

THE COUNTERCULTURE GODDESS CHARACTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION

VAN ENGELN FAMILY

Jos van Engelen b. 1912 – priest of The Missionaries of the Wounded Heart of Jesus – Frans's brother.

FRANS VAN ENGELN b. 1916 – Father of Anneke – well-respected and successful notary.
 MARIJKE MARTENS b. 1922 – Mother of Anneke – isolated in London during World War 2, attended university and achieved a BA.

CHILDREN

ANNEKE b. July 1948 – Nienke Nijboer's best friend – very pretty, golden blond, blue-eyed, starlet height of 5' 6" or 168 cms, slight build, usually the prettiest girl in the room – outgoing, likes attention, and is not above using her looks to get what she wants.

Joop b. July 1950

Pieter b. 1952

Lodewijk b. 1954

NIENKE NIJBOER b. July 1948– Anneke's best friend – a touch less gorgeous than her friend Anneke – dark hair, dark eyes, tall but not too tall, 5' 9" or 175 cms, sleek, full figure – sporty – plays hockey – goes on bike rides – quiet, reserved, the opposite of her outgoing friend, Anneke van Engelen.

Parents

Henk Nijboer

Isa Nijboer

JAMES WILLIAMSON, b. April 1943 – English cousin of Danny Williamson, works in mother's b&d at Chiswick, a London suburb – 22 years in July 1965 – 24 1967 – acts as a guide for Anneke, Nienke, and Marijke during their holiday in London in 1965 – Anneke is jealous of James's apparent preference for Nienke, but she is wrong – James prefers her.

DANNY WILLIAMSON, b. June 1945 – friends with counterculture leader Ronnie Newell – lives at Chatsworth – tall, handsome and rugged – has a series of girlfriend engagements, including Jannie, whom he meets on a business trip to London in September 1967, a relationship which infuriates Gerda van den Donker.

LUUK RIETVELD (b. 1945) begins university in September 1966 – 22 years in 1967 – worked for 1 year in father's business – father builder – spent 2 years in a major seminary in Noord-Brabant – enrolls at Amsterdam University in politics and law in September 1966 – fair complexion, light brown hair, solid, rugged, manly 5 ft 10 ins, moderate looking, untidy, shy and

studious but viciously outspoken on religion, politics and society – gives the impression he has personality problems.

Parents

Hugo Rietveld

Rita Rietveld

WOLTER LANGBROEK (b. 1945) – father, architect – mother, upper-class from Den Haag
Begins university, economics 1963 – handsome, tall, slim, brown hair, open face, 6 ft – 1.83 cms

Parents

Mathijs Langbroek – Government economist

Lotte Langbroek – Mother and housewife

Children

Heleen b. 1948 studying in Eindhoven – Luuk's sister

Jort b. 1950 – school – Luuk's brother

KATJA VAN AMSTEL b. 1946 – Wolter's first love – poised, stylish, attractive but not a beauty like Nienke and Anneke – goes to London with a friend of Wolter's, Lars van Doorn – achieves a BA in London and returns to Amsterdam to work with a makeup manufacturer, International Cosmetics and Skin Care Company – mother is a school friend of Mevr. Langbroek – from Den Haag – met Wolter when they were children.

Katja's Parents

FLEUR VAN AMSTEL – graduate of Leiden University

TEUN VAN AMSTEL – government economics advisor

Lars van Doorn, a school friend of Wolter's, ran off to London with Katja van Amstel.

GERDA VAN DEN DONKER

1945 – Gerda, born January 1945, daughter of Cees and Truus van den Donker (Times of Distress, Book 1), solid, butch, bohemian style, 5' 5", fanatical about the goddess and ancient mythology, hates Anneke van Engelen with a passion.

JANNIE DE KAM – supermodel Jannie Stapelton, tall, willowy, unblemished ivory complexion, long brown hair, 5' 10", appeared as a failed postulant in the Sisters of the Suffering Saviour in In This Vale of Tears, Book 2, with Sister Margaret McGuigan

SISTER MARGARET MCGUIGAN – tall, solid, neatly dressed in well-cut, modern religious garb, 5' 9", overbearing, imperious, now deputy director of the Sisters of the Suffering Saviour, appeared in In This Vale of Tears with Jannie de Kam.

BAS THIESEN b. 1945, solid, overweight, self-indulgent third-year seminarian of the Missionaries of the Wounded Heart of Jesus, residing in Amsterdam, initially antagonistic towards Luuk, but makes up with him.

