

2002

## 'BABY COME DUZE'

D Can Themba

Gopal S. Naransamy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Themba, D Can and Naransamy, Gopal S., 'BABY COME DUZE', *Kunapipi*, 24(1), 2002.  
Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol24/iss1/9>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: [research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

## 'BABY COME DUZE'

### **Abstract**

THERE'S A NEW LINGO IN THE TOWNSHIPS, BRIGHT AS THE BRIGHT-BOYS, MADE OF AFRIKAANS, ZULU, SOTHO, ENGLISH AND BRAND-NEW WORDS. HERE'S A STORY IN LINGO - AND EXPLANATIONS.

# ‘BABY COME DUZE’

THERE’S A NEW LINGO IN THE TOWNSHIPS, BRIGHT AS THE BRIGHT-BOYS, MADE OF AFRIKAANS, ZULU, SOTHO, ENGLISH AND BRAND-NEW WORDS. HERE’S A STORY IN LINGO – AND EXPLANATIONS.

Story by ‘bra’ D. Can Themba.

Pictures by ‘bra’ Gopal S. Naransamy.

Prettyboy: ‘Globe daar, man, Snooky man. Daai’s nou eintlik die real goete. Jy notch?’

Snooky: ‘Jy val babies bo. Daai’s die Casbah Baos se rubberneck, en sy vat nie moegoes kop-toe nie.’

*Prettyboy: ‘Get a load of that one, Snooky. That’s the genuine article. Get it?’*

*Snooky: ‘You go for every skirt. That girl belongs to the Casbah Boys, and won’t go for suckers.’*



## 'Say, baby, you got me crazy!'

Prettyboy: 'Ek sê, baby, 'n man pitch cruel vir jou. Pun-yuka ek net, dan hol ons die toun toe.'  
 Ellen: 'Jy's babies verskrik, hê! Wat gaan vir wat en wie gaan vir wie? Ou Bull van die Casbahs maak jou hinty, finish en klaar, Daak!'



*Prettyboy: 'I say, baby, I'm nuts about you. Give me a break, and you and I will paint the town red.'*

*Ellen: 'You're girl-crazy, eh! What's cooking? Bull of the Casbah Boys will kill you off, finish and flat. Scoot!'*



Ellen: 'Toe was ek mix-zup van die out-tie, maar ek nyekeza. Ek was gestoot. Ou Bull is coward met 'n gounie, en hy neinen net vir molle. My Mma hoor my, is Jozi die!'

*Ellen: 'But I fell hard for the bright-boy. Still I played angel. I was cornered. Bull is cruel with a knife, and goes to jail just through dames. Goodness, this is Joburg!'*



## **‘Lay-off that doll, small-fry!’**

**Bull:** ‘Jy deal met my moll, spy. Pazama weer by daai cherry, dan quip ek you vuil.’

*Bull: ‘You string with my girl, small-fry. Just dare go near that dame and I’ll beat you up bad.’*

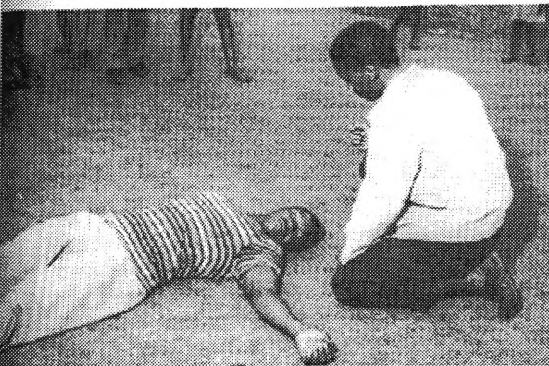


‘n Shot maak jou nie wild as jy Judo notch nie, man. Ga hom Voor hom hele laaities , , ,’

*‘A bigshot can’t scare you if you know Judo. Grab him in front of all his boys . . .’*

‘Spin hom; hy moet brul soos ‘n os as hy vlie ant hulle is almal sissies as jy pluck hou.’

*‘Throw him; he must roar like an ox when he flies for they’re all cowards when you show courage.’*



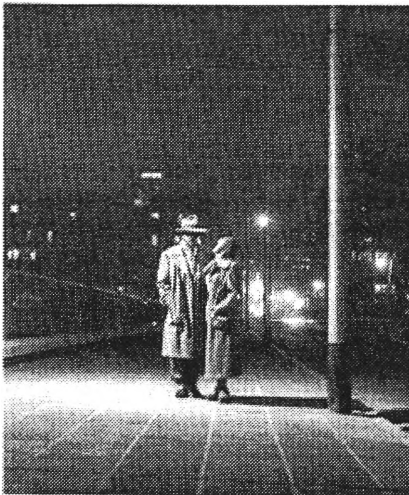
‘Die Here weet, die dikker die vark die harder val hy.’

*‘God knows, the bigger the pig the harder it drops.’*



Prettyboy: 'Toe kom Easter – mdlalos, nice-times, piekniet! Maar waar! Ons los die bricados in die shashi, ek en my mama, two-out. Jy gaan dit val ok gee, maar ons dlala tot die beste romantic word.'

*Prettyboy: 'Then came Easter – fun parties, picnic! But what! We dodged the boys, my dame and I, all by ourselves. You'll think I'm pulling a fast one, but we spooned till even the cattle became romantic.'*



## **'Night and day, you are the one I love.'**

Prettyboy: 'En daai aand mova ons titch-toe cruel ge-clip. Die toun was mca, hinty man. Die baby ga my, is shandies kalykit crackets sgoer-sgoer in my koukie. Ek was weg, man, weg man . . .'

*Prettyboy: 'And that night we went home, in close embrace. The town was beautiful. Silent. My girl pressed me, things exploded as if crackers burst in my head. I was gone, man, gone man . . .'*



**Loving,  
and laughter,  
forever after . . .**

Ellen: 'Moet dit 'n laaitie is, dan maak hy nyakanyaka onder die cherrekies net soos hom ganbini. Dan squeal hy die mamzan globe hom weg met 'n evil while hy nog boeke oopmaak.'

Prettyboy: 'Yefies! Yefries! Dan lê hy die baby by die mong, dan rwa hy haar met die ou spead: "Baby, come duze!" Yefies! Yefies!'

*Ellen: 'If it's a boy, he'll cause trouble among the little girls just like his father. And he'll grumble that her mother stares him off whilst he's still making love.'*

*Prettyboy: 'Geewhiz! Geewhiz! Then he waylays her at the chinaman's shop, and then he deceives her with the old flattery: "Baby, come closer!" Geewhiz! Geewhiz!'*

[April 1956]

**THE END**