



**Creative Wordshops**  
Dorian Haarhoff  
082 873 6802  
dorianhaa@gmail.com  
www.dorianhaarhoff.com  
storyteller facilitator speaker writing-coach poet

# Writing Letter

## Feb 2025

re-story, re-create, re-  
imagine you

for this letter, a weekly story  
and ongoing opportunities -  
[dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za](http://dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za)

Dear writer, storyteller, reader, lover of words, images, silences...

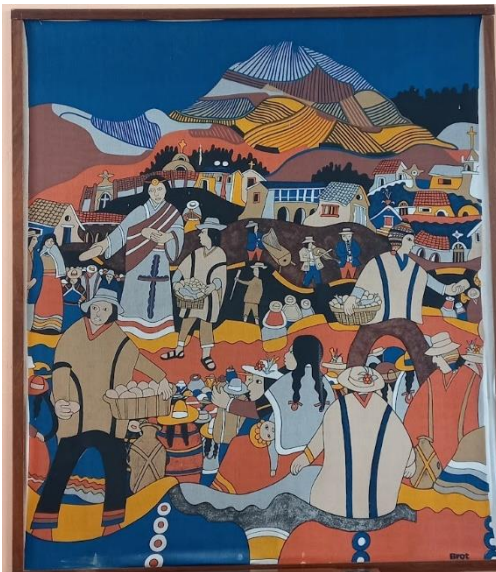
Thank you for those who subscribe to the monthly letter and/or who receive the weekly Sat story. While the letter and story remain as a gift to all, for those who wish, I'd appreciate any voluntary donation.

Dr R D Haarhoff Standard Bank Current account 0828 59 248

*I have told so many love stories that I have become fiction. (Rumi)*

### Tell me a story

This letter is once more about stories, specifically those I tell every Sat morning. During COVID. stories for day one, day two, day three. Now a weekly one with a quotation that counterbalances the story. (on Podcast some 500 stories in [dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za](http://dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za) )



The joy of this commitment is that it goes out to 500 plus people yet arrives individually on What's App Broadcast and so becomes personal. People respond one-to-one. The joy enlarges life. A story pebble thrown into a pond, the ripples washing up on far off shores. Tables spread with delicacies from exotic lands. You take from here, I sample there, and we are fed.

Some stories I absorb from mythology, from the lives of saints, from quirkiness. I adapt, embellish and twist. All the while, I learn about what makes a measured story. For the more I know about stories, the less I know of this vast untrammelled country. It's TS Eliot arriving at the place and knowing it intimately for the first time.

As an academic, it was oft the other way around, a vast volume of words hiding a kernel of meaning. Roaring through abstract polysyllabic clouds on a jet trail of disappearing sonics. Three minute stories spiral out to touch people's experience. For the leaders of every faith a story places authority in the heart of the listener. Unique. 'Recounting of a life story, a mind thinking aloud leads inevitably to the consideration of problems, no longer psychological but spiritual.' (Paul Tournier) It is universal currency.

When folk respond the ripples return from that far shore, creating waves of new understanding in my own life, for the story is wiser than the teller. Gerrit applies it to his work in productivity. Melanie coins a guide word from birthday to birthday. 'Storious." Bruce cites sonography as an artistic enquiry into the intersection of sound music and story-telling.' From Garth a walking backward story inspired a memory of *The Goons* (Sellers, Secombe and Spike Milligan ) *I'm walking backward for Christmas. -1956* and and and...



To inhabit the extended metaphors of story is to live symbolically. The metaphor bridges an abstract concept and a grounded specific while it transports from the particular to the universal. These 'storyphors' spiral the conversation, as in Rilke's *Book of Hours*:

I am circling around God,  
around the ancient tower,  
and I have been circling for a thousand years,  
and I still don't know  
if I am a falcon, or a storm, or a great song.

Tomorrow, the story says something else for I am in a different place in relation to it. As in the hymn I sang as a child:

New every morning is the love  
Our wakening and uprising prove.  
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

So how to live a storied life? I celebrate the wisdom of many teachers:  
To remain vibrant throughout a lifetime we must always be inventing

ourselves, weaving new themes into our life narratives, remembering our past, re-visioning our future, re-authorising the myth by which we live .(Sam Keen and Ann Valley Fox)

Why stories? Because stories are origins and origins are places that we walk out from. Because stories have many feet and travel several roads at once... because the story conjures the invisible. (Deena Metzger)

The stories people tell have a way of taking care of them. If stories come to you care for them. And learn to give them away where they are needed. Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive. (Barry Lopez)

And one of my responses:



### Story Smous

he travels, he tinkers.  
creaks his wagon  
into the marketplace  
and drops the flap  
to display bottles,  
all tints, shapes and hues.

*roll up. try this patent.*  
pops the cork  
and a whiff of story  
breathes from the neck.  
stories for sleep,  
for the knocking of the heart,  
rogue-romp adventures.  
tales to raise the veil,  
the rainbow and the shades between.  
this one tastes  
like licorice on the lip,  
sambuca black.  
but look how the light  
breaks in on the dark liquid.

We are all endowed as story tellers; there is a mystic in every one of us.  
(Matthew Fox) Yes, in all of us.

Dorian

## Writing Retreat Radar – 2025

detailed flyers on request

### **1 Mentoring: ongoing one-on-one attention**

*You help me to sound like myself (numerous clients)*

*Like a pair of sandals we walk this road together.*

### **2. Magic Carpet Writers (Somerset West -2 places open)**

last Wed of the month writeaway (next 29 Jan)

a fun-loving supportive thinking/being group of aspirant writers

### **3a. Namibia The Art of Storytelling**

28 Feb - 23 March Windhoek Swakopmund Walvis Bay

Training of Adults who work with children at risk

courtesy Carl Schlettwein Foundation

### **3b Your life as a Movie- a life story wordshop Windhoek**

**Sat 1 March 14.00 -18.00**

*Life is a tragedy viewed close up and a comedy in the long shot (Charlie Chaplain)*

If your life is a movie what kind of movie is it? In this wordshop we write our stories, imagining we are directing our life as a movie. Enjoy refllickology.



**Cost: N\$ 400 (Cash please)**

**Bookings:** Susan Alexander [susanalexander@afol.com.na](mailto:susanalexander@afol.com.na) 081 272 0459



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for info (bookings via Dorian)

discover the writer / artist inside

### **5. Writeway in Pringle Bay 17-18 May R990**

Are words and ideas stuck in your head? Want to shake them loose? Need inspiration and writing company? Befriend words/let words befriend you?

Then this weekend is for you.

### **6. Tides 2025**

**A Story Apprenticeship on Zoom R2580**

*The story is wiser than the teller*

The **zoom story mentoring course** is about passing on story-knowing, insight and delight. It is sharing a passion for stories, know-how and and and...

6 x 2 hour fortnightly encounters - 11 & 25 May 8 & 22 June 6 & 20 July

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