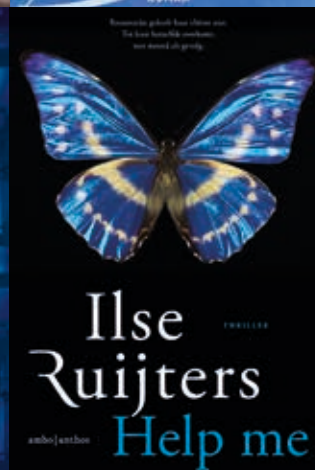


FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

FRANKFURT 2024

ambo | anthos uitgevers



ANNE-GINE GOEMANS

Wondermond

A whirlwind coming-of-age novel set against the backdrop of the Wadden Sea region

Boye de Koning seems assured of a golden future until his father is arrested for large-scale investment fraud. Together with his mother, Boye flees from well-heeled Bloemendaal to his grandmother in the fishing village Wondermond in Friesland, in the northern Netherlands.

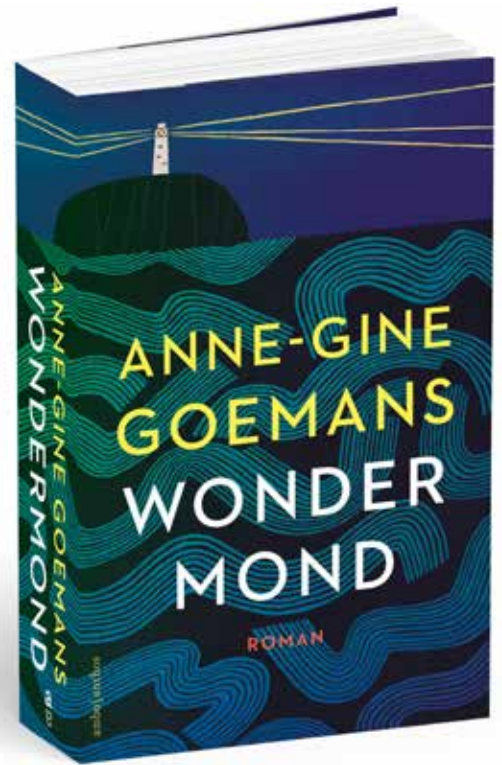
Wondermond is afflicted by its own trauma. A major shipwreck over a hundred years ago has left its mark on the eccentric villagers' genes. The drowned fishermen's wives and daughters were exploited and ended up in prostitution. This fate also befell the women in Boye's family. Survival and poverty are still everyday realities here. While his mother Reina goes from one poorly paid job to another, Boye joins the fishing industry with only one goal: escaping the village as quickly as possible. Everything changes in Wondermond with the discovery of the last ship in the lost fleet, thanks to Boye.

Anne-Gine Goemans displays her talent as a storyteller by seamlessly weaving together historical events and contemporary themes.

"The Dutch Annie Proulx" – *Opzij*

"Goemans has the gift of seeing stories in everything, and she also has the art of credibly weaving them together into a richly varied tapestry. While unfolding it, she never lets the reader go for a moment." – *Dagblad van het Noorden*

"It has to be said, *Wondermond* is right on target. The setting is fantastic." – *Trouw*



416 pp – August 2024 – translation grant available

Promoted by the Dutch
Foundation for Literature

Mezza Book of the Month

Hebban Book of the Month

ANNE-GINE GOEMANS (b. 1971) works as a writer, journalist and screenwriter. She made her debut with the highly praised novel *Ziekzoekers* and won the Anton Wachter Prize in 2008. With *Gliding Flight*, she won the Dioraphte Youth Literature Prize in 2012 and the German M-Pionier Prize for best literary newcomer. *Honolulu King* (2015), which sold more than 60,000 copies, is being adapted to film by NL Film. Goemans' most recent novel, *Holy Trientje*, was published at the end of 2019. Her previous books were translated into English, German, Icelandic, Danish and Italian.



© MARC BRESTER

MAX HERMENS

The Disappearance of Ferdi Heijen

A portrait of both a lost boy and a culture that has almost disappeared

On a scorching summer day, twelve-year-old Ferdi Heijen disappears in the cornfields. No one in the farming community seems to care about his fate, and the reason for his disappearance remains unclear. One by one, villagers recount what they saw and heard that day. Their kaleidoscopic narratives reveal a closed rural society that has slowly fallen into decay.

Hermens sketches a volatile village community where everyone is out for themselves. Farmers lease out their land instead of working it themselves. Illegal marijuana plantations nestle within metre-high corn fields. Children grow up knowing they have few prospects here and outsiders who want to help having difficulty intervening. Together, they are a community on its last legs trying to hold its own in a rapidly changing world.

Book of the Month – *Paagman Magazine*

“A haunting debut novel about changing farm life”
– *Zin Magazine*

“A probing narrative in which the languishing rural life is made palpable in all its facets” – *Minutes of the Invisible*

“An oppressive portrait of a region full of corn, pigs, cattle and illegal drug waste – where you are chased from the yard by dobermans, Polish labour migrants do the dirty work and shadowy business is transacted in farm sheds.” – *VPRO Gids*



200 pp – July 2024 – sample translation available

Nominated for the Boekenbon Literature Prize 2024

MAX HERMENS (b. 1991) is a writer and creative writing teacher. He has published work in *De Gids*, *Das Magazin* and *De Optimist*. His chapbook *Toch zonken ze niet* (Yet They Did Not Sink) received much acclaim. *The Disappearance of Ferdi Heijen* is his debut novel. He grew up in a small village in Limburg in the southern Netherlands.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

SACHA BRONWASSER
All Is Yet to Come. Stories

Destinies take an unexpected turn and an artwork serves as the catalyst for a new story.

A man holds a mysterious object in his hand, which finally gives him the courage to declare his love. A woman is convinced that a six-hundred-year-old portrait reciprocates her feelings. Following a visit to the geriatrician, a patient has new reflections on his favourite sculpture.

There is only one common thread among these stories; they take place in distinct locations, under diverse circumstances and span from the present to the distant future. But one thing is certain: an artwork always plays a role.



