

Phoenix

magazine

the poetry issue

Cecilia



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illustrated by Celonie Rozema

WORD OF THE BOARD

You can join us all with a variety of things to do,
From symposia to game nights, or chats about what you're going through.
I have full trust that we will survive this,
And I wish the new board an ending of the year that I have to miss.
For my final words, I have this to say:
Come to student assemblies to make the Commissioner's day!
Also, if you are wondering why this story is written in rhyme,
It is the only aspect of poetry that comes to mind.

Zoë op ten Berg
Commissioner of Education

Now for your word of the board, last but not least:

Your Commissioner of Education, sitting
at home with her workload significantly
decreased.
Staying at home was what I had wished for in
the past,
But you don't wish for something like this to
last.
Trying to stay hopeful and make the best of
it,
However, I miss many activities if I must
admit.
Albion is doing their best to think of fun
activities,
It has forced us to a new level of creativity.




PHOENIX

Magazine for students of English Language
and Culture at Utrecht University.

Issue 31 - June 2020

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 artsy_cici

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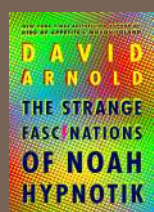
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caitlin
the strange fascinations
of noah hypnotik
by
david arnold



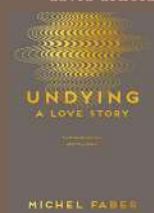
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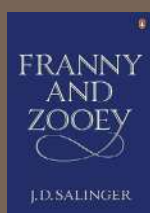
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taal is zeg maar echt
mijn ding
by
paulien cornelisse



fenna
undying
by
michel faber



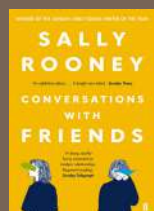
floris
the fire next time
by
james baldwin



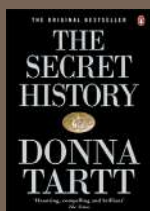
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franny and zooey
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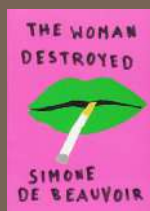
janice
obscura
by
shane emmett



julia
conversations with
friends
by
sally rooney



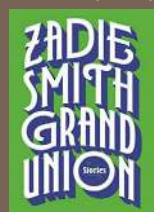
leanne
the secret history
by
donna tartt



patrick
the woman destroyed
by
simone de beauvoir



pim
the hound of the
baskervilles
by
arthur conan doyle



roos
grand union
by
zadie smith



tessa
the white album
by
joan didion



thijs
the portrait of dorian
gray
by
oscar wilde

what
we're
reading

Bookshelf

Now that we all find ourselves in an “intelligent lockdown” due to the COVID-19 crisis, my roommate Jitske and I met up in a somewhat unusual setting so that we could do what we do best: chatter our time away about everything and nothing. We discussed, among other things, the mountain of books that she managed to work her way through over the past weeks.

So, what is your most recent read?

Well, I tend to read several books at a time, but I guess the book I finished most recently was *The Trial* by Kafka. It was my first work by Kafka and I was really confused by it, in a positive way. He just leaves you wondering about virtually everything that happens in the story. It still puzzles me and I think it's precisely this that made it so fascinating. I'm really eager to explore his other works as well, especially *The Metamorphosis*.

Do you have a favourite author?

I'm not the best at picking favourites, so I'm going to cheat a little and pick two:

.....
“I like to broaden my horizons in my reading and I am always open to a work that I don't know or a genre that I haven't explored”

Virginia Woolf and Haruki Murakami. The novels by Virginia Woolf that I read are *To the Lighthouse*, *Flush*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *The Waves*. I really like her stream of consciousness style. You have to put some effort into her works, but her writing is so beautiful and rich so it's definitely worth it. Last summer, I read *Kafka on the Shore* by Murakami and I just couldn't stop reading that novel. The story is so absurd to the point where you're completely lost as to what is happening, and once you think you know what is going to happen, the story takes a completely different turn. I was really drawn into Murakami's surrealistic world and I couldn't tell what was real and what wasn't. I also read *A Wild Sheep Chase* and last week I received *1Q84*, which I want to read in the foreseeable future.

Did someone read to you when you were a child?