Liesje Nagel – Katja’s boss at the cosmetic company – Fiene’s partner

Fiene Elzinga – Runs a small model agency – Liesje’s partner

Bob Sullivan, late thirties, Financial Director of Business Systems International (BSI), an American company employing Wolter.

Chuck Cornwell, Managing Director of BSI

Juffrouw Dita Koning, Bob Sullivan’s secretary

ROY CLARK, CIA, American embassy, connects with Wolter through BSI

Meneer en Mevrouw Schipper – Wolter and Luuk’s landlords

Anneke and Nienke’s friends: Astrid, Carla, and Elke

Willem, Hendrik, Axel: students the same age as Astrid and co. – after the girls

CORRIE – Saturday social evening organiser

Danielle and Johanna – friends of Corrie.

Seminarians: BAS THIESSEN and Mark Slofstra – third-year seminarians b. 1945 and Bram de Leeuw, first-year seminarian

Priest couple from Noord-Brabant: FR MENNO VOGEL AND TRUDY MUS

Fr Jacobus Lansing, Amsterdam, priest

Roelof and Hennie Molenaar, providing accommodation for Anneke and Nienke

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS

LEIDSEPLEIN SQUARE: [Leidseplein: The Beating Heart of Amsterdam](#)

This is the route that Anneke, Nienke, Wolter and Luuk walked:

[Amsterdam Walking Tour | Leidsestraat, Leidseplein & Vondelpark](#)

[Dam Square | Amsterdam TO DO](#)

Live webcam: [【LIVE】 Webcam Amsterdam - Dam Square | SkylineWebcams](#)

Walking Amsterdam’s BIGGEST Shopping Street – Kalverstraat:

[Walking Amsterdam’s BIGGEST Shopping Street \(Kalverstraat\) | 4K](#)

MIDDELBURG: Middelburg: historical city of monuments and nature - Holland.com

Walk around Middelburg: [\[Netherlands\] Middelburg, brilliant treasure of the south](#) [4K HDR](#)

WESTHOVE CASTLE – On which the castle that the characters visit for the summer solstice is modelled: [Castles.nl - Westhove Castle](#). The castle also features in The Castle of Heavenly Bliss, Book 7.

Dutch words and phrases in the text

Goedemorgen – Good morning (formal)
 Goeiemorgen – Good morning (everyday)
 Goedemiddag – Good Afternoon (formal)
 Goeiemiddag – Good afternoon (everyday)
 Goedenavond – Good evening
 Plein – square
 Straat – street
 Singel – moat or boulevard
 Lieverd, schat – darling or dear
 Goede hemel – good heavens (an exclamation)
 Allemachtig – lit. almighty (an exclamation like ‘my goodness’ or ‘good lord’)
 Kasteel Zaligheid – Castle Bliss or Castle of Heavenly Bliss
 Meneer – Mr or sir
 Mevrouw – Mrs or madam
 Juffrouw – Miss
 Stroopwafel – Sweet syrupy cookie or biscuit
 Bolus – a syrupy pastry, specialty of Zeeland

Notes on spelling and pronunciation

Dutch spelling deviates in some respects from English. The ‘ee’ in the name ‘Cees’ is a pure vowel sound and approximates the ‘a’ in ‘case’; ‘c’ is usually pronounced as ‘s’, but in the case of the name ‘Cees’, it is pronounced as a ‘k’. Cees is thus roughly pronounced as ‘Kayse’; the ‘ij’ that appears in Marijke (and many other Dutch words) is equivalent to ‘ay’ in English; ‘v’ is usually pronounced as an ‘f’; ‘j’ is pronounced as a ‘y’; ‘w’ is pronounced like ‘v’. Here are the main Dutch names in the story, spelt *roughly* the English way:

Cees van den Donker: Kayse fun den donker
 Zeeland: Zayland
 Jos van Engelen: Yos fun Engelen
 Jannie de Kam: Yunnie de kum;
 Anneke: Ann-e-ke

Marijke: Maray-ke ('ke' is short)
 Lodewijk: Lo-de-vayk
 Nienke: Neen-ke
 Nijboer: Nayboor
 Katja van Amstel: Katya fun Amstel

Select Bibliography

For background reading on the occult and goddess worship, the author relied primarily on these titles:

Occult Feminism: The Secret Story of Women's Liberation, Rachel Wilson, 2021

Goddess Unmasked: The Rise of Neopagan Feminist Spirituality, Philip G. Davis, Spence Publishing Company, 1998

The Inner Goddess, Josephine Robinson, Gracewing, 1998

Women: Why Are You Weeping? Margaret E. Mills, News Weekly Books, 1997

Awakening Your Goddess, Liz Simpson, Barron's. 2001