224 pages, October 2024



Johannes Thopas – Portrait of a Deceased Girl, probably Catharina Margaretha van Valkenburg, 1682

In a while

I'll wake up in a while.
 In a while, yes, in a while they'll slip their hands under my warm arms, pick me up and lay me on their shoulder. Hush little baby. They'll walk me around the room, whispering to me about all the things I'll do. I'll drink the milk, I'll grab the ring, I'll put all the blocks in a box and, look, I can walk now.
 I'll hold hands on the way to school, bag on my back, on my own, in a gang, arm in arm. They'll give me a pushcart, they'll give me a pony, they'll give me a bike and a phone. I'll fit the lace bodice, I'll fit the crinoline, I'll wear the high-waisted trousers, I'll wear a miniskirt in that exact shade of dusky pink. They'll give me books and a place by the window, I'll stick chewing gum under the desk and ride the moped. I'll walk the line, I'll wander off course, I won't wait for the one and I'll undress for whoever I want. I'll blend in, I'll curse, I'll leave and I'll come back. They'll wave goodbye, becoming smaller and smaller, I'll take the prize and be on my way.
 I'll have sons I'm so proud of, they have my eyebrows, all seven of them. I'll wear my hair long, short, long again. I'll run the household and sell the cow, I'll fill the purse and sign

SACHA BRONWASSER is a writer, speaker, art historian and curator. She made her debut as a novelist in 2019 with the highly praised *All They Say Is True*. In February 2023, her second novel, *Listen*, was published to unanimous critical acclaim. It was the most mentioned book in year-end lists of leading media and became a bestseller.



© MARK UYL

SACHA BRONWASSER

Listen

A search for identity, friendship and guilt

In 1989 Marie, a 20-year-old student of photography, flees the Netherlands. Her professor Flo who in Marie's perspective had befriended her for months instead has turned out to have used her for a project. An abuse in the name of art but morally most questionable.

Marie moves to Paris and starts to work as Au-Pair for a troubled family: a marriage that seems to have come to an end, two small children that she will have to take care of.

Philippe, the husband, was injured during one of the terrorist's assaults that is keeping the city in its grip. And now he seems to develop an obsession with Marie, who – besides the huge responsibility for two children in a time of terror – experiences the loneliest hours of her young life in her attic-room. Many years later in 2015 Paris again has become the scene of gruesome assaults by terrorists. This time Flo has become a victim. That's when Marie tells her side of the story: "Listen".

Best novel of 2023 – *Het Parool*

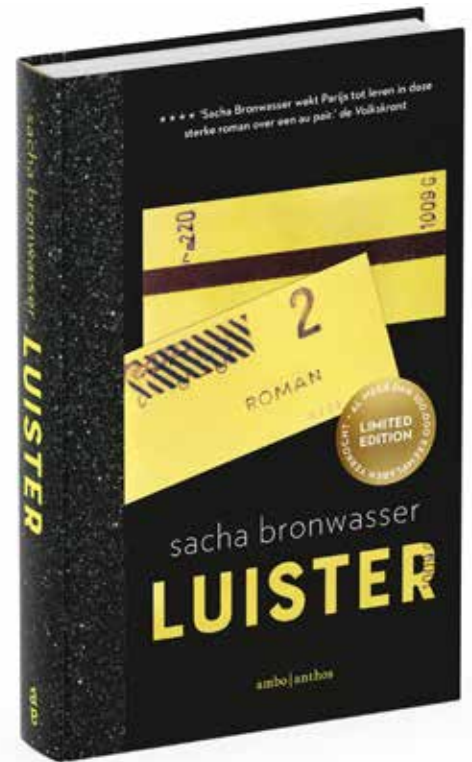
Best novel by a Dutch author in 2023 – *De Volkskrant*

Top 10 of best books published in 2023 – *NRC*

★★★★★ "It's a rare thing, a book that can be read simply as a 'good read' but with enough in it to make you think." – *de Volkskrant*

★★★★ "A highly ingenious novel" – *NRC*

★★★★★ "A meticulously constructed and convincing story that gets under your skin from the very first page." – *De Telegraaf*



256 pp – February 2023

English and German pdf available –

Translation grant available

100,000 copies sold

Shortlisted for the LIBRIS 2024
– Shortlisted for the Hans
Vervoort Prize 2024 • Nominated
for the Inktaap 2025

Rights sold to:

Penguin Random House
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Otwarte (Poland),
ICU (Bulgaria), NLN (Czechia)

SACHA BRONWASSER is a writer, speaker, art historian and curator. She made her debut in October 2019 with the highly praised *All They Say Is True*.



© MARK UYL

OEK DE JONG
Black Barn

“Black Barn is bound to be a classic.” ★★★★★
 – *De Volkskrant*

At the age of fifty-nine the artist Maris Coppoolse is given a retrospective in Amsterdam’s Stedelijk Museum. It’s written up in the international press; visitors throng into the show. Maris is at the pinnacle of his fame. Then a magazine exposes the source of his obsessive work: a crime he committed at age fourteen. No one in his circle knew about this; his friends and acquaintances are deeply shocked.

This is the story of a life marked forever by a single catastrophic event. It is the artist’s life sentence. We see him living as an artist in Amsterdam and New York, and are given a probing view of his troubled marriage to the vivacious and adventurous, but likewise incriminated Fran. The magazine story drives him to relive his childhood, especially that Sunday afternoon on the island, when he went into a barn he had no business being.

Black Barn is a novel about living with trauma and overcoming it and about the women who confront Maris with himself over the course of the years. It is also about the power of true love.

“In this monumental novel, Oek de Jong keeps playing with his readers’ expectations till the very end.” – *HP/De Tijd*

“Oek de Jong has written another instant classic of the sort you are almost surprised can still be written in this day and age.”
 – Marja Pruis in *De Groene Amsterdammer*

“*Black Barn* is a novel about the long tentacles of guilt and the blistering power of a great love.” – *de Standaard*

“The novel unfolds, and Oek de Jong guides you along with a steady hand, without any visible effort.” ★★★★★ – *NRC*



496 pp – September 2019 – English
 sample available
 More than 100,000 copies sold

Rights sold to Italy (Neri Pozza)

**Winner of the Boekenbon
 Literature Prize • Shortlisted for
 the Libris Literature Prize • #3 at
 the overall Dutch bestseller list**

OEK DE JONG (b. 1952) is internationally regarded as one of the most important contemporary Dutch authors. His novels *Billowing Summer Dresses*, *Circle in the Grass*, *Hokwerda’s Child*, *Pier and Ocean* and *Black Barn* have been awarded numerous prizes. They were nominated for the Dutch Libris Literature Prize and the Belgian Golden Book Owl. His work has been translated into German, French, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Romanian. His oeuvre is characterized by great stylistic strength and psychological depth.