Yes, my parents read to me a lot, or so they told me. Of what I can remember, they mainly read picture books to me, like *Jip en Janneke* and *Pluk van de Petteflet*, typically Dutch children's literature. They usually read to me right before I would go to sleep. I don't know what other books they read to me, actually.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Oh the entire *Harry Potter* series, no doubt. I devoured these books as a child—I could finish one book in one morning, easy. I was just so invested, then, that I simply couldn't stop reading (similar to when I read *Kafka on the Shore*). Bearing in mind that my parents only allowed me to watch the films after I had finished the book. That was a rule at home, for all film adaptations of a book generally. So I read them all. And the entire series was truly amazing. I'm not sure if I have a favourite within the series. I really loved *The Prisoner of Azkaban* and *The Order of the Phoenix* (how appropriate), but, yeah, I think the entire series is amazing so I can't really choose one favourite.

What are the genres that you like to delve into with your reading?

Well, I read across several genres I presume, but I mainly go with literary fiction, and within that genre I like historical fiction, surrealism, magical realism, and dystopian works. Literary fiction and historical fiction are probably my most-read genres, including works like *The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough or *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. With Murakami I've fallen in love with surrealism and magical realism. I am not into the fantasy genre, though. I prefer a story that is set in a real society. I haven't read that many dystopian books, but I generally enjoyed the ones that I read, like *1984* and *Brave New World*. They aren't my go-to novels, but certainly nice from time to time. It has become a habit of mine to go to the thrift store and buy many books at once for a low price. Then, I'll read these books and I can find out for myself what I think of them. Maybe it sounds a little cliché, but I like to broaden my horizons



in my reading and I am always open to a work that I don't know or a genre that I haven't explored. This works really well for me with these books from the thrift store. This way, I discover books that I wouldn't have found otherwise.

Really nice to hear about your openness to all of these different genres and your shopping habits as well. Do you have any genres that you aren't familiar with yet but that you would like to explore?

I would really like to give nonfiction a try as well. Most of the books I've read so far have been within the genre of literary fiction, as I told you, but lately I've also started reading some nonfiction works and I was pleasantly surprised by those as well. I'd like to read *On Photography* and *Regarding the Pain of Others* by Susan Sontag. I am also really intrigued by Joan Didion. I watched the documentary "Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold" and it was so interesting! Now I desperately want to try some of her works as well. I've actually already ordered *The White Album* and *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, I couldn't not get my hands on those.

How about your reading habits? When and where are you most comfortable reading?

I feel very comfortable in the chair in my room. Especially early in the morning the sunlight shines precisely on that corner of

my room and that's just such a lovely and comfy place. I've got like a small coffee table next to it on which I can put a drink or some snacks because, you know, those are essentials obviously. This chair is also right next to my bookcase so it's easy to grab a book I want to read or to put it away once I've finished it. During the afternoons I tend to move to our balcony because that's on the other side of our flat and it's sunlit for the rest of the day till dusk. Very nice to have a beer there as well.

So you've been reading quite a lot lately. Do you have an interest in poetry as well?

Now with the intelligent lockdown and the corona virus I spend a lot of my time reading, but I haven't read that much poetry over the last weeks. I really liked the poetry that was assigned for us for This American Life or Civil War to Civil Rights, though. Especially Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, and Sylvia Plath are some of my favourite poets from this course, I think. Besides the set poetry we read during our courses, I am not that familiar with poetry, but I'd like to read some more of that as well some time.

What would you consider your favourite book?

My favourite book as of now must be *The Waves* by Virginia Woolf, without a doubt. It's written very poetically and the prose, it's just... yeah it's just wonderful. The waves continuously recur as symbols and metaphors in the lives of the six friends

and the novel, thus, is just such a rich and diverse entity. It's definitely not an easy read; *The Waves* is a complex book, very experimental and written from many points of view, but it's beautifully written.

Do you have any reading recommendations?

Yes! I've recently read *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, which is definitely one I can recommend. I also think *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang is a very good book. It's a memoir of three generations of women in China under Mao rule and what life was like there, very compelling. Also I really liked *Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People* by Sally Rooney, the first of which I had to read for Irish Literature. I enjoyed those immensely. *Maurice* by E.M. Forster is a fine novel as well.

What book will you next read?

I have a number of options for this (sorry, the list is still quite lengthy): *The White Album* by Joan Didion, *1Q84*, *A Passage to India*, or *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Oh and I've been wanting to read *Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown for such a long time but I've had troubles getting my hands on that one so I hope I can start reading that one soon. Anyway, I haven't decided yet but it will probably be one of these. are essentials obviously. This chair is also right next to my bookcase so it's easy to grab a book I want to read or to put it away once I've finished it. During the afternoons I tend to move to our balcony because that's on the other side of our flat and it's sunlit for the rest of the day till dusk. Very nice to have a beer there as well.



