

TIMELINES THE COUNTERCULTURE GODDESS

These timelines are designed as a handy reference for readers who wish to reflect on the story and perhaps discuss it in a reading club meeting. Readers should remember that the timelines only outline the story's basic structure and themes. There is much that happens regarding motives and reactions. They also contain SPOILERS.

Locations: Amsterdam, Holland – Middelburg, provincial capital of the Province of Zeeland – London city and Chiswick, a suburb of London.

1956

Chapter 1- Discovering the goddess

Eight-year-old Anneke becomes aware of Gerda staring at her when they cross paths – mocks and pulls faces at her – otherwise does not think of her – the pretty Catholic girl and her mockery infuriate Protestant Gerda.

1958- 1959

Gerda's deep interest in the goddess – Gerda (13 years) learns about her father's occultist interests and the origin of her name – she develops (14 years) her own goddess belief with accompanying mythologies – by her fifteenth year, Gerda's goddess beliefs are fully developed – she joins the Girls Guides to be with girls and avoid boys and at the same time to proselytize her goddess beliefs – encounters Anneke and her pretty friend Nienke in the Girl Guides – Anneke begins her open mockery of Gerda and her beliefs.

1960

Chapter 2 – The Clash

Anneke's mockery comes to a head, predicted by Nienke, when Anneke clashes with Gerda while on a Girl Guide excursion – Anneke continues to taunt Gerda so much that Gerda assaults her – Gerda is expelled from Girl Guides – Anneke regrets her action but in time gets over it – Gerda's father sets up an association – Companions of Creation – for Gerda.

October 1960 – Anneke's uncle, Fr Jos, arrives in Middelburg – while on a family outing, he speaks with Gerda's mother Truus on Marktpllein – Gerda, who is nearby, frightens Anneke with a hostile gesture – Fr. Jos chats with Anneke about charity – Anneke doesn't take much notice.

1962

Chapter 3 – Gerda meets Jannie

Anneke and Nienke attend another excursion along the dunes organised by Gerda's Companions of Creation – Gerda now has a group of boys and girls around her – Jannie de Kam unexpectedly appears – Gerda invites her to join the excursion – Anneke thinks Jannie has worries and invites her home – Jannie visits and reveals she has a particular worry – also reveals Gerda has invited her to tour Walcheren and attend the midsummer solstice – Marijke talks to Jannie about her 'problem' – no success.

Anneke is concerned about Jannie's connection with Gerda and warns Jannie – Jannie laughs off the warning – Frans tells Anneke not to get involved with Jannie and Gerda's business.

Chapter 4 – Jannie's tour

Gerda takes Jannie on a tour around Walcheren's nature reserve, gradually unfolding her vision of the goddess as connected with the physical environment – Gerda inducts Jannie into the goddess – Jannie responds to Gerda's overtures of friendship.

Chapter 5 – The Summer Solstice

Jannie enjoys the celebration of the divine feminine with Gerda and her friends – a day later, Gerda finds Jannie has left Middelburg – she's in state of madness – she suspects Anneke has something to do with it and furiously confronts her – Nienke persuades Gerda that Anneke has nothing to do with Jannie's disappearance and warns her about threats of violence – Jannie returns to Middelburg to reassure Gerda – Jannie leaves Holland with the promise to write to Anneke when she's back in Australia.

1963

Chapter 6 – Anneke's bargain

Summer - Anneke and Nienke begin to attract male attention – Anneke likes it, but it irks Nienke – in September, Gerda, 18 years, begins university in Amsterdam.

1964

Anneke turns 16 – to encourage Anneke to focus on more serious matters, Marijke makes a bargain – if Anneke concentrates on her English lessons, she will take her on an educational trip to England in 1965 – Nienke receives permission to go with her.

1965

Mar – Marijke is satisfied Anneke has kept to her bargain and schedules the trip for early August 1965.

Chapter 7 – England surprises

Aug – Marijke and girls go to London – they meet James Williamson who works in his mother's bed and breakfast at Chiswick – while touring the fashion shops they come across Jannie and Gerda at Mary Quant's shop – Jannie takes the girls on a tour of Carnaby Street – buys clothes for them – Anneke has a vicious clash with Gerda – Jannie returns to Holland for work – Anneke is unhappy about James's (perceived) attention to Nienke.

