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# BOOK REVIEW

For THE WARTBURG PRESS  
57 East Main Street, Columbus 15, Ohio

TITLE: **Too Late the Phalarope**      AUTHOR: **Alan Paton**  
PUBLISHER: **Scribners**      PRICE: (Cloth) **\$3.50** (Paper)  
CLASSIFICATION: **Fiction**      NUMBER OF PAGES: **272**

## BRIEF DIGEST OF CONTENTS:

"Be sure your sins will find you out" might well be the theme of this novel of a conscience-stricken South African police lieutenant. A white man, he violates the Immorality Act with a Negro girl and so destroys himself and his family. Pieter van Vlaanderen, rugby champion and hero, stoops to this repeated sin after kindness to the girl Stephanie, because his wife has failed him, failed to be his wife in spirit as well as in name. Nevertheless, van Vlaanderen destroys himself and family in full knowledge of the possible consequences.

## CRITIQUE AND APPRAISAL:

Though this is not a pretty story, it seems to me that it is a story that needs to be told. I say this because Paton gives us here the story of an athletic hero who becomes a Judas to his wife and family because his wife has failed to be his wife in spirit as well as in name. He is also the victim of the jealousy of a vindictive underling on the police force who traps him and betrays him to the courts in a merciless way--and moreover, the hero is the victim of iron laws without a whit of the spirit of Christ in them, and of iron men who are without mercy, even though they are men of the Book and of the Lord in an old fashioned measure. After all, "There is not one who has not sinned, no, not one," to quote the Psalmist.

Is the book doctrinally okeh?

Is it in line with house policy?

Should we advertise the book?

What is its chief appeal?

Stock?

Store?

REVIEWER **Robert F. Hein**

DATE REVIEWED **December 31, 1953**