



# Dondrite news

3rd period, 2026

NIJMEGEN

## DEAR DONDRITES,

We've had a slow start, and we are here with a second newsletter of this academic year. You can expect an introduction to us, Dondrite event updates, a recipe, a book review, a supernatural episode rec, our 'creative corner', movie rec, and a shoutout to birthdays. Enjoy!



# Scribe Introduction

Here are the people that are delivering you a total of THREE! newsletters this academic year:

**Julia**  
Chair, Treasurer

I joined the scribe committee, because I enjoy reading and writing, and needed a more creative outlet next to my studies.

**Lieke**  
Secretary

During my Bachelors in Linguistics, I was part of a publication committee as well, so it seemed logical to joining Scribe! I love writing to make other people laugh and share my passions with others, such as cooking, gaming and reading.

**Isabel**  
PR, Design

I am a first year track 1 student who joined scribe because it seemed like a fun committee. I like collaging and being creative so this seemed perfect. As the PR you sometimes hear from me in the promo groupchat :). In my free time I like exercising, reading, playing Animal Crossing, watching sitcoms, and hanging out.

+ Isabella from the Dondrite Board :)

# DONDRITE NEWSFLASH – WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?!

If you thought Dondrite members were just quietly studying... think again.

We showed our skills and discovered muscles we didn't know existed during the Pole Dance Workshop.

During the Meet Dondrite event all committees prepared a small activity and we proved once again that we are not only academically gifted, but also exceptionally good at just dance and Weerwolven van Wakkerdam!

February also had the Masters Gala, where everyone traded their study outfit for outfits that made us all question: are these really the same people from lectures? Meanwhile, the Education Committee pubquiz reminded us that knowing random facts is just as important as passing exams (arguably more). And finally the activity committee organised a Speed Connecting event that gave us the opportunity to meet many new people in record time.

## A Message from the Activity Committee



As you read this article, the Activity Committee may be considered at the very height of its productivity, occupied with fine-tuning the final arrangements for April's Dondrite & Donders Gala. Trying to write about the successes of the Activity Committee before the Gala has even taken place is a task as demanding as writing a biography of Charles Darwin without ever mentioning "On the Origin of Species".

Of course, such a mega-hit does not come out of nowhere. The foundations of the Activity Committee's undisputed success story were laid in rather rough early days.

Late September. The Activity Committee starts off rather conventionally with Disco Bowling. Alexander, by far the wisest member of the committee, confirms that Disco Bowling constitutes the debut of every self-respecting Activity Committee. Demand is still modest, and the committee benefits from the second-year contacts of its prominent member Javier. The charming Spaniard is on the board, and his personal authority carries over into the committee, making him the de facto leader who compensates for the shambolic management of the less gifted chairman Joshua. Yet things would get worse before they get better.

In October, the committee envisions a Halloween-themed jack-o'-lantern event, for which it orders dozens of pumpkins, only to recruit no more than a single CNS student. The masses of pumpkins cause a gaping hole in the budget, driving the Activity Committee to the brink of extinction. Pumpkin-Gate remains the Black Thursday of the committee's history to this day.

A month later, the Activity Committee finally succeeds in establishing itself as a serious player in the Dondrite landscape, with an unlikely hit: a Chicken Chase. Luuk develops the extraordinary idea, and it is executed to perfection by Iwan, Javier and Alexander - all of whom spend a late November night hiding from master's students in Sjors & Sjimmie, dressed up in ridiculous bird costumes. But why is the Activity Committee suddenly in such high demand? Only history will tell, but it seems highly likely that Thyra's clever marketing has played a part.

In December, Nadja and Luuk organise a cozy Christmas craft workshop, but things quiet down a little around the committee. Is it resting on its laurels, or gearing up for something big? Attentive observers of the CNS programme claim to have noticed a certain contagious excitement among the Activity Committee's members.

The reason for their enthusiasm is Mario. He has long felt that the feeling of togetherness within the Master's programme could be stronger. After a fruitful conversation with Themis, a member of the Education committee, he hatches a bold plan.