Chapter 8 – Anneke sulks

James takes Marijke and the girls on a tour of Dickens's London – they learn more about James – Anneke continues to be a nuisance – James tells of his commando father who was killed in a commando assault on Walcheren, where the girls live – they are stunned by the news

On the final day, Anneke and Nienke go by themselves into the city – Anneke has a nasty experience with boys who stalk them – Gerda turns up to gloat over Anneke's upset – James meets them at midday – consoles Anneke – James accompanies them to the ferry at Dover.

Chapter 9 – Reflections and Gerda

Without her knowing it, James's preference is for Anneke – Anneke gets over her ill-temper and on her mother's insistence, she writes a letter to James, thanking him for his hospitality – invites him to Middelburg on behalf of the family.

Frans mentions Gerda back in town – Gerda confronts and threatens Anneke over Jannie – appeals to Nienke to submit to the divine feminine and join the struggle against the patriarchy.

1966

Chapter 10 – James visits Middelburg

July 1966 – James visits Middelburg – meets the family – Anneke is still ill-tempered – James flirts with her – Anneke softens.

James talks about his family background and his father's death in the war – goes to see his grave at Vlissingen – tells the romantic story of how his parents met – Frans gives an account of the

commando raid on Vlissingen during which James's father was killed.

Chapter 11 – James's convict ancestors

James is shown around the historical sights of Middelburg – James and the two girls tour Walcheren on bikes – Anneke is still irritating – James wonders how he could like someone with that sort of personality.

James talks about his convict ancestors – he discusses his master's thesis on *Great Expectations* and why it is significant to him – and mentions his plans to visit his family in Australia.

Anneke's jealousy causes clashes with Nienke – Gerda greets James and the Van Engelen family in Middelburg while they are having coffee on the square – Gerda deliberately antagonises Anneke.

Anneke is furious that James knows Gerda – James has no idea what's possessing Anneke over Gerda – Jannie is also in Middelburg with Gerda – on the final day of James's visit, Anneke makes a clumsy attempt to make James jealous. James departs, not knowing how Anneke feels about him.

August – He writes a letter saying he plans to visit his family in Australia – Marijke advises Anneke to reply if she's interested in James.

Chapter 12 – In Amsterdam

August (late) – Anneke and Nienke move to Amsterdam to start their university studies – they're accommodated in a house south of central Amsterdam - attend Saturday social nights organised for Catholics from the provinces.

December (early) – Anneke's parents visit – Marijke has a 'lovely' letter from James, who, to their astonishment, departed for Sydney in September – it's a group letter to Anneke, Nienke and family – Nienke and Marijke say James is interested in her and she should respond.

Frans warns her not to play with James's feelings – a man of 23 is looking for a partner – Nienke appreciates Frans's advice and declares she's looking for a candidate for marriage.

Anneke writes and receives an immediate response from James – she finally admits it's her he's interested in.

1967

January – Anneke plans to respond to his letters – calculates writing once a month, but does not expect James to write until after he has settled.

Chapter 13 – Wolter and Luuk

Jan (late) Corrie, the organiser of the social evenings, introduces 22-year-old Wolter Langbroek and Luuk Rietveld to Anneke and Nienke.

Wolter is in the final year of a business degree course – Luuk began university in September 1966 – worked for 1 year in father’s business – spent 2 years in a major seminary in Noord Brabant – he enrolls at Amsterdam University in political science – he sparks fussy Nienke’s interest to Anneke’s surprise, but he is slow to respond.

Feb (mid) – Wolter and Luuk appear a second time – they make a connection with the girls – Anneke suggests a time to meet outside the meetings.

Chapter 14 – The seminarians

Feb (end) Wolter and Luuke do not appear at the next meeting – instead, two third-year seminarians, Bas Thiessen and Mark Slofstra, join the social club – prickly Anneke clashes with condescending Bas.

