



PHOENIX

Fairy Tale issue 2014-2015

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letter from the editor

Once upon a time, we thought about making a themed issue for Phoenix. Of course, we have a Christmas issue, but that is more obligatory/necessary. There were some ideas for a summer or music themed issue. Soon, however, another idea dawned on me.

Basically, I live my life in fairy tales. There is a large collection of Disney-DVDs in my room. I listen to a lot of soundtracks or classical music to which I imagine magic worlds with mermaids, unicorns, powers of flight, and the gift of changing my outfit with a snap of my fingers. Every time I have a prom, I pretend I'm Cinderella and take copious amounts of time to transform myself into my own take on the fairy tale. So when the release date of Disney's live-action re-imagination of the previously mentioned princess film came nearer, I realised that fairy tales were still very much alive.

Thus, I present to you our fairy tale issue. I don't want to scare everyone off by only giving you sugar sweet and fairy dusted articles. We decided that we take the issue a little more out of the context by allowing Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and other fantasy elements into our heads. For though they may not be fairy tales exactly, these stories provide us with the means of escaping our daily lives.

I experienced such a feeling of wanting to escape my daily life when I was returning from Albion's trip to Newcastle. While on the ferry, I looked towards the British Isles with longing, while a perfect orange sun was setting its silhouette on fire in the last minutes of its decent. It felt like a primeval scream came from the land, calling me back to its sloping lands, picturesque villages, and, of course, London. Yes, England is part of the fairy tale that I am writing for myself. And I hope it comes to a good ending.

Let's hope we all live happily ever after!

Marijn Brok
Chief Editor





It had been some time since our Phoenix members last had tea with one of our lovely teachers, so we decided it was time to visit Maria Kager in Amsterdam, where she lives with her boyfriend. After some confusion (“Is this the right house? No one is answering the door. Why does Google Maps say we have to be at this end of the street?”) we are happy to be welcomed by Maria. Because the weather is relatively nice, we sit down in the garden. “My boyfriend is into gardening. He is turning it into some kind of urban farm. We have some berries; blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, and he’s trying to grow potatoes. I think that if everything is harvested, we might just have enough for one meal, but he is optimistic that it’s going to be a huge success.” With a cup of tea and a plate full of cookies Maria baked herself we start the interview.

by Kiki Drost & Simone Schoonwater

What did you study?

“I did a propedeuse in Russian and Italian, and went on to do a doctoral in Comparative Literature. I speak Italian because after high school I spent a year in Florence. With Russian you start from scratch. It’s a small programme, there were six of us, so you make friends right away. At least you have something in common; you are all weird enough to study Russian. I really liked Russian literature, but I learned it would take me years to be able to read the original, so I switched to comparative literature. After my master’s degree at the UvA people sort of expected me to do a PhD, but since I didn’t want it to be anyone else’s decision, I travelled through Central America for nine months. After a week I had already decided “No, I’m going to do a PhD”, so I applied for universities in the US. I got accepted into three different programmes and chose Rutgers,

I chose Rutgers university, because it was close to New York, where I wanted to live most. Not a very professional decision, but it worked

Favourite film:	There are so many! The Big Lebowski, 8½, and I love Clueless
Favourite colour:	Blue
Favourite music:	Classical music, jazz, 90’s pop music out of nostalgic reasons
Favourite TV series:	American tv shows, such as the Good Wife, Mad Men, the Wire
Favourite book:	Must be over 200, so no, I can’t choose
Favourite fairy tale:	Fairy tales are not really in my world right

because it was close to New York, where I wanted to live most. Not a very professional decision, but it worked.”

At this point her boyfriend walks in. “I told him to stay away! Oh well, you can have one cookie, but then you have to go. And you’re not allowed to say anything weird about me!”

Did you always want to teach?

“Oh no, not at all! I was part of that spoiled generation that studied for fun, so I didn’t really plan what I wanted to do with it. But I taught in the US, and I loved it. When I finished my PhD, I couldn’t stay at Rutgers, because in the US, your own university never hires you because they think it looks like nepotism. I also didn’t want the nomadic life that academics there tend to have, so I went back to the Netherlands. I really like Utrecht, and my colleagues and the students here. I think my favourite course to teach so far is Literature 1650-2000, just because it’s so diverse and colourful. I also very much enjoyed teaching Nabokov and Joyce.”

After my master’s degree at the UvA people sort of expected me to do a PhD, but since I didn’t want it to be anyone else’s decision, I travelled through Central America for nine months.

Do you have any hobbies?

“This is going to sound awful, but I love to read. It’s still one of my favourite things to do. I like movies too, and we go to concerts a lot, both classical music, or when friends perform. I also enjoy writing. I write sketches and things, short stories, ideas for bigger things I’m going to write later, but so far haven’t got around to that. I’m not trying to get anything published: it’s just for fun.

I’m not really into sports. I used to play sports when I was growing up, but with the job there seems to be so little time. I do yoga now, and I did kickboxing in New York, so maybe I’ll do that again if I can find a good martial arts school in Amsterdam. We also go hiking a lot. We are doing the Pieterpad with a group of friends, which is a lot nicer than I expected. We do that for a weekend every couple of months.

One other thing I really enjoy is going to a small wooden chalet in Overijssel, in the middle of a national park. There is no electricity or hot water. There is a wood stove, rain water for washing, and one little solar panel for a bit of light in the evenings. You can sit on the porch that runs around the entire house, reading, and suddenly a little deer will come skipping by. We go there two weeks a year. It’s as wild as you can get in Holland.”

When we’ve asked everything, taken lots of pictures, and the last sips of tea are gone, it is time for us to go home. Maria’s boyfriend tells us the nicest way to walk to the station and we soon find ourselves on a train back to Utrecht. Maria: thanks once again for your time, the tea, and the delicious cookies of course!





*“if you don’t want your childhood ruined,
leave before the Disney princesses
open their first bottle”*

Elf Fantasy Fair

Once a year, all the cyber gothics, Game of Thrones enthusiasts, Tolkien fans, Whovians, free-huggers, anime freaks, steampunkers, people who love Victorian outfits, LARPerS, and unfortunately also a fair amount of furies all gather on the estate of Kasteel de Haar in Haarzuilens, where the Elf Fantasy Fair takes place. The Elf Fantasy Fair, or Elfia, is the largest European fantasy event of Europe, and first took place in 2001. Since 2009 it is held not only in April in Haarzuilens, but also in September in Arcen. Elfia Haarzuilens attracts around 22.500 visitors.

by Kiki Drost

Okay, this is all very well, but why would you spent your precious stuff on such an event?