cassandra
clare

caitlin

sylvia
plath

cecilie

timotheé de
fombelle

celonie

marissa
meyer

dagmar

leonard
cohen

fenna

douglas
adams

floris

j.d.
salinger

iris

rick
riordan

janice

sarah j.
maas

julia

madeline
miller

leanne

joan
didion

patrick

virginia
woolf

pim

zadie
smith

roos

sally
rooney

tessa

wilfred
owen

thijs

favourite authors

photo and written by anne visser



anne visser

uoiqlp fo suawny

"I think I got my love for storytelling from my grandad. He never even had the chance to finish elementary school because of the Nazi occupation, but when he starts telling stories from decades ago, it's like you're right there with him. I don't think he has any idea of what I'm doing at university. "Something with storytelling in English," I usually tell him when he asks me, so I don't have to confuse him with my ideas about South Asian Instagram poetry and how the internet changed autobiography. It may be a vague answer, but I can tell it makes him proud, and that's all that matters to me."

word of the month

selected by PATRICK VAN OOSTEROM

yearning
/ 'j æ : n ɪ ŋ /

noun

1. a strong feeling of loss and longing for something

source: Oxford English Dictionary

As we find ourselves in the fourth month of quarantine due to COVID-19, our society has lapsed into a collective state of yearning for things we never thought we'd miss. Of course we miss hugging our closest friends, and meeting up and drinking a few beers with them. Apart from that, however, many of us now also yearn for the little details of our pre-quarantine life: the hundreds of fellow-students making their way through Drift and Janskerkhof, the coffee from the UB coffee machines, the small talk with the course instructors, and yes, I have to confess that I even miss the Kromme Nieuwegracht (and its occasional mice). Hopefully, in the next months the social distancing rules will ease, and we can return as soon (and safe) as possible to the student life as we know it.

PLAYLIST OF MY LIFE

If life were a movie, this would be the soundtrack.

illustrations by celonie rozema

playlist
of my
life

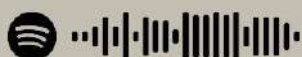


1. *You Know I'm No Good* by Amy Winehouse
2. *This is the Life* by Amy Macdonald
3. *I Love It* by Icona Pop ft. Charli XCX
4. *Hung Up* by Madonna
5. *The Hours* by Philip Glass
6. *Make Me Feel (EDX Dubai Skyline Remix)* by Janelle Monáe, EDX
7. *Home* by Edward Shape & the Magnetic Zeroes
8. *Big Yellow Taxi* by Joni Mitchell
9. *Delilah* by Florence + the Machine
10. *Body Heat* by Kate Nash



songs selected by
Patrick van Oosterom

playlist
of my
life



1. *Window* by The Album Leaf
2. *Eugene* by Sufjan Stevens
3. *re:stacks* by Bon Iver
4. *17* by Youth Lagoon
5. *Hallelujah Junction* by John Adams
6. *Agnes* by Glass Animals
7. *Slip Away (Mura Masa Remix)* by Perfume Genius
8. *Emoticons* by The Wombats
9. *Come Together* by The Beatles
10. *There Is a Light That Never Goes Out* by The Smiths



songs selected by
Tessa Karsten



BAUKE



BRAM



CHARLOTTE



NIENKE



RIXT



VEERLE

Bauke Dudink

CHAIR

Nicknames: Baux, Bauke, Bauksos, Sam, Justin, Beau, Baukie. **From:** Zutphen. **Born on:** 7th of August 2000. **Favourite book:** *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Granted: it's too long for most people's liking, but that's not a problem for me. **Beer of choice:** Grolsch Triple, multiple of them if possible. **Guilty pleasure:** Pumpkin Spice Latte (being basic is a lifestyle). **Speciality dish:** Chicken Tikka Masala! Get all those spices together and make a flavour explosion that will put anything else to shame. **My catch-phrase:** Get the wine, spill the tea. **Favourite film:** The Jerry Seinfeld masterpiece *Bee Movie*. The greatest piece of art since Michelangelo's "David". **Go-to song:** When I'm happy; anything by Taylor Swift pre-2015 (once again, being basic is a lifestyle). When I'm sad, though, I prefer "Smother" or anything else by Daughter. The one true way to a good crying experience. **Morning person vs. night owl:** Certainly a night owl. There is nothing more romantic than watching the beautiful sunrise together before going to bed. **GA vs. RP:** RP, although I like nothing better than showing off all my somewhat rusty accent skills. **Celebrity crush:** Troye Sivan. That is some quality eye-candy right there. **Dream vacation destination:** Scotland is my baby. **Spirit animal:** King Julien. **Literature or linguistics:** Linguistics.