© KÁROLY EFFENBERGER

MICHAEL HOMPES

The Past is for Later

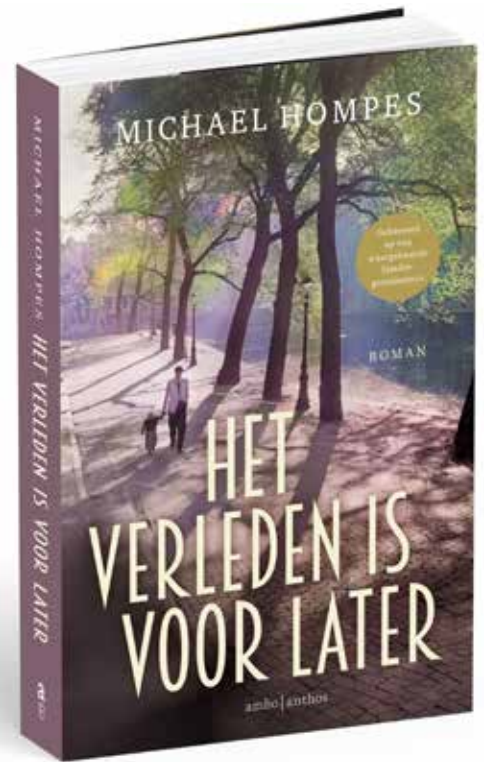
The trauma of a Jewish war orphan and his descendants

Based on a true story: Amsterdam, July 1943. Miss Silverbaum smuggles newborn Robbie out of the Jewish ghetto during the height of the raids.

Marc Herzberg initially doesn't want to delve into his family's history. "The war ends with me," he once declared. However, when he comes across a well-documented file about his father's post-war youth, and during the same period, his wife's grandmother begins sharing wartime stories, he finds himself unable to keep his emotions in check. His daughter's challenging premature birth further strains his relationship with his father.

In *The Past is for Later*, the narrative constantly shifts between an 'ignorant' war orphan in the post-war reconstruction period and Marc Herzberg's hectic contemporary life. In this novel, Hompes vividly depicts the shadows cast by the Shoah on the lives of three generations: a war orphan seeking stability and love, a consultant struggling with attachment issues, and a resistance heroine burdened by guilt.

"Hompes narrates an incredible, true convergence of events with skill and emotion. *The Past is for Later* is a hopeful novel about how the third generation can liberate itself from the aftermath of the Shoah." – *Judith Fanto*



352 pp – August 2024 – sample translation available

Based on a true story

MICHAEL HOMPES (b. 1979) studied in Amsterdam, Sydney, and Oxford, and spent fifteen years working in strategy consulting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he quit his job to devote himself entirely to writing his debut novel. *The Past is for Later* is based on the meticulously documented childhood of Hompes' father and the heroic experiences of his wife's grandmother, Betty Goudsmit-Oudkerk, in the resistance.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

CHERRY DUYNIS

*Farewell***Gripping and loving testimony of a life**

The story of a mother and a son. The story of an era. One day he gets a call. Whether he wants to come. He drives from the Netherlands to Germany, to the town in the valley where she has lived all this time and where she now spends her last days in a retirement home. In *Farewell*, Cherry Duynis looks back on his mother's life. A life scarred by the war, when she met a charming Dutch young man. With him she formed a successful variety duo; together they performed in front of packed halls and together they had a son in those ruthless times. With her husband and child, she ended up in the Netherlands, in a hostile environment, where the marriage did not last. Cherry Duynis tells the life story of a wayward woman who always remained elusive. A tender portrait, as penetrating as it is loving.

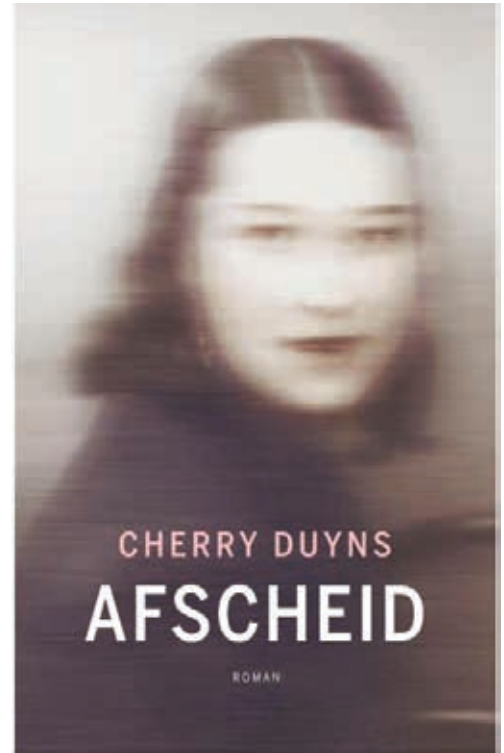
“His writing resembles the waves of the sea”

– *Haarlems Dagblad*

“While avoiding sentimentality, Duynis writes in sober style with great empathy about his mother and her disconcerting decline in her final years.” – *NRC*

“Such a beautiful, tender novel. Please, read this book.”

– *Tips uit het boekenvak*



265 pp – October 2020 – complete

German translation available

CHERRY DUYNIS (b. 1944 in Wuppertal, Germany) is a writer, film and theatre maker. He has published collections of short stories and novels (*The Sunday Boy*, *Dante's Trumpet*, *The Chinese Knot* and, in 2020, *Farewell*). His work was translated into German. His film work has won numerous awards.



© KEKE KEUKELAAR

KATHY MATHYS

Until it Sparkles

A layered novel about friendship, lost parents, and how we try to capture memories in words

Anna Kuyken, a writer and creative writing instructor, is giving writing workshops all summer long in St Ives, on the Cornish coast. The sudden appearance of Billie, the daughter of Bruce Branaman, Anna's most famous former student, forces her to look back on a period she would rather forget. Billie wants to know what drove her father and why he died so young and under such mysterious circumstances.

Twenty-two years earlier, Anna is giving master classes in Brussels to four students, including Bruce. An intense friendship develops among them. But the group falls apart after that summer of writing. Bruce quickly becomes a global literary star, but he cannot handle the fame and withdraws, becoming a recluse. When he asks Anna to write a book about him, she gets caught up in his dramatic final days.

Billie's presence compels Anna to articulate her story. The pressure mounts when an intrusive journalist stops at nothing to make Anna reveal what happened back then.