First of all you go for the costumes. Some people spend weeks, months, even years perfecting their outfits for Elfia. There is usually a theme, but most people don’t bother with it. This year, the theme was Game of Thrones, and I’ve seen quite a few Kahl DrogoS, Cerseis, and I think a Daenerys for every dress she ever wore in the series, but most people casually ignore the theme and come dressed as other characters from other shows, games, books, or films, or as somethings else altogether. There is something about seeing Gandalf, Tinkerbell, and a lady in full steampunk outfit sitting on the grass, eating a candy apple: it’s the sort of thing you wouldn’t ever think of, but is extremely enjoyable when you see it happen.

Of course there’s more to do than just watching people. You could just go to Utrecht Central Station, platform 18 to do that. There are also two stages with live music, costume parades,



shows, theatre groups, and storytellers. And if you still have money left after paying your entrance fee (the trick is to buy your ticket way back in December, because the prices go up every month), you can always spend more! Plenty of stalls where you can buy jewellery, art, books, (LARP)weapons or collectibles, but mostly there are stalls full of clothes, both modern and every kind of fantasy, and there’s lots of food.

The weather wasn’t great, but it wasn’t horrible and rainy either, so most people weren’t too unhappy, except maybe the people who decided their outfit was more important than their health, and therefore walked around with just a few layers of fabric too few.

Traditionally, most people will end their day, or days, with a bottle of mead. Or maybe two bottles. Or six. At which point they at least won’t feel the cold anymore. On Saturday most people tend to not drink alcohol until at least somewhere in the afternoon, but on Sunday they just don’t care anymore, and it is not rare to see a drunken pirate at 11 o’clock in the morning. So if you don’t want your childhood ruined, leave in before the Disney princesses open their first bottle

Elfia Arcen will take place on 19 and 20
September 2015, and the next
Elfia Haarzuilens will be in April 2016.





Outlander

by Fleur Kronenberg

Outlander combines fantasy and history, based on the books by Diana Gabaldon. Through some mysterious heathen druid magic the protagonist Claire Randall, a married combat nurse from 1945, ends up in 1743 Scotland where she finds herself in the middle of the Scottish rebellion and is literally swept of her feet by the gorgeous – and often shirtless – Highland Warrior Jamie Fraser. While she learns more about the history of Scotland, in 1945 her husband is getting more and more worried about the sudden disappearance of his beloved wife.

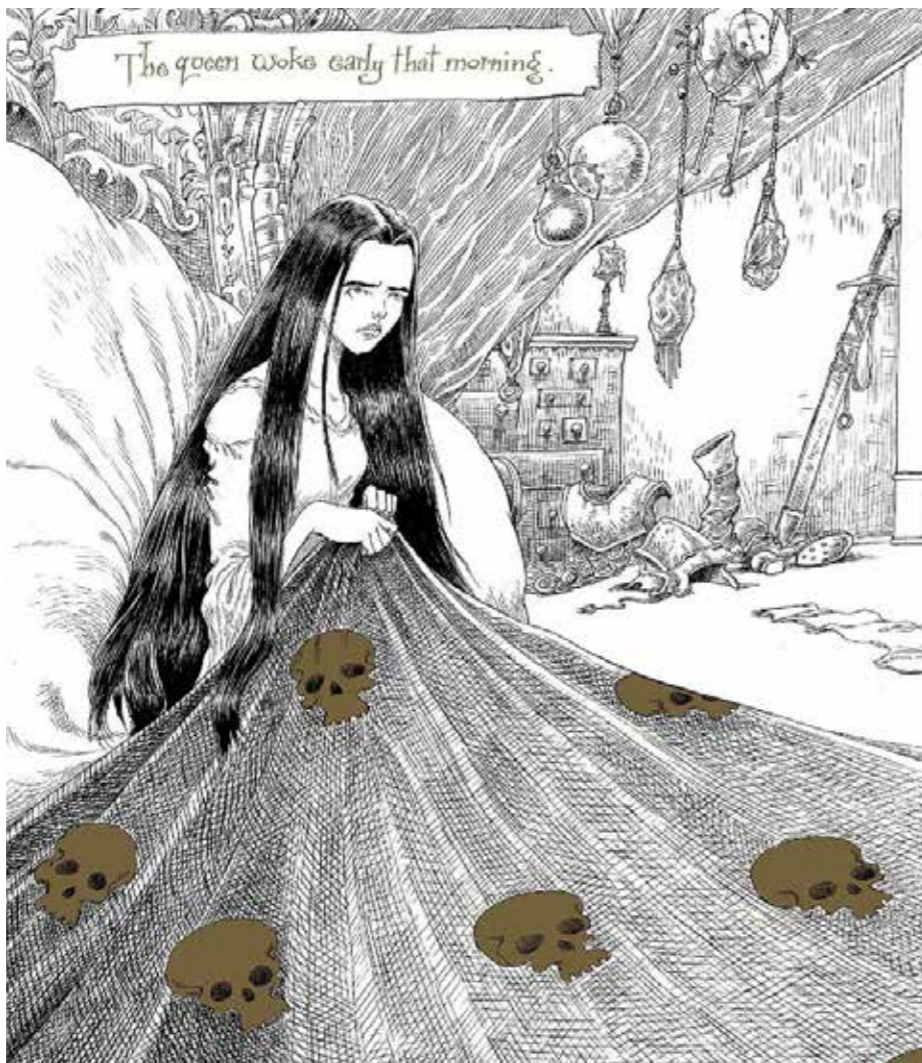
It is a fun series to watch, but it takes some getting used to, the first episode is mainly scene-setting and introducing characters. It takes a few episodes to get a feel for the series, but once you do it is hard not to become addicted to Jamie, I mean the plot, I mean Jamie, God he is gorgeous in his kilt. Nevertheless, even if you are not into hot Scottish men fighting with swords and hating the English, it is still a fun series to watch and learn more about UK history through the eyes of an absolutely awesome female lead.

The Sleeper and the Spindle

by Astrid Nieuwets

It had been a long while for me since I read an illustrated book, but being reintroduced to those good old days by *The Sleeper and the Spindle* was an absolute delight. Don't be fooled by the illustrations, this story is in no way a children's story. Neil Gaiman (known for titles such as *Stardust*, *American Gods* and *Sandman*) has completely revamped the plot in a way only he can, and made it into a gothic, dark fairy tale. There is no prince, and leading ladies take the stage rather than damsels in distress. Add to that some kind of alien breed of women and a lust for world domination, throw in some dwarves and some spiders and Once Upon a Dream becomes more of a Once Upon a Nightmare.

