

FOREIGN RIGHTS
PUBLISHING HOUSE DE GEUS
OCTOBER 2009

World Rights
Publishing House De Geus
Contact: Esther Bruls
P.O. Box 1878
4801 BW Breda
The Netherlands
Phone: (31) 76 522 8151
Fax: (31) 76 522 2599
Email: e.bruls@degeus.nl

BESTSELLERS

p. 5

Kader Abdolah – THE JOURNEY OF THE EMPTY BOTTLES (*De reis van de lege flessen*)
Kader Abdolah – MY FATHER'S NOTEBOOK / CUNEIFORM (*Spijkerschrift*)
Kader Abdolah – PORTRAITS AND AN OLD DREAM (*Portretten en een oude droom / De droom van Dawoed*)
Kader Abdolah – THE HOUSE OF THE MOSQUE (*Het huis van de moskee*)
Kader Abdolah – THE MESSENGER AND THE KORAN (*De boodschapper en De Koran*)
Robert Haasnoot – SEA OF DELUSION (*Waanzee*)
Marek van der Jagt – THE STORY OF MY BALDNESS (*De geschiedenis van mijn kaalheid*)
Marek van der Jagt – GSTAAD 95-98 (*Gstaad 95-98*)
Marek van der Jagt – MONOGAMOUS (*Monogaam*)
Vamba Sherif – BOUND TO SECRECY (*Zwijgplicht*)
Charles den Tex – THE POWER OF MR. MILLER (*De macht van meneer Miller*)
Charles den Tex – CELL (*CEL*)
Annelies Verbeke – SLEEP! (*Slaap!*)

NEW TITLES

p. 12

FICTION

p. 12

Annelies Verbeke – SAVING FISH (*Vissen redden*)
Claire Polders – SALTO MORTALE (*Salto mortale*)
Simone Lenaerts – SPIDER'S GRIEF (*Spinnenverdriet*)
Judit Neurink – THE SCARED CITY (*De bange stad*)
David Danish – SUICIDE ACADEMY (*De zelfmoordacademie*)
David van Reen – ANGELS OF REVENGE (*Engelen der wrake*)
Marian Boyer – A LITTLE STORM (*Een kleine storm*)
Aad van den Heuvel – A SUNNY ISLAND (*Een zonnig eiland*)

THRILLERS p. 14

Charles den Tex – PASS WORD (*Wachtwoord*)
Toes & Hoeps – THE LIES ARCHIVE (*Het leugenarchief*)
Jac Toes – BLIND SIGHT (*Blind zicht*)

NONFICTION p. 16

Kader Abdolah – THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY (*Dit mooie land*)
Joanie de Rijke – IN THE HANDS OF THE TALIBAN (*In handen van de Taliban*)
Kristien Hemmerechts – DEATH PROPOSED TO ME (*De dood heeft mij een aanzoek gedaan*)
Dylan van Eijkeren – I SAW A MONKEY (*Ik zag een aap*)
Kaat Schaubroeck – A CRUSHING FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY: WHY PARENTS ALWAYS FEEL GUILTY (*Een verpletterend gevoel van verantwoordelijkheid. Waarom ouders zich altijd schuldig voelen*)

BACKLIST **p. 18**

FICTION p. 18

Kader Abdolah – THE COW / KALILA AND DIMNA (*De koe*)
Peter Bekkers – FIDELITY IS THE OTHER CHEEK (*Trouw is de andere wang*)
Martin Bril – TWO DAUGHTERS AND A HERON (*Twee dochters en een reiger*)
David Danish – A GOOD DAY TO DIE (*Een goede dag om te sterven*)
Paul Gellings – WHITE HORSES (*Witte Paarden*)
Paul Gellings – SOUTHERN AVENUE (*Zuidelijke Wandelweg*)
Paul Gellings – THE VOLCANO AND THE GIRL (*De vulkaan en het meisje*)
Esther Gerritsen – PRIVILEGED AWARENESS (*Bevoorrecht bewustzijn*)
Esther Gerritsen – BETWEEN ONE PERSON (*Tussen Een Persoon*)
Esther Gerritsen – NORMAL DAYS (*Normale dagen*)
Esther Gerritsen – THE SORRY LITTLE GOD (*De kleine miezerige god*)
Anne-Gine Goemans – UNFURROWED GROUND (*Ziekzoekers*)
Kristina Goitkoetxea Langarika – EVAMAR (*Evamar*)
Henna Goudzand Nahar – HOLE DAYS IN THE RAIN (*Hele dagen in de regen*)
Robert Haasnoot – STONE CHILD (*Steenkind*)
Robert Haasnoot – THE SCRIBE OF ZEEWIJK (*De heugling*)
Robert Haasnoot – SLOW WALTZ (*Langzame wals*)
Martin Hendriksma – THE WURST AFFAIR (*Familievlees*)
Marek van der Jagt – OTTO WEININGER, OR DOES THE JEW EXIST? (*Otto Weininger of Bestaat de jood?*)
Michiel van Kempen – ESCAPE ROUTES (*Vluchtwegen*)
Annie van Keymeulen – DOUBLE BASS (*Bas*)
Annie van Keymeulen – ROSA'S HOUSE (*Rosa's huis*)
Annie van Keymeulen – FLOWERS OF FLANDERS (*Fleurs de Flandre*)
Annie van Keymeulen – THE MAN WHO FELL FROM THE SKY (*De man die uit de lucht viel*)
Stephan Lang – THE MOLE HUNTER (*De mollenjager*)

Simone Lenaerts – THE SEA IS SALTY, SO THEY SAY (*Zeewater is zout zeggen ze*)
 Emmanuel Lipp – CHINCHILLA SONG (*Chinchilla Song*)
 Elizabeth Nobel – THE TALENT (*Het Talent*)
 Elizabeth Nobel – WITHOUT (*Zonder*)
 Rashid Novaire – HERONS IN CAIRO (*Reigers in Caïro*)
 Rashid Novaire – CORN BLIGHT (*Maisroest*)
 Rashid Novaire – THE SONG OF THE STINGRAY (*Het lied van de rog*)
 Rashid Novaire – ROOTS (*Afkomst*)
 Ton van Reen – STOLEN YOUTH (*Gestolen jeugd*)
 Ton van Reen – THE DEEPEST BLUE (*Het diepste blauw*)
 Ton van Reen – CONCERT FOR THE FÜHRER (*Concert voor de Führer*)
 David Sandes – THE MIRACLE METHOD / SERGEI BUBKA'S MIRACLE METHOD (*De wondermethode / Sergei Bubka's wondermethode*)
 David Sandes – THE BRIDGE (*De brug*)
 Marylin Simons – TIGHTROPE WALKERS (*Koorddansers*)
 Rosalie Sprooten – NEW TENANTS (*Nieuwe huurders*)
 Rada Sukkar – TREASURES OF BABYLONIA (*De schatkamer van Babylonië*)
 Pearl Sweetlife – SEA DEVIL FOR AMALIA (*Zeeduivel voor Amalia*)
 Luc Vandromme – SUITCASE FROM CARACAS (*De koffer van Caracas*)
 Luc Vandromme – THE EYE OF MARIA CONCEPCIÓN (*Het oog van Maria Concepción*)
 Luc Vandromme – PATCHOELI (*Patchouli*)
 Annelies Verbeke – GIANT (*Reus*)
 Annelies Verbeke – GREENER GRASS (*Groener gras*)
 Andrea Voigt – AUGUST IN PARIS (*Augustus in Parijs*)
 Ard Volkers – DANCE FOR EMMA (*Dans voor Emma*)

THRILLERS

p. 35

Anthony van Dijk – THE MASK OF AENEAS (*Het masker van Aeneas*)
 Tess Franke – THE INITIATION (*De inwijding*)
 Tess Franke – THE TEST (*De beproeving*)
 Aad van den Heuvel – WAR CORRESPONDENT (*De oorlogsverslaggever*)
 Chris Rippen – ETERNAL BEACHES (*Eeuwige stranden*)
 Charles den Tex – THE WASTE GAME (*Dump*)
 Charles den Tex – CHANCE IN HELL (*Schijn van kans*)
 Charles den Tex – STEGGER (*Stegger*)
 Charles den Tex – ANXIETY TRAP (*Angstval*)
 Jac. Toes – THE SMALL LIE (*De kleine leugen*)
 Toes and Hoeps – ART WITHOUT MERCY (*Kunst zonder genade*)
 Peter de Zwaan – ALIBI BUREAU (*Het alibibureau*)
 Peter de Zwaan – THE FEEDER (*De voeder*)
 Peter de Zwaan – THE DEVIL'S BACK (*Duivelsrug*)

NONFICTION

p. 41

Mohammed Benzakour – DESPERATE REMEDIES (*Stinkende heelmeeesters*)
 Daan Bronkhorst – Encyclopædia of Humanity (*De encyclopedie van de menselijkheid*)
 Margot Dijkgraaf – TODAY'S LITERATURE IN FRENCH (*Franstalige literatuur van nu*)

Dylan van Eijkeren – WITBOI. HOW THE WEST WAS LOST (*Witboi; Hoe de West werd verloren*)
 Dylan van Eijkeren – THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. A JOURNEY THROUGH BELGIUM (*Het beste land ter wereld. Een reis door België*)
 Ireen van Engelen – YOU HAVE TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL (*Jij mag nablijven*)
 Pay-Uun Hiu – ORANGE SOUP OF WHITE CLOUD. A CULINARY EXPLORATION OF MY CHINESE ROOTS (*Oranje soep van Witte Wolk. Een culinaire zoektocht naar mijn Chinese afkomst*)
 Peter Ho – IT'S JUST CHINESE TO ME (*Dat is Chinees voor mij*)
 Ruth Hopkins – I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO AGAIN (*Ik laat je nooit meer gaan*)
 Fouad Laroui – ABOUT ISLAMISM: AN INTIMATE REBUTTAL (*Over het islamisme; Een persoonlijke weerlegging*)
 Mark Leenhouts – CHINESE LITERATURE OF TODAY (Chinese literatuur van nu)
 Manon Ossevoort – TO THE SOUTH POLE BY TRACTOR (*Op de tractor naar de Zuidpool*)
 Peter Ouwerkerk – UNKNOWN (*Ongekend*)
 David van Reen – COUNTRY OF BURNT FACES. LIFE IN ETHIOPIA (Het land van de verbrande gezichten. Leven in Ethiopië)
 Trees van Rijsewijk – KUMARI, MY DAUGHTER FROM NEPAL (*Kumari, mijn dochter uit Nepal*)
 Trees van Rijsewijk – I USED TO BELONG TO NO ONE, NOW I BELONG TO MYSELF (*Ik hoorde bij niemand, nu hoor ik bij mezelf*)
 Nell Westerlaken – MR MOFID'S PAVILION (*Het paviljoen van meneer Mofid*)

POETRY

p. 47

Jaap Robben – THE NIGHT CRICKETS (*De kracht krekelt*)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

p. 47

Sandra Lanzing – KAROUF. THE INTERNECINE STRUGGLE (Karoef. De broederstrijd)

Ton van Reen – THE GOAT RIDERS GANG (*De bende van de Bokkenrijders*)

Jaap Robben – LET'S START A FOREST (*Zullen we een bos beginnen?*)

BESTSELLERS

Kader Abdolah

THE JOURNEY OF THE EMPTY BOTTLES (*De reis van de lege flessen*) 1997

Abdolah is an unusual and unique voice in Dutch literature because he uses his theme to hold up a mirror to his new compatriots. In his columns, he subtly questions the famous tolerance of the Dutch and the supposedly peaceful coexistence of races and beliefs in the Netherlands. In his third book, the novel THE JOURNEY OF THE EMPTY BOTTLES, Abdolah writes about Bolfazl, a refugee from Iran who, together with his wife and child, has to build up a new life in the Netherlands. He has to get used to everything: the Dutch language (which is not easy to learn), the housing estates, the cows, the rain, the housewives on his street who peek out at the foreigners from behind their curtains, and also his stark-naked, white neighbour René basking in the sun. All these shocking confrontations alternate with recollections of Persian customs and traditions.

'THE JOURNEY OF THE EMPTY BOTTLES has the simplicity and depth of a parable. Astonishingly, Kader Abdolah's pen even adds a lustre to the Netherlands-making it familiar and unworldly at once.' – *De Standaard*

'The skilful blending of Persia and the Netherlands-present and past, reality and fantasy-gives the novel an almost mythical quality.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'Ingeniously images from the Dutch present continually evoke stories from the Iranian past.' – *de Volkskrant*

Sold to: Germany (Alexander Fest), Spain (Círculo de Lectores, Galaxia Gutenberg), Italy (Iperborea), Turkey (Istiklal), Bosnia-Herzegovina + Croatia (Buybook)

Kader Abdolah

MY FATHER'S NOTEBOOK / CUNEIFORM (*Spijkerschrift*) 2000

Over 110,000 copies sold

Nominated for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize

Option film rights sold to Eyeworks

A masterpiece on the law of flight: literature as a bridge between two worlds
The first full-size novel by Kader Abdolah, the author of Iranian origin, who was the first foreigner to reach the top of modern Dutch literature. Upon his deaf-mute father's death, Ismaiel, a Persian immigrant in the Netherlands receives a parcel with a mysterious manuscript in it. Hard to decipher, it contains his father's history, written in a highly individual cuneiform script. In his direct, exuberant style, Kader Abdolah introduces the reader to a world that magically joins his native country and his new homeland.

'An inspired novel, an asset!' – *Elsevier*

'A most convincing book by an author who has acquired a unique position in Dutch literature.' – *Trouw*

Sold to: France (Gallimard), Germany (Klett-Cotta), Norway (Gyldendal), Denmark (Gyldendal), Italy (Iperborea), UK (Canongate), Spain (Salamandra), Israel (Kinnveret-

Zmora-Dvir), US (Harper Collins), Turkey (Istiklal), Bosnia (Zoro), Bangladesh (Sandesh), Indonesia (Hikmah), Sweden (Norstedts), China (Flower City), Hungaria (Nytott), Libanon (Dar-Alfarabi)

Kader Abdolah

PORTRAITS AND AN OLD DREAM (*De droom van Dawoed / Portretten en een oude droom*) 2003

When Kader Abdolah was invited to visit South Africa, he only wanted to make some private notes during his journey. Overwhelmed by the country, however, he started writing down in greater detail what he saw and experienced. At the same time, travel stories from his native country Persia came to his mind. Upon rearranging the material, his narrator Dawoed took over story telling from him. Dawoed feels he does not deserve this trip. Wherever he goes, his mind is with five Persian friends of auld, three of whom have been executed in the meantime, while the two others have been released after prolonged prison sentences.

'The charm of this novel lies in its exteriority. Without exception, all that lives and breathes is embraced here. Or, as one of Abdolah's rebels has it: "Life is a delicious experience."' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'A witness to the many sensory impressions that the South African landscape and people make on the writer. (...) A beautifully woven tapestry of words.' – *De Telegraaf*

'An inspired writer, who tells of both the magical illusion and the bitter reality of his country.' – *Elsevier*

Sold to: Germany (Klett-Cotta), Italy (Iperborea)

Kader Abdolah

THE HOUSE OF THE MOSQUE (*Het huis van de moskee*) 2005

Over 300,000 copies sold

Chosen second for the All-time Favourite Dutch Book of Fiction

Nominated for the NS Publieksprijs 2006 (runner-up)

THE HOUSE OF THE MOSQUE is the magnum opus of this internationally acclaimed author. In his previous novels, Kader Abdolah (1954), who fled to the Netherlands from Iran, weaves his experiences in Holland with his memories of Persia, wherein elements from great, enchanting Persian literature play a pivotal part.

THE HOUSE OF THE MOSQUE is situated entirely in Iran. In the house of the mosque the women are in charge. Their power seems limited. Nothing could be more besides the truth. Evidently invisible, these women's influence is ever-present.

Sold to: Italy (Iperborea), Norway (Gyldendal), Denmark (Gyldendal), Sweden (Norstedts), Spain (Salamandra), France (Gallimard), Germany (Claassen), Turkey (Istiklal), Spain/Catalan rights (La Magrana), UK/English world rights (Canongate), Greece (Kastaniotis), Romania (Univers), Czech Republic (Kniha Zlin), Iceland (JPV), Indonesia (Pena Wormer), Serbia (Dereta), Lituania (Baltos lankos), Bosnia-Herzegovina + Croatia (Buybook), Slovakia (Slovart), Hungaria (Nytott), Saoudi-Arabia/Arabic rights (Kalima)

Kader Abdolah

THE MESSENGER and THE KORAN (*De boodschapper en De Koran*) 2008

Over 100,000 copies sold
Nominated for the NS Publieksprijs 2008

THE MESSENGER (a narrative) and THE KORAN (a translation) are two inseparable books. The chronicler in THE MESSENGER is Zayd, Mohammed's right hand who describes the life of Mohammed by consulting the prophet's contemporaries. Stories about his wives, merchants, scientists, poets, shepherds, and many others combine to produce an image of the prophet in which facts and personal memories are mixed together.

Originating from the West's need for an accessible version of the Islam's Holy Book, this Koran translation arranges its surahs or chapters chronologically and omits many repetitions while of course preserving the core of the book. The Koran, with roots in both Torah and Bible, is not structured along strictly logical lines. Its 114 surahs split and subdivide like the branches of an olive tree. From time to time, Kader Abdolah inserts an introductory note prior to a specific surah. Using his father's old Arabic Koran as his source text, Abdolah consulted various Persian and Dutch translations, and garnered frequent advice from his elderly uncle Aga Djan in Iran.

THE MESSENGER is sold to: Italy (Iperborea), Denmark (Gyldendal), Germany (Claassen), France (Gallimard), Sweden (Norstedts), Bosnia-Herzegovina + Croatia (Buybook), Greece (Kastaniotis), Norway (Gyldendal)

THE KORAN is sold to: Norway (Gyldendal)

Robert Haasnoot

SEA OF DELUSION (*Waanzee*) 2000

For this engrossing and revelatory novel, Robert Haasnoot received the Prix des Ambassadeurs 2000.

For his second novel, SEA OF DELUSION, Haasnoot has selected a subject that is known as the best-kept secret of the North Sea coastal village of Katwijk. Where does religion end and madness begin? In the Netherlands, emotions run high even today whenever anyone refers to the religion-inspired murders that were committed on a Dutch herring lugger out at sea in 1915.

'Terribly beautiful. The clear descriptions of psychotic depths and visions are skillful and impressive.' – *Trouw*

'In a wonderful style, Haasnoot demonstrates that it could have happened like this (...). Waanzee may take its place in the international tradition of maritime literature.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'Haasnoot convincingly manages to make his characters believable from the point of their sinister way of thinking. The history of the insane voyage of the *North Star* is a study of the reversion of the Homo Sapiens. SEA OF DELUSION is the Dutch equivalent of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*.' – *Die Welt*

Sold to: Germany (Berlin Verlag), Spain (Lengua del Trapo)

Marek van der Jagt

THE STORY OF MY BALDNESS (*De geschiedenis van mijn kaalheid*)

2000

Option filmrights sold to Filmhaus Wien, in cooperation with Mr Mud (John Malkovich)

During a get-together with two young ladies from Luxembourg, a young man residing in Vienna comes to the conclusion that his penis is much smaller than those of other men. His discovery leads to a search for the essence of the amour fou.

Immediately upon publication of this debut novel, its author, Marek van der Jagt, became front page news in the Dutch media. The suggestion in *NRC Handelsblad*, the major Dutch newspaper, that the author's name was an alias for Arnon Grunberg, triggered a wave of speculation about the author's identity. Next, the novel was awarded the Anton Wachter Prize for the best debut of the past two years, and many critics hastened to praise this stimulating debut, some of them even voting it Book of the Year, stating that its author was wrongfully passed over for the prestigious Libris Literature Prize.

'A very good book. In some ways even better than Grunberg's recent novel, *Fantoompijn*.' – *HP/De Tijd*

'Beautifully phrased pieces of wisdom. (...) Its impressive ending ranks the book among the best novels of the year.' – *Trouw*

'Wonderful. At times immensely sad, sometimes hilarious and rich.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Sold to: Switzerland/German rights (Diogenes), Spain (Tusquets), Spain/Catalan rights (Ediciones Empuries), France (Actes Sud), Italy (Instar Libri), Greece (Kastaniotis), Norway (Damm), US/English rights US territory (Other Press), Israel (Babel Publishers), Russia (Stolitsa), Romania (Humanitas)

Marek van der Jagt

GSTAAD 95-98 (*Gstaad 95-98*)

2002

Nominated for the Libris Literature Prize 2002 and the AKO Literature Prize 2003

François Lepeltier is a beloved sommelier at the Palace Hotel in Gstaad. Then he makes an unforgivable faux pas that will be talked about for a long time. In this novel, the 'Gstaad monster' – held into custody – relates in a lucid apology what it was that drove him through the years, how he came to be the way he is, and how he and his mother survived a bizarre ramble past guesthouses and hotels before finally ending up in the luxurious Swiss ski resort of Gstaad. Those who cannot become anything, must, in Lepeltier's philosophy, become what they play at. And he manages to do just that. In Baden-Baden he plays the feeble-minded child while his mother robs shopkeepers, in Stuttgart he plays dentist to the poor and needy, and in Châteaux d'Oex all girls see in him the perfect ski instructor.

'One of the most bewildering, and yet one of the most fascinating books I have set eyes on lately.' – Jaap Goedegebuure in *GPD-kranten*

'GSTAAD 95-98 is a beautiful book. Cross out most of what has appeared between today and the generation of Hermans-Reve-Mulisch, and one is left with no other conclusion than that

Grunberg/Van der Jagt, as one of the few, has given the Netherlands a literary voice again.’ – Max Pam in *HP/De Tijd*

‘If Grunberg is behind this, it proves his versatility as well as his talent for writing a full novel, besides producing books that are both funny and chatty (...). GSTAAD 95-98 unsettles the way *Das Parfum* by Patrick Süskind does, or *Le Roi des Aulnes* by Michel Tournier and *Les Particules élémentaires* by Michel Houellebecq do – novels which portray a human state which we thought we had left behind.’ – Rob Schouten in *Trouw*

Sold to: France (Actes Sud), Switzerland (Diogenes), Italy (Instar Libri), Spain (Tusquets)

Marek van der Jagt

MONOGAMOUS (*Monogaam*)

2002

Dutch Book Week essay 2002; 67,000 copies

A titillating ode to mythical true love that reads like a novella

In search of true love, the protagonist fantasizes and tries to fathom the motives of Don Juan; he meets women who always lack something indefinable; he reads Stendhal, Camus, Wedekind, Brink and Constant in an effort to measure their ideas on love against his own. Despite all his efforts, at the end of his quest only one truth remains: loneliness.

Sold to: Switzerland/German rights (Diogenes), Spain (Tusquets), France (Actes Sud)

Vamba Sherif

BOUND TO SECRECY (*Zwijgplicht*)

2006

Strikingly novel on how extreme forms of tyranny may arise in an isolated African community

In a small village in the mountains a man disappears, a man who in an obscure fashion had risen to the level of regional leader. The President personally commissions William to locate this man. While doing so, William gradually becomes a dictator himself.

In exquisite and poetic language, Sherif demonstrates how lust for power can change people and how these people know how to wield this power.

Vamba Sherif (Liberia, 1973) grew up among African intellectuals. He spent the greater part of his youth in Kuwait, where his father was a university lecturer. In his father's library and the well-stocked bookstores of the city he immersed himself in Arabic, European and African literature. When after the Iraqi invasion the University of Kuwait closed its doors, Sherif was forced to give up his studies. After the Gulf War, which he experienced at first hand, he and his older brother fled to the Netherlands. In his third novel, *Nondisclosure*, Sherif explores the theme of power in many of its facets.

Sold to: Germany (Peter Hammer Verlag), UK (Aflame Books)

Charles den Tex

THE POWER OF MR MILLER (*De macht van meneer Miller*)

2006

Contemporary thriller about the power of consultancy technocrats.

Michael Bellicher works for one of the largest consultancy firms in the world. When his younger brother returns unexpectedly after five years in the United States, Michael doesn't recognize him and suffers a mental breakdown after an emotional confrontation. He can no longer do anything right, neglects his work and treats his clients contemptuously, until he is threatened with dismissal. In order to be able to still enter his own office the next day, he shuts himself in the canteen. That night he is at the wrong place, at the wrong time. He witnesses a murder that he himself will be accused of. Whilst attempting to prove his innocence, he encounters the intangible Mr. Miller everywhere, a man who appears to know everything about him. The influence of computer technology leads to a new and sinister climax.

Charles den Tex (Australia, 1952) moved to the Netherlands in 1958. He studied photography and film in London. In 1980, he established himself in Amsterdam as a copywriter and later as communication and management consultant. He has published eight thrillers and he is a six time nominee for the annual Crime Fiction Award in the Netherlands, The Golden Noose. He won the award three times, in 2002 with his novel CHANCE IN HELL, in 2006 with his novel THE POWER OF MR MILLER and again in 2008 with his latest CELL.

'A top class conspiracy novel. Lucid and compelling prose. A must-read.' – *Vrij Nederland Detective & Thrillergids* *****

'Story and style have a contemporary rhythm, in which the words clamp down on terrifying, futuristic developments. Breakneck excitement in a tightly written story.' – *de Volkskrant*

Sold to: Grafit Verlag (Germany), Italy (Edizioni)

Charles den Tex

CELL (*CEL*)

2008

CELL is the sequel to Den Tex's award-winning action thriller with brains, THE POWER OF MR MILLER.

Upon his return from abroad, its protagonist Michael Bellicher is taken into custody and held on suspicion of having committed a fatal hit-and-run several months earlier. But Bellicher didn't do it. He is convinced that someone has pinched his identity. Increasingly unable to communicate normally as the circle of suspicion widens around him, Michael finds himself in an incommunicado state. Is he really whom he says he is? A Kafkaesque horror scenario. Charles den Tex is thrice winner of the Golden Noose award for Best Crime Novel in the Dutch language. In 2002 he received the award for CHANCE IN HELL, in 2006 for THE POWER OF MR MILLER and in 2008 for CELL, which was also longlisted for the 2009 Libris Literature Prize.

'Den Tex writes with a clarity and precision seldom seen in the Dutch language area. (...) A truly complete thriller.' - Golden Noose jury

Sold to: Germany (Grafit Verlag), Italy (Edizioni), France (Presses de la Cité)

Annelies Verbeke
SLEEP! (Slaap!)

Stunning and humourous debut of great stylistic subtlety

Maya suffers from insomnia. She tries everything just to get a few hours of sleep. Advice from friends and professionals doesn't help. Therapies from the Shop Channel and well-meant courses are of no use either. When her lover breaks up with her, she loses all control. Frustrated, she rings up people during the night and wakes them from their sleep. This continues until she meets her male match, Benoit, on one of those journeys. It is the beginning of a bizarre and tender relationship, but will it persist? Because as she lives in the present, he rather withdraws into what has been.

SLEEP! has been published in translation in eighteen countries. It was awarded the Woman and Culture Debut Prize, the Flemish Debut Prize and the Gouden Ezelsoor (Golden Dog-Ear) 2005. It was also nominated for the Libris Literature Prize and the AKO Literature Prize.

'It is rare for an author to expose so much passion, joy in narrating, fantasy, in short: real authorship, like this young Flemish woman does. There hasn't been such an impressive debut like *SLEEP!* in Dutch literature since the publication of *Blauwe maandagen* by Arnon Grunberg. A must-read!' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Sold to: France (Mercure de France), Italy (Instar Libri), Denmark (Ries Forlaget), Finland (Avain), Estland (Eesti Ekspressi), Turkey (Ayrinti Yayinlari), Lithuania (Vaga), Romania (Univers) Argentina (Cantaro/Puerto de Palos), Slovenia (Tuma), Hungary (Jelenkor), Spain (Seix Barral), Czech Republic (Kniha Zlin), Croatia (Andrijici), Georgia (Link), Albania (Fan Noli), Russia (Azbooka), Syria / Arabic rights (Dar Cadmus)

Option to film rights by ID&T (The Netherlands)

NEW TITLES

FICTION

Annelies Verbeke

Saving Fish (Vissen redder)

2009

A new refreshing, tragicomic and absurdist novel by the author of SLEEP!

Writer Monique Champagne has broken with literature. Since her sweetheart left her, she has thrown herself into the campaign against overfishing. Her impassioned newspaper article on the issue doesn't go unnoticed; it gets her invited to international fisheries congresses. Filled with zeal, Monique launches herself into the wonderful world of fisheries activists and maritime researchers. This noble cause justifies her flight from heartache. But just how long can somebody hide behind cod and tuna?

Annelies Verbeke (Dendermonde, 1976) made her debut with SLEEP!, of which more than 70,000 copies have since been sold. In 2006 Verbeke's second novel GIANT was published, followed in 2007 by GREENER GRASS, a collection of short stories that made the Golden Owl Prize longlist. Besides novels and short stories, Verbeke also writes columns for the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* and scripts. SAVING FISH is her fourth book.

www.anneliesverbeke.nl

Claire Polders

SALTO MORTALE (*Salto mortale*)

2009

Third novel from the young cosmopolitan author with echoes of Connie Palmen

SALTO MORTALE is a many-voiced novel about mothers and daughters, about fear of freedom and the desire for independence. On a sizzling day in August five women arrive at a deserted medieval castle looking forward to a stimulating summer of renovation. When the instructor fails to appear they are caught in a dilemma: wait around or move on? It's the castle with its abundance of mirrors, whispering rooms and idyllic aura of neglect, that lures them to stay. During their stay they enter into a psychological labyrinth. The castle seems to share an intimate knowledge of their blacked out secrets.

Claire Polders studied Literature and Philosophy at the University of Tilburg and the Sorbonne in Paris. Her first novel THE INFALLIBLE was published in 2005, followed by THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EVA ZOMERS in 2006. She contributes articles and short stories for a variety of magazines and publications. SALTO MORTALE is her third novel. Polders lives and works in Paris.

www.claire-polders.nl

Simone Lenaerts

SPIDER'S GRIEF (*Spinnenverdriet*)

2009

Winner of Flemish Debut Prize 2009

How an ordinary woman is goaded into committing murder. After all she's been through, Nelly is finding it hard to go on. Humiliated and provoked by her husband to such extremes that she has lost all moral sense, she ends up killing him in cold blood. Two friends from her past are inextricably linked to her life: Odette, who has been lovingly taking care of her in their apartment on the Belgian coast since Nelly's release from prison, and Linda, who has

similarly been dealt some heavy blows in her life. After being out of touch with either one for many years, their paths cross again – inadvertently and tragically. Lenaerts bases SPIDER’S GRIEF on a true story, after having followed at close range the trial of a woman accused of murdering her husband. The motives, circumstances and conclusion were so affectingly tragic and human that the author felt challenged to use the case as the starting point of a novel.

www.simonelenaerts.nl

Judit Neurink

THE FRIGHTENED CITY (*De bange stad*)

2009

Gripping novel by the Dutch Åsne Seierstad on three families in Baghdad. The story of daily life in Baghdad, as it was never told before, about three families of different faiths who are friends, but whose friendship is under severe pressure because of the sectarian schisms in Iraq.

Judit Neurink (1957) has been a journalist for twenty-five years, working for the Dutch daily newspaper Trouw. For the last fifteen years, she has focused on the Middle East, which she visited regularly. Her first novel THE FRIGHTENED CITY is based on the true stories.

www.juditneurink.nl

David Danish

SUICIDE ACADEMY (*De zelfmoordacademie*)

2009

SUICIDE ACADEMY is the shocking account of Ali Falah who joins the Basij, a volunteer suicide force. He heads off to the battlefield, blows himself up – and miraculously survives. It convinces him to enroll at the suicide academy, a school that prepares terrorists for suicide missions.

David Danish (Tehran, 1966) is a writer, journalist, correspondent, and Middle East expert. For two years he fought on the frontlines in the Iran-Iraq war. In 1990 he fled to the Netherlands. In his articles and novels, Danish includes some of his own wartime experiences. De Geus also published his debut, A GOOD DAY TO DIE (2006).

www.daviddanish.nl

David van Reen

ANGELS OF REVENGE (*Engelen der wrake*)

2009

Penetrating novel about two sisters in a Kenyan slum. The ruthless gangs, the corrupt politics, the widespread extortion practices, the dubious influence of white aid workers – it is a hard, unimaginable world in which the inhabitants can still hope, drawing on friendship, trust and faith.

David van Reen (1969) was an avid sportsman when a serious car accident put an end to his career. He now is a trainer of African runners and together with an Ethiopian partner he runs a local travel agency. In 2008 his photo-journalism book, COUNTRY OF BURNT FACES. LIFE IN ETHIOPIA, was published.

www.david-van-reen.nl

Marian Boyer

A LITTLE STORM (*Een kleine storm*)

2009

Quasi-unremarkable life stories set around a square in a small, unnamed town.

Boyer places a magnifying glass on the unremarked and occasionally disturbing aspects of 'normal' lives. Every one of them could stand as an example of the many unremarked lives in these days of over-exposure of the 'celebrated' individual, as though everyone is at his best as a showman.

Marian Boyer (Amsterdam, 1954) has worked as an actress, director and playwright. She published two novels: THE TRANSPORT OF ANGELS (2001) and FANTASTIC BODY (2005).

www.marian-boyer.nl

Aad van den Heuvel

A SUNNY ISLAND (*Een zonnig eiland*)

2009

Hilarious, but deadly-serious satirical picaresque novel about the development aid industry. Somewhere in the Pacific lies the sunny island of Jarubo. Its inhabitants have it good. More than good. And they can thank that prosperity to many years of misleading generous, but naïve development aid organisations. But then one of them, CoconutMorris, makes the mistake of submitting a blatantly fraudulent application for project funding. When the local law enforcer is instructed to arrest him, he finds he has disappeared without a trace. It gradually becomes clear that this seemingly tranquil little island is actually the plaything of several competing parties with incompatible interests.

Aad van den Heuvel (Rotterdam, 1935) is a journalist, television presenter and author. He has published several crime novels, the last two of which, THE SAHARA RIDDLE (2004) and THE WAR CORRESPONDENT (De Geus, 2008), were nominated for the Diamond Bullet Award (best crime novel in Belgium). His crime novels are distinguished by their consummate intermingling of politics and social evils. As a television journalist, Van den Heuvel has reported from Africa, Latin America and Asia. He also writes travel stories and columns.

THRILLERS

Charles den Tex

PASS WORD (*Wachtwoord*)

april 2010

Author of the gift crime novella for June - Month of the Crime Novel 2010 (Juni – Maand van het spannende boek), Print run approx. 800,000.

The work of Den Tex has been sold to Germany, France and Italy. A television series and a film version of THE POWER OF MR MILLER and CELL are planned for 2010.

Provocative and exhilarating book about our society's technological achievements and the illicit traffic in women

Michael Bellicher is confronted with one of the worst things that can happen to a person, the disappearance of a loved one. Guusje van Donee appears to have vanished, 'appears' being the operative word since no one vanishes these days, everyone can be found. Security cameras, mobile phones, gps navigation systems and pin codes make us all traceable whether we like it or not. All Michael needs is permission, and a password. Two of modern society's

extremes are brought together in this new thriller: the omnipresence of technology and the elusive criminal traffic in human beings.

Charles den Tex (Australia, 1952) has written over ten thrillers, and almost all have been nominated for The Golden Noose, an award he has already 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.

www.charles-den-tex.nl

Toes & Hoeps

THE LIES ARCHIVE (*Het leugenarchief*)

2009

Deceit, corruption and violence in the amazing world of international trade

THE LIES ARCHIVE again features the remarkable Dutch-German duo of Robert Patati, the idiosyncratic art restorer from Krefeld, and Micky Spijker, psychologist and policewoman from Arnhem. This cross-border thriller is about the treachery of memory, about an on-off relationship, about Africa as a modern colony of the western world for the production of biofuels, about blackmail, and about supporting corrupt government leaders.

Toes & Hoeps is an international writing duo consisting of the Dutchman Jac. Toes and the German Thomas Hoeps. Toes is mainly known for the Benter & De Wacht novels. In 1998 he won the Golden Noose for Photo Finish. Thomas Hoeps has published six books. In 2004 he was one of the editors of the ZEITZONEN ANTHOLOGY. Hoeps was awarded the Promotion Prize of the City of Düsseldorf and the Nettetal Literature Prize. Together they wrote the art thriller ART WITHOUT MERCY, which was nominated for the 2008 Golden Noose.

Published by Grafit Verlag (Germany). Complete German text available.

www.toesenhoeps.nl

Jac. Toes

BLIND SIGHT (*Blind zicht*)

2009

Established crime writer dives into the world of management intrigues, development plans and double crossing

In a conference centre the Works Council of Helzijl port is holding a meeting on controversial city projects. Suddenly it is announced that chairman Angela Marskramer, who had been called away to an emergency, has drowned. Suicide, the police conclude on the basis of signs in that direction. Deliberate, thinks Ray Sola, who has been responsible for security within the municipality since his forced resignation from his job as marine diver. Delving into Angela's past, Ray discovers that she was playing a dangerous game, leading a double life that she finally lost control over.

Jac. Toes (The Hague, 1950) published the Benter & De Wacht series, with the detectives DOUBLE TRACK, THE RECKONING, BETRAYAL and THE SMALL LIE. The first two parts received a Golden Noose nomination. In 1998, he won the Golden Noose with PHOTO FINISH. For his tango thriller, THE FREE MAN he was awarded the German Krimi Prize, Die Goldene Handschelle, in 2007. Together with Thomas Hoeps, Toes also wrote the thrillers ART WITHOUT MERCY (nominated for the 2008 Golden Noose) and THE LIES ARCHIVE.

www.jac-toes.nl

NONFICTION

Kader Abdolah

THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY (*Dit mooie land*)

2009

Kader Abdolah has been a regular contributor to the Dutch national newspaper *de Volkskrant* since 1996. His columns discuss current affairs in his own inimitable style, including topics such as the changes taking place in the 'tolerant' Netherlands, the position of Islam in the West, developments in Iran, language, refugees, integration and the trivialities that preoccupy us in our everyday lives. THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY is a collection of the columns published between September 1st 2003 and September 1st 2008, the years in which he wrote and published THE HOUSE OF THE MOSQUE and THE MESSENGER / THE KORAN and thus an important period in Abdolah's career.

www.kaderabdolah.nl

Joanie de Rijke

IN THE HANDS OF THE TALIBAN (*In handen van de Taliban*)

2009

The amazing story of a kidnapped journalist

A Dutch-Flemish female journalist who was taken hostage in November 2008 by Taliban warriors talks openly about her kidnapping. How did she experience the frightening days in the mountains, far away from Kabul, hardly any contact with the outside world? With saillant details on the hostage takers, the negotiators, and the role of the Flemish and Dutch ministries. A deeply human story about the bond between hostage takers and hostages, unbridgeable cultural gaps and the vulnerability of all involved.

Joanie de Rijke (Netherlands) is a freelance journalist and works for *P magazine* and *Revu*, among others. IN THE HANDS OF THE TALIBAN is her first book. 'Afghanistan showed me the very essence of life. Because during that kidnapping, it was really a matter of life and death. But besides that, life for people there is all about survival. It is existence at its most pure, and that appeals to me.' (from an interview with *Libelle*)

www.joaniederijke.nl

Kristien Hemmerechts

DEATH PROPOSED TO ME (*De dood heeft mij een aanzoek gedaan*)

Diary October 2008 – July 2009

February 2010

Hemmerechts' writing explores the major themes – life, love and death – in a plethora of literary forms. Her new book is a diary about death in which she intermingled what troubled her on a personal level with what was going on in society at large. She noted events, ideas, anecdotes, reflections, facts and statements about topics varying from the death of a loved one to extreme cases of murder. She lets the readers into her private domain without making them feel like voyeurs.

Kristien Hemmerechts is one of the most important writers in the Netherlands and Flanders. She published her first novel A PILLAR OF SALT in 1987 and in the meantime has more than twenty novels, story collections and essays to her name. She was awarded the Triennial Belgian National Prize for her work in 1993. Occasioned by the death of her husband Herman de Coninck, she wrote a biographical essay in 1998 entitled LANGUAGE WITHOUT ME. Her

most recent novel LITTLE SOULS was published in March 2009. Hemmerechts also teaches English literature and creative writing.

Hemmerechts' work has been translated into German, Spanish, French, Czech, Polish, Bulgarian and Russian.

Dylan van Eijkeren

I SAW A MONKEY (*Ik zag een aap*)

2009

Travel Letters from the Latest South Africa; a modern version of the Great Trek.

Current title with regards the 2010 Fifa World Cup

The long, bizarre and sometimes unsettling journey of a Dutchman through his former colony. For his fourth travel book, Dylan van Eijkeren journeys to the darkest continent: Africa. To the Dutch, South Africa is the most remote country, but near to them at the same time, because of the colonial past. Van Eijkeren went there three times in 2008. His route: highway N1, a distance of 1,899 kilometres, which not only crosses the entire country diagonally, but also culturally, socially, and economically.

Dylan van Eijkeren (1967) was a journalist for *Privé*, *Nieuwe Revu* and *Elsevier*, among others. He wrote four travel books: THE ONLY GUEST – A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THROUGH GERMANY, WITBOI – HOW THE WEST WAS LOST on Suriname and the Antilles, and THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD on Belgium. He was twice nominated for the VPRO Bob den Uyl Prijs for best travel literature. He is currently writing on a freelance basis for various weekly and monthly publications.

www.dylanvaneijkeren.nl

Kaat Schaubroeck

A CRUSHING FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY: WHY PARENTS ALWAYS FEEL GUILTY (*Een verpletterend gevoel van verantwoordelijkheid. Waarom ouders zich altijd schuldig voelen*)

January 2010

Is there a recipe for making children happy? A refreshing new look at parenthood and parenting

Many parents feel totally responsible for the happiness and well-being of their children. They often feel they are letting their children down. Schaubroeck interviewed parents who feel guilty towards their children for a variety of reasons. The cliché that only women feel that no matter what they do it's never quite enough is confuted by the testimonies of the men.

Furthermore, it seems that those feelings of guilt are constantly being fanned by stubborn preconceptions about parenting roles and a deluge of parenting tips. But are there really recipes for making children happy? And who looks after the parents in a society in which all the emphasis seems to be on pursuing the happiness of the children?

Kaat Schaubroeck (1968) is a graduate in Germanic Studies. She works as a journalist for the magazine *Libelle* and is especially fascinated by the way in which Dutch society deals with rapidly changing attitudes towards relationships. She writes about young people, work, relationships and the combination of all of these. In her book ALMOST FAMILY: ABOUT RECONSTITUTED FAMILIES (2005) she tries to answer the question: Who is still family to whom? A CRUSHING FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY is her second book.

BACKLIST

FICTION

Kader Abdolah

THE COW / KALILA AND DIMNA (*De koe*)

2007

A refreshing rendition of a fifteen-centuries-old Persian masterpiece

The tales of Kalila and Dimna were the source of inspiration for Aesop's and La Fontaine's animal fables. Three thousand years ago, the Emperor of India ordered that the tales of Kalila and Dimna be set to paper. When the Persian Shah caught word of this, he had them smuggled into his empire. The Persians turned it into a version of their own, and later on the Arabs did likewise. With a content that has constantly remained alive, its style was in need of a new approach.

The Iranian-Dutch author Kader Abdolah was just the person to take on this monumental task. He has created a modern rendition of a nineteenth-century Persian version, without hesitating to shorten and refresh the text drastically. Thus the finished product is a re-telling rather than a translation. The stories about friendship, betrayal and love are timeless.

'Our most beautiful prose. It is the marvel of the book itself that has kept it from falling prey to disaster, war, book-burning and the destruction of cultural heritage.' – Kader Abdolah

www.kaderabdolah.nl

Sold to: Italy (Iperborea), Bosnia-Herzegovina + Croatia (Buybook)

Peter Bekkers

FIDELITY IS THE OTHER CHEEK (*Trouw is de andere wang*)

2009

Novel about imitation and originality, the spotlight of fame and the obscurity of anonymity

The fame Conrad Pi enjoys as a sculptor in his own country is not enough for him. He wants to become world-famous. He takes Andy Warhol as his example and shamelessly imitates him. Conrad Pi makes friends with fellow artist Johnny Lippy. Both men have ambitious plans, but Conrad's seem to have more chance at success. Their friendship becomes complicated when Johnny starts up a relationship with Conrad's girlfriend Lima.

Conrad is determined to accelerate his ascent to the top. He plans to copy a stunt once used by Andy Warhol – stage an attack on himself, and cash in on the publicity.

Historian and journalist Peter Bekkers (1958) has written for *de Volkskrant* and *Volkskrant Magazine*. In 1998 he made his literary debut with the novel EATING A ROSE, followed in 2004 by MANY FELL INTO THE SEA. LOYALTY IS THE OTHER CHEEK is his third novel and was selected for the lonlist of the AKO Literature Prize.

'In LOYALTY IS THE OTHER CHEEK, Peter Bekkers gleefully discharges masterful sentences in a demented but razor-sharp story about fame, power and friendship.' – *Jessica Durlacher*

www.peterbekkers.nl

Martin BrilTWO DAUGHTERS AND A HERON (*Twee dochters en een reiger*)

2004

One moment they're able to walk, the other they're able to talk: children. Moreover, one day they will reach the first critical phase, the time of the big Why?

Every morning, Martin Bril – author, columnist and chronicler of everyday life – takes his two daughters to school, and every morning they ask him the ins and outs of everything. Why is this, why that? All these questions shake the world view of the young father. He thinks he knows everything there is to know, but he realizes that he actually knows nothing at all.

A fixed part of the morning ceremony is Harry, a heron they come across on their way to the Vondelpark. He is always there, at his regular spot, staring sadly into the water: every now and then with a fish in his beak, but mostly holding nothing. Yet, it is Harry who gets most of the conversations going, whether they are about the Spice Girls, the how and why of war, fatal traffic accidents or the importance of wholesome food.

'The perfect gift for fathers-to-be.' – *Ouders*

'Fabulously written anecdotes about the early stages of fatherhood, which will please romantic mothers.' – *De Morgen*

David DanishA GOOD DAY TO DIE (*Een goede dag om te sterven*)

2006

In a Teheran restaurant, 18-year-old Baber Shaul is utterly disgusted with himself for ordering alcoholfree beer. Yet he drinks it down, since it is a code for bachelor men seeking women – a dangerous pursuit under the grip of Ayatollah Khomeini's strict Islamic regime. Baber is imprisoned in Balbak, where attempts are made to brainwash him and prepare him for the Jihad. After his release, it is his grandfather's words of wisdom that have more effect. They teach him what 'fatherland' really means. Baber reports for military duty and is deployed as a foot soldier. The war against Iraq completely changes his life. His conceptions of religion, death, loyalty, ideology, freedom, and God, are provoked during exhausting treks through the desert.

David Danish (1966) worked as a photojournalist in the immediate vicinity of Khomeini. He fought for two years on the frontlines in the war between Iran and Iraq. He fled to the Netherlands in 1990. This book includes Danish's own experiences and impressions of the front.

www.daviddanish.nl

Paul GellingsWHITE HORSES (*Witte Paarden*)

2001

In his debut novel WHITE HORSES Gellings vividly describes the lives of young, sanguine poets and artists doomed to either die young or end up teaching at secondary schools.

Gellings uses melancholy, mysticism and irony to evoke an environment he knows intimately, and which he cherishes, albeit with mixed feelings. Gellings has published in Dutch literary magazines, as well as in *La nouvelle Revue française*. As a Modiano expert and a translator of Dutch poetry, he is also well known in France.

'Gellings does not need drum rolls to write about the different ways in which people cope with their past (...) Impressive writing.' – *de Volkskrant*

'A compelling portrait of two deceased brothers (...) from page one you want to know what happened and why.' – *HP/De Tijd*

'Gellings has managed to forge a wonderful story. He paints a warm atmosphere and sincere grief about the death of loved ones and days gone by. Melancholy and loving – never sentimental.' – *Spits*

Sold to: Denoël (France)

Paul Gellings

SOUTHERN AVENUE (*Zuidelijke Wandelweg*)

2003

As he did in his highly praised novel, *WHITE HORSES*, Paul Gellings is a master of remembering in *SOUTHERN AVENUE*. In this novel, that as its title bears the name of one of Amsterdam's streets, he takes the reader to the southern district of Amsterdam – the district where, ten years before his birth, Anne Frank used to live, and where the scent of fear and collaboration lingers even today. There is one individual that the narrator especially remembers – Leonard Grünewald. In the past, things have happened to Leonard that the narrator still cannot grasp. He endeavours to come to terms with them now.

Paul Gellings

THE VOLCANO AND THE GIRL (*De vulkaan en het meisje*)

2006

Rafaël, a fifty-year-old, disabled gas station attendant of Dutch descent, leads a tranquil life on a volcanic island in the Caribbean. His peaceful existence is disrupted when he hears of a fireworks disaster in the city in which he lived with a loathsome family with his brother, Arthur, after their parents' death. Rafaël's and Arthur's experiences return sharply in the form of flashbacks. The reader becomes a participant in the intrigue of the legacy and sympathizes with the degrading sheltering of the children. Reliving the past throws Rafaël's existence out of balance.

'A literary work of art, animated storytelling and fierce developments.' - *De Stentor*

Esther Gerritsen

PRIVILEGED AWARENESS (*Bevoorrecht bewustzijn*)

2000

'Unmistakably, hers is the voice of the youngest literary generation', *Elle magazine* wrote about Esther Gerritsen. This young author has already won a number of prizes for her stage writings and in 2000 surprised everyone with *PRIVILEGED AWARENESS* a collection of stories characterised by *Vrij Nederland* as 'sharp and funny'.

No wild scenes or extreme excesses for Gerritsen, but a modest style in which she attempts to decipher the codes that exist between people and to dissect the casualness of their actions to the bone. *PRIVILEGED AWARENESS* was shortlisted for the Debut Prize 2002 of the Dutch foundation Woman and Culture.

'A form of minimal art – all this quick-witted precision packed in a square millimetre raises expectations for the future.' – Arnold Heumakers in *NRC Handelsblad*

'Sharp and funny. A surprising debut. Gerritsen has an ambition she should try to hold on to: the ambition to recapture reality. One of the best books of the year 2000.' – *Vrij Nederland*

'A coherent and striking debut.' – Arjan Peters in *de Volkskrant*

Esther Gerritsen

BETWEEN ONE PERSON (*Tussen Een Persoon*)

2002

A man and a woman are about to move house. With all their belongings transported to their new house, the couple is going to spend one last night in their old bed before closing the familiar front door behind them forever. Now that leaving for the country is about to become a fact, the woman is afraid. Afraid to completely lose herself in the relation, at the cost of her own identity. She ties up her husband, in order to tell him unhindered how she feels about their relationship.

With her debut novel, PRIVILEGED AWARENESS, Esther Gerritsen was mentioned by the media as a great promise for the future. With BETWEEN ONE PERSON this promise has come true.

‘What Gerritsen shows in the space of a millimetre, most people experience on a large scale (...) a wellconsidered selection of words and sentences, intended to make its reader consider his motives, consider why he follows conventions the way he does. And it is effective.

Overwhelmingly so.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘Her narrator’s deceptively normal voice (which, as unapproachable as it is undisturbed, keeps returning in a self-created vacuum) is all Esther Gerritsen needs to create a tragedy that is basical and horrible.’ – *NRC Handelsblad*

‘Gerritsen describes her characters’ thoughts and emotions with an almost microscopic precision (...) Striking and clear.’ – *Parool*

Esther Gerritsen

NORMAL DAYS (*Normale dagen*)

2005

Esther Gerritsen (1972) is considered as one of the great literary talents in the Netherlands. In her most recent novel, a woman, who was raised by her grandparents, returns to the ‘parental’ farm. There she coincidentally discovers that her grandfather, who is being treated for cancer, does not have much longer left to live. The visit seems to be becoming a tortuous experience since she and her grandparents have little to say to each other. Life in the country is an annoying cliché. ‘I realised only later that the farm was worthless. That everything was scraped together. It was a world where it could be seen daily that we dispossessed it. The world of social coherence. Social coherence never felt as coherence to me. I ended up here quite unintentionally.’ Nevertheless, during the visit, she experiences the value of the cliché and the value of normal days.

Longlisted for the 2006 Libris Literature Prize and elected best novel of 2005 by readers of the magazine *Boek*. In 2004 Gerritsen received the city of Roermond’s Halewijnprijs, and in 2005 she was awarded the Dif/BNG Prize for talented young Dutch authors.

‘The power of the unspoken in an exceptional novel.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘Breathtakingly beautiful (...) I never expected the description of the silence at someone’s deathbed to be so exciting. Read this book!’ – *BOEK*

‘Esther Gerritsen has confirmed her enormous literary talent with the recent publication of *Normal Days*, a magnificent novel about words and silence’. – *Brabants Dagblad*

Esther Gerritsen

THE SORRY LITTLE GOD (*De kleine miezerige god*)

2008

Dominique works in a psychiatric hospital. She has no friends. Her father is dead. Every week she dutifully visits her ever more senile mother, who no longer recognises her as her daughter. Dominique lives above an elderly spinster who has a dog called Pasja. Mrs Jovkov is in her seventies, just like her mother, but although she is not in need of care, Mrs Jovkov can be very demanding. She comes to pick up Dominique when she's in need of company. An insignificant, innocent little god, created by Dominique to bear witness to her otherwise invisible existence, idly stands and watches as Dominique establishes a friendship with her intrusive neighbour and gets entangled in an affair with Kris, an unsophisticated male nurse she meets at work. When Dominique gets pregnant, her little god seems to disappear into the background, forced to play second fiddle to the new witness to Dominique's life, until it transpires that her baby is unlikely to survive the pregnancy.

'In her fifth book, Esther Gerritsen has grown further in stature, to the level of an author who dares to cover everything – from comic cross-talk to poignant silences – and who with seeming casualness smuggles in little poetic statements.' – *de Volkskrant* (5 stars)

'[Interpersonal exchange] is an inexhaustible theme that she has so far managed to treat with great dramatic, and indeed great comic, skill.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'Gerritsen, who has written a lot of drama and easily turns her hand to good dialogue, manages to make her characters simultaneously convincing and alienating. (...) Gerritsen has grown with this book, into one of the better young novelists.'

– *Trouw*

www.esthergerritsen.nl

Anne-Gine Goemans

UNFURROWED GROUND (*Ziekzoekers*)

2007

An adroitly written and exciting debut novel, UNFURROWED GROUND was unanimously applauded by the regular press after having been praised prior to publication by a large number of readers during a unique review session organised by De Geus.

Roelof Zeevoet succeeds his father as director of an international flower bulb company and, to everyone's amazement, appears to possess an idiosyncratic entrepreneurial spirit. When he realises that project developers are planning to asphalt the area, Roelof, driven by anger and desire, claims the main role in a dubious tulip investment game.

Anne-Gine Goemans (1971) is a journalist. She is married and has three children.

'A beautiful novel, full of contrasts and truly inspiring.' – *de Volkskrant*

'Insane stories of family heartache and deceit set against a sultry backdrop. (...) Goemans's brisk and sometimes vitriolic novel lays bare an unfamiliar world.'

– *Het Parool*

'A most lively written saga.'

– *Trouw*

www.ziekzoekers.nl

Kristina Goitkoetxea Langarika

EVAMAR (*Evamar*)

2007

Kristina Goitkoetxea Langarika grew up in Spanish Basque Country and has been living in The Netherlands since her student days. Her literary debut, EVAMAR, is an ode to the mystical stories and close-knit social community of her native region. Goitkoetxea lets the reader

empathize with three generations of women who as towers of strength defy the eternal fluctuation between tradition and modernity, between village and city, and between conservatism and political change. Against a backdrop of civil war and the struggle for independence, her characters ride the tide of change. The dynasty's youngest female offspring, Evamar, is standing on the divide between the old era and the new.

Henna Goudzand Nahar

HOLE DAYS IN THE RAIN (*Hele dagen in de regen*)

2006

The population of South American Suriname is just as mixed as the colourful flower of the wild palulu. The slave descendants who live in the jungle, the Maroons, are at the bottom of society's ranks, wherein the military hold all the power. Father Wijnruit, half-coloured, half-Maroon, is the Maroons' soul shepherd. He does this out of opportunism, since he denies his ancestry. After his 'tour of duty', he would prefer to get away from there as quickly as possible to start his own life. An unexpected event forces him to deliberate his position within the populace he originates from.

Robert Haasnoot

STONE CHILD (*Steenkind*)

2002

A quiet summer night in a small fishing village on the Dutch North Sea coast. Young Wouter lies in bed, wide awake. He can hear his parents talking and laughing downstairs. A little later he watches his mother and father as they walk down the path towards the dunes, giggling like a couple in love. It is the last time he sees them alive. The next day, Wouter's parents are reported missing. All Wouter and his older brother, Stijn, can do is wait and see what the results of the police's search activities will be. Days later, their father's body washes ashore. And on the beach, their mother's clothes are found. Stijn reacts in a down-to-earth way, but sensitive Wouter clings to the possibility that his mother may still be alive.

'Like a Dutch Bernhard Schlink (*Der Vorleser*) or an Ernest Hemingway he uses the iceberg model: you see one eighth, and you can guess the rest.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'A wonderful, imaginative novel.' – *Vrij Nederland*

'There is not one insincere sentence in this book. What cannot be put into words, is left unsaid or is intimated in the sober poetry of dreams and images. This silence-between-the-lines lifts *Steenkind* onto a higher plane and gives it its voice. Or whisper, if you will – and that is in no way to be considered a sign of weakness. This is simply all it needs to impress. Such is the power of modesty.' – *Standaard der Letteren*

Sold to: Germany (Berlin Verlag)

Robert Haasnoot

THE SCRIBE OF ZEEWIJK (*De heugling*)

2005

Robert Haasnoot (1961) is a young author who, upon the release of his novel SEA OF DELUSION, was compared by the German press with great Dutch authors like Nootboom and Mulisch. The historicalfactual nature of his novels gives the stories a deeper dimension, authenticity, excitement, and psychological depth.

In THE SCRIBE OF ZEEWIJK the raconteur is the last descendant of a lineage of scribes, paid chroniclers who record the ups and downs of a Dutch fishing village. The profession has

fallen from grace, but the raconteur cannot abstain from writing about the recent, strange events holding the village captive.

'Again Haasnoot narrates a magnificent story, in content as well as in form and language. The full fact of the matter doesn't become apparent until towards the end, which gives the book its thriller-esque tension. Add the beautiful language, and this novel too may be called an absolute masterpiece.' – *GPD kranten*

'Religion's suffocating aspects and the connections with superstition are once more being brought across, while the gothic atmosphere of the common horror story strikes a fitting note. On top of that, towards the end of the novel the author winds up the two major story lines in a fashion that is as exiting as it is cinematic.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'Haasnoot has written a suspenseful and compelling story. (...) A high quality novel. (...) redolent of a similar atmosphere as is found in a Lars von Trier movie.' – *Spits*

Sold to: Germany (Berlin Verlag)

Robert Haasnoot

SLOW WALTZ (*Langzame wals*)

2008

Robert Haasnoot – whom the German press compares to Cees Nooteboom and Harry Mulisch – bases his dazzling historical novel on historical information about the most notorious charlatan the Netherlands has ever known: Lodewijk Pincoffs.

In 1879 Pincoffs, a once celebrated businessman and politician who was responsible for Rotterdam's world-class port, fled with his family to the United States in an effort to avoid a lengthy prison conviction for his part in a financial scandal that had pushed Rotterdam to the edge of bankruptcy. In a saloon in Paterson, New Jersey, he is waiting for securities that are being brought to him from the Netherlands and he hopes they will provide enough cash to allow him to start a new life. He starts to talk with Emma, a prostitute also hailing from the Netherlands. During their conversation, Pincoffs's and Emma's thoughts wander and their stories are unfurled before the reader.

'With three story lines, he weaves a fascinating novel. (...) And Haasnoot succeeds in telling his story in beautiful, melodious sentences, almost old-fashioned in their beauty. A fascinating book.' – *GPD-kranten*

'An engrossing novel (...) There are few authors who choose their words as carefully as Robert Haasnoot. (...) A whole world lurks behind every word.' – *Elsevier*

Martin Hendriksma

THE WURST AFFAIR (*Familievlees*)

2007

The rise and fall of a sausage manufacturer; A story about three men, their loves and their boundless ambitions. What to do when the one woman in your life walks out on you and an entire village turns its fury against you? That's what's facing Victor Barels, the surviving son of a successful sausage manufacturer. He must guard his father's and twin brother's inheritance but fears he is not up to the task. Only an ingenious plan can save him.

THE WURST AFFAIR is a triptych about the rise and fall of a family-owned company in a village in rural Drente. About three men, their loves and boundless ambitions.

Martin Hendriksma (1966) studied commercial economy and was a journalist with daily and weekly newspapers such as *de Volkskrant*, *NRC Handelsblad*, *De Groene Amsterdammer* and *Haarlems Dagblad*. He is now editor of Amsterdam's *Uitkrant*. THE WURST AFFAIR is his first novel.

'Hendriksma makes his debut with a powerful novel. There's no hesitating about this book. Buy it.' – *De Pers*

'A novel that gave me a lot of pleasure. Hendriksma can write, create flesh-and-blood characters, and put humour on paper. He can tackle the big picture and bring history to life.' – *Jeroen Vullings, Vrij Nederland*

'The book is a page-turner of the first magnitude, seasoned with gallows humour and beautiful, but restrained, poetic descriptions of the landscape and people.' – *Het Parool*

Marek van der Jagt

OTTO WEININGER, OR DOES THE JEW EXIST? (*Otto Weininger of Bestaat de jood?*)

In this philosophical essay Marek van der Jagt introduces the reader to Otto Weininger. The Austrian scientist/philosopher's life and intellectual legacy, not to mention the public's reaction to these, form the basis of an assertion in which Van der Jagt addresses the following question: Does the Jew exist? Moreover, Van der Jagt seeks to get to the essence of the literature.

'Weininger's attraction lies in his ideas, which are currently viewed as irrational and abject, and in another context as hardly worth to be taken seriously. Anti-Semitism is not any longer being combated on scientific grounds. As a science – if it ever existed in this capacity – anti-Semitism no longer exists. This renders the question who or what is a Jew scientifically obsolete.'

Marek van der Jagt is a pseudonym of literary laureate Arnon Grunberg.

Michiel van Kempen

ESCAPE ROUTES (*Vluchtwegen*)

2006

When there is no way back, and destiny must reveal itself.

Hella is used to giving – to illiterates, to people in debt, to foreigners who are strangers in a strange land. And yet there is an emptiness in her life. When she meets Bram, a religiously disillusioned heating mechanic, he seems able to provide her with regular, short-term bliss. Until one holiday Bram stumbles upon elements from his past that reinvigorate his Jewish faith. The rift between Bram and Hella has extensive consequences. Not just for them, but for an entire block of high-rise flats in the Bijlmermeer district of Amsterdam. A block that looms up when airplanes start their landing procedures upon approaching Amsterdam Airport. Michiel van Kempen (1957) has published prose fiction and non-fiction. As a result of his extensive exploration of the subject, his authoritative 2-volume HISTORY OF SURINAM LITERATURE (2003) received lavish praise.

Annie van Keymeulen

DOUBLE BASS (*Bas*)

2001

A young double bass player turns to jazz music in his desperate attempt to break free of the restrictions imposed upon him by his brass band obsessed family. In her third novel, set in a small community in Belgium, Flemish author Annie van Keymeulen powerfully and meticulously writes about a youngster's overwhelming urge to live life to the full.

'Her flowing style and vivid phrasing remind one in places of authors such as Claus, Pleysier, Van Paemel, or Hertmans.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'Provocatively beautiful and written with a great sense of the blue note.' – *Trouw*
'Stories that get under your skin (...) Lively, passionate – the gnawing feeling in the soul delicately put to words.' – *Het Parool*

Annie van Keymeulen

ROSA'S HOUSE (*Rosa's huis*)

2002

She is young, she is bold, she is recalcitrant – and she is intent on discovering love. There is one problem, though: her disability. Young Iris's back is partly wrapped in a plaster corset. But 'the Turtle', as they nickname her at school, is determined to ignore all that. Instead, she loses her heart on Alain, the managing director of ROSA'S HOUSE, the new institution where she comes to stay.

'While Roddy Doyle erects a monument for the Irish working classes, Van Keymeulen does the same for the lower stratum of Flemish society – clear-cut, affectionate, and employing sublime language.' – *Opzij*

Annie van Keymeulen

FLOWERS OF FLANDERS (*Fleurs de Flandre*)

2003

One of the most conspicuous phenomena that determine life in Belgium is the social partition brought about by the language boundary. In one part of the country the people speak Flemish, in the other, they speak French. During the second half of the 20th century, many people from the poor Flemish countryside went to the wealthier Walloon mining districts. There, they were looked upon as immigrants, speaking a foreign language and having a foreign culture. Annie van Keymeulen has set her novel *Fleurs de Flandre* in the environment of Flemish miners' wives in the Walloon region. As 'Flemish flowers' they are the pillars of the small community. Each woman has her own way of persevering. Deep down in the mine there is a place where the women meet to exchange stories. When Rianne, the novel's young female protagonist, discovers this meeting place by accident, she listens to the stories, some of which are almost mythical, that reveal the secrets of womanhood to her.

Annie van Keymeulen

THE MAN WHO FELL FROM THE SKY (*De man die uit de lucht viel*)

2006

Christian Braine is a lawyer of unimpeachable integrity. Although respected by all, he has been unable to achieve his ambition of becoming a judge. His controversial private life (a preference for men, even though he's married to a younger woman, by whom he has fathered a daughter) plus the fact that an honest man doesn't always make friends have taken their toll. Without warning, Christian one day sets out for parts unknown, leaving everyone in a state of confusion. Even Rianne, his wife, has no idea where he has gone. How well does she actually know him? Has he been leading a double life? In an attempt to discover Christian's whereabouts, Rianne calls to mind their life together. Piece by piece she reconstructs the story of their relationship, in which both partners continuously seek a balance between true love and pure passion.

Stephan LangTHE MOLE HUNTER (*De mollenjager*)

2001

Stephan Lang fled Rumania in 1974 and came to the Netherlands. In his autobiographical novel, the protagonist, who lives in the Netherlands, returns to the Transylvania of his childhood, where his mother is fatally ill. Throughout their life together, she never mentioned his origins, but with the end drawing near, she recounts what happened when shortly after the war she was a prisoner in Russia.

'Lang has captured the history of his family in a splendid metaphor. *De mollenjager* is an important book. This is not just the history of the Lang family and the village they grew up in; it is also our history.' – *de Volkskrant*

Sold to: Ukraine (Universe)

Simone LenaertsTHE SEA IS SALTY, SO THEY SAY (*Zeewater is zout zeggen ze*)

2008

Winner of the Flemish Debut Prize 2009

Set in post World War II Antwerp, here is a story of a family and its inevitable collapse under the strain of unrealisable political ideals and human desires. Raymond Lahaut is a card-carrying Communist and vehemently anti-clerical. His wife Rika does not share his point of view. She spends her time at home raising their two children, but she dreams of escaping her daily routine and finding a job outside the house. Against her better judgement, she puts up with Raymond's political preference and his pig-headed, know-it-all attitude. Their daughter Rosa is aware of the differences between her mother and her father. Nothing, however, can prevent the family's