Mar (mid) – Bas and Mark attend their second social – Wolter and Luuk appear – Nienke, Anneke, Wolter, Luuk arrange to meet on Leidseplein – Nienke admits she likes Luuk.

Chapter 15 – Relationships develop

26 Mar –Easter Sunday – Nienke and Anneke meet Wolter and Luuk in a café on Leidseplein – Nienke reaches out to Luuk, who, as usual, is grumpy – Luuk suffers from the glooms.

Gerda and bohemian friends enter the café – Gerda catches Anneke and friends before they can leave – turns out Luuk had a clash with Gerda over the goddess – Gerda mentions James and boasts of her lover’s relationship with Jannie – Gerda spits in Luuk’s face – Anneke is deeply upset and comforted by Wolter – Nienke tells the origin of Gerda’s hatred for Anneke.

Wolter recounts the clash Luuk had with Gerda during one of her talks – called her ideas nonsense – female nonsense – Nienke challenges him – Luuk says he’s sorry Gerda coupled Nienke with him – Nienke said his glooms do not bother her.

Chapter 16 - Nienke

[Nienke’s PVO]

1 April Saturday – Luuk arrives late without Wolter at the meeting – Wolter had to go home for a family occasion – Luuk and fastidious Nienke get to know each other – come to an understanding – they declare they like each other – they are prepared to see how the relationship develops.

Chapter 17 – Nienke and Luuk

8 April Saturday – Wolter arrives without Luuk – Luuk has gone to Breda – Nienke hurt – seminarian Bas attempts to explain Luuk's strange behaviour – he asserts Luuk suffers from a psychological deficit like autism.

15 April Saturday – Wolter arrives at Anneke and Nienke's accommodation with news that Luuk has again escaped to Breda – Luuk admits his behaviour had been insulting and promised to set things right.

17 April Monday – Wolter tells Nienke that Mevrouw Rietveld wants to meet her.

19 April Wednesday – Mevrouw Rietveld meets Nienke and Anneke in Amsterdam to hear the details of Luuk's abrupt flight from Nienke – promises to help Luuk understand – seems to have a plan – she explains Luuk may still feel he has a religious calling – maybe plans to go on as a religious in the community, similar to strict *Opus Dei* – Nienke is alarmed and disappointed.

21 April Friday – Luuk is waiting for Nienke after the morning classes – apologises for his behaviour – reveals his religious intentions before he met Nienke – Nienke changed that – he could not reconcile his religious ambitions with his liking for Nienke – caused emotional confusion – Nienke encourages him to accept their platonic relationship – Luuk agrees.

Chapter 18 – The cosmic priesthood

22 April Saturday – Luuk and Wolter come to the meeting – Luuk apologises to the gathering for his rudeness to Nienke – Nienke announces Luuk is her boyfriend – Wolter makes a declaration to Anneke about love – Bas invites Luuk and Nienke to meet a priest about Vatican II (30 April) – Wolter kisses Anneke after she gives a welcome signal – Nienke reflects on how things have turned out with Luuk.

The foursome avoids the Saturday meetings and spends their time in Amsterdam – Luuk suggests a weekend in Breda, so Nienke and Anneke can meet their parents – Nienke likes the plan.

30 April Sunday – Nienke and Luuk arrive at the seminarians' house in Amsterdam-Zuid, where they meet the priest and his partner, who talk about a cosmic female-male priesthood – references to the goddess – there is a violent clash of ideas.

Chapter 19 – Sister McGuigan

30 April Sunday – Gerda and Sister Margaret McGuigan arrive – Bas explains their connection with him – Gerda is conciliatory – she wants a better relationship with Anneke and Nienke and invites them to attend the summer solstice meeting on Walcheren in Zeeland – there is a further clash between the priest, Margaret and Luuk – Margaret and Gerda want Nienke to seek her true feminine destiny as a leader of young women – Luuk is suspicious of Margaret's motives.

Nienke asks Luuk why he avoids physical contact with her – he explains that touching her feels like a desecration – Nienke gives him permission to touch her.

The foursome meets on Leidseplein to talk about the meeting and discuss Gerda's invitation to the summer solstice – Anneke is reluctant to go – Nienke wants to know more and urges Anneke to accept.