And that is not all, the entire story, both in its illustrations and its narrative, features a lot of references to other fairy tales and stories. I found myself paging back to find that one illustration to confirm my suspicions concerning the identity of our female heroine. These references also allows for a more adult content, as the story criticises some of the more unusual aspects of the traditional fairy tale (one kiss might not be enough to actually build a marriage on, be it true love's kiss or not).



On the Clock

by Marijn Brok

Last March saw the release of Disney's live-action motion picture of Cinderella. Though not a direct remake, it borrowed many story elements of the original Disney animation. But perhaps even more refreshing is the casting. Lily James (of Downton Abbey-fame) steps in as the eponymous character, while Cate Blanchett offers a wickedly good stepmother and Richard Madden takes on a different royal role as Prince Kit.

The film follows the original plot closely, but adds more depth by creating more grounded backstories and goals for these characters. What makes this film even more worthy are those scenes that call up nostalgia of the earlier version. Perhaps the best scene is where Helena Bonham Carter appears as the Fairy Godmother and conjures a coach and a gown that goes above all earlier princess dresses. And then there is the moment where Ella and Kit dance, swirling and twirling the night away. Director Kenneth Branagh offers a visual spectacle, easily drawing in the younger audience. But even older viewers can find pleasure in watching. Blanchett shines as the main antagonist, showing that even in a Disney film acting can be good. Sweet as it may be, Cinderella provides enough entertainment for everyone on the aging scale.



Galavant

by Fleur Kronenberg

Galavant is everything you could wish for in a tv series. It is the perfect combination of cheesy songs, your typical fairy-tale characters (consisting of a dashing hero who has lost the love of his life to an evil king) and a big heap of humour, all set in the Middle Ages. There has been just one season, with only 8 twenty-minute episodes, this makes the series extremely suitable to binge watch. Unfortunately, ratings were not very good and most blogs predict the show to be cancelled, which would be a shame for this mix of *The Princess Bride* and *Monty Python*.

The team behind the series are not new to the business, they have all earned their stripes while working on other big television and cinema hits. Writer Dan Fogelman ("*Tangled*") teamed up with director Chris Koch ("*Scrubs*", "*Modern Family*"), composer Alan Menken ("*The Little Mermaid*", "*Beauty and the Beast*") and lyricist Glenn Slater ("*Tangled*") to make Galavant into the all-around awesomeness it has become.

Phoenix serves...



Fairytale Foods

In a fairy tale issue there is really no other option than to serve you some fairy tale food that will transport you to some of our favourite magical universes. We searched the most magical of them all, the internet, for recipes, and managed to create a complete dinner that will hopefully put a spell on you and make you want to give it a try yourself!

by Stanzy Kersten

Sansa's Salad

Game of Thrones

Rating:



Reproducibility:

"All the while the courses came and went. A thick soup of barley and venison. Salads of sweetgrass, spinach, and plums, sprinkled with crushed nuts."

As a side, we made this salad, which is described in one of the A Song of Ice and Fire books, where Sansa eats it at a banquet. The flowers are optional, but if you have a chance to get your hands on some, definitely add them since they lift up the appearance of the salad a whole lot (do be sure to wash them though!). We added nectarines instead of plums, because there's a lot of room to add your

own favourite fruits and salad leaves. The **raspberry vinaigrette** may seem like a dangerous thing, but it's actually quite easy to make if you have a sieve and some determination.

Phoenix Tips

- Although the butterbeer wasn't very good, do try to make the vanilla syrup/soda: it's super easy and delicious on its own! Also, make sure you have an empty bottle to store the syrup for future use.
- The Sansa Salad needs sugared walnuts: you can use your vanilla syrup from the butterbeer to sugar regular walnuts!
- The recipe we used for apple cupcakes was not very clear, however you can use this video which is much clearer. If you do try this share your results with us.
- The lembas are really great on their own; you can make them and bring them with you as a snack.
- Don't puree the pumpkin and the veggies separately in the Hazelnut Soup, that wastes everyone's time and only creates more dishes.
- Get a separate container for the raspberry vinaigrette, it's delicious and you'll want to pour it on every salad once you've had it once.



Sansa Salad



Hazelnut soup
(Tangled/Rapunzel)

Rating:



Reproducibility:

“I’m going to make hazelnut soup for dinner, your favourite.”

Our first dish was the hazelnut soup that Mother Gothel promises to make for Rapunzel’s birthday dinner. The recipe we found was more of a pumpkin soup with hazelnuts sprinkled over the top, but it was delicious nonetheless. We advise you to not follow the recipe when it tells you to puree the pumpkin separate from the other veggies. This is unnecessary because you can really just dump everything in your stock-pot, add water or stock, and use an immersion blender to turn it into a smooth soup.

Lembas
Lord of the Rings

Rating:



Reproducibility:

“Lembas bread. One small bite is enough to fill the stomach of a grown man!”

To go with our soup, we made some lembas, the bread the elves in Lord of the Rings eat. For major authenticity you can plate this with some vine leaves, but since we didn’t have those, a regular plate had to do. These things are basically flat scones with less sugar in them. It is really easy to make, and it tastes delicious, so if you want to impress someone (or yourself) with magical bread, give it a go!

“How many did you eat?”

“Four.”

Butterbeer
Harry Potter

Rating:



Reproducibility:

“Why don’t we go and have a butterbeer in the Three Broomsticks, it’s a bit cold, isn’t it?”

This well-known drink is now no longer confined to The Three Broomsticks, because we found you a recipe! It calls for vanilla soda, something that’s not exactly easy to come by in our country, but you can easily **make your own** by making a syrup and adding some sparkling water to it, which is delicious. The butterbeer itself: not so much. And to be fair, melted butter, sugar, cream, and soda is not what you would call an appealing combination.

Apple Cupcakes
Snow White

Rating:



Reproducibility:

“This is no ordinary apple, it’s a magic wishing apple.”

