



The Late Bourgeois World

Nadine Gordimer

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Late Bourgeois World

Nadine Gordimer

The Late Bourgeois World Nadine Gordimer

Liz Van Den Sandt's ex-husband, Max, an ineffectual rebel, has drowned himself. In prison for a failed act of violence against the government, he had betrayed his colleagues.

Now Liz has been asked to perform a direct service for the black nationalist movement, at considerable danger to herself. Can she take such a risk in the face of Max's example of the uselessness of such actions? Yet... how can she not?

The Late Bourgeois World Details

Date : Published February 24th 1983 by Penguin Books (first published January 1st 1966)

ISBN : 9780140056143

Author : Nadine Gordimer

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, Africa, Southern Africa, South Africa, Novels, Literature, African Literature

 [Download The Late Bourgeois World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Late Bourgeois World ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Late Bourgeois World Nadine Gordimer

From Reader Review The Late Bourgeois World for online ebook

Muhammad El-Wakeel says

... ..
... .. 30
... ..
... ..

Mohamed says

... .. 70 "!" !
... ..

Leif says

A striking short novel that constellates issues of political action, social history, and intersectional identity through the keenly crafted lens of one day in a white South African woman's life. She hears of momentous (to her) tidings, goes about daily activities, and contemplates potential life-altering actions. All of it comes through Gordimer's delicate and unforgiving voice. A really, really good book in which to begin coming to grips with the things that South African novelists were doing at the time it was published (and banned) in 1966.

?????? says

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

... ..

Barksdale Penick says

Very much a time piece, set in the South Africa of apartheid. Our heroine has learned of the death by suicide of her former husband. He was about as successful at being a radical as in all the other aspects of his life-- that is to say, not very successful. But he did devote his life to overturning the abhorrent system, even if it seemed he didn't get much done. But we mostly learn about our heroine's life, as she has a white lover with whom she has an agreement not to be too close--not to have everyone think of them as a couple. One day he stops by as she is preparing dinner, although she is vague as to who it is for, and so her lover leaves after a drink. The dinner is for a black man at her house, who wants assistance to bring funds into country through the bank account of our heroine's aged mother. But there is also a hint of future romance, which must have been a radical plot element in South Africa in 1961. And the plot construction around this element was subtle, as we the reader did not know who the dinner was for as she prepared, nor do we know if her white lover did. It makes one awfully glad that one didn't live then on either side of that class divide, but does so in personal and subversive manner. I quite enjoyed this short book

Rachel says

I read this the for the first time in my senior year of high school and it's only gotten better in the intervening five years. The book may be about apartheid-era South Africa, but it deals with the contradictions middle-class liberals deal with every single day. It's also a beautiful (if perhaps cynical) examination of human relationships. Other than this one, I have never read a book before or since that perfectly captures the interiority of a human being. I don't understand why it doesn't have four stars. And I really don't understand why it's out of print.

Tove Selenius says

Nadine Gordimer skriver om att förhålla sig, till sin sits, sitt privilegium, som vit i ett Sydafrika som präglas av apartheid. Språket är koncist och bitvis makalöst, ämnet plötsligt relevant för den generation vita svenskar som måste navigera mellan välvilja och självbild i en tid av uppflammande rasism och politisk polemik som är starkt sammanlänkad med identitet. Boken är från 1966 och det i sig är lite deprimerande - tog det verkligen så lång tid mellan tanke och handling? Som den naiva produkt av den snabba, idealistiska internetgenerationen jag är blir jag förfärad. Menar ni att allt detta var känt, formulerat i all önskvärd tydlighet för varje empatiskt begåvad person att förstå - och ändå behandlas den vita Sydafrikanska regimen med respekt av sin omvärld? I trettio år till?

Trots sina tydliga tidsmarkörer (den första rymdpromenaden, till exempel) känns En bortgången värld som en modern roman. Om den var provokativ på sin tid känns den saklig nu, inte barnligt provocerande som vissa skrifter som har några år på nacken.

Frabe says

Una donna racconta un pezzo della sua storia privata dalle ampie aperture pubbliche, socio-politiche: "Il mondo tardoborghese" (1966) è un buon romanzo breve nel quale l'autrice sudafricana Nadine Gordimer, che sarà premio Nobel nel 1991, palesa precocemente, oltre al talento, il suo impegno forte contro la politica

dell'apartheid e a favore dei diritti della maggioranza nera del paese.