Chapter 20 – A reconciliation

The four organise a weekend in Breda – 13-14 May – so the girls can meet the boys' parents – Nienke wants Luuk's parents to accommodate herself and Anneke – Wolter complains about lack of trust – the girls write to their parents about the scheme – Marijke rings and questions Anneke about James – Anneke says she likes Wolter a lot but still likes James – Marijke wants her to tell James if the relationship becomes steady.

5 May Friday – Nienke and Anneke receive an unexpected message to attend the Saturday meeting.

6 May Saturday – Anneke nervous – Bas turns up with Margaret and Gerda – prompted by Jannie, Gerda offers the hand of friendship to bemused Anneke – Anneke urged to accept – Anneke accepts whereupon Gerda invites her to celebrate the summer solstice on Walcheren – Nienke accepts, wanting to know what it's about and what object Gerda and Margaret have – the meeting finishes to the satisfaction of Margaret – Nienke and Anneke discuss the meeting.

10 May Wednesday – Luuk is waiting for Nienke outside the university in Spui square – tells his mother will be in Amsterdam on Friday and will drive them to Breda.

Chapter 21 - Breda

13 May Saturday – Mevrouw Rietveld picks up the foursome and reveals information about the family – discuss end of academic year – Wolter must look around for a job in finance – will have a car when he gets a job – they discuss holiday work – Wolter and Luuk have worked for Luuk's father and will do so during summer holiday – Anneke and Nienke will look for work in tourism – arrange to have a holiday together in Zeeland.

Anneke and Nienke are taken to their room at the Rietvelds – Meneer Rietveld says that if Nienke can't cure Luuk's psychological problems, nobody can – they learn more about both families – Anneke is frustrated because she doesn't get a chance to kiss Wolter.

Plans made to visit the city centre to see the historical places in Breda – during the visit, Wolter and Anneke try to find a place to be alone in Breda park, but fail – Luuk mocks Wolter.

Chapter 22 – Wolter and Roy

Nienke warns Anneke about her eagerness to be alone with Wolter – brings up the subject of James – Anneke airily waves the subject aside – Anneke puts on her best to go to the restaurant in the city with Luuk and Wolters' parents – Anneke's deliberately beguiling behaviour renders Wolter utterly smitten – parents approve – Wolter fails to find a chance to kiss Anneke – Luuk and Nienke have their first gentle kiss.

14 May Sunday – Nienke and Luuk have another opportunity to have a kiss after Mass – they discuss Luuk's problem – Mevrouw Rietveld asks to speak to Nienke alone – to encourage the relationship and help Luuk get over his problems, she suggests Nienke seduce Luuk and have a baby with him – Nienke is appalled but eventually says she will reflect on it – Mevrouw Langbroek allows Wolter to drive the foursome back to Amsterdam.

Anneke and Nienke have a long discussion about what's involved in 'petting and caressing' – Nienke is shocked by Anneke's details – she wonders how things might develop with Luuk if Luuk overcomes his problem – would she behave the same way? – Nienke confronts Anneke about her relationship with James and receives the same airy response – she refuses to tell James about Wolter – the foursome agree to have a break until the summer holidays so they can concentrate on their studies.

Chapter 23 – Reflections

19 May Friday – Wolter meets Luuk to discuss his future with Anneke – Wolter is still affected by the breakup with his former girlfriend, Katja van Amstel – her betrayal destroyed his trust in females – he receives a message that his parents will be in Amsterdam on Friday, 26 May, and his mother wants to have lunch with both of them.

26 May Friday – at lunch, Mevrouw Langbroek informs Wolter that Katja van Amstel has finished university in London and will return to Holland to settle in Amsterdam, where she has a job with an International Cosmetic company – she wants to see Wolter – Wolter is still furious with her and at first refuses to see her – he says he would think about it.

30 May Tuesday – Message from Mevrouw Langbroek – change of plan – Katja to see Wolter Friday 3 June – Luuk allowed to attend.

Chapter 24 – Katja van Amstel

2 June Friday – Luuk and Wolter meet Katja van Amstel at a restaurant on Rembrandtplein – Katja dressed in a business suit, self-assured as always – inquires what Luuk and Wolter have done over three years – hears about Nienke and Anneke.

