



François Alwyn Venter was born in Hopetown on 27 November 1916, He attended school at Vioolskraal Strydenburg and Hopetown and matriculated in 1934, He studied at Stellenbosch University and commenced a career as journalist in 1938 working in Cape Town Pretoria Windhoek and Johannesburg: In 1960 he began farming in the Kenhardt district and ten years later started farming near Vredendal in the Olifants River Valley. In 1976 he retired to Strand where he began to write full time. Venter was known for his historical novels short stories and books for young adults, He received the Hertzog Prize for prose in 1961 for his novels Swart pelgrim and Geknelde land: Geknelde land formed part of his Great Trek tetralogy which appeared in t François Alwyn Venter was born in Hopetown on 27 November 1916. He attended school at Vioolskraal Strydenburg and Hopetown and matriculated in 1934, He studied at Stellenbosch University and commenced a career as journalist in 1938 working in Cape Town Pretoria Windhoek and Johannesburg, In 1960 he began farming in the Kenhardt district and ten years later started farming near Vredendal in the Olifants River Valley. In 1976 he retired to Strand where he began to write full time. Venter was known for his historical novels short stories and books for young adults: He received the Hertzog Prize for prose in 1961 for his novels Swart pelgrim and Geknelde land: Geknelde land formed part of his Great Trek tetralogy which appeared in the 1960s and also included Offerland Gelofteland and Bedoelde land. His last book Van Botterkraal na Altena appeared in 1996 in celebration of his 80th birthday: It contained a selection from his four autobiographical works one of which Die keer toe ek my naam vergeet het won him the Andrew Murray Prize in 1996. This book is about his recovery after suffering a stroke in 1990. {site_link} Rudolf Dreyer en sy gesin steier nog onder die geweld van Moordkoppie, Terwyl hulle probeer herstel van die smart gaan die laer gebuk onder ander moeilikhede: masels en 'n verwoestende haelstorm, Dit voel vir Rudolf asof die Nuwe Land sy rug op hulle gekeer het: 'n Hewige konfrontasie met die Zoeloes volg waarin in elke man vrou bejaarde en jong kind moet veg: Die Zoeloes word net-net afgeweer maar dit berei die weg vir die volgende en grootste geveg nog ooit: Die geveg by Bloedrivier.F.A.F.A. F.A. Venter died on 8 July 1997 at the age of 80. Buks is vermoor. Oupa Helgaardt Dreyer is vermoor. En hy wankel in sy geloof. GeloftelandSo dink ek ons is die koppigste nasie op aarde. F.A. Venter.