We all know the feeling of finding recipes on the internet that look beautiful and don’t seem that difficult to make, and the recipe for these rose-shaped cupcakes was definitely one of those. They’re not exactly cupcakes, since they’re made of sliced apple and puff pastry, but we put them in cupcake wrappers and baked them in a muffin tin, so they definitely resembles cute cupcakes. The key to succeeding with this recipe is to slice your apples really thin, because otherwise rolling them up will become very difficult. Make sure to roll out your pastry thinly as well. Ours was quite thick, which meant that the bottom of the cakes was just one big bite of pastry. Try [this video recipe](#) instead of the one we used!

Fleur Kronenberg on her play and how it fits in with her thesis:

“Because I thought it would be fun” won’t suffice as an academic explanation unfortunately.

How did you come up with the idea to write a play as part of your thesis?

It all started with a casual conversation at the Albion shack about what to do thesis-wise. We were going through the thesis guide book when Maroucha remarked that it was allowed to write a play as part of your BA thesis. The idea of adapting *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* had been slumbering in the background of my busy brain for a year now and as soon as I heard her say this it woke up and started doing cartwheels. I knew I had found my thesis subject.

Why *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?

Throughout my BA the poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* seemed to keep returning to me! I had already read it a few times and written a few papers and I never even considered adapting something else for this play really.

How did you go about adapting a 14th century poem into a play?

Well, that was easier said than done. Luckily I had a lot of help! Mainly from Erik van Dijk, my co-writer and co-director, and later Erik de Vries Lentsch has helped a lot with the final rewrite. I knew I wanted to modernise the story of Sir Gawain, so I took the basic story elements, the absolute minimum and I converted that into a modern-day office setting. Arthur is no longer king but the CEO of a company, Round Table Inc. And Sir Gawain has become Lady Gwen!

... a female protagonist?

Yes! I don’t know when or why or how I even came up with that but it suited the story very well in the modern setting! Gwen is a young intern at her uncle Arthur’s company, she really wants to prove herself to him and to the world. She has the same drives and wishes as Sir Gawain had, the only difference is the fact that she is a woman. And a pretty awesome one at that!

Where did you go from there?

Well, first I had to determine which other elements of the poem I wanted to keep in the play, how I was going to modernise those and of course the play would have to be fun to watch for both people who know the original and for those who don’t. Additionally, as the original was poem I had to write a lot of dialogue to convey the feelings and struggles of the characters to make it into a play.

The play itself is only an addendum to your thesis, what is the thesis itself on?

My thesis is the justification of the choices I made while adapting *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* within the framework of Linda Hutcheon’s *A Theory of Adaptation*. In the thesis I explain how I modernised the poem in general, but I also focus on specific elements like the seduction scenes for instance.

What is it like to see something quite academic, like your thesis and especially the play you wrote for it, become so tangible, in the form of a play?

I have struggled – or actually am still struggling – with writing my thesis. It all started with this vague idea of writing a play, which was really exciting, however I kept forgetting the academic thesis part of it. The play itself is like the crown jewel, the gorgeous result of hard work and a lot of fun and laughter. The thesis has to be the frame for that crown jewel. One cannot exist without the other at this moment. The struggle is to keep it academic enough. “Because I thought it would be fun” won’t suffice as an academic explanation unfortunately. But don’t worry! I am getting there and Marcelle Cole has been very patient and very helpful.

The venue is rather odd, it is in a museum, how did you come up with that?

There is a beautiful stage in the middle of Museum Speelklok, which is situated in an old 11th century church in the middle of Utrecht. It was just perfect, an old church adapted into something modern, namely a museum. It is the perfect setting for this play.

and finally: are you excited?

How is that even a question?! I am hella excited! The play is going to be awesome! I have an amazing cast and amazing people helping me! SUDS is amazing, the museum has been a great help as has the Kledingbibliotheek (we borrow all our costumes from them). It has been a massive project, but every second has been worth it and is leading up to opening night. I couldn’t have done this alone and I am very thankful to everyone involved.

by Astrid Nieuwets

CAST: Liana Dobrica, Erik de Vries Lentsch, Elizabeth Verwey, Pim Bastian, Maroucha Veerman, Daniël Oudekerk, Lisanne Morgane, Maarten Gooskens

LADY GWEN and the GREEN MAN

A SUDS PRODUCTION
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
FLEUR KRONENBERG & ERIK VAN DIJK

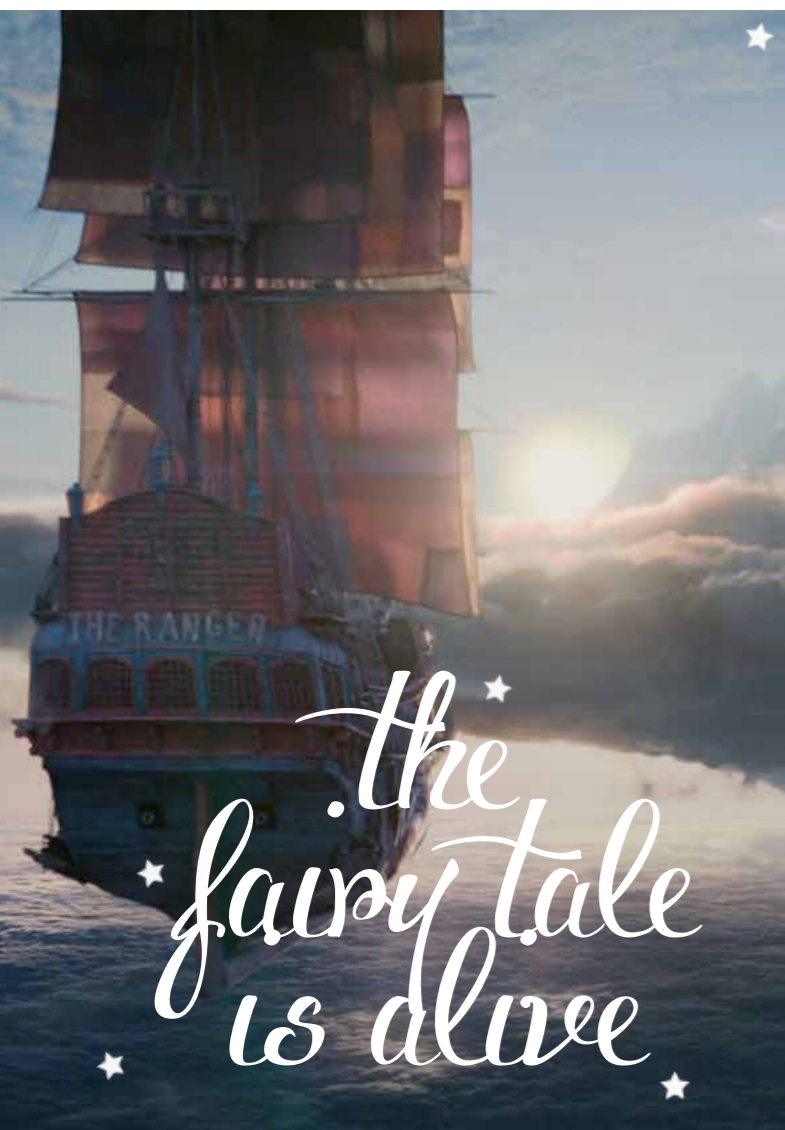
9 + 10 JUNE
MUSEUM
SPEELKLOK

20:00, doors open 19:30
€5 students / €7,50 non-students. tickets available at the door. reservations:

SUDSRESERVATIONS@GMAIL.COM

DE KLEDINGBIBLIOTHEEK

Albion



With many fantasy films on the horizon, it seems that the magical folk tale is back in business.

by Marijn Brok

We've all heard or read this line before: once upon a time. They have become synonymous with the fairy tale, and represent worlds of princes, princesses, evil witches, fire breathing dragons, dwarfs, trolls, unicorns, mermaids, and most of all a happy ending. They form a stark contrast to reality, where the news provides items about terrorism, rebellion, cop murders, war, natural disasters, fighting politicians or, what by some is deemed as world news, yet another naked venture of Mrs Kardashian West. On an international scale it seems as if the world is in utter tragedy. So perhaps, in order to escape that feeling, we escape towards a world where everything turns out for the best.

Case in point: this year, Disney released a re-imagination of its animated classic Cinderella. Starring Lily James and Cate Blanchett, the audience is treated to a life-motion feature which nostalgically refers back to its predecessor. Instead of becoming a possible flop, it actually performed well in the cinema. Last year, Disney experimented with the idea of the life-action form when they released Maleficent. And it is clear it's working, for remakes of The Jungle Book, Beauty and the Beast and Mulan are already on the release schedule. ABC, the American channel owned by Disney, just announced a fifth season of Once upon a Time, its

successful drama about a detective in a town where characters from fairy tales live. It even ventured out of its own comfort zone when the studio adapted the Stephen Sondheim-musical Into the Woods last year. And of course, let's not forget the success and impact of its recent juggernaut Frozen.

The appeal of the fairy tale of course goes beyond the monopoly Disney seems to have on fairy tales. Warner Bros. Pictures is also developing a live-action version of Jungle Book. Sophia Coppola is reportedly adapting The Little Mermaid for the silver screen. And then there is Joe Wright's Pan, a film about how Peter ended up in Neverland, which is to be released this year. In 2012, two film adaptations of Snow White were released, starring respectively Lily Collins and Kirsten Stewart as the titular character. Next year will see a prequel of this latter film, but without an appearance by Stewart. There are even rumours of two Pinocchio adaptations.

Are most of us not too old to watch these features that are so heavily marketed on children?

The first thought that springs to mind is whether these films are really made for adults. Are most of us not too old to watch these features that are so heavily marketed on children? Perhaps. But these adaptations possess aspects that make them interesting for the adult audience as well. First, there is the nostalgia that is connected to these films. Most of us enjoyed the magical moments in these stories: when Cinderella's dress is transformed or when Peter Pan first flew up for example. Furthermore, most of them cast grand actors and actresses that attract the attention of a wider audience. Beauty and the Beast made headlines when they cast Emma Watson as Belle, and Pan took on Hugh Jackman to portray its main antagonist (spoiler alert: it is not Hook). Additionally, the films seem to play in on a larger trend where the audience wants to see fantasy worlds, characters with inhuman powers and familiar story lines, like with The Hobbit, The Avengers and many young adult novels.

This need to escape also comes forward in other areas. Fashion for example was inspired in the last few seasons by magical themes. Dolce and Gabbana envisioned their own version of Red Riding Hood for the runway, and Elie Saab featured fairy princesses for its haute couture collection. Of course, this trend is focused on the female population (what girl wouldn't want to wear a princess gown), but it showcases the interest for embodying the magical fantasy.

And it's this fantasy that we all might be longing for. At some point, when we grew up, we perhaps lost the ability we had as a child to imagine everything to be magical. So the creative industries might simply be responding to this loss. Maybe we are not able to imagine ourselves as knights, dragons, superheroes, wizards, warrior princesses or hobbits, but at least there is an opportunity to visually escape to that world again in the cinema.

Hell's Kitchen?

Cooking with **blood**: the ins and outs

To encounter red in a kitchen or a candy store seems natural enough. Try to imagine the culinary landscape without tomato, strawberry or paprika. Rather a bare bones picture isn't it? A red substance that you'll probably not so readily accept in your pans and mixing bowls, however, is blood. The mere mention of it in a culinary environment sounds alien and even vampiric, and yet, according to some revolutionary chefs and butchers, it's going to be all the rage in a short while.

by Twan van Tilborg

Using blood in cooking is nothing new, of course. Blood sausage is a traditional delicacy, warmly remembered by previous generations. Blood desserts, meringue, and pancakes, however, might sound a little less orthodox.

"In many places in Norway it is very usual to drain a butchered animal of blood, which is then used in pancake batter. Students also use it as a cheap component in noodles and pasta," says Alice de Boer, who, together with chef Baaf Vonk, has been experimenting with some bloody recipes. Their efforts have produced an orange tartlet topped with meringue foam of a pinkish colour. "Instead of egg yolk we used pig's blood as a binding agent for the meringue, which worked out rather well," says Baaf. According to the duo, blood is experiencing a comeback in the culinary scene, even though many people still think using the red delicacy in food is rather gruesome. Restaurants already sporadically serve recipes containing blood, and using it fits in perfectly with the ever more popular idea that you should not waste the tiniest bit of a butchered animal.

But that's not all. Blood has a high nutritional value and brims with iron, and, according to the chefs so eagerly using it, it has a perfect colour and texture for culinary use. Its rich hue makes it perfect for sauces and for use in meat-based recipes. Moreover, it has an interesting way of behaving in a heated state. Due to the clotting properties of blood it seems to grow thicker as it is cooked, which makes it a good binding agent. It seems perfection.

Yet will it ever become as popular as Alice and Baaf predict? It will have to lose its gruesome connotation first, and that

Blood: Horror Films or Cooking Shows?