Katja asks Luuk to leave them to talk privately – unoffended Luuk returns home – Katja explains why she fled to London with his friend Lars – she felt suffocated by their relationship – she did not want to break with Wolter, but Wolter refused all correspondence – there was no relationship with Lars – she now had a job with an international cosmetic company in Amsterdam – after hearing Katja's explanation Wolter had the feeling he may have acted stupidly.

3 June Saturday – He rings his mother to check whether Katja is telling the truth – did she know that Katja did not mean to break with him, and there was no relationship with Lars? – his mother always believed that Katja ran off with Lars and ended their relationship.

5 June Monday - Wolter speaks to Luuk, who says there is not enough evidence to support one of two scenarios – Katja just wants to be friends or she wants to reignite the relationship – but Wolter should be on alert to what Katja does.

Chapter 25 – Wolter’s surprise

9 June Friday – in anticipation of finishing his degree course, Wolter compiles a list of companies to apply to – receives a letter from his mother, plus an excellent reference from Meneer van Amstel, Katja’s father – what does it mean regarding Katja? – rings mother for clarification.

10 Jun Sat – Wolter’s mother rings with a message from Teun van Amstel to choose tech companies.

12-15 Jun Mon – Wolter sends out job applications – receives 3 phone responses – attends interviews – impressions good.

16 Jun Fri – he visits Anneke and Nienke to make arrangements for Summer Solstice – Wolter tells Anneke of job interviews.

19 Jun Mon – Wolter offered a job – discusses it with Luuk – decides to take it – discusses possible connection with Katja through her father’s excellent reference.

20 Jun Tues – Wolter receives contract forms to sign – signs the forms and takes Luuk out to celebrate.

21 Jun Weds – Anneke receives a letter from James – James is suffering from a concussion after falling over, but Nienke finds the details vague – she’s suspicious – a handsome, personable young man like James would arouse interest.

23 Jun Fri – Foursome arrive in Breda – Wolter and Luuk are surprised with mini cars – gifts from their parents.

Chapter 26 – The Middelburg family

24 Jun Sat – Luuk discusses his unease and anxiety about Nienke with his mother – he is urged to persevere – Luuk’s mother remarks on Anneke’s flightiness – Nienke makes arrangements to go on to Middelburg after an early lunch.

Mevrouw Rietveld has a chat with Nienke – observes that Luuk is less anxious – Nienke is patient, but is patience enough? – she suggests again the seduction way – Nienke declares she can’t do anything so deceitful – Mevrouw explains the rhythm method to calculate when a woman is fertile.

Wolter and Anneke arrive in Middelburg – Anneke is worried about James’s underlying role, which all her family are aware of – Wolter well received by the family and remains unaware of the amused ironic looks and comments from the family – Nienke and Luuk arrive – discuss the castle and the nature of the solstice ceremony – pagan – Frans and Marijke are disturbed, but Anneke says she has no interest in the goddess. It’s Nienke who is curious.

Chapter 27 – The summer solstice

24 June – Saturday – The foursome arrive at the castle around the same time as Katja, Liesje (Katja’s boss), Gerda, Jannie and Margaret – Liesje talks enthusiastically about Nienke and Anneke’s potential as models – talks about having casual work for the girls in Amsterdam – Katja pretends she sees Wolter for the first time since arriving back in Holland – Wolter doesn’t tell Anneke the full truth.

Discussion of Nienke’s and Anneke’s beauty – Margaret shows a liking for Nienke – Gerda and Margaret address the female gathering on the significance of the solstice and the search for the inner goddess.

Meanwhile, Wolter is bored out of his mind – Luuk wonders what the girls are doing.

Anneke is bored with the dances and singing that help plumb the depths of the goddess in the inner self and wants to go home – Margaret urges Nienke to stay – Liesje and Katja join the girls – Liesje talks about work in a department store – appeals to Nienke – Margaret is alarmed that Nienke may turn her back on teaching – Nienke and Anneke are assaulted in a communal hug of all the gathering.