MEET THE BOARD

Veerle Kusters

SECRETARY

Nicknames: Veer, Veerbeer. **From:** Utrecht. **Born on:** 19th of April 1999. **Favourite book:** *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Saffran Foer, *Circe* by Madeleine Miller, or the *Harry Potter* series, of course. **Beer of choice:** Did someone say wine? **Guilty pleasure:** Kelly Clarkson goes OFF and you know it. **Specialty dish:** Either Mexican wraps, pasta with tuna and corn, or sweet potato fries from the oven. **My catch-phrase:** sletsgo. **Favourite film:** *Call Me By Your Name*, it's just really special to me and so uniquely directed and if you haven't watched it yet WHAT ARE YOU DOING. **Go-to song:** "I'm So Tired" by Lauv featuring Troye Sivan, there really is no other song that can make me feel the same way. **Morning person vs. night owl:** Definitely a night owl. **GA vs. RP:** GA is the only one I will ever be able to actually speak naturally and if you speak good unforced RP I envy you. **Celebrity crush:** Saoirse Ronan. **Dream vacation destination:** I still want to go to Iceland at some point, but I'd also love to go back to New Zealand. **Spirit animal:** Either otters with their little favourite rocks or kakapos, they're lazy and horny just like me. **Literature or linguistics:** Literature, 1000%.

Charlotte van Houdt

TREASURER

Nicknames: Charlie, Lotte, Luna, Charlotte. **From:** Vlaardingen. **Born on:** 12th of March 1999. **Favourite book:** 13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough. **Beer of choice:** Mjedpiir, which is a mead beer. The first time I had this beer was at Elfia! **Guilty pleasure:** Big Time Rush! **Specialty dish:** Curry, it is a lot of fun to cook. **My catch-phrase:** Doodgaan is ook gaan. **Favourite film:** Madagascar 2 because Moto Moto. I like them big, I like them chunky. **Go-to song:** "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts (Cars cough cough). **Morning person vs. night owl:** I am a night owl, my productivity peaks in the evening. **GA vs. RP:** RP. **Celebrity crush:** Anna Kendrick, have you seen her in Pitch Perfect? Big oof. **Dream vacation destination:** Walt Disney World. **Spirit animal:** Mushu is my boi. **Literature or linguistics:** Literature.

Bram van Beerendonk

COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Nicknames: Barf, Braf, and many more Albion does not know about yet. **From:** Best. **Born on:** 11th of March 2000. **Favourite book:** 1984 by George Orwell, but I'm not much of a reader. **Beer of choice:** Casually, Bavaria, but if I have money to spend I do like a trappist quadrupel. **Guilty pleasure:** Playing old Pokémon games. **Specialty dish:** Chocolate bavarois, a belgian chocolate pudding dessert. hilariously unhealthy though, so I rarely make it. **My catch-phrase:** 'Vo (voor de leden). **Favourite film:** The first Pokémon film, God, when Pikachu cries and the tears revive Ash - that image will never leave me. Seriously though, The Breakfast Club is really nice. **Go-to song:** "Peach Scone" by Hobo Johnson & the LoveMakers. **Morning person vs. night owl:** Night owl, my productivity peaks at around 2 in the morning. **GA vs. RP:** RP, but no HP please. **Celebrity crush:** Koen. **Dream vacation destination:** Nepalese Himalayas. **Spirit animal:** Grizzly bear. **Literature or linguistics:** Linguistics, duh.

Rixt Tuinstra

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Nicknames: Schaapje, Rikkie. **From:** Leeuwarden, Fryslân. **Born on:** 4th of March 2000. **Favourite book:** Are you Experienced? by William Sutcliffe. **Beer of choice:** Maallust Tripel (local beer from Drenthe). **Guilty pleasure:** Naps. **Specialty dish:** Chickpea curry. **My catch-phrase:** "Beter laat dan nooit", better late than never. **Favourite film:** The Breakfast Club. **Go-to song:** "Over and Over" by Hot Chip. **Morning person vs. night owl:** Night owl, I can't function in the morning. **GA vs. RP:** RP. **Celebrity crush:** Harry Styles because damn. **Dream vacation destination:** Melbourne. **Spirit animal:** Cats, honestly I find more and more similarities between me and cats every single day. **Literature or linguistics:** Linguistics, duh.