"Her name will soon find its place between those of Herman Koch and Nicci French." – *BN de Stem*

"She leaves ample space for beautiful descriptions (of nature) and subtle details. In 2017, the Dutch Foundation for Literature selected her as a promising new writer. Rightly so."
– *Nederlands Dagblad*



328 pp – August 2024



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

KATHY MATHYS is a writer and teacher of creative writing. She previously published the non-fiction book *Taste: A Bittersweet Exploration* and the novel *Lost Time*. She has been a jury member of the Gouden Uil literature prize and the AKO Literature Prize.

LEX PALEAUX

Hitchhiking to Heaven

About a troubled boy who has missed too many chances

Sixteen-year-old Quintin has just been released from a juvenile detention centre when he once again gets himself into trouble. His desperate parents send him to a remote part of Canada, where he must hold his own in a strict religious community. Time seems to have stood still here for several decades, and the affection and guidance that Quintin craves are hard to come by. His loveless host family mainly sees him as free domestic labour, and the farmer he is assigned to help sees it as his duty to get Quintin back on the right track with a firm hand.

Despite the harsh circumstances, Quintin remains open-minded. He enjoys the rugged landscape and forms unexpected friendships: with a toddler, a calf and a homeless Native American man. And then there is Mike, a pastor's son who he finds to be a kindred spirit. Will his adventure in Canada mark a turning point for the boy who refuses to behave, or will he be traumatised once again?

About *Winter Water*:

"This alarming book is written 'For the invisible, inaudible, but indispensable'. That is a clear assignment: for the parent who is at a loss as to how to raise children or for the friend who lays his hand on a shoulder." – *NRC Handelsblad*

"Paleaux writes cinematically but without exaggerated emotion. This is exactly what makes it touching." – Steven Sterk, Noordboek Publishing House



312 pp – September 2024

A captivating coming-of-age story about a boy on the cusp of adulthood.

LEX PALEAUX is a writer, columnist and screenwriter. Among his earlier works are the much-praised novels *Winter Water* and *When Death Sighs, I Hold My Breath*. *Winter Water* was made into a successful theatre production and was translated into Frisian.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

SHOLEH REZAZADEH

Take Plenty Said the Sea“You dream away with every sentence you read.” – *Jan*

say welcome
 to the smallest hope
 knotted by the feeblest finger
 welcome
 to the wavering colour
 of the deepest point in the marsh
 welcome
 to the scent of the morning
 mixed in with fear
 welcome,
 thistle,
 termite,
 insect
 you still exist,
 so welcome

In Sholeh Rezaadeh’s first poetry collection, we encounter familiar elements that she also extensively incorporated in her two critically acclaimed novels: rivers and seas, trees and mountains, fish, birds and butterflies. As in her novels, nature is not a backdrop but a true character that sees and feels, that loves and forgets. Humans are fallible beings desperately seeking love and connection, yet are also astonished by the lack of attention for the other.

In a magnificent parlendo, inspired by the old Persian poets, Rezaadeh writes about the power of nature and the impossibility of truly knowing another person.

“This is sensory and idiosyncratic language.” – *HP De Tijd*



Poems – 72 pp – August 2024

SHOLEH REZAZADEH (b. 1989) came to the Netherlands from Iran in 2015. Her debut novel *The Sky Is Always Purple* (2021) was awarded the Debut Award of the Society of Dutch Literature 2022 and the Bronzen Uil Readers Award 2021. It was longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize and the Hebban Debut Prize 2022. Her second novel *The Mountain I Know* was nominated for the European Union Prize for Literature and received a special mention.



© FRANK RUITER

SHOLEH REZAZADEH

The Mountain I Know

“We were blown away by the originality of this novel.”
– Jury of the EUPL 2024

This is the story of the Aras River in Iran and the nomadic people that camp on its banks. Lovingly, but also with a hint of jealousy, the river observes how Saray becomes a young woman and how a childhood love turns into an adult relationship with Aydin.

Among the people living by the river is an old carpet weaver, who also weaves stories, and Doeman, who is different from the others and has eyes that appear to be blind but are able to see what others do not perceive. And Ashik, who sings about: the animals, the mountains and, last but not least, the river Aras. Every once in a while a trader comes by to exchange sweets, hand creams, combs and other items for the weaver’s wonderful carpets. On one occasion he is accompanied by a woman who has travelled from a faraway land, where she also lives by a river.

“We were blown away by the originality of this novel, mixing fiction and literary tales genres. This novel is a perfect candidate for multiple translations across Europe.”

– special mention by the jury of the European Union Prize for Literature 2024

“Colours, smells, feelings. Rezazadeh appeals to all the senses. A tender and lush novel... a small and grand story, not to be forgotten quickly.” – *Het Parool*

“Her use of language is improbably beautiful.” – *de Volkskrant*
“Rezazadeh takes me on the flow of her river. Like a song, that’s how you should read this... Unmistakably an allegorical and poetic novel” – *Trouw*



192 pp – September 2023 – complete
English translation available –
translation grant available
12,000 copies sold

**Shortlisted for the European Union
Prize for Literature 2024 –
Shortlisted for the Amarte
Literature Prize 2024 –**

**Rights sold to Bulgaria (Izida) and
Macedonia (Antolog)**

SHOLEH REZAZADEH (b. 1989) came to the Netherlands from Iran in 2015. Her debut novel *The Sky Is Always Purple* (2021) was awarded the Debut Award of the Society of Dutch Literature 2022 and the Bronzen Uil Readers Award 2021. It was longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize and the Hebban Debut Prize 2022. Her second novel *The Mountain I Know* was nominated for the European Union Prize for Literature and received a special mention.



© FRANK RUITER

ELVIN POST

A Nice Girl

Is Megan innocent, as she claims, or is she lying and has she stopped being a nice girl?

Megan Smit is a nice girl. Unfortunately, life hasn't been very nice to her. At an early age, she lost her father, her dream career as a film actress came to nothing and her mother just can't understand why she ended her dysfunctional relationship with her ex-boyfriend Rex. When Megan moves into a new apartment in Rotterdam, she finally seems to have a chance at a pleasant life. Or does she? Less than five months later, her neighbour turns up dead in the stairwell, and she is accused of murder. A thrilling whodunit in which the reader is constantly misled.

