeds]. But she made the flower so beautiful in my imagination'. `Came. Saw. Loved the place.'*
5. Goliath saw it as a place for the survivors to settle.
6. After independence, in the midst of decay and devastation, the sunflower fields grow of their own volition.

[return to: SUNFLOWERS](#)



## SUNFLOWERS: Genie

1. Genie loved digging her toes into the moist reddish-brown soil.
2. She suspected she at some time had been a sunflower.
3. She was similar to the sunflowers: thin and tall reaching for the sky; brown face that turned upwards to the sun, loving the gentle sway of the breeze.
4. Her father arrives when she is in the fields. On his shoulders, she sees the magnificence of the sunflowers as they turn away from the sun to follow her father and her.
5. She chooses her own ending: to die in the sunflower fields, with her toes buried in the red soil. Through the sunflowers, Marcus and Genie learnt that after death there is life again, that after an ending there is a new beginning.

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## SUNFLOWERS: Genie and Marcus

1. Genie expresses inconsolable sadness when the sunflowers disappear.
2. Marcus only loved the sunflowers because Genie loved them.
3. He could not bring himself to bury his feet in the soil like Genie did, to find something that remained of the sunflowers.
4. Through the sunflowers Marcus and Genie learn that after death there is life again, that things that perish will rise again, that after an ending there is a new beginning.

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## SUNFLOWERS: Genie's Loss

1. Her childhood memories among the sunflowers, dance and flash in Genie's mind as she watches the bloodstain grow on the mattress.
2. The blood on the bed takes her right back to the *sojas* in the sunflower fields.
3. This association suggests her loss of innocence.
4. The significance of remembering Sikhumbuzo, playing war games, and '*killing*' Genie, screaming '*you are dead*' suggests Genie receiving her 'death sentence' in the sunflower fields.

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## BIRDS

The birds could be symbolic of Genie needing to feel whole again before she leaves. It could represent the hope for the future that will be possible with people coming together, united by a single cause. This is suggested by the fragility of the bird and that its survival depends on the compassion of the people.

1. [Krystle](#)
2. [Vida](#)
3. [Minenhle and Mordechai](#)
4. [Marcus](#)
5. [The Firebird](#)

[return to: THEMES, SYMBOLS, MOTIFS](#)



## BIRDS: Krystle

1. Krystle finds a hatchling close to death on the cement outside her apartment.
2. She picks it up with the postcard from her once-upon-a-time sister, Genie.
3. The message on the postcard, with a picture of Victoria Falls, reads: *'Remember, there will be the time of the swimming elephants.'*
4. She finds a cardboard box and prepares a warm, cosy place for the California towhee, and takes the bird into her apartment.
5. The next day she takes it to the animal rescue shelter, where she meets Xander Dangerfield.
6. The bird connects them. She leaves the postcard with Xander who visits Victoria Falls to see the swimming elephants.
7. Marcus says: *'I don't think hers [Krystle's bird] came to such a happy ending.'*

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## BIRDS: Vida

1. When Vida is on the streets again, a colourful bird flutters on his chest.
2. It is colourful, pretty and friendly: *'A broken wing on the mend.'*
3. He has a need to touch it.
4. The bird flies away, frightened, when someone shoves *'The Chronicle'* into Vida's hands.
5. In desperation, he goes looking for the bird.

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## BIRDS: Minenhle and Mordechai

1. When Minenhle and Mordechai are leaving the Organisation, a very colourful bird flies down from a tree and settles in the palm of Minenhle's hand and then hops onto her shoulder. This is observed by Valentine.
2. When Genie decides to plan her end, she chooses to send a colourful bird to Minenhle and Mordechai.
3. They explain to Marcus that they had rescued a colourful bird when it flew into their window and broke its wing.

[return to BIRDS](#)



## BIRDS: Marcus

1. Marcus sees the colourful bird when he visits Minenhle and Mordechai.
2. The bird hops onto Marcus' palm, where it cocks its head and looks at him, curiously.
3. Marcus believes that there was a bird like that on the Estate although Minenhle does not recall such a bird.

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## BIRDS: The Firebird

1. Vida's sculpture, *The Theory of Flight: In Three Movements*, consisting of three pieces: *Golden*; *Lady in Waiting*; *Firebird* was dedicated to Genie.
2. The *Firebird* was: *'A flash of light. A dance of colour. Suspended in the air. Something beautiful to behold.'*
3. Marcus Masuku bought the sculpture, but the gallery had requested that he left it there due to its popularity.
4. He refers to his visits to the National Gallery as *'This is home.'*
5. He refers to the sculpture as a fine, rare bird. He can only own a piece that represents Genie, that was created by Vida, as he cannot own the real Genie.
6. Valentine visits the National Art Gallery to view the firebird.