Nienke Hutten

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Nicknames: Nien, Bamboo. **From:** Eindhoven. **Born on:** 20th of September 2001. **Favourite book:** I don't have a favourite book, but I do enjoy reading fantasy the most of all genres. The Harry Potter and The Maze Runner series are my favourite ones, I think. **Beer of choice:** Bavaria or Grolsch, but I do like to drink a specialty beer once in a while. **Guilty pleasure:** Listening to Carnival music randomly throughout the year, just because I want it to be Carnival. **Specialty dish:** Wraps with meat, tomato sauce, and a ton of veggies. **My catch-phrase:** Joooeeee. **Favourite film:** I really liked The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones, but once again, anything fantasy/sci-fi will do. **Go-to song:** Right now "Is Everybody Going Crazy?" by Nothing But Thieves, but generally, anything alternative rock or metal is very nice. **Morning person vs. night owl:** Night owl, but if I have to wake up early, that's fine as well. **GA vs. RP:** RP. **Celebrity crush:** Thomas Brodie Sangster (Newt in The Maze Runner). **Dream vacation destination:** Japan. **Spirit animal:** Panda. **Literature or linguistics:** Literature, obviously.

with clara tea time vlessing

photography by OLLIE BLAKE written by PATRICK VAN OOSTEROM edited by ROOS LEDEBOER

A few weeks ago, Julia and I received some bright orange envelopes that contained a few Yorkshire Tea bags. With the coronavirus crisis still not being over, we once again had to organise a digital Tea Time via Microsoft Teams. Nevertheless, Clara Vlessing had sent us one of her favourite teas so we could still, in a way, share the same beverage. We prepared it in traditionally British fashion with some milk. When I asked her if she puts her milk in first or her tea in first – more colloquially known as being a Miffer or a Tiffer – she answered that she puts the tea in first, although there were “no strong feelings either way!”. She showed us her kitchen, in which hung a beautiful poster of the 2016 film *Moonlight*, and we got to admire her aesthetically pleasing bookshelves populated by, among other writers, Ali Smith, Sarah Waters, Bernadine Evaristo, and Philip Roth. Clara is currently doing research for her PhD on the remembrance of female activists, and over our Yorkshire teas we had a lovely chat about her interests in academia, her student life in Bristol, a few excellent film recommendations, and her experiences as a teacher.

What did you study, and where?

I studied English at the University of Bristol for my undergrad. I was there for three years, and during that time I also did a semester in Paris at the Sorbonne. Then I came to Utrecht for my RMA in Comparative Literature, and I did a semester abroad in Boston. Now I'm still here in Utrecht, although I live in Amsterdam, and I'm working my PhD.

Can you tell us a bit about your PhD?

I'm doing my PhD as part of a big project, a European Research Council (ERC) project, and it is on remembering activism in Europe. I specifically look at the cultural memory of late nineteenth and early twentieth century women activists. So, I look at three figures in particular: Sylvia Pankhurst (the daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst), Louise Michel, and Emma Goldman. I look at how they have been represented in books, films, archives, and more. It's part of a wider consideration of the memory of women and activists, and why particular activists are taken out of the collective and considered icons.

Have you learned anything from these women, personally? Do you have a personal take-away?

They are all really remarkable, but I don't know if I would be able to do any of the things that they have done, like surviving these hunger strikes in prison and many other terrible experiences. Somebody like Sylvia Pankhurst – who I am working on at the moment – is inspiring because she is so strong in her convictions. You see this idea again and again in how she is remembered as being 'ahead of her time'. She was kind of intersectional at a point when that wasn't really a consideration in mainstream feminism. That's inspiring!

What were you like as a student?

I don't think I was that different? It doesn't feel like



that long ago I did my undergrad. I used to edit a magazine, like you lot do, which was a university feminist magazine called “That’s What She Said”. I put a lot of energy into it; it was one of my main outlets at university. We did a lot of opinion pieces and we often wrote about contemporary issues. For instance, I remember before the Brexit referendum, we published something like ‘5 feminist reasons to stay in the EU’. We also published feminist poetry and drawings. One time we had a political uproar because we wanted to print a drawing of a naked woman with *loads* of body hair. The publishers wouldn't publish it, so we were like ‘oh we're taking a stance!’ and really went in on

trying to get them to print it. In the end we had to publish it with a different publisher, and we made a really big deal about that!

How did you end up here in the Netherlands?

I came to do my master's here, so it was mostly that, and master's degrees in the Netherlands are less expensive than those in the UK. Also, my dad is Dutch, so it was a country I knew quite well. That made things a little easier, but I didn't really think it through that much. I have done some Dutch courses, but I can only speak a tiny bit of Dutch. It is really embarrassing because people see my name and assume that I am Dutch, but that isn't the case. We never spoke Dutch at home because my mum doesn't speak it.

Is there anything you miss about the UK?

