

20th September 1958

A. Gordon Bagwell

Kindly furnish below your report and views on the undermentioned publication which has been submitted for censorship:—

Women of Strangers  
Naama Gordon

[Signature]  
Secretary.

REPORT OF MEMBER OR READER.

(a) Synopsis of story or subject dealt with:—

Toby comes to Johannesburg, for a book firm, from Britain. He mixes freely in the two worlds: wealthy White; and poor Black. His two greatest friends are a white mistress (Cecile) and an educated Native (Steven Sitole).

Both he and the Native are completely uncommitted to any movement; or to any creed about race relations. They experience a normal friendship - leaving politics etc. aside. The Native is killed in a car accident.

(b) References to pages on which appear passages considered to be indecent, obscene or objectionable:—

(i) Crime, with descriptions of murder, violence, brutal fighting, sadism and illtreatment of women

(ii) Intimate descriptions of women's bodies, passionate lovemaking, sexual relations and loose morals.

No objectionable sex. p. 146-8

(iii) Traffic in drugs, the drug habit, white slave traffic and vice

References to, and descriptions of, shebeens etc. not objectionable

(iv) Other objectionable features, e.g. Intermingling between Europeans and non-Europeans, and blasphemous or other objectionable language. Toby constantly mixes with Sitole's people: eating, sleeping in their homes?

(c) Cover Plain.

(d) General remarks and opinion:

This novel deliberately avoids "protest or propaganda". "The reader is never asked to take sides." [The chief characters preach no gospel about race relations. Sitole is no rebel against existing order]

Intermingling: Toby is taken by Sitole to drink party (mixed) - pages 78-91  
(social) " " " " shebeen - 92-95  
" " " " jazz party - 119-122  
" " " " Indian club. - 180-182

No suggestion of mixed sex relations.

\* General effect is picture of an irrationality in racial isolation in Johannesburg

Date October 23. 1958

Signature of Member or Reader.

A. Gordon Bagwell

S.O.S.

12/11/58

voor planeet tot voor

Marius

31/10/58 ①

Dez.

Ik heb hierdie boek versigtig deurgelies - die inhoud steun my teen die boos - die saamleef en intimiteit van naturel en uitmunt is vriend aan ons volksaad - maar ek moet sê dat die boek nie opweef nie, hoewel ek dit as fyri anti-regering anti-apartheid propagand beskou.

Ek het die gewette paragrawe op bls. 145, 146-147, 172, 199, 204, 214 en 241 gelaak!

Tog meen ek nie dat die boek in die hand gedoen behoort te word nie - dit sou onnodige publisiteit daaraan gee en die boek as sulks is nie sterk genoeg gestryf om meen te influensieer nie. Dit sal goed wees as nog 'n raadskid daar 'n opinie oor sal gee.

A. L. L. L.

15/11/58

NB. Lê aan Beninelande sake voor vir besondere aandag en gee arb. die leser en die Lid in oordeel oor bates. Wys B ook daarop dat verbanning waar skynlik 'n hele herrie in die pers sou outketen, maar dat dit nogtans aan kevel word.

Wys by op die herwelle in wit meesle (Aun) in 'n Indier (Hannu Phayut) op bl. 166-7. Hierdie in 'n liberale groep bevat veel Kommunistiese in 'n.  
W. B. L. G.  
10.12.58

was M.P.B. Creswell,

2/12/61

Kindly furnish below your report and views on the undermentioned publication which has been submitted for censorship:—

A WORLD OF STRANGERS—

By NADINE GORDIMER.

J.A.A.  
Secretary.

REPORT OF READER.

(a) Synopsis of publication dealt with:—

This novel, written by a woman contains a story of an English (male) journalist from London who went to Johannesburg where he made contact with people who were taking an active part in African organizations & in providing legal services for those who were involved in the 'Treason Trials'. The main purpose of his visit was to write a book. As soon as he became acquainted with a few emancipated Africans they all called him 'Toby' & were on familiar terms in every respect. At the outset the contrast between the standards of life of some rich white people of Johannesburg & those of the Africans in the Sophiatown location is described in detail & Toby Hood goes from one place to the other & enjoys many drinking parties in the location with his new African acquaintances. He lives in a flat amongst white people but entertains his native friends there until neighbours complained because of the late hours he kept & the coming & going of Africans. The general picture & theme of this novel are set out at the beginning on Page 35. The constant drinking of alcoholic drinks among both white & black is remarkable. A woman Lemmy Anna who worked for natives was the means of introducing T. Hood to several emancipated Africans. The poor sexual relations

(b) References to pages on which appear passages considered to be indecent, obscene, or objectionable:—

- (i) Crime \_\_\_\_\_ Violence \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of murder \_\_\_\_\_ Sadism \_\_\_\_\_  
Ill-treatment to women \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Intimate description of women's bodies \_\_\_\_\_  
Passionate love-making \_\_\_\_\_  
Sexual relations \_\_\_\_\_  
Loose morals \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) Traffic in drugs \_\_\_\_\_ White slave traffic \_\_\_\_\_  
The drug habit \_\_\_\_\_ Other vices \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) Offensive intermingling between Europeans and Non-Europeans P. 170 172 205 \_\_\_\_\_  
Blasphemy \_\_\_\_\_ Objectionable language P. 216 \_\_\_\_\_  
Other objectionable features (specify) Calculated to arouse feelings of animosity between black & white P 213 & 214.
- (v) Subversive propaganda \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Cover \_\_\_\_\_

(d) General remarks and opinion \_\_\_\_\_

This book gives a false impression of the Africans in South Africa - also of the average white people & their way of life - entertaining, immorality & incidents calculated to arouse feelings of hatred & animosity between the black & white races abound in this novel.

objectionable

Date 29-12-61

M.P.B. Creswell  
Signature of Reader.

with her also with another white woman he met but could not bring himself to feel any interest in any of the African women he met. Several gatherings in the house of an Indian were the occasion of further intermingling & discussions of race politics - Steiner a native who lived by his wife - dishonestly, was Edy Hood's chief friend & associate. A false & misleading impression of the way of life of Urban Africans in the Republic is presented, p. 61, 85 & 112.

Page 123 That the policy of the white man in S. Africa is to knock the spirit out of the black man is stated by one of the leading Africans -

P. 147 Complete familiarity bordering on contempt, is expressed by the African Hood associates with Struik's story -

P. 182 Opinion description of Africans. 205 - Suggested relationships between a white woman & the African Steve -

216 - The Contender of the flat was offensive language when she goes to Hood's flat to find him entertaining several natives at a drinking party.

217 The native Peter calls the white woman "Bloody white bitch" -

The death of Steve in an accident affects Hood in excessive grief & sorrow.

Kworum.	Goedgekeur.	Afkeur.
<i>W. B. Curwiel</i>		X
<i>A. Horcraft</i>		X
<i>J. van der Merwe</i>		X
<i>C. Moshel</i>		X

Besluit: ~~Goedgekeur~~/Afgekeur. ~~Stof-blad.~~  
 Hierdie uitgawe. ~~Alle uitgawes.~~

Voorsittende lid *A. Horcraft*  
 Datum 11.1.62