The Speed Connecting consists of short, rotating one-on-one conversations, sparked by intriguing philosophical prompts from Mario and enriched by a bingo card side quest. It proves to be a golden formula: demand is high, and the evening ends with loads of applause for Mario.



On Friday, the Activity Committee launched the ticket sale for its arguably most ambitious project: the gala. We recommend getting your ticket for 24 April as soon as possible!



---

❖

## What's coming up?

April is looking busy, so cancel your plans  
(or better: replace them with ours):

---

❖ ❖

### 7 April 12:30 – Board Interest Lunch

Curious about what happens behind the scenes? And thinking about doing a board year at Dondrite? Join us for lunch and we'll tell you all about it! No strings attached, so if you're even slightly interested, feel free to join.

### 9 April 17:00 – Dondrite Drinks @ Cultuur Café

Come for the drinks, stay for the gezelligheid.

---

❖ ❖

### 11 April – Education&Travel Museum Trip

A perfect chance to become cultured and enjoy a day trip to Amsterdam!

### 18 April – Synapsium: In the Dark

Synapsium is back! This year's theme takes us *into the dark*, so expect fascinating talks, mysterious vibes, and hopefully some enlightening insights.

---

❖ ❖

### 24 April – Gala

Another great opportunity to dress up and show off your dance skills.

### 29 April – Big Trip to Prague

We're going international! With a group of 20, we'll explore Prague for 5 days! Not joining? Follow us on Instagram to see what we are up to!

---

❖

# Recipe of the Month

## Beets and Pears

I feel like the past few months flew by. The third period was full of exams and deadlines to struggle with. The weather also seemed not to be able to make up its mind, we have rain and dark days, but also some lovely bathing spots of sun.

This dish is as diverse as the weather (and my current grades). It can be a lunch, a dinner, served hot and cold and fits well with both a rainy day or a (hopefully) sunny Easter brunch. It's fancy and hearty at the same time and both savory and sweet, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do. This recipe will make 4 decent portions.

### Ingredients

- 1 onion
- As many cloves of garlic as your heart desires (I used two)
- 4 boiled red beets
- 2 conference pears
- A pack of puff pastry dough (you can also use a savory pie crust, but in my opinion, more butter is more better)
- 3 eggs
- Crème fraiche
- A splash of milk
- Thyme
- Soft goat cheese
- Walnuts
- Optional: (vegetarian) bacon



1. Cut the onion and mash the garlic. Fry them with a splash of water until they turn soft. If you're using the (vegetarian) bacon, fry that up too and keep them apart for now.
  2. Cut the boiled beets in half and then cut them into strips of half a centimeter, so you get semi-circles. Peel the pears and cut these into strips as well, try to make them the same size as the beets.
  3. Preheat your oven to 200 C
  4. Line a baking dish with parchment paper (a nice trick is to crumple up all of the paper and then smooth it again, it will fit the corners better that way!). Add the puff pastry dough to the bottom of the baking dish.
  5. Mix the 3 eggs, 2 large tablespoons of crème fraiche and a splash of milk. Season with salt, pepper and a lot of thyme.
  6. Thyme (haha) to add everything together! First add the onion, garlic (and bacon) to the baking dish. Then, first add a piece of beet, then a piece of pear (ratatouille style) to the baking dish, then a piece of beet and a piece of pear. Continue until it's filled up.
  7. Add the egg mixture to the baking dish. Make sure it spreads into the corners. Be careful not to overfill it! You should still be able to see the beets and pears.
  8. Spread as much goat cheese and walnuts as you like over top of it.
  9. Bake your beautiful creation for 25 minutes. If the top turns dark a little too early, cover with aluminum foil and bake at a lower temperature. It's done when the egg is solidified (it's ok if it's still a little juicy, this is because of the pear, but you should be able to see the solidified egg) and the puff pastry has some colour on the bottom.
- Enjoy! (p.s. if any instructions are unclear or you made this and want to show off your beautiful creation or share your unsalted opinion, please feel free to send me a message!  
xoxo Lieke)

# Book Review - Katabasis, R.F. Kuang

Scribe members Julia and Isabel differed in opinions regarding this book, below you can read their respective reviews.