We asked a group of 20 people ranging in age from 16 to 84 whether they'd welcome blood in their kitchen jars or would rather keep it on the telly. 14 of them (all of them younger than forty) said that they wouldn't even think about it. Four said they'd like to try. Only two, both elderly ladies, said that eating black pudding was nothing new to them.



Mind what you get and where you get it!

While cooking with blood is a beautiful initiative, it has its risks and disadvantages. According to butcher Floris Prester, you can't just use any kind of animal's blood, and you should also be careful where you get it from. The blood of pigs, hares and calves are safe and even recommended in use, but blood of mature bovines is a definite no-go and is even officially prohibited in food due to the chances of BSE (mad cow disease) infection. Furthermore, you should check the source of your blood. No, not the cow or pig it came from, but the supplier. Make sure you always buy it at a certified butcher's shop.

Maybe blood is the ketchup of the future after all?

might be rather difficult. Blood is something that belongs in horror movies, not cooking shows. We had a little opinion experiment (results can be seen on the side).

For some, this entire fuss about blood making its reappearance in the larder seems rather silly. For them, it has never left it in the first place. Mrs. Helena Lankhaar has enjoyed eating black pudding all her life. "When I was your age, people still butchered at home once in a while. We weren't very rich, so we used every bit of the animal that we could salvage. Bones for soup, and the blood to make sausage with. I still buy it sometimes. It tastes very good." She laughed when she was asked whether she still made it herself. "You can't really go and butcher cattle at home nowadays, can you? If I want blood sausage, I can buy it."

Of course, after hearing so much about those 'bloody' recipes, I couldn't pass on trying some notorious black pudding myself. I wasn't half disappointed, and a little surprised not to taste the sweet, iron-like flavour of blood but rather a salty, herblike flavour.

Maybe blood is the ketchup of the future after all?



Albion Goes Geordie

In April, Albion went on a study trip to Newcastle. This of course meant a lot of fun, castles, nights out, and flying on a broomstick.
by Marijn Brok

“Mount!” is what I have to yell if I want to properly get up my broomstick. The next step is to actually mount this flying device. I imagine myself jumping up gracefully, doing a kind of triple back flip before I land on my trusted wooden companion. The reality is different, however. It is a simple case of jumping up, thrusting the broom between my legs and landing on my two feet again. I see that my fellow students act in a similar way. Then, in order for my broomstick to really take off, I need to emit some kind of sound that will make me go up in the air. It sounds something like “woessssssssj, woessssssssj”, or maybe more like “mieeeeeeeeeu-wwww, mieeeeeeeeeuwwww”. Either way, it gets me to swizz around the grass field. Out of the sounds made around me, I detect a seal-like noise, which means that Albion-treasurer Floris has made it to the air as well. But what I hear most is a lot of laughter.

It pains me to say that I am not actually flying on a broomstick. But the lesson, part of an excursion to Alnwick Castle, may be one of the most memorable parts of Albion’s study trip to Newcastle. Famous for Geordie Shore, I discovered that the city has far more to offer than a trashy crowd that has seen far too

much booze and sex. Actually, Newcastle is an elegant city, with chic architecture and modern touches, as well as a lot of history.

Our trip starts in IJmuiden, where a ferry will take us to the city in the northern parts of England. This voyage itself is a treat on its own, which feels as if we’re on some grand cruise ship. As we’ll arrive in Newcastle the following day, we get to sleep in small cabins that are far too cosy for their own good. After we’ve crossed the sea, our group is taken to Eurohostel Newcastle, a charming establishment where some of us have a very good room (like I did) and some of us don’t. The first day is reserved for discovering the city. In the late afternoon, we find ourselves on a bus, making our way to a place out of the city. Here, we get to see a small part of Hadrian’s Wall. The sun is already setting, which, together with the idyllic small houses and green fields of this part of England, makes it really feel like we’ve arrived.

The next day, we take another bus trip to earlier mentioned Alnwick Castle. This medieval castle has often been used as a setting in several films and TV-shows. Some of them are Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Elizabeth, Downton Abbey (Christmas Special 2014), and, most important of all, the first two Harry Potter films. Let me tell you that there is no better feeling than entering a courtyard where a small group of children is being taught how to fly a broomstick. Feelings of nostalgia washed over all of us, and I proclaimed many times over that I had finally received my Hog-

warts letter (even though I am 25). And then imagine how it must feel when you get to walk inside the castle, where you recognise every room from Downton Abbey. Apart from that, the place is absolutely breathtaking. While the exterior is medieval, the inside of the castle is decorated entirely in Renaissance-style, with every room sporting a different main colour from ruby red to amber yellow to emerald green. This trip will certainly be remembered for a long while by all of us.



The next days are spent further exploring the city. We’re treated to a guided tour of an old cinema, and an old tunnel which was used during the Second World War. Some of us went to explore some museums, and the Travel Committee tried to scare us by taking us on a ghost tour. But an Albion-trip is not complete without the necessary nights out. Truth be told, it is not as bad as some of us have seen it on television. Then again, we never entered Bijoux, one of Geordie Shore’s haunts, because most of us were too young to enter. Instead, we went to Florita’s and Madame Koo, two adjoining clubs where a lot of cocktails were consumed, a lot of boys were snogged, and a lot of booty was shaken. And the last night, as per true Albion tradition, we visited Powerhouse, a gay club, where basically the same went down as on previous nights.



The day before the boat takes us back, we go on a final trip to Durham. This little city is famous for Durham Cathedral, which, of course, was also used for some shots in Harry Potter. It is a very peaceful place, with a lot of beautiful views of the cathedral. This last trip made it clear that Newcastle was definitely worth visiting. It was very hard for us to leave the city, as we were enjoying ourselves way too much. But it’s a good thing to know that in IJmuiden, a ferry is willing to take us back there.



