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EXCERPT FROM "LADIES IN THE NEWS" WITH MARJORIE BRIGHT SHARPE... Aired, August 28, 1953.

"Only a precious few excellent novels have been written of men's inner guilts and fears- and of man's desperate but often losing battle with his own conscience.... Such as one, nonetheless, is Alan Paton's TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE. It is a distinguished, truly memorable novel. Five years ago, Alan Paton wrote his first novel, CRY THE BELOVED COUNTRY. It was an immediate international best-seller- and told a tragic, moving story of the black man's plight in South Africa. TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE is indeed a worthy successor- and will surely be a heady answer to some critics who have pondered for five years.. 'Can Alan Paton write another CRY?' This he has certainly done- and even bettered. For, in TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE, the black man's plight is secondary to the white man's- and the tragic conclusion though evident from the first page mounts with the tension and suspense of a Greek tragedy. Alan Paton's poetic writing is different than any other contemporary writer's. He manages to probe intimately deep into a man's soul.. and yet never lays bare relentlessly. His writing style is measured.. clear... visionary.. and always arresting. And, it is strangely disturbing and soothing at the same time. The title of TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE may sound strange- but in it lies the real tragedy. For, on the day that Pieter, the chief protagonist and his stern Father, Jacob, finally see the phalarope, a tiny South African bird.. it is far too late. For, there had never been an understanding between the two men- which might well have been the underlying cause of Pieter's personal tragedy... Pieter's story is told in flashback by his favorite aunt... Her name is Sophie and she is one of the most fascinating characters in the book. She writes Pieter's story from which she had seen.. what she had imagined.. and finally from excerpts of his diary, written in part, in prison. As the narrative begins, Pieter has returned from World War II.. a man with medals across his chest.. and a hero... He is a Police Lieutenant in an out of the way hamlet in the Transvaal. Late one night, he saves a young Englishman from a fate 'worse than death (however bromidic that may sound.) For the young Englishman had had physical designs on a comely black girl, Stephanie... The Police Lieutenant carefully and conscientiously explains South Africa's Immorality Act... pointing out that ~~one~~ it is committed.... a man is sentenced for life.. not in prison, perhaps, but in the minds and hearts of his family, friends, and foes. That same night, Pieter discusses the subject with his virtuous wife, Nella.. who remembers that discussion with deep-seated remorse- after Pieter's personal tragedy strikes.... How Pieter's strange desires.. how he is trapped in betraying himself and those whom he loves... how he, himself, never manages to understand that phys' desire can sometimes nourish the soul.. makes for the plot. Its treatment... its underwriting... its terrific suspense is excellent fiction. TOO LATE THE PHALAROPE is, in my opinion, very likely to be one of the most significant books of the fall and winter publishing season."

REMAINDER OF FIFTEEN MINUTE SCRIPT

Cordially!
Marjorie
Bright
Sharpe