Luuk and Wolter witness the drama from the surrounding trees where they’ve gone to spy on the girls – Luuk sends Wolter back to the car and approaches the group of women.

Margaret is outraged by the presence of a male – Gerda calls the guards, but Luuk warns them off – Jannie and her group are sorry to see the girls go – Liesje fetches brochures about her company’s product for Nienke – she urges her to make an appointment.

On returning to Middelburg, Anneke tells Nienke she was assaulted twice – they decide not to tell Wolter – but Nienke says Luuk will want to know – she tells him – Luuk says he supports Nienke in her interest in Liesje’s offer.

Chapter 28 - Reflections

25 June – Sunday – Nienke reflects on the weekend – pleased that her family greeted Luuk warmly and Luuk was at ease among them – they discuss getting married – Nienke keen but Luuk wants to wait until he can overcome his problem – they decide to wait until the end of the academic year before seeing each other again.

Anneke reflects on the weekend – irritated she had little chance to be alone with Wolter – Wolter is still unaware of the undercurrent of James Williamson – Anneke wants to know about Katja, which irritates Wolter.

Nienke and Anneke receive an invitation to dinner with Jannie – she apologises for the assaults – blames Gerda – explains women in the goddess movement don't mind being touched by other women.

Jannie explains what a model does – the girls are suitable – are they interested? – they are and Jannie invites them to a makeup session at the Department Store.

Chapter 29 - Modelling

Anneke and Nienke attend the makeup session but find themselves drawn to take part – they are a success – offered work at the department store and a listing with a model agency – they accept – Anneke and Nienke's parents have no objections.

Chapter 30 – Luuk and Nienke

15 July – Saturday – academic year ended – portfolio photos taken for modelling work – the foursome go on a trip to Zandvoort in both minis – Anneke wants to be alone with Wolter – Luuk speaks about his difficulty but reassured by Nienke – speaks about his labouring work – likes the contemplation – talks about seminary influence – offers to take Nienke to the seminary – warns Nienke about Margaret's interest in her.

17 July – Nienke and Anneke begin work at the Department Store – they are successful, attracting the right attention.

15 August – after four weeks, the first modelling job comes in for tourism brochures – the brochures generate interest.

20 August ca. – they receive second larger commission to model swimwear – Anneke has no problem wearing skimpy bikinis – Nienke does – but a photo of her in a brief bikini appears in the promotion against her wishes – Anneke tells Nienke not to be prudish – Nienke shows Luuk who is offhand in dismissing the bikini as immodest – Nienke is again worried about Luuk's aversion to touching her – her thoughts return to Mevrouw Rietveld's seduction tactic – becomes a severe temptation that Mevrouw encourages – it was a small sin that could be overlooked

Luuk takes her on the promised visit to the seminary – gets into a blazing row with Fr Muller, who warns Nienke about marrying him – Luuk could not carry out the responsibilities of a husband – Nienke's thoughts return to Luuk's problems with anxiety – the temptation of seduction grows.

Chapter 31 – Wolter the economist

17 July – Wolter starts work –

18 August, Wolter settles into work and a two-bedroom flat – invited to the Van Amstel's in Leiden for the weekend 26-27 Aug – economists' meeting.

26-27 Aug Sat/Sun – meets economists – performs well – Katja comes to Wolter's bed during the night – memories roused of their relationship – Katja leaves without seeing Wolter – Wolter meets Roy Clark of the US Embassy – arranges a visit.

28 Aug Monday – Katja doesn't ring him at the office as he expects – Bob makes allusions to Katja and debriefs Wolter on the visit to the Van Amstel's – requests Wolter to revise some of his presentations and take them to Roy Clark at the American Embassy when he visits on Thursday 31 August – Anneke rings – Wolter complains of not seeing her enough – Anneke tells Wolter Nienke wants them to rent a two-bedroom flat to be independent but suspects Luuk is the main reason – arranges to see Wolter on the weekend 2/3 September – Bob teases Wolter about Katja.