Syme in Scotland

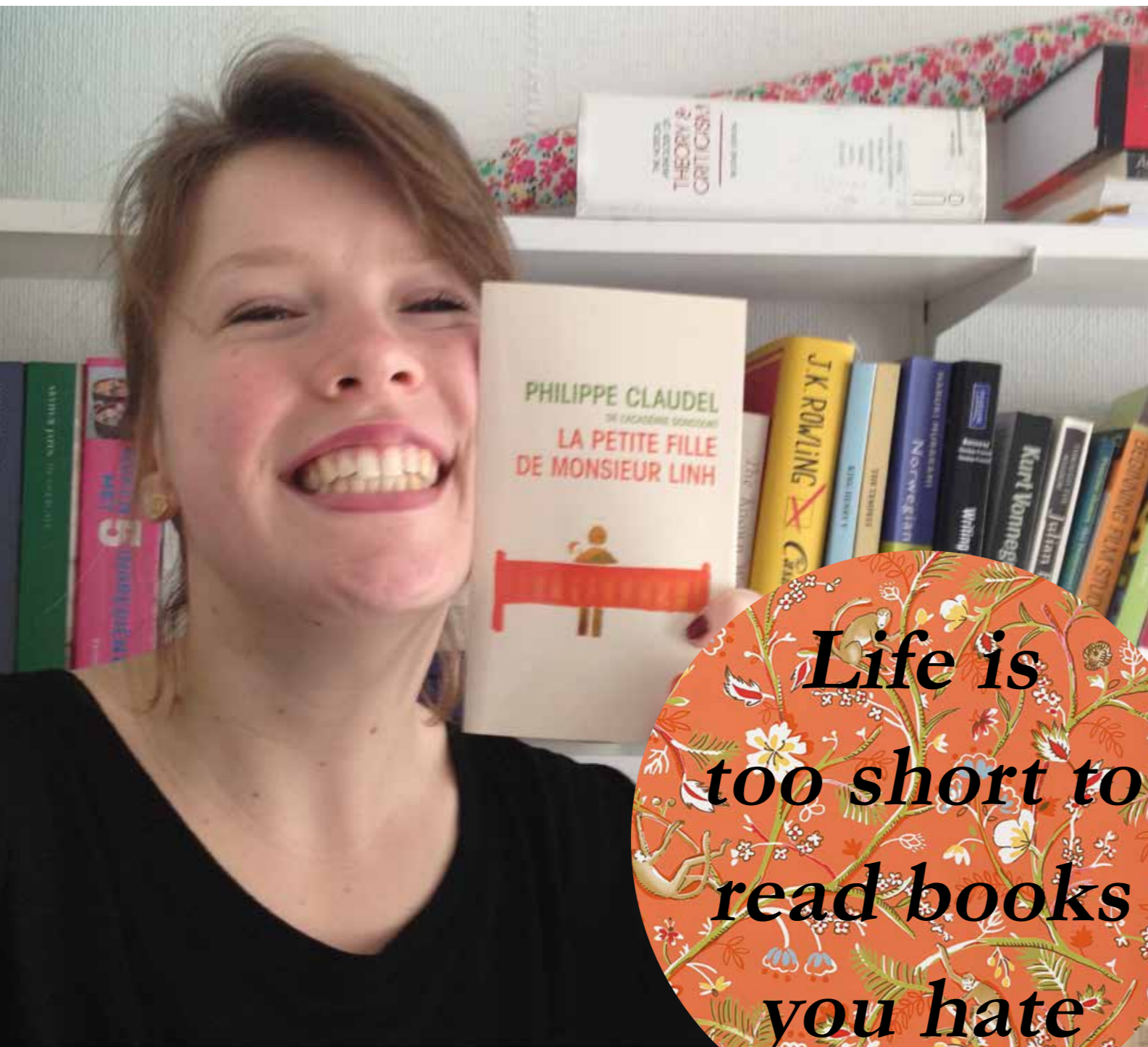
The door to my room creaks and slightly opens if you walk around my room. Sometimes even when I’m sitting still at my desk. It scares the shit out of me and everyone who visits, especially if there’s no one else in the house. “WHO’S THERE?” Oh wait, it’s just the door of my room opening for no reason at all. One explanation might be that it is an old house and there’s pressure on the floor connecting to the door or whatever. The second and more plausible explanation is ghosts.

Ghosts like St Andrews. It’s old (all the ruins), it’s windy, foggy, and it can be really quiet. And this being Scotland, loads of people have been brutally murdered here. In other words, almost every other house has its ghost story. My house unfortunately doesn’t (at least, none that I know of), but since there’s obviously a ghost living here, I’ll have to make something up.

I can get inspiration from some nearby ghosts. Across the street, there’s a house where long ago a student killed himself after gambling away his father’s fortune (a true St Andrews problem). Next to that are the cathedral grounds, which are absolutely riddled with ghosts. There’s a dog but no one has seen him for a long time, so his existence is disputed. More interesting is the story of Thomas Platter, a young cleric who was caught sleeping with a woman in 1394. He was thrown in the dungeon for a couple of days as a punishment. Thomas didn’t enjoy those three days so he killed the prior on top of St. Rule’s (our version of the Dom) and flung him over the north side of the tower. The prior died a few days later; before he died he was able to identify Thomas who was put in prison and died quickly (prison conditions were pretty poor back then). Now they both roam the cathedral grounds, where they’re keeping The Green Lady and The Lady in White company. I can see the cathedral grounds from my bedroom window, they’re pretty entertaining to watch. Free entertainment!

I’d still like to know what happened in my room though. Who got murdered and when and how? Was it a student, a local or some religious guy? A combination of the three, the ultimate St Andrews love triangle? Were there axes involved? I’ll never know. the ghost (or ghosts) will have to show themselves and tell me.

by Syme van der Lelij



Having been previously part of the Phoenix committee, Margit Wilke is already well acquainted with the commonly used questions for this column; in fact she's the one who composed them! Now, in a reversal of roles, she tells us all about the books she can't put down (no surprises there) and the literature she would rather not see on the reading list.

by Judith Brinksm

What was your favourite book growing up?

I was one of those relentlessly shameless Harry Potter die-hards, I'm afraid. I think I must've read all of them at least five times over. When I turned 11, I even got too impatient to wait for the Dutch translations, so I started reading the English books. It also felt so

much more special to read the actual words Jo Rowling chose, I guess. She was (and is) my centre of gravity.

What is your favourite book now?

It has taken me a year to finish the damn thing, but *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt is a treasure to me. Her writing, her phrasing, her characters. Even though she tends to dream up similar protagonists over and over again, they're always so genuine and real. Her writing breaks my heart, yet heals it simultaneously, I guess. (Oh my god, nerd aleecert!)

What is the last book you read for 'fun'?

I am currently rushing through *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (so hipster, don't even tell me), but I have also been reading Philippe Claudel's *La Petite Fille de Monsieur Linh* to work on my French a little bit. So far, so not good! I am terrible. It might be the fact that I keep falling asleep these days (graduating is tough, kids!). I really want to finish those before exams start again.

Which book are you most ashamed of reading?

First of all, you will not meet a more pro-'no shame' person than me. I could read anything and not give a rat's arse if it's bad. Sure, I have read Tolstoy, but I've also had my fair share of Stephenie Meyer (haven't we all?). Maybe if I had read *Fifty Shades*, I would've been a tiny bit disappointed with myself but, alas. (Dying to see the film though, hellooooo Jamie Dornan!)

I would read about
the Harry Potter universe
until the day I die.

Which book are you most ashamed of for not reading it (yet)?

So many! The list of books I've read is seriously short, probably because I refused to read anything other than Harry Potter books until, like, yesterday. I really want to read *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro (since his new book is SO good), but mostly I feel a little bad not to have read any of George Orwell's books yet.

Which are/is the book(s) you have only read halfway or even less?

I was no fan of *Jane Eyre*. I had to start with it three times and write two essays about it before I properly finished it. (sorry not sorry, Paul Franssen) Even worse was Austen's *Mansfield Park*. I just couldn't get myself to finish it. Life's too short, I guess, to read books you hate.

If you could recommend me one of your books, which one would it be?

I would recommend anyone to read *Birthday Letters* by Ted Hughes or anything by Anne Sexton. These are not novels, they're poetry, but they make for an easy read in between those abhorrently long novels we need to read for our degrees. Even if you only read one poem a week, it stays with you and you can sort of go over them in your head, which I like. Also, the collected short stories of Eudora Welty are an absolute pleasure to read, and easy to read in between stuff as well.

What, for you, is the ultimate page limit of a book before you decide against reading it?

The sky is the limit, seriously. However, I do not believe narratives can be endlessly smeared out and still be interesting enough to keep going. Except for Harry Potter. I would read about the Harry Potter universe until the day I die.

If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

I really like novels that are centred around their characters more than anything else. If the characters are real people, then the story just works in my opinion. So, a book about people, a person, a character. I don't think I am creative enough to dream up a whole new world like Tolkien and George R.R. Martin did.

Which author have you read the most books by and why?

Not taking our Queen into consideration, I think I've read equally as much by Tolkien, Ishiguro and Tartt. They're just amazing to me.

What is your favourite English word and why? Your least favourite?

My favourite word is probably indelible, or rather the adverb: indelibly; because it sounds exactly like what it means, and it can either be positive or negative. I like the flexibility of the word. I don't like the word clot. All connotations you can have with clot are shitty.

The moment anyone mentions theta roles or phrase trees, I start crying.

Are you team literature or team linguistics?

Definitely team literature, even though I appreciate the existence of the study of linguistics. It's just that the moment anyone mentions theta roles or phrase trees, I start crying. WORST NIGHTMARE.

What is your favourite genre?

Again, I haven't read nearly enough books to have a favourite author, let alone genre, but I did really enjoy Harry Potter and books like *Brief voor de Koning* and *The Lord of the Rings*, so probably fantasy. Even though I lean towards a science fiction-y side with Ishiguro.

Calendar

May	June
6 Open Podium Albion & Awater <i>Parnassos</i>	30 12inchCity festival OFF THE RECORD MONARCK <i>Paleis Soestdijk, Baarn</i>
7 Monthly Drinks & Candidate Board Reveal <i>Mick O'Connells</i>	1 Symposium Forensic Linguistics <i>to be announced</i>
12 Commissievergadering <i>Drift 25 2.03</i>	2 Monthly Drinks <i>Mick O'Connells</i>
13 Zeg 'ns aaA6 <i>Maggy Malou</i>	4 Last Pub Quiz of the Year <i>Mick O'Connells</i>
14+15 Holiday regarding Ascension Day (shack closed) <i>Everywhere</i>	4 Karaoke Night <i>to be announced</i>
20 Minormarkt <i>Ruppert , Uithof</i>	8 SVO symposium <i>to be announced</i>
21 Committee Market <i>to be announced</i>	9+10 SUDS Big Play <i>Museum Speelklok</i>
25 White Monday (shack closed) <i>Everywhere</i>	15 Study Afternoon <i>to be announced</i>
26 svMT Dutch Creative Writing Workshop <i>to be announced</i>	26 Commissiebedankdag <i>Top Secret</i>
27 Poolen <i>Hart van Utrecht</i>	
28 svMT English Creative Writing Workshop <i>to be announced</i>	

COLOFON

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Stanzy Kersten, Simone Schoonwater,
Noel Vermeulen & Astrid Nieuwets

Albion:
Fleur Kronenberg, Pleuni van Laarhoven,
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With special thanks to:
Maria Kager

Want to contribute to Phoenix?
You can! We are always looking for free-
lancers and photographers. Drop us a line
at albionphoenix@gmail.com.

fairytale of the board

Once upon a time...
there was a tiny Commissioner of
External Affairs who lived in a faraway
realm known as Zuilen. One Saturday
morning she woke up, slightly hungover,
and realised there was something amiss.
She searched and searched and
searched, but found nothing out of the
ordinary. With a slight headache and
some confusion, she went back to sleep.
After a restless sleep, she decided it was
time to do something useful. She had
been meaning to do something for a long
time, and now was her chance. She
reached for her laptop and turned it on,
waiting and waiting until it was finally
ready. Luckily, after these few torturous
minutes she could finally start watching
the latest Game of Thrones, hurray!
Halfway through, she noticed something
odd again. A rumbling and mumbling
sound filled the room. Surprised, she
looked down at her tummy. How could
such a noise come from there? Quick-
witted as she is, she soon realised that
she was starving, so she decided to go to
the Boni to get some food.

Then when she walked down, down,
down the stairs, she finally encountered
that which she expected had upset her
when she first woke up. Legions and
legions of spiders were crawling up and
down, all ablur, on her bicycle. The tiny
girl screamed and screamed but to no
effect. Knowing she had to do something,
she did the only brave thing she could
think of: she recommenced her journey
on foot.

After a few days of taking the bus and
walking around Utrecht, she realised that
this could no longer go on. It was at that
moment that her gallant saviour arrived,
a galloping cloud of thunder raining all
the spiders away. Happy that aid was
given to her when she was most in need,
without her having to ask for it and
actually having to, like, do something,
she vowed to love the rain and embrace
it when it would come again.

A few days more and there she was, the
tiny girl, lying in her tiny bed in Zuilen,
recovering from a massive cold. Alas,
how betrayed she felt by the rain.

Pleuni van Laarhoven
Commissioner of External Affairs

Albion



“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”

-Albert Einstein