"The best Dutch thriller writer." – *NRC*

"The best Dutch thriller writer." – *Noordhollands Dagblad*

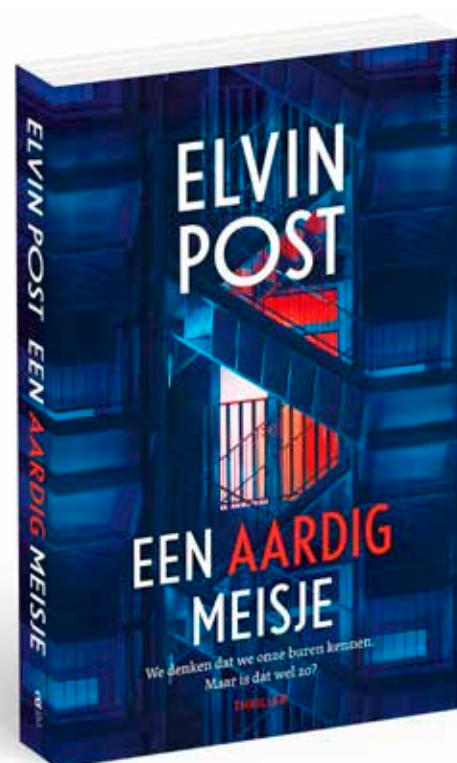
"Elvin Post belongs to the crème de la crème of the thriller writing genre." – *De Telegraaf*

"One of the best Dutch-language thriller authors"
– *Het Nieuwsblad*

About *The Course*:

"Razor sharp." – *De Telegraaf*

"A thundering rollercoaster that you can't help but read in one go." – *VN Detective & Thrillergids*



344 pp – October 2024

The author was awarded the Golden Noose for his thriller *Green Friday*.

With his debut *Green Friday* **ELVIN POST** (b. 1973) immediately won the Golden Noose 2004. It was the promising beginning of a rich oeuvre, the most recent thrillers being *The Course* (2021) and *Breakpoint* (2022). Also his young-adult books have become successful: *No Way Back* (2022) and *Catch* (2023). Post's work has been published in German, French, Spanish, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic and Indonesian.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

ILSE RUIJTERS

Help me

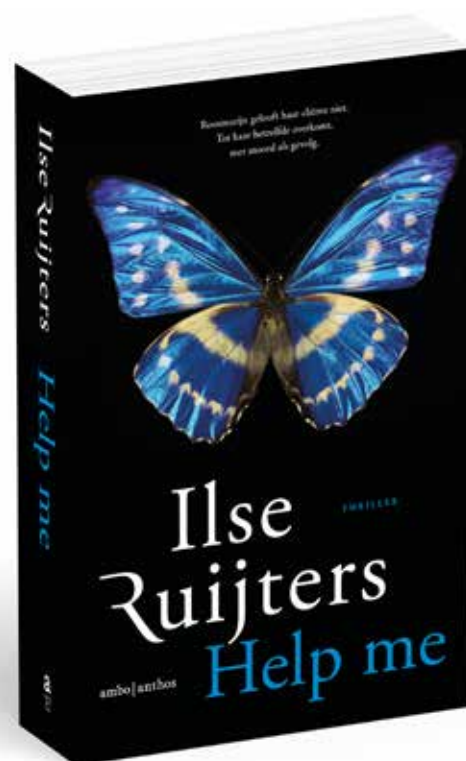
How do you prove your innocence when everything points to you having committed the murder?

Lawyer Roosmarijn Weijmer is very popular with her clients. She makes them feel visible: finally someone is standing up for their rights. This in turn makes her feel good, until the plaudits mutate into morbid interest. At a gas station, a frightened young woman hands her a piece of paper with the words “Help me” written on it and Roosmarijn finds herself caught up in a pathological and unsettling game. One in which she soon becomes a significant pawn.

Who is Roosmarijn actually helping? Her client or the murderer?

“*Help me* is a psychological thriller that deserves the label must-read. Ilse Ruijters shows once again that she is one of the best Dutch writers.” ★★★★★ – Vrouwenthrillers.nl

“The denouement is nail-bitingly exciting. If you are a thriller lover, you simply must read this book.” – De Koukleumpjes



352 pp – Juni 2024

In 2022, **ILSE RUIJTERS'** book *Minaar* [*Lover*] garnered so much praise that she was nominated for the *Woman in the Media Award* in the Netherlands. In her podcast, Ruijters discusses the writing process for *Help Me* with her readers. With four awards and numerous nominations for her books, it is impossible to talk about the Dutch thriller world without mentioning her name. *Help Me* is her fifth novel.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK



Please meet Loft

Loft Books is a young and fresh publisher of Dutch-language feel-good novels, thrillers and new adult fiction.

Loft Books started as an e-only publisher in autumn 2018 and began publishing print editions in 2024.

We now publish ca. 50 books every year, ranging from vibrant feel-good novels to blood-curdling mysteries and from historical fiction to spicy romances.

NATHALIE WINDHORST

Old School, Modern Love

In a former school building in Utrecht, old classrooms have been converted into apartments for young professionals. Residents Hazel, Wieger, Abel, Melle and Lola each face a different challenge in their love lives.

Each volume is about 70,000 words.



Sharing a Trip

Sharing a Past

Sharing a View

Sharing a Room

Sharing a Trip is a romantic feel-good story told from two perspectives, with a spicy edge.

Hazel and Friso meet on a plane to San Francisco. During a ten-hour flight they share highs and lows and feel a true connection. After arriving, they can't forget each other. When Friso asks Hazel to join him on a road trip through some national parks, Hazel can't say no. But how does a summer fling relate to real life?

NAN ADAMS

Alfa Women



Nan Adams takes readers through Beatrice's epic life, filled with war dramas and deadly intrigues. From the tulip fields of Alkmaar in the Netherlands to luxury hotels in Bellagio on Lake Como in Italy, the Alfa Women Series portrays the life of young Beatrice, who, despite setbacks, manages to stand strong and inspire generations of women.

Each volume of the series is 65,000-70,000 words



35,000 copies sold

When Geraldine gets a call during her great-grandmother Beatrice's birthday party about her family's long-lost Alfa Romeo, her curiosity is piqued. Where has the car been all this time? And why are her mother and great-grandmother so shocked to hear it has been found? Geraldine decides to use her journalism skills to ask her great-grandmother Beatrice the truth about their family. What follows is the captivating tale of an extraordinary family and a remarkable car.