Yeah! At the moment I miss the UK because I literally can't go there, and I miss my family and friends a lot. I'm from London, and all my friends haven't really left London, so I can always go back to them and they're still there. I miss them, and sometimes I just miss London. That city has such a different energy compared to Amsterdam, and I miss that a bit.

How would you describe your own specific academic interests?

It's pretty broad – at the moment I'm really interested in memory and representations of the past, which was mainly how I ended up doing this PhD. I tended more towards working on contemporary literature during my undergrad and my master's. I also really enjoy working on poetry, which is something I don't get to do anymore.

Do you perhaps have a recommendation for a poem or poet that everyone should read right now?

The other week I was reading these Maggie Nelson poems. I know that some people find her annoying, but I really liked them. She has a book called *Something Bright, Then Holes*, and it contains a series in which she writes about a canal near her house. She describes how she keeps going back to that canal, night after night. I'm not sure why, but I find it very beautiful.

Why did you decide to start teaching?

I wanted to stay in the world of academia and literature when I finished my master's. I had a feeling that I was not done with it yet, and I wanted to keep being part of it, so teaching was kind of the obvious option.

"I really like very long novels, novels that you kind of get into and don't know if you'll ever get out of"



I'm not a very experienced teacher though – I'm only teaching my second course right now. I'm still working it out. But I really enjoy it! I get very nervous beforehand because it is kind of like going on stage or something: it happens, and then it is a bit of a blur, and then it is finished, and afterwards you hope it went alright.

Do you remember anything about the first class you ever taught? What was it like?

It was kind of like I just described, like going on stage. I think I was really lucky, because the students were very nice. It was my first class, and I also think that it was for you lot your first class at university. There was a sense of being in it together – I was working out how to be a university teacher, and they were working out how to be university students. I remember early on that I swore quite a few times, and forgot about it, and then one of the students teased me about it at the end of the course. I also have a really clear memory of the phone in the classroom going off in one of my classes. I hadn't even realized we had a phone in the classroom, so I just walked over there and looked at all my students and nervously asked them "should I pick it up?" and everyone looked back at me blankly, as if to say "we don't know, you're the bloody teacher". I also experienced how the Dutch education system is different from the British education system. A lot of students were less experienced with writing papers, but much more experienced with giving presentations.

What do you like most about Utrecht? Do you have a favourite spot?

I love Utrecht! I think my favourite bit is actually not in the city of Utrecht, but it is near Amelisweerd and the river there. I have lots of memories of going there with friends and having picnicks and swimming. And I was always surprised by how

you can be in complete countryside so quickly (compared to London). I really love it there. Thinking of Utrecht makes me actually quite nostalgic right now, since I can't go there.

What are your favourite films at the moment?
I'm watching lots of films at the moment. Last week we watched *The Master*, the Paul Thomas Anderson film with Philip Seymour Hoffman. It was really good, I enjoyed that a lot. We also watched *Mistress America*, the Noah Baumbach film with Greta Gerwig. And we watched that French film, *Les Misérables* by Lady Ly, which won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and it's a kind of police/crime thriller, and it was really good but fucking heavy. I was just sitting there at the edge of the bed, finding it nerve-racking. I could not rewatch that film, it's too upsetting.

How would you describe your reading taste?
Pretty varied. I mean, I mostly read fiction. I have to read a fair amount of history and criticism for my PhD, so for pleasure I tend to avoid that. I am currently reading this slightly mad speculative fiction novel called *The City and the City* by China Miéville. Recently, I read both of Max Porter's books. They're kind of long prose poems, which I really enjoyed. More generally, I really like very long novels, novels that you kind of get into and don't know if you'll ever get out of. For example, Eleanor Catton's *The*



Luminaries and Don DeLillo's *Underworld*, and Donna Tartt books.

Do you have any memories of a favourite teacher?

I had a really good English teacher at secondary school called Mr. Thompson. He just made studying English so exciting, and he always gave us really weird combinations of books. He'd get us to compare the most random selections of texts, like *Life of Pi*, *Great Expectations*, and "The Wife of Bath's Tale", and those were our three texts for the term. He always managed to draw really funny links between them. He was just a really interesting teacher.

What advice would you liked to have known earlier? As a student or teacher?

As a student probably lots of advice. My university was kind of hands-off, so I remember writing my first essay without any references. I do remember a teacher from my bachelor's programme who taught us how to use critical material: you had to pretend that you were sitting around a dinner table and curating conversations with all these people. I never thought about that, but because it is a scenario that is easily imaginable. I remember that being useful advice, the idea of me facilitating a conversation between all these different people. As a teacher, I'm still on the lookout for advice [Clara laughs nervously].