I will start my review with a warning: I am a very mercurial reader. Sometimes the best prose cannot satisfy me, other times I am entertained by writing that I know is not particularly good. What a story needs to be, to be enjoyable for me, is an entrancing pull, the need to know where everything is going to end. If I like a book, I really like it. If I dislike a book, I really dislike it (but that is still better than neutral books that are too boring to be hated).

The books I have enjoyed range from *The Great Gatsby*, *Hamlet*, *Skullduggery Pleasant*, *Lord of the Rings*, *She Who Became the Sun*, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, *Sunrise on the Reaping*, to *Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation* (Módào Zūshī). I believe this might help to narrow down which books I have enjoyed and show you whether you have similar taste in stories.

I had expected to like the book *Katabasis*. I went into it with an open mind. However, I had to really force myself through it. The characters were unlikable, which in itself is not a problem for me, if they at least act in a way I can understand. I could not relate in the slightest with Alice Law's (protagonist) obsession with magick (academia). In the beginning of the book, she literally walks into Hell, in doing so reducing her lifespan by half, just to bring back her supervisor. Mild spoilers, but her decision had multiple reasons. I find all of them lacking. Not only is academia her whole life, but she is also deeply insecure and somehow at once obsessed and unhappy with her passion. During her misguided tour to Hell, another postgraduate student called Peter Murdoch joins her. The story evolves in the most predictable direction possible. To me, they lacked chemistry in a rather severe way. Some of character's actions are unfathomable to me and seem to only have 'plot' as underlying reasoning. There is a weak mystery spun throughout the book, which in the end turns into multiple mysteries that are revealed not by sprinkling some information in, but by literally spelling out what has been happening all at once, in case the reader would not be able to follow. The most egregious example is Peter Murdoch's backstory, which was only revealed almost a third of the book in! Between chapters there are several pseudo-academic short articles or explanations serving as (annoying) exposition for the magic system. I like world-building to be a quiet background player in the stories I read, or at least to be skillfully interwoven in the narrative. In *Katabasis* the reader is hit over the head with facts that are sometimes useful, but often just fancy mumblings, which contain one trace of important information, while the rest is just distraction. Possibly if the whole of these interjections had formed one greater whole revealing its meaning only towards the end, the inclusion would have been justified.

That being said, I did finish the book. Despite the lack of subtleties and some rather forced exposition, I still wanted to know how it would all end, how Alice would get out of the mess she had created. So, in a way I can see the appeal of the book, it just was not for me. It has been a while since I have been this annoyed with a book.

