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# Charles den Tex

## *Friend*

Original title: *De vriend*

THRILLER

Thriller about an interpreter who discovers something she was not supposed to know.

## About the author

Charles den Tex (Australia, 1952) studied photography and film in London, taught English in Paris, and returned to the Netherlands in 1980, where he established himself as a copywriter and later as a communications and management consultant. Almost all of his thrillers have been nominated for The Golden Noose, an award he has now won three times: in 2002 with his fifth thriller *Chance in Hell*, in 2006 with *The Power of Mr Miller*, his eighth thriller, and again in 2008 with its successor *Cell*. A four-part television series of *The Power of Mr Miller* was broadcast in 2010 and a TV series of *Cell* is planned for 2012. *Cell* was also longlisted for the 2009 Libris Literature Prize.



## About the book

Angela has a secret job as an interpreter for the Intelligence Service. She translates telephone calls that have been monitored. As far as Angela is concerned, it is just work, it pays well and her houseboat is in urgent need of major repairs. And she also wants a new bed. And she wants to go on holiday. Not in that order necessarily. She needs every euro she can get. That is why she sits all day – and sometimes all night – with headphones on, listening to men she does not know. She translates inane conversations about women and girlfriends, alcohol and lack of sex, parents, cousins, cars that won't start and a cold that won't go away. She likes that secluded existence. 'My boys,' she calls these men. It could have gone on forever, just like a reality show made especially for her, but one day she hears something that is not right. Something she does not wish to know. Something inadmissible. And then her dream job turns into a nightmare.

Charles den Tex, *Friend*  
ISBN 978 90 445 1988 4  
Paperback, 352 pages  
Publication March 2012

## Bibliography

*Dump* (The Waste Game) (thriller, 1995)  
*Claim* (Claim) (thriller, 1996) - film release in 2001  
*Code 39* (Code 39) (thriller, 1998)  
*Deal* (Deal) (thriller, 1999)  
*Schijn van kans* (Chance in Hell) (thriller, 2002)  
*Stegger* (Stegger) (thriller, 2003)  
*Angstval* (Anxiety Trap) (thriller, 2004)  
*De macht van meneer Miller* (The Power of Mr Miller) (thriller, 2005) – TV-series in 2010  
*Cel* (Cell) (thriller, 2008) – TV-series planned for 2012  
*Spijt* (Regret) (literary novella, 2009)  
*Wachtwoord* (Password) (thriller, 2010)  
*Onmacht* (Beyond Control) (thriller novella, 2010)  
*De vriend* (Friend) (thriller, 2012)

## Prizes and awards

2002 – The Golden Noose for *Chance in Hell*  
2006 – The Golden Noose for *The Power of Mr Miller*  
2008 – The Golden Noose for *Cell*  
2009 – Longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize for *Cell*

## Rights

*The Power of Mr Miller* has been sold to:

- Germany (Grafit Verlag)
- Italy (Edizioni E/O)
- Turkey (Okuyan Us)

*Cell* has been sold to:

- Germany (Grafit Verlag)
- France (Presses de la Cité)
- Italy (Edizioni E/O)

*Password* has been sold to:

- Germany (Grafit Verlag)

*The Power of Mr Miller* was broadcast on national television (November 2010)  
A TV series of *Cell* is planned for 2012

## Press

### **On *The Power of Mr Miller*:**

‘Despite its boy’s book title, *The Power of Mr Miller* is a very mature crime novel. [...] Den Tex writes with a clarity and precision rarely seen in the Dutch language area. [...] A truly consummate thriller.’ – *Jury Report, The Golden Noose 2006*

‘Unpredictable Charles den Tex unfolds an action thriller unparalleled in the Dutch language area. [...] *The Power of Mr Miller* is a conspiracy novel of the purest kind. [...] Lucid, compelling prose. A must read.’ – *VN Detective & Thriller Gids 2006 - 5 stars\*\*\*\*\**

‘Charles den Tex demonstrates that suspense can be strangulating in an entirely different way in *The Power of Mr Miller*. [...] A powerfully thrilling, tightly written story, with considerable physical and technical violence, and remarkable characters.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘Den Tex does not pen a single sentence rashly. His language sparkles and awes ceaselessly, and that is why in his books there is no loss of intensity of events. It is in fact the language that makes it tangible.’ – *NRC Handelsblad*

### **On *Cell*:**

‘A full-blooded thriller, enthralling and topical, funny, intrusive and, above all, very exciting.’ – *Jury Report, The Golden Noose 2008*

‘In *Cell*, people are stripped to the bone, erased or transformed as individuals into people who are said to have committed cold-blooded crimes. [...] A convincing, intriguing story about the individual who loses out to the criminals.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘*Cell* is a mad book, a spectacular adventure and a spectacularly well-written one at that. Den Tex is the poet among Dutch crime writers. [...] Den Tex succeeds in making a bizarre situation feel all too real.’ – *NRC Handelsblad*

‘A sequel is rarely better. That’s the rule. *Cell* is the exception. [...] Another powerful and provocative gem has arrived in the world. What a book! What a writer! [...] *Cell* is simply right, in every sense. [...] Den Tex is indisputably a hero in the world of the thriller.’ – *Crimezone*

‘Den Tex proves again to be a master of originality and suspense.’ – *Trouw*

### **On *Password*:**

‘In *Password* Den Tex has once again delivered an impressive piece of literary thriller writing. It is an exceptionally exciting story with a dash of philosophy. Highly recommended.’ – *Crimezone.nl*

‘Disquieting and rock-solid.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘A book full of riddles [...] well written.’ – *Pieter Steinz* in *NRC Handelsblad*

‘It’s a Den Tex, so always worth reading.’ – *VN Detective & Thrillergids*

‘Expertly crafted Den Tex. [...] Den Tex mercilessly holds the naive Netherlands, with its solid citizens, terraced houses, carports and cosy little pleasures, up against the reality of Eastern European lawlessness.’ – *Nederlands Dagblad*

‘Entertaining and inventive. [...] Den Tex has still got it.’ – *Het Parool*

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Translated by Christine Davies  
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