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## SECRETS

1. [Genie](#)
2. [Vida](#)
3. [Jestina](#)
4. [Eunice](#)
5. [Dingani](#)
6. [Mordechai](#)

[return to: THEMES, SYMBOLS, MOTIFS](#)



## SECRETS: Genie

1. Genie's HIV status is kept a secret by the Masukus.
2. Genie may have kept the incident in the sunflower fields a secret because:
  - she was too young to understand what had happened.
  - she could not associate the sunflower fields with the act, because it was a special place for Marcus and her.
  - the sunflowers were also associated with the return of her father.

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## SECRETS: Vida

1. Vida had his own warehouse behind the de Villiers Mendelsohn and Son's Auto Repair and Panel Beaters Garage.
2. There he welded and reshaped metal to create larger than life statues of the people that made up his life on the streets.
3. He was a man who could bend metal to his will and mould it to fit his vision.
4. He did it as a way of establishing his place in the world, of giving his life meaning.
5. It was his secret until Genie convinced him to show his art to Beatrice.

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## SECRETS: Jestina

1. Jestina lived on the Estate as maid to the Hadebes.
2. She was witness to the senseless destruction and horrific deaths caused by the *sojas*.
3. She knew that Mrs Hadebe was raped by the *sojas*.
4. She was forced by the *sojas* to poison the Hadebes.
5. Jestina had kept quiet about her experiences at the hands of the *sojas*, but the memories resurface when she returns to the Estate.

*'We will always remember what happened here. But we can never truly know what happened here.'*

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## SECRETS: Eunice Masuku

1. Eunice's abuse and oppression in her marriage by Mbongeni was unknown to anyone, as her husband was a respected member of the community.
2. Eunice plots and exacts her revenge on Mbongeni.
3. She meets with Emil Coetzee (Head of Domestic Affairs) and falsely informs him that Mbongeni and his friends are plotting to overthrow the government.
4. She claims the reward and uses it to restart her life.
5. Mbongeni is picked up from his school by The Organisation.
6. He is found guilty and incarcerated for life, for treason.
7. Eunice never visits him, and he dies a few years later.

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## SECRETS: Dingani

1. When Dingani witnessed Xolani and Jameson debate passionately about politics, he realised that he held no political view.
2. He felt that he needed a political view that aligned with the independence of his country.
3. To impress his friends, he exposes and identifies Golide Gumede.
4. Dingani is picked up by The Organisation and exposes Golide to The Man Himself.
5. This results in the killing of the Beauford Farm and Estate residents.
6. Consumed by guilt, Dingani makes every attempt, including bribery, to adopt Genie.

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## SECRETS: Mordechai

1. Mordechai's secret is that he keeps his identity, his nom de guerre, C10, a secret from Minenhle.
2. It was under instructions from Emil Coetzee that Mordechai interrogates Minenhle, butchering her face, and breaking her body.
3. Then he falls in love with her strength of spirit and spends years preparing himself for her.
4. He leaves The Organisation and takes a job at the National Archives repairing and restoring books and manuscripts. He even changes his voice.
5. Only when he is sure that she won't recognize him as her interrogator, he goes for her with the purpose to erase the pain he had caused her.

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## GUILT AND FORGIVENESS

1. MARCUS' GUILT - GENIE: he believes that Genie has not forgiven him for letting go of her hand and wiping his mouth, but it is he who has not forgiven himself.
2. Genie reassures him: *'My letting you go is my way of loving you.'*
3. MARCUS' GUILT- ELIZABETH: letting go of Genie's hand goes back to when Elizabeth entrusted Marcus with Genie. Marcus could not hold onto Genie; the wind kept getting stronger and he had to let go of her.
4. DINGANI'S GUILT: he exposes Golide and causes the killings on the Estate.
5. The MASUKUS' GUILT is exposed at the formica table, confessing to Genie's HIV status.
6. KRYSTLE'S GUILT: she believes that Genie got HIV from a blood transfusion after the accident that Krystle caused.

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## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

1. The funeral procession arrives at Victoria Falls to watch the elephants swimming in the Zambezi River. *'A new day is breaking.'* The sun is rising, *'from the east full of promise.'*
2. Krystle meets the tourist, Xander Dangerfield, brought there by the postcard.
3. Marcus realizes that his life is with Esme and his family, when he lets Genie go.
4. The Survivors buy Beauford Farm and Estate. It is a symbol of hope for the future and a means to reconstruct the future, for the survivors and those orphaned by the war.
5. Valentine says to The Man Himself: *'Beauford Farm and Estate belongs to The Survivors. They will decide what to do with the precious and beautiful somethings.'*

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