Chapter 32 – Wolter and Roy

31 August Thursday – Wolter takes reports to US Embassy in Den Haag to give to Roy Clark – two officials, Bill and Larry, praise the reports – they want more – Roy and Wolter tour Den Haag centre and have lunch – Roy gives the impression he is more than a US embassy official but is cagey when Wolter asks – wants to know Wolter's views on Vietnam War – Roy encourages Wolter to learn more about Vatican II and its social and political influence in Holland – forms friendship with Wolter – Roy is interested in Luuk because of his influence on Wolter – Wolter continues to wonder what Roy does – Wolter's thoughts return to Katja – what's her purpose?

15 July – Anneke reflects on her relationship with Wolter – decides to restrict contact – wants to be sure of Wolter's commitment – modelling work develops.

30 August – Anneke receives a letter from James discussing the future of their relationship – he suggests Anneke comes to Australia to test their feelings – she doesn't know what to do – can't choose between Wolter and James – Nienke says she has to face the issue – suspects James has someone he could be interested in – Nienke wants a commitment from Anneke on a two-bedroom flat.

3 Sept – The foursome meet at Wolter's flat – Wolter tells of his first days with BSI – when he mentions the BBQ, Anneke wants to know if Katja was there – Anneke is not happy with the answer – Wolter tells of the meeting at the US embassy and developing friendship with Roy – Katja is still on his mind – Nienke's intention to rent a flat is spoken about.

Chapter 33 – A threshold reached

9-11 Sept – Fri-Sun – Nienke asks Liesje to look for a flat for her and Anneke – a message from Luuk asking Nienke to accompany him to his parents at Breda for the weekend – Mevrouw Rietveld discusses further the seduction plan – Nienke puts it into operation and succeeds in

enticing Luuk into sexual contact – a threshold reached – but Nienke is still uneasy about the underhanded tactics.

Chapter 34 – An unexpected visit

Anneke is overjoyed to see Nienke return from Breda – talks about James's letter – Nienke urges Anneke to resolve the situation – Anneke is not ready to abandon either Wolter or James.

20 Sept – Weds – Liesje surprises them by bringing Jannie and Danny Williamson to the studio – Danny is in London for business – Jannie asks them to show Danny around on the following day because she has appointments.

21 Sept – Thurs – the girls show Danny around – they are impressed with Danny and his mild-mannered behaviour – they talk about Anneke's relationship with James – Danny says he won't tell James Anneke has a Dutch boyfriend.

25 Sept – Mon – Danny turns up without warning after Anneke's lecture – stares unnervingly at her and invites her to Australia under the same conditions as James – Anneke stunned – Nienke comments that Anneke is now in a third relationship.

Chapter 35 – A resolution

27 Sept – Weds – Liesje tells Nienke she has a flat – they move in 7 Oct Sat – Nienke is happy with the arrangements – Wolter and Anneke are getting along, but Anneke is subdued – she denies that Danny's strange appearance upset her.

21 Oct – Sat – Nienke and Luuk give in to temptation, but Nienke's conscience overcomes her and she stops – Luuk vanishes from the flat while Nienke is in the bathroom – Nienke is dismayed and frantically tries to find out where he is – she finds eventually he's in Breda – Mevrouw counsels her to be patient – Luuk will recover – Anneke comforts Nienke.

26 Oct – Thurs – Roy Clark rings Wolter and invites him and Luuk to attend a talk by counterculture leader Ronnie Newell – that will give him a chance to chat to Luuk – Luuk is agreeable – intended to return to Amsterdam, anyhow.

28 Oct – Sat – they meet for a coffee beforehand – Luuk plays cat and mouse with Roy, probing his role as a possible CIA officer – Roy admits nothing – Ronnie gives his usual speech – Luuk mocks him and his crowd – radical students order him out – Luuk is beaten up and left bleeding on the pavement outside the venue.

Chapter 36 – Commitments made

28-29 Oct – Sat & Sun – Nienke rung about Luuk by Mevrouw Rietveld – she rushes to the hospital – concussed Luuk is heavily sedated, but asks Nienke to marry him – Nienke overjoyed

and says ‘yes’ – that is one aspect of a plan she had formulated to deal with Luuk – Luuk’s parents arrive and surrender Luuk to Nienke.