"*Bellagio* is a story centred on the unravelling of a family history. Surprising, gripping and addictive. Remember the name Nan Adams!" – @jenniferleest

"Fans of Lucinda Riley will love this! A delightful novel you can completely lose yourself in and can't put down once you start. Read Nan Adams!" – ★★★★★ @lottelivre

"Nan Adams tells a wonderful story that truly resonates, is incredibly exciting and romantic. It felt like I was travelling to all these beautiful places myself. I can't get enough of these Alpha Women!" – @booksandsparkles

SUSAN MUSKEE

Love, Of Course



The Love, Of Course Series revolves around friends Cleo, Kim, Abigail and Sophie. They met at secondary school and are now in their twenties and (almost!) graduated. It is high time for them to find their own place in the world – which is, of course, easier said than done.

Each volume of the series is about 75,000 words



Scones & Spotlights Polaroids & Compacts Marathons & Mocha Cake Fireworks & Snowflakes

“It is clear to me that Muskee has truly earned her place amongst Dutch feel-good authors.”
– @dekoukleumpjes

Magnolia Square

The Magnolia Square Series focuses on four entrepreneurs with businesses around a picturesque square. Donna owns a tearoom, Juna opens a tattoo shop, Betty runs a bath boutique and Wende is a true wool enthusiast with her wool shop.

Each volume of the series is about 45,000 words



Rights sold to
Germany (Lübbe –
be Heartbeat)

MOHAMMED BENZAKOUR

The Giant From The Rif

A tragicomic book about assimilation and cultural differences

“My father, as much a cum laude illiterate as my mother, never went to school, never held a pen, was unfamiliar with books, smartphones and Google. An illiterate man of the highest order (yet with the most impressive signature).”

In the 1960s, when the Dutch economy went from strength to strength there was a shortage of labour. Like many other “guest workers,” adventurous wanderings brought Mohammed’s father here. He settled down, started working at an oil refinery, and his wife and children joined him not long after.

Affectionate and with an eye for comic situations, Benzakour describes how his father could not stop haggling in the supermarket, how he ate the first and last herring of his life, how the Benzakours made peanut butter popular in Morocco – and also how a missed corona vaccination ended tragically for the man who once came from the Rif mountains to flat Holland.

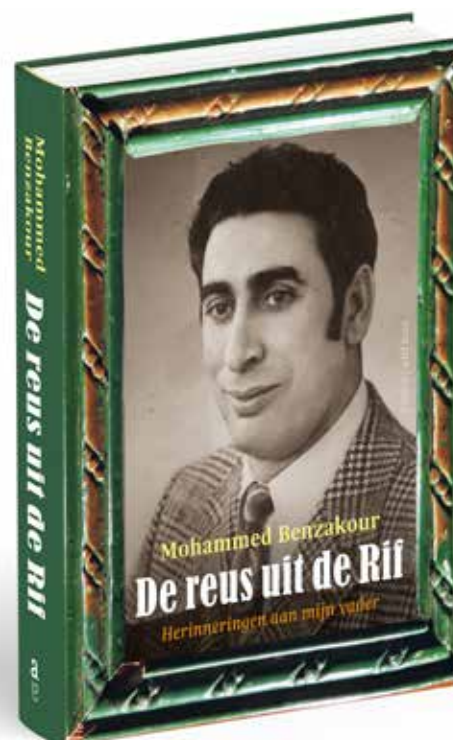
“Benzakour, who cared for his parents with impressive dedication to the end, lovingly yet sharply highlights where the issues are in our multicultural society.” – *VPRO Gids*

“A significant voice in literature. Beautiful and special book.”
– *Eus*

About *Yemma*:

“Behind your smile, the tears sting.” – *NRC*

“A razor-sharp and skilful portrait. What a beautifully terrible book.” – *De Groene Amsterdammer*



176 pp – June 2024

**Non-fiction Book of the Month –
June 2024, NPO Radio 1**



© ROELOF POT

MOHAMMED BENZAKOUR (b. 1972), besides being a writer, he is also a columnist, essayist, sociologist chess player, beekeeper, fisherman and birder. His works include *Yemma* (2013), *The King is Coming* (2015), *Ten on a Donkey* (2018) and *The Eyes of Fadil* (2020).

LOES HEGGER

As Sisters Are

The imperfect lives of five women in the 20th century

1935. When their mother unexpectedly dies, a chill descends on the previously warm Kleinhout family where all of the girls but the eldest have their own nickname. Each of the five sisters sets out on her own path in life, and each encounters different obstacles. Ans, the eldest sister, is forced to take on a maternal role – a fate she bitterly endures. Hakpoes choosing to live with another woman – a relationship that is tolerated but must remain unspoken. Bul seeks a life as a perfect housewife – but the husband she receives back after the war is changed. Aap is doing noble work in a refuge for former priests – but unpaid and unappreciated. And Beer who for years cares for the widowed father eventually stays behind lonely and embittered.

With a sensitive pen, Loes Hegger describes the course of her mother's and aunts' lives. They were neither heroes nor pioneers but ordinary women in a time of limited freedom. The history of the five sisters makes you see womanhood today in a new light.

On *Villa De Wartburg*:

“A book to cherish.” – Eva Vriend

“Personal and vivid. Thought-provoking.” – *Friesch Dagblad*



272 pp – September 2024

Five sisters, each struggling in their own way with life and the roles they were assigned

LOES HEGGER (b. 1957) is a theatre maker and studied at the École Internationale Formation Théâtrale in Paris. She works as an actor, director, teacher and playwright. Previously she wrote *Villa De Wartburg* (2021).



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

CHERRY DUYNIS

I'll Call You When I'm Dead

Conversations with Armando

The artist's almost biography

For more than half a century filmmaker and author Cherry Duynis was a friend of Armando's. At the end of Armando's life, the two had had 21 conversations in the course of seven years. The last meeting taking place in spring 2018, in the year Armando would die.

This book lets us see what bound them: language, humour, variety, music, images. But Duynis was also in search of Armando's history, his childhood, the war, what he heard, what he saw, what shaped his life. Armando as a young artist yet already convinced of the task he had taken upon himself. The urge to create, the assertiveness. The scorn that came over him, his imperturbability, his success. The museum dedicated to his Gesamtkunstwerk that burned down – as did a good deal of his paintings. Armando's physical decline and the progress that still is to be made.