# Book Review - Katabasis, R.F. Kuang

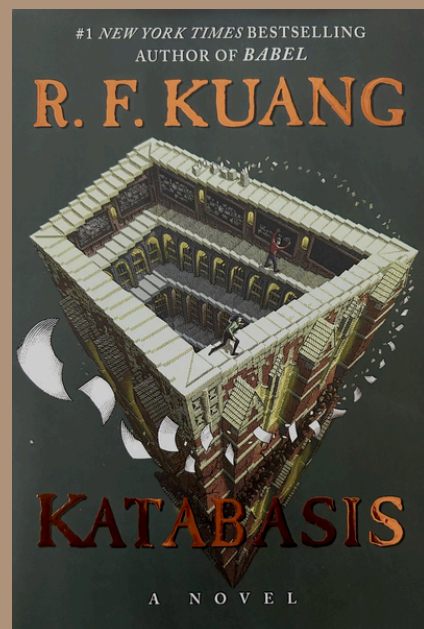
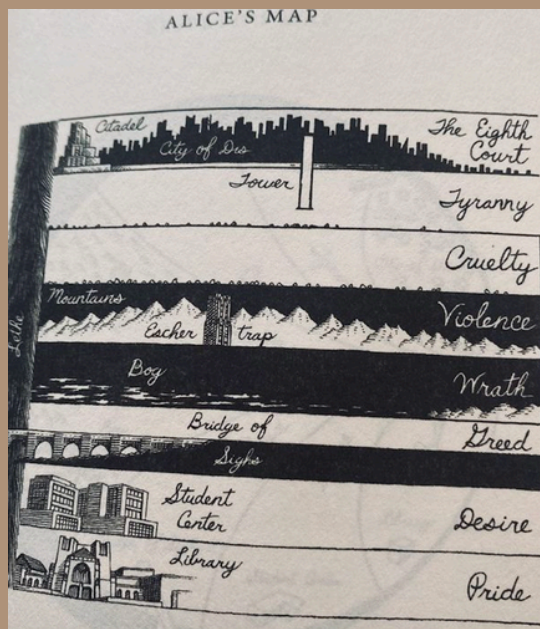
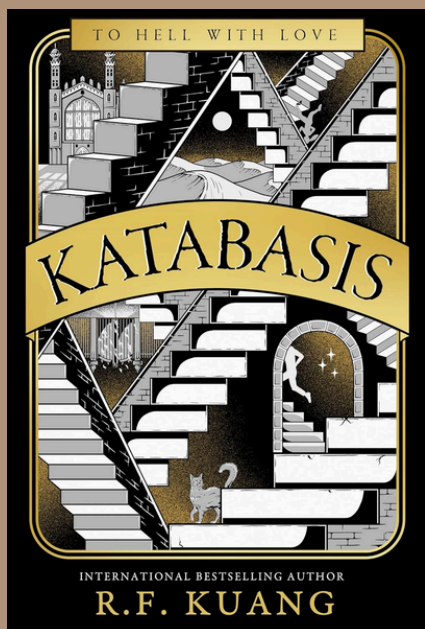
On the other hand, I enjoyed Katabasis! I like being roped into a new world, and R.F. Kuang's wordbuilding and prose is amazing in my opinion. I agree with how ridiculously invested they were in academia, but that was of course the whole point. Their characters and the whole story would fall apart without this obsession. I heard from some people that they related a lot to Alice, to me she sounded more like a cautionary tale and I felt grateful I do not see academia as my whole life. Other people appreciated the representation of Peter's health issues.

I enjoyed the twists and turns during the story. I liked how Hell was a mash-up of Dante's inferno and the Greek underworld. If you like "logic" as we are learning in Neurophilosophy, you might like how they manipulate it and use it as magick.

It was a book I read rather fast, the times in between putting it down and picking it back up were not long. As I liked it so much, I decided to read Babel afterwards. Katabasis is a book I would recommend to certain people, Babel is a book I would recommend to everyone!



Me with any piece of entertaining media.



# Supernatural Episode of the Month

## Season 3, episode 11: Mystery Spot

It was the heat of the moment! Well at least we had some warm days during this period. This is however not the reason I have chosen this episode.

It deals with an attraction called the mystery spot, where close by a man went missing. Sam and Dean come to town to investigate and suddenly Dean dies. But...

Then the day starts again, the radio plays Heat of the Moment by Asia and it is Tuesday again. Sam is caught in a time loop as if straight out of Groundhog Day. And I have felt similar during this exam period, when I had to study again and again for different exams.

**Rating:**

five Sammies out of five

**STREAM or skip:**

If you only ever watch one episode of supernatural in your life, this should be the one.



# Creative Corner

Last year changed its seasons  
subtly, stripped its sultry winds  
for the reds of dying leaves, let  
gelid drips of winter ice melt onto a  
warming earth and urged the dormant  
bulbs to brave the pain  
of spring.

We, loving, above the whim of  
time, did not notice.

Alone, I remember now.  
In Retrospect – Maya Angelou



Again

It seems progress is as fast as it is slow  
Through rain, salt, and earth's regret  
It has all been lost  
Again, I find forgotten remnants  
Again, I linger still

Prompt

“The clocks are going backwards.  
How very peculiar.”

# Creative Corner

Submitted by a CNS student

## Stockholm Syndrome

Snippets on strings being reeled in,  
Leaving me feeling seized,  
Until the night snaps,  
Only to reign again.

These strings leave marks on my phantom  
Like the ones you left on my psyche  
And as the light filters in,  
I see how consumed I have been;  
Trying to read these imprints on my skin  
Like a hostage to this parody.