Academic Committee (AC)

The Academic Committee organises study and career-related activities. It also serves to get more of your feedback to the university. The AC discusses all things to do with studying in Utrecht. Whether it's the course material, the room that the seminars are in, or the limited number of spots available in the library, the Academic Committee is the place to go.

Introduction Committee (IntroCie)

The Introduction days are very important for our lovely fresh new students: they will be led through the streets of Utrecht, meet their fellow first year students, and get to know the English department of the UU as well as Albion of course.

Alumni Committee (AlumCie)

The AlumCie is dedicated to providing Albion alumni with some activities, writing alumni updates and coordinating the Buddy Project, where alumni are paired with a student.

Camp Committee (KampCie)

Each year, the KampCie organises the very best way for the new first years to get started with their new college life: the Introduction Camp! This weekend is filled with fun activities and games, all designed around a special theme. The camp is perfect for getting to know other first years as well as the older Albioneers and getting an introduction to our lovely association itself. The camp will provide you with some of the most treasured Albion memories you'll ever have.

Sports Committee (SportCie)

Every year, the SportCie organises various sports-related activities, ranging from mini-golf to the autumn fall hike.

Party Committee (FeestCie)

The FeestCie organises amazing parties year-round. Usually, these are in collaboration with other associations, so you can actually get to know some people who are getting different degrees! But once a year, Albion organizes its own party, 'Night of the Professors', where your own professors play their favourite tunes.

SUDS

Students of Utrecht Drama Society is an independent committee of Albion, which means that even non-Albion members are more than welcome to join. They have their own board and organise multiple activities each year, including a big play at the end of the year, and a one act festival.

Lustum Committee (LusCie)

The LusCie is a special committee, because it will only exist for two years! The reason for its existence is the joyous occasion of Albion's 30th birthday next year, because of which we want to make the year extra special.

Symposium Committee (SympoCie)

The SympoCie organises four symposia throughout the year with varying topics, from L2 development to the Golden Age as Vegetarian. You'll be in contact with our teachers and you'll be provided with interesting topics outside of our regular studies. You'll be making learning fun!

c o m m i t t e e m a r k e t

Big Trip Committee (Grote ReisCie)

Every year, the Grote ReisCie, organises a long trip away from all the studying! You might visit a museum, go on a pub crawl or do a picture hunt at the place you're visiting.

Phoenix

Phoenix is the magazine that will document your time with Albion and more. A team of writers, editors, and graphic designers work hard throughout the year to provide you with four issues, filled with interviews, reviews, fiction, and more!

Small Trip Committee (Kleine ReisCie)

The Kleine ReisCie organises another trip during the academic year. This one is shorter and more close by, and is often realised in the form of a ledenweekend. It is a nice way to hang out with your fellow Albioneers and to get to know each other better.

Activities Committee (AcCie)

Who doesn't love some time off? The AcCie is here to guarantee that you have something to do during those hours that you really do not want to spend studying (or to make sure that you do study during those hours when necessary). The AcCie organises a wide variety of activities during the academic year. These range from pub crawls to study afternoons to whatever else the committee may come up with this year.

albioneers abroad

by angela kroes

I'll admit right off the bat, writing for Albioneers Abroad feels a little weird since I left Belfast in March. International travel was about to be restricted then, due to COVID-19, so Utrecht University sent out an email strongly advising Erasmus students to return home. I landed at Schiphol Airport a couple of days after receiving that message and finished my semester in the weeks that followed.



Although I had to leave Belfast prematurely, I still had loads of fun while it lasted. I initially felt drawn to Belfast not necessarily because I loved the Emerald Isle so much (it was a big plus, though) but because Queen's University offered some very interesting courses. I took a course on Irish Gothic literature which was my favourite by far. Every course runs a two-hour seminar per week, one-hour lectures take place every other week. You'll have to plan your remaining free time around studying the assigned texts, but this is quite doable (especially in one of Belfast's many cute cafes). Most teachers offer a list of topics for

the final essay, but you're always free to devise your own thesis statement just like in Utrecht.

If you're looking to travel all of Ireland or the rest of the UK, Belfast is the perfect hub. I often went out on the weekends to explore the country and everything is practically right around the corner. You can visit Londonderry to learn about The Troubles, climb the stepping stones of the Giant's Causeway or go hiking in the Mourne Mountains, all of which are a little over an hour away from Belfast. Queen's student accommodation also frequently organises trips and events for its residents. This is how I went to see my first ever ice hockey game. Imagine the Belfast Giants emerging from an inflatable tunnel shaped like the Irish mythological figure Finn McCool's mouth and stepping onto the rink while flamethrowers go off on each side of the tunnel. Now that's entertainment!

