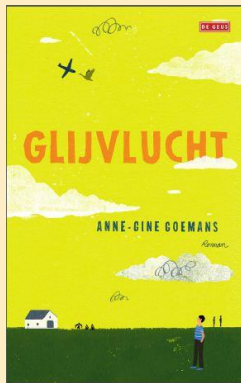




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# Anne-Gine Goemans

## *Gliding flight*

Original title: *Glijvlucht*

NOVEL

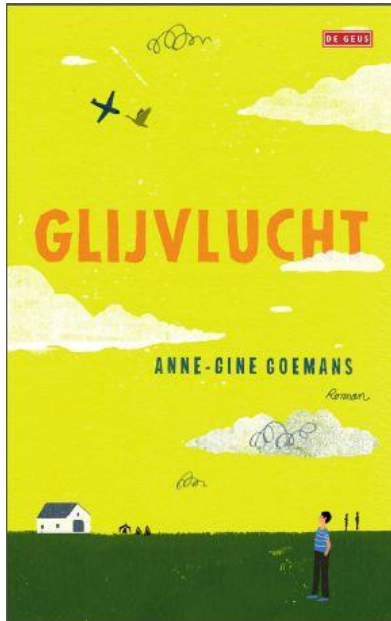
A colourful novel about a young hero who wants to win his mother's love.

**'Beautiful novel.'** – [margriet.nl](http://margriet.nl)

**'A book you feel homesick for as soon as you've closed it.'** - Peter Buwalda

## About the author

Goemans (1971) lives with her family in Spaarndam, near Haarlem in the Netherlands. For her much-lauded first novel *Ziekzoekers* (Unfurrowed Ground), a compelling and hilarious family tragedy in a thoroughly Dutch setting, she received the Anton Wachter Award in 2008. That same year, *Ziekzoekers* was the only first novel to appear in the long list for the Libris Literature Award, 2008



## About the book

Gieles and his geese live on a spotters' campsite beside an airstrip. The boy's mother is conspicuous by her absence as she is trying to save the world by giving presentations about solar cookers in Africa. Gieles, for his part, is trying to stop his mother from going on dangerous missions. That is why he is secretly training his geese to carry out a heroic plan. Gieles' life changes when he makes friends with Super Waling, by far the fattest man he has ever seen. The obscenely fat, but good-natured, Super Waling shows the 14-year-old boy how their lives are connected to the history of the original inhabitants of the area near the airport.

*Gliding flight* is Anne-Gine Goemans' second novel. Yet another vibrant tale. She has a great sense of humour, a strong interest in current affairs, and considerable historical awareness.

Anne-Gine Goemans, *Glijvlucht*  
ISBN 978 90 445 1006 5  
Hardback, 320 pages

## **Bibliography**

*Ziekzoekers (The unfurrowed ground)* – 2007 (Novel)

*Glijvlucht (Gliding flight)* – 2011 (Novel)

## **Prizes and awards**

2008 – Anton Wachterprijs

## **Foreign rights**

Rights have been sold to:

Iperborea – Italy

Suhrkamp Verlag – Germany

## **The press about *Gliding flight***

‘Beautiful novel.’ – *margriet.nl*

‘A romantic story taking place at an ugly spot.’ – *Red Magazine*

‘A compelling story.’ – *Algemeen Dagblad*

‘The Dutch Annie Proulx, (...) endearing yet rough, warm but not tacky soft. Written in a humorous, cheerful style. \*\*\*\*’ – *Opzij*

‘A book you feel homesick for as soon as you’ve closed it.’ - *Peter Buwalda* (author of *Bonita Avenue*)

‘A hip regional novel that is every bit as good as *Joe Speedboat*.’ - *P.F. Thomése* (author of *Shadowchild*)

‘Anne-Gine Goemans introduced a new genre with her first two books: the polder novel. (...) *Gliding Flight* is a current and a historical book, an adventurous boys’ book and a morality sketch, a regional novel and a coming of age novel.’ – *NRC Handelsblad*

## **The press about *The unfurrowed ground***

‘*Ziekzoekers* is the story of two generations of bulb growers. The story begins in the first half of the last century and is interspersed in fine style with events in the present. The eras grow together organically. (...) Goemans is telling us about more than the bulb fields alone, and that makes *Ziekzoekers* a novel of rich contrasts.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘An impressive novel.’ – *Kunststof*

‘Crazy stories, with family problems and deceit set against the sensual backdrop of the bulb fields. And the bulb fields will never seem the same again after reading *Ziekzoekers*.’ – *Het Parool*

‘More than anything else, *Ziekzoekers* is a lucid, epic portrayal of the Zeevoet dynasty.’ – *HP/De Tijd*

‘Goemans’ greatest strength is her Brigitte Kaandorp-type of humour.’ – *Trouw*

‘As a first novel, it holds a lot of promise - Goemans can write.’ – *Zin*

‘After all the cheerful chicklits and literary thrillers, finally a great family drama. This book is recognisable, humorous and definitely to be recommended!’ – *Flair*

## Excerpt from the book

One of the geese was foraging on the bank of the ditch. In the four years that he'd had them, the geese had never yet entered the water. It was so dirty, they wouldn't even have dreamed of it.

"Isn't that highly dangerous, geese near a landing strip?" The man sounded concerned. "Didn't you hear about that crash landing? On that river in New York?"

Gieles' eyes lit up like glow-worms in the night. The emergency landing on water, a ditching, had impressed him mightily.

"The Hudson, sir", he burst out. "On the fifteenth of January 2009, Captain Chesley Sullenberger landed in the river after Canada geese flew into his engines. It felt as if he'd been hit by very powerful lightning. Captain Sully – everyone calls him Sully, and that's what it says on the T-shirts and the mugs and the underpants – Captain Sully rescued all 155 passengers on flight 1548."

"And the crew", the man added enthusiastically. This was a boy worth talking to.

His wife threw her arms in the air. "Gosh, you know a lot! Boys like this know a lot, don't you think?" She lowered her arms again and laid a hand on the mottled skin of her husband's arm. "My John knows everything there is to know about airplanes and accidents", she said to Gieles. "He's been collecting plane crashes in scrapbooks since 1972. With all the details, and if he can find pictures he sticks them in as well. Don't you, John?"

"Hmm", he murmured from behind his binoculars. A few kilometres away, a Boeing was suspended in the air.

"They're lovely scrapbooks", she added.

"I was sure I could do it", Gieles said.

"Sorry?" the woman said.

"That's what Captain Sully said." Gieles tried to imitate his voice by talking in a relaxed way.

"I was sure I could do it".

The man monitored the plane until it veered away, the tail disappearing behind a row of poplars. Then he said, "So you bloody well know how dangerous geese are to aviation."

*No, sir. Geese are not dangerous to aviation. It is the other way round. A goose would not survive a collision. And anyway, the geese were here first. This is their territory.*

"My geese can't fly", Gieles lied. "They've lost the hang of it."