When I take the day off of my face  
I see my phantom clearer,  
And then the sun falls into a slumber,  
Cueing me to pursue my endeavour;  
Trying to find the ends of these strings  
And cut myself free forever.

Only to hear your voice chant my name;  
Like a spell,  
It lures me into your embrace,  
Even when you are not there.  
I lose the will to resist as the snippets reel in.  
It feels like showers on a hot day,  
Watching those memories replay  
Until the night snaps,  
Only to reign again.

-Kopal Agarwal

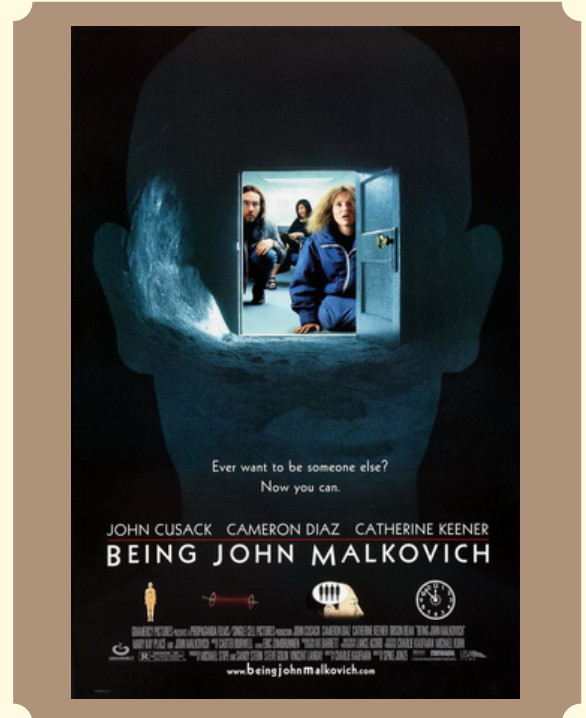


# A Movie Rec Per Track



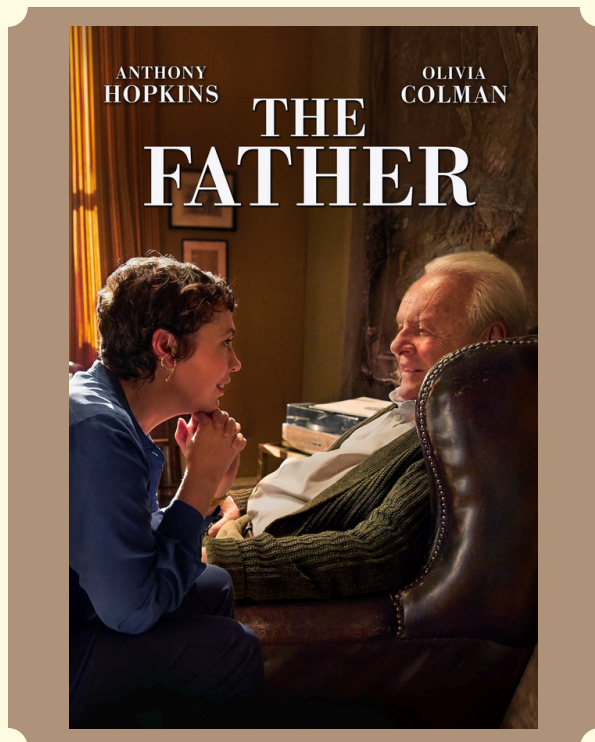
Track 1 - Arrival

Sci Fi meets linguistics



Track 2- Being John Malvokich

This movie is WEIRD.



Track 3- The Father

Get some tissues bruv.



Track 4 - Eternal Sunshine  
of the Spotless Mind

Neurotech who???

# BIRTHDAYS

Grace  
24/01

Their wish:  
"Free beer &  
getting  
this degree <3"

Fernando  
17/02

Their wish:  
"Hugs!  
Many hugs!"

Lexie  
17/02

Their wish:  
"Cats rule  
the world!"

Julia  
06/02

Isabel  
20/03

Sofia  
30/03