All in all, I had a great Erasmus exchange. I had never lived on my own before, but I felt at home very quickly since Northern-Irish people are all friendly and helpful, especially my teachers at Queen's. I'll go back for sure.

Cheers,

Angela

PS. If you're ever in Belfast during the weekend, go visit St. George's Market. One stand sells scones the size of your hand. You won't regret it, trust me.



Starting your orientation for a master's cannot be done early enough. Really, nothing is stopping you from attending orientation events in your second or even your first year. So, now we've got the well-meant motherly advice out of the way, let me tell you about what master I did, why, and what I thought of it.

I studied Literary Translation (English-Dutch) at the University of Utrecht. While I'm certainly glad I made this decision, it wasn't made overnight. My head and heart were set on Utrecht quite early on, though even when you think you are sure of your choice, it's never a bad idea to compare it to related options. So yes, I did look into some other popular alternatives like *Writing, Editing, and Mediating* in Groningen, which focuses on several skills relating to translation, or *Translation* (MA) in Leiden which focuses on both English-to-Dutch and Dutch-to-English translation. My final choice was Utrecht for several reasons.

I liked the idea of specialising in literary texts: novels, poetry, drama, lyrics – basically anything that is not part of the Professional Translation track they offer here, too. My choice was confirmed by the process I went through for my BA thesis on translating eye-dialect: I absolutely loved it!

What also appealed to me was the clear study path the master set out, while still allowing you quite a bit of creative freedom. For many assignments your instructors will allow you to pick your own text or texts to focus on. I analysed the etymology and translation of fantasy words in Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, I looked at sentence structure in David Foster Wallace, and I even looked at translating the overlap between visuals and the written word in Instagram poetry by writers such as Rupi Kaur, Charly Cox and Elizabeth Day. As long as you can justify why you have selected a certain text, you will never run out of options. Do not mistake this freedom, though. As it is a university MA programme, there will be a strong theoretical focus as well.

Due to the way the master is set up, you get to peek into different language studies. I never expected to learn so much about the problems German, French and even Icelandic may pose to translators, and how to apply those findings to my own English-to-Dutch translations.

Is it corny to say I miss studying? Maybe a little. Doing a bachelor followed by a master was, to me at least, a unique opportunity to devote a whole year in my case (the master is 1.5 years now), to something I'm incredibly passionate about. Choose wisely: if you're going to be spending this much time on it, you may as well like the subject, right? The stories about an MA being a lot more time-consuming than a bachelor are true, but to me, all those hours were definitely worth it.

If you have any more questions about my master or my life as a Translation alumna, feel free to hit me up on Facebook or the likes!

by kayleigh herber

During academic year 2018-2019 I opted to follow the minor *Media & Cultuur*. Despite the bachelor's program offering English lectures and seminar groups for international students, those versions of the same courses are only accessible to students enrolled in the English bachelor. This means the minor is only available in Dutch – and you'll have to get used to writing academically in Dutch, though you can always ask your teacher if you're allowed to do assignments in English.

As with any different discipline, it's a bit of a learning curve in terms of what is expected in assignments – and how Chicago referencing works. Luckily, that goes for everyone else too: the minor consists of picking between the two first-year courses for each block, which means you'll be thrown back in time to when everyone was still figuring out how university life works! It might not be the main reason to choose a minor, but if you're not huge on the social butterfly skills, it's an advantage that most people are looking to make new friends and that you're not the odd one out while everyone else already has their clique. Throughout the year, you get to meet most of the year's firsties and see them flourish; I still have good friends over at AKT.

The first block, you have the choice between *Vertellen en Verbeelden* and *Geschiedenis van het medialandschap*, of which I picked the former. The latter offers a historic overview of media but is rather infamous as a course many students have to retake. Block two offers *Intermedialiteit* and *Onderzoeksmethoden voor media- en cultuurwetenschappen*, and I enrolled in the latter. It offers a perspective on media influenced by gender and postcolonial studies, which I enjoyed, while the former has the course aim of teaching you how to find sources, which might be aiming a little low at this point. Block three starts introducing specializations with *Inleiding film* and *Inleiding Nieuwe media en digitale cultuur*, while block 4 offers *Inleiding televisiewetenschap* and *Inleiding theater & dans*. I picked film and television, as I was mostly interested in adaptations for my thesis, but this second semester gives you a lot of freedom to explore your specific interests.

One final tip: try not to start your minor when your ex is starting her bachelor of the same name unless you want to stare longingly at the back of her head for a year.

by effie ophelders



**The Phoenix team 2019-2020
wishes you all a fun and
relaxing summer vacation!**