"It is mainly Armando who is speaking. He talks about his childhood, his family, of course about the German occupation years, Camp Amersfoort, about the themes in his work." – *Trouw*

"This comes close to a biography, but is much more in fact. But it is precisely the (usually suppressed) emotions, the relatability and resignation that make this book more than a biography, more impressive." – *TZUM*



416 pp – May 2023 – translation grant available

Armando (1929-2018) was one of the most important post-war artists in Europe. For decades, Armando worked on his highly personal and versatile visual and literary oeuvre. With his expressive signature, he created paintings with thick impasto and sculptures built up with great force. In addition to being a visual artist and writer, Armando has also become known as a poet, violinist, actor, journalist and a film, television and theatre maker.

CHERRY DUYNIS (b. 1944) is a writer, film and theatre maker. He has published collections of short stories and novels (*The Sunday Boy*, *Dante's Trumpet*, *The Chinese Knot* and, in 2020, *Farewell*). His work was translated into German. His film work has won numerous awards.



© KEKE KEUKELAAR

HANS LUITEN

Do You Understand Central Europe?

A Journey Through the Present and Past

Hans Luiten takes the reader on a journey through contemporary Central Europe, offering a historical perspective on this unique region today. Walking through a city like Prague or Warsaw, one is constantly torn between familiarity and alienation. It is not Western Europe, but neither does it feel Russian – though the influence of both is clearly visible. Welcome to Central Europe: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, western Ukraine and southern Lithuania.

Luiten takes the reader on a journey through the region and through time. From Saint Adalbert, who met his end in Poland in 997 and whose physical remains spread across the continent as relics, to the campaigners he meets in a Hungarian metro station, who talk of the “terrible” Treaty of Trianon as if it were signed a week ago rather than a century ago.

Luiten combines history and his own travel experiences into captivating stories that reveal not only the familiar but also the elusive aspects of lively Central Europe.

About Do You Still Understand the Middle East?:

“Full of useful insights and analyses.” – NRC



320 pp – January 2025

Clear and accessible explanation of the complexities of Central Europe



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

HANS LUITEN is an enthusiastic history teacher and tour guide. He regularly gives lectures. Together with Sven de Graaf, he previously wrote *Do You Still Understand the Middle East?*

SEBASTIEN VALKENBERG

*In the Footsteps of Progress**On Inventions That Will Save the World*

A philosophical road trip exploring the inventors of the future. With the newspapers filled with doom and gloom, philosopher Sebastien Valkenberg sets out. Are we really on the brink of disaster? For his new book, he visited laboratories, production lines and industrial sites. He spoke to entrepreneurs and researchers, activists and scientists, listened to students and patients. He saw inventions that seemed miraculous.

Those with a mobility impairment can walk again thanks to an exoskeleton. Seed technologists are growing young lettuce in a scorching desert. And cheese? Instead of a cow, it will soon come from a laboratory. Exit livestock, farewell factory farming. This is how things go in the human epoch. It benefits people, the environment and the climate.

In the Footsteps of Progress reports on a road trip in a thrilling time. Sebastien Valkenberg takes us to places where the future is being shaped, offering a thought-provoking ode to human ingenuity and perseverance.



272 pp – November 2024



SEBASTIEN VALKENBERG (b. 1978) is a philosopher and publicist. He has a weekly column in *Het Financieele Dagblad* and writes for *EW Magazine* and *De Telegraaf*. In 2015, he received the Theodor Award for “an exceptional artist, a remarkable scientist or a moral agitator.” With the *Gang of Progress*, he is touring theatres and lecture halls.

MARIEKE DE VRIES

America America

Unique stories from a deeply divided country

America America provides both a glimpse into the unusual life of a foreign correspondent and an insider's view of America leading up to the presidential elections on November 5, 2024. In addition, this book shows the people behind the liberal and conservative voters in this deeply divided country of unlimited possibilities.

Marieke de Vries offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at her work as a correspondent in the United States. She reflects on major events that dominated the news in America: increasing polarisation during the pandemic, the massive protests of the Black Lives Matter movement following the tragic death of George Floyd, the tumultuous elections and a president's refusal to accept the outcome, the storming of the Capitol, Joe Biden's sombre inauguration in a heavily fortified Washington and Donald Trump's prosecution.

“De Vries provides a strongly reasoned and crystal-clear accumulation of facts that you can't afford to miss in the run-up to the elections.” – Boekenkrant



280 pp – September 2024

A unique and current perspective on the contemporary United States

MARIEKE DE VRIES (b. 1972) is a journalist and has been working as a reporter for Dutch television since 2004. She began as a domestic reporter specialised in the Dutch Royal House. In 2012, she became the China correspondent, where she witnessed the rise of a new world power under Xi Jinping. Seven years later, she moved to the other world power, the United States. She lives in Washington D.C.



© MAKENZIE HILL

SANNE VOGEL

Little Mister

The Tale of an Extraordinary Cat

Little Mister follows the scent of adventure on his explorations in his beloved neighbourhood. He shares his feline observations in a playful manner, while at the same time revealing the deeper meaning behind seemingly everyday encounters. From a former acrobat who now spends his days watching reality television in a mobility scooter to an eccentric lady who wears a dead guinea pig on her head and sees her deceased pet in Little Mister.

But he is also indispensable at home. When his beloved housemates' child is stillborn, he tries to ease their pain. He witnesses how two people process their grief in different ways.

"I'm very good friends with Little Mister. He comes here every week. He taps on the window with his paw. The rule is that you open the window." – Dick, a neighbour

"He was my first friend in the neighbourhood." – Wester, a neighbour

"Little Mister reminds me of Jack Sparrow. He goes everywhere and does what he wants. He's loyal though." – Tarikh Janssen, a neighbour

"My heart opens when I see him." – a neighbour

"Everyone immediately becomes friends with him." – *linda.tv*



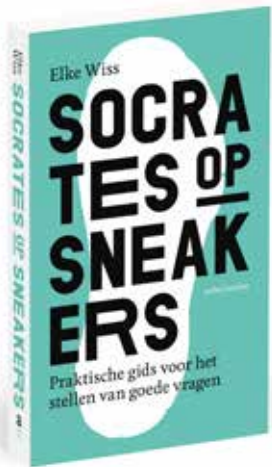
224 pp – November 2024

An ode to friendship and adventure, to connection and compassion

SANNE VOGEL (b. 1984) is an actress, filmmaker, director and writer. She made several television series for VPRO's *Villa Achterwerk*. For the television film *Mama*, which she wrote and directed with filmmaker Beri Shalmashi, she was nominated for a Golden Calf award. Her film *Summer with Rana* aired at dozens of festivals worldwide. In 2021, she published the cookbook *De vier seizoenen van Vogel*.



