



Soccer Farm

A novel by Lourens Erasmus

Synopsis:

This is the true story of two young boys, one black and one white, who grow up on a farm in South Africa during the early '80s. It is the height of apartheid and integration of different races is something that is completely unacceptable as per official policy of the government of the day. The white Afrikaner community is very supportive of this policy as a result of continuous indoctrination from the government.

Despite this, the two boys become best friends. The black boy introduces his white friend to the sport of soccer and he immediately falls in love with the game. The two start their own soccer team on the farm and it is not long before they have a whole 'league' running.

Because of the apartheid policy and the attitude of the white community, the white boy gets rejected by his peers at school. Soccer is seen as a 'black sport'. The fact that he chooses soccer over rugby, which is the 'sport of the Afrikaner', makes it even worse. As he is rejected by his 'own people', he interacts more and more with the black community, not only on the soccer field, but also on a social level. He learns more about the African culture and also becomes fluent in the local African language. The black community accepts him with open arms and goes out of their way to make him feel part of them.

The white boy has numerous confrontations with his peers, teachers, his parents and the white community in general because of his lifestyle. But he refuses to give up on his beloved sport and his relationship with his black friend.

The two boys have lots of adventures and experiences on and off the soccer field, some good, some bad, some funny, some sad. Through good and bad times they support each other and their friendship just grows stronger and stronger.

The white boy's parents are also in a difficult situation. They are expected by the white community to support apartheid and

condemn the integration with blacks. On the other hand, they want only the best for their first born son and they want him to be happy. Because of this conflict, they don't always know how to handle the situation.

In a surprise turn of events, a few white boys at school decide to join the soccer team on the farm. This happens after they see the boy juggling a soccer ball on the rugby field one afternoon while he is waiting for the bus. They are so impressed by his skills that they develop respect for the game of soccer.

The boys on the farm teach their new compatriots the game of soccer and soon their presence transforms the team into a formidable force.

The attitude of the white children towards soccer and black people slowly changes after this new development and it is not long before they also have the support of their parents. In the end, the whole community unites around the soccer field, something that no one thought would be possible.

The story is about friendship and how living a dream together can overcome even the largest obstacles. It also shows how sport and especially the beautiful game of soccer can bring people from different backgrounds together.

Publishing information:

Prepared for print by BK Publishing
Genre: Biography
ISBN: 978-0-620-61415-3
Publication date: June/July 2014
Suggested retail price: R185.00
Number of pages: 424 pages
Format and binding: Paperback (195 x 130mm), PUR bound
Language: English

To order:
sales@bkpublishing.co.za
lourensferas@gmail.com

About the author:

Lourens Erasmus was born in Thabazimbi, South Africa, where he grew up on a farm. He matriculated in 1987.

He always dreamt of becoming a detective and after school he joined the South African Police. He was soon forced by his superiors to resign, as he did not agree with the police's involvement in the political situation.

He went on to study a B.A. degree at the University of Potchefstroom, but left soon after to follow his passion for fighting crime. He joined the Military Police, but again it was not long before politics interfered and he was at loggerheads with his superiors.

After he resigned from the military he pursued a career in the private security industry and obtained a diploma in Security Management. He later became a private investigator and spent 15 years in this field.

He is currently in the training and skills development industry and lives with his family in Pretoria.

He fell in love with soccer at a very young age and developed a huge passion for the sport. Over the years, he has been involved on a part time basis as a player, coach and administrator, and gained a lot of experience in this field. He currently owns a Futsal club and is also involved with the development of young players.