Sunny says

I didn't really get into this short book that much. It was about a lady whose husband had been politically active in South Africa in the 60s I believe who committed suicide. That was the essence of the story. I haven't read July's people but in this short novella I could sense moments of brilliance from Nadine in her writing. She does what I notice a lot of great writers are able to do well which is that they can paint an enormous picture with words almost visually perfectly into your imagination by (and here's the rub) by detailing a completely innocuous part of the scene which you would think would have no relevance in the entire scope of things. At one point she is describing her grandmother in an old person's home when she writes "the hands with the sunken hollows between the knuckles twitched now and then". In all my years of writing I have never heard of anyone writing about that part of the body with such simplicity and clarity. Other good bits in the book were:

- "human institutions are adaptable" – this should be printed out and put up on a wall of each house as a reminder
 - At one point Nadine is describing the protagonists liaison with a black African she describes the inner of his hands like this: "I particularly like the rosy almost translucent pads on the inner side of black hands that look as if light were cupped in them."
-

Karen says

Liz Van Den Sandt is a white woman living in apartheid South Africa, politically sympathetic to the anti-apartheid black cause and at least a little politically active, at least for a while some time ago. Her ex-husband Max was a great deal more idealistic and naive than she is, and has recently committed suicide after turning State's witness and betraying some of his allies in the same struggle. Liz lives a quiet life, compromised and marginal and singly parenting their son, Bobo. A man from her past emerges, floating a proposal. Can she help the cause? All he needs is a bank account that can take foreign funds, a few months of quiet acquiescence. People are in prison left and right for this kind of help. Unlike her ex-husband, Liz has little to prove and few illusions. She's a grown-up in a terrible situation, just like the man who's asking her for help.

It's startling how much reading about apartheid feels like it could be reading about modern American race relations.

Eng. Mohmad ali says

??? ????? ?? ??? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ??? ..????? ?????? ??????
...?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????
????? ?????? ?? ?????? .??????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????

Zuberino says

That's it! 100 books on GR. By 99 different writers. If it hadn't been for Bill Bryson twice, it'd have been a clean 100. Included discoveries like McCann, Buzzati, Izzo & Bolaño - my cup runneth over. On to the next 100!

Fatima Ehab says

?? ???? ?? ??? ???? ????? ?????????? ?????????? ?? ????????? ?????????? ???? ????????? ?? ????? ????????? ???? ??????

??? ????????? ????? ????????? ???? ???? ????????? ????????? ?? ????? ????????????? ???? ???? ???? ????????? ????????? ??????. ?? ??????

???????? ?????? : " ????? ???? ???? ????????? ????????? ????????? ????? ???? ???? ????????? "

Paul says

This is my first Gordimer, and I thought it was about time, given her recent passing, that I read some of her work. This is a compact novella, set in one day (with plenty of flashbacks) that can easily be read in one sitting.

It was first published in 1966 and was banned in South Africa for ten years (from 1976). It focuses on Liz Van Den Sandt, a white South African on the edges of the struggle against the emerging apartheid system. We follow Liz through a Saturday; she begins the day with her lover Graham, who is a lawyer and receives news that her ex-husband Max has committed suicide. This necessitates a visit to her son's school to tell him the news. Later in the day, Luke a black member of the nationalist movement visits and Liz cooks a meal; he proposes that Liz help their cause by using a bank account to move money. That is pretty much the plot, but the plot isn't the point.

The flashbacks chart Liz and Max's relationship and their involvement with nationalism and with white society. Gordimer examines white liberalism and its approach to the growth of apartheid. There is a sense that for the white liberals this is initially something of a game, a serious game, but a game nonetheless. For their black comrades it is most definitely not a game. There is perhaps a sense that initially white liberal South Africans there was a feeling that the madness could not last.

We also see an exploration of identity as we see Liz as a wife (in flashback), lover, mother, white South African, political activist; but the roles are kept separate by the vignettes that make up the book and it is quite difficult to get a sense of her as a person. Her love affairs are a little half-hearted and there is distance in all her relationships. There is a sense of dislocation. Max, her ex husband had attempted to participate in the struggle in a rather amateurish way and had spent a little time in jail. This is post Sharpeville and there is a dawning realisation that the struggle was going to be long and bloody and the methods of combating it would have to change as well. I think Gordimer is exploring these issues through Liz. You can sense her asking; How are we going to do this? How can we beat them? What is my role as a white South African? She doesn't find the answers and this is why the book feels inconclusive and uncertain. It has prompted me to read some of her later work to see the progression.

Judy says

I've just scrubbed a review in which I tried to justify a three star rating.

But, to be honest - I must be honest. This is a subject I have struggled with to this day - I lived in that part of Africa until recently.

What worries me about the book is that I feel the author muddies the waters.

The protagonist, a young white woman, is faced with making a decision whether or not to assist the passage of funding for the Black Nationalist Movement. That is straightforward enough.

The puzzle, for me, is why should she have to be influenced by the past ineffectual efforts (to support the same movement) by a dysfunctional ex-husband who has just committed suicide. That seems to be the issue, rather than her personal conviction. In addition, her decision could place in grave jeopardy: her delightful young son who has only her to support him, her helpless, senile grandmother and a relationship with a decent, caring man. In her tussle on the matter, she muses casually on a possible sexual relationship with the black man who has come to her for help, yet she has described a more than satisfactory relationship with the man in her life. Into this she make a connection with the concurrent moon landing and the first steps for humankind...

Perhaps I am missing something here - perhaps a lot.

For all that, the white middle-class couldn't be portrayed with more piercing accuracy - the United Party politician's wife, decked in twin set and pearls declaring, 'I'm just a just simple Boer at heart.' Johannesburg and the surrounding highveld described so evocatively.

I would just like to feel a greater sense of conviction. The main character has grappled with big, serious, personal issues. Perhaps that's the point - supporting the Black Nationalist Movement is more important - but it's not clear to me why.