© XXXX



205,000 copies sold

ELKE WISS

Socrates in Sneakers – The bestselling philosophical guide to asking the right questions

Rights sold to: World English, Brazil, China, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Korea, Italy, Japan, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, Taiwan
256 pp – March 2020 – translation grant available

In a time when everyone is yelling all at once and opinions are elevated to the status of facts, common ground has become ever more elusive. We're more intent on convincing the other that we are right than going in search of real answers together. As a result, discussions often more resemble a debate than a dialogue. We talk rather than listen, and don't take the time to ask questions. Wouldn't it be great to know, at any moment and in any given situation, how to pose that one good question that turns a debate into a constructive conversation? Elke Wiss teaches you how. Inspired by Socrates and other philosophers, she illustrates how bad we are at asking good questions, and explains how we can become better at it.

"Practical philosopher Elke Wiss tells us what we can learn from Socrates about the art of a beautiful exchange of words." – de Volkskrant



20,000 copies sold

ELKE WISS

And They Philosophized Happily Ever After – Stories to Challenge Your Thinking

Rights sold to: Germany (Kösel)
144 pp – June 2021 – translation grant available

Elke Wiss shows how we can have better conversations by means of short philosophical stories.

Which questions work and which don't? How do you construct a good discussion? How can you make your own opinions clear and explore someone else's? What is the best way to stimulate your thinking and that of your conversation partner? *And They Philosophized Happily Ever After* is an accessible and beautifully illustrated book that teaches, by means of inspiring stories and challenging questions, how to achieve greater profundity in conversations.

"*And They Philosophized Happily Ever After* is an insightful and accessible book with inspiring stories, that teaches you to add depth to your conversations." – Managementbook.nl



48,000 copies sold

MARIËTTE BOON & LIESBETH VAN ROSSUM
Essential Fat – Facts and fiction behind nutrition, fat burning and fat triggers.

Rights sold to: World English, China, France, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Spain

248 pp – March 2019

No other organ – yes, fat is an organ – has so many prejudicial attitudes towards it. And that is completely unjustified, as medical doctors and fat researchers Boon and van Rossum show in *Essential Fat*.

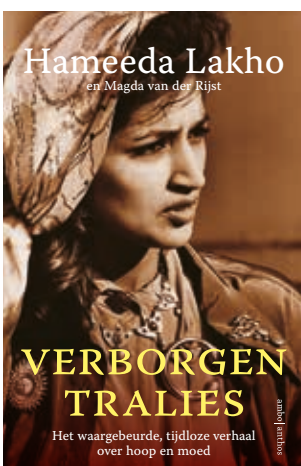


KEMAL RIJKEN
Monarchy. Royal houses in Europe from 1940 onwards – history, challenges and survival

Rights sold to: Czechia

504 pp – October 2023 – sample translation available – translation grant available

Kemal Rijken describes the lives and work of Europe's most important monarchs from a historical tipping point: the Second World War.



200,000 copies sold

HAMEEDA LAKHO
Hidden Bars

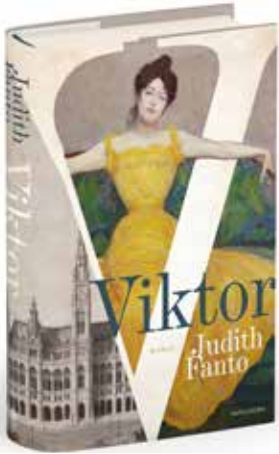
All rights available

220 pp – published 2000 – complete German translation available

Four year old Hameeda, her mother and two sisters travelled from Pakistan to Europe, where the family is to be reunited with her father. He turns out to be a violent and tyrannical man, and it gradually becomes clear that he has long since founded a Dutch family. When Hameeda's mother fails to return from a trip home, the father tells his daughters that their mother has died. A martyrdom begins. The children's lives are reduced to that of virtual slaves as the cycle of abuse grows, until there is no option but to run away and stay in orphanages, prisons or on the road.

“A breathtaking and heavy story in the tradition of *Not without my Daughter*, which will make every woman furious.” – *Marie Claire*

“Sometimes the truth is worse than your worst nightmare.” – *Cosmopolitan*



48,000 copies sold

JUDITH FANTO
Viktor

Rights sold to: Germany and Russia

576 pp – March 2020 – translation grant available – English sample available – Nominated for Bookseller Award 2021

Vienna, 1914. Viktor, a member of a well-to-do Jewish-Viennese family, is a good-for-nothing bon vivant and a womanizer who – a great sorrow to the intellectual Rosenbaums – doesn't finish any of his many studies. The 1938 Anschluss turns out to be a personal turning point: by showing courage, ingenuity and audacity, Viktor becomes the protector of all those he loves.

'Judith Fanto debuts with a vivid, affectionate portrait of her Jewish-Austrian family.' – Trouw



50,000 copies sold

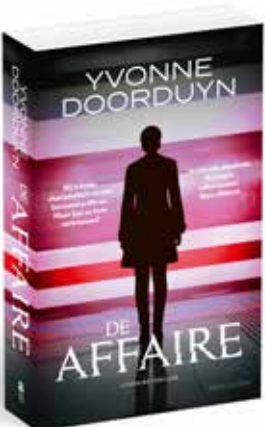
AUKE HULST
Children of the Savage Land

Rights sold to: Turkey (Alef) in 2024

384 p – November 2014 – translation grant available

In this alternately poignant, perplexing and humorous autobiographical novel, Dutch writer Auke Hulst depicts the decline of a family that is out of touch with reality – for better and for worse.

'A fantastic, unstoppable, unusual novel.' – De Groene Amsterdammer



YVONNE DOORDUYN
The Affair

All rights available

Thriller – 368 pp – October 2023 – Shortlisted for the Golden Noose 2024

Newspaper correspondent Jacky Leegwater becomes embroiled in an oppressive love affair with the popular political leader of the Greens in the European Parliament. She soon realizes that she must end the relationship but once she breaks up with him, Jacky discovers that her lover's power extends beyond European politics. She becomes entangled in a web of corruption, abuse of power and hidden violence. The only way to survive is to find refuge in her admirer. But is he a man she can truly trust?

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