29 Oct – She tells Luuk she has plans – Luuk leaves all to her – Luuk will live with Nienke, and Nienke will give up university and work full-time.

30 Oct Mon – Nienke visits Liesje to discuss work – Liesje offers the job Nienke wanted – modelling and cosmetic work with her company – Katja shows concern when Nienke relates the assault – Liesje and Katja want an invitation to the wedding – Nienke informs the university of her wish to discontinue.

31 Oct Tues – Nienke tells Luuk the full plan, including remaining chaste until Luuk finishes university – stunned, Luuk promises to cooperate – Nienke will arrange to visit the registrar of marriages and the priest in Middelburg for the wedding ceremony.

Anneke shows Nienke a letter from Danny Williamson apologising for his weird behaviour – he was under the influence of LSD and did not know what he was saying – encourages Anneke to come to Australia – Nienke urges Anneke to take action, but Anneke will wait.

During this time, Roy and Wolter are in contact – Roy expresses admiration for Luuk and invites Wolter to bring Luuk to the embassy.

1 Nov Weds – Nienke picks up contract from Liesje and Luuk from the hospital – takes Luuk to her flat – informs families of her decision to marry Luuk – discusses preparations.

3 Nov Fri – Nienke and Luuk visit the registrar for marriages to give obligatory two-week notice of intent to marry – civil marriage will be on Saturday, 18 November.

4 Nov Sat – Nienke drives with Luuk to Breda – informs Mevrouw Rietveld of full plan, including remaining chaste.

5 Nov Sun – they drive on to Middelburg to discuss preparations with family and talk to the parish priest – a Catholic ceremony arranged for Saturday 16 December.

Chapter 37 – An obstacle

6 Nov Mon – Nienke drives to Liesje to hand over the signed contract – Liesje invites her to start work immediately – Liesje and Katja discuss Nienke’s routine – mixture of cosmetic instruction and photo shoots – Katja is Nienke’s manager.

18 Nov Sat – Civil marriage – Liesje and Katja organise the wedding for commercial purposes – the wedding is a wonderful day – Luuk moves Nienke’s bed into his room – tensions arising between Anneke and Wolter – Anneke sends Wolter home.

20 Nov Mon – Sister Margaret comes to the flat and pleads with Nienke to give up Luuk and her job and return to university to pursue the destiny that awaits her – Nienke refuses – Margaret breaks down and leaves the flat in tears.

24 Nov Fri – The Middelburg parish priest writes to inform them that objections have been raised to the Church wedding, citing concerns about Luuk’s psychological fitness and Nienke’s naivety.

25 Nov Sat – Luuk and Nienke go to Middelburg to present their side of the story – the priest says they have a good case but doubts the objections will be easily dismissed – Luuk and Nienke must wait.

4 Dec Mon – no decision received – wedding postponed to the anger and dismay of the family.

18 Dec – Decision is announced that marriage could not go ahead until Luuk demonstrates he can be a fit husband – Bishopric office advises Nienke to give up Luuk and start again – in defiance of the official warning that she and Luuk are not sacramentally married, Nienke announces she will present herself to the world as Mevrouw Nienke Rietveld.

Chapter 38 – Anneke decides

Recap of the previous weeks – during this time, Nienke finds Katja a joy to work with – Katja says she saw Wolter twice at her parents’ house – Anneke knew nothing about it – Nienke is suspicious about the meetings – urges Anneke to take action regarding James and Wolter – Anneke wants to wait – Luuk reveals that Katja met Wolter before she returned to Holland.

Wolter meets Katja at the economist meetings in Leiden – he next sees her when she visits him after the wedding breakfast – Wolter then sees her at her parents’ Christmas party for the economist group – confesses his relationship with Anneke is deteriorating – suspects from the furtive conversations between Nienke and Anneke that something is up – Katja invites him to contact her if he needs a shoulder to cry on.

Gerda suddenly appears and threatens Anneke with dire consequences if she ruins her relationship with Jannie – a few days before Christmas, Anneke tells Wolter about James, breaks up with him and says she’s going to Australia to sort things out with him. Wolter is left alone until Katja invites him to celebrate the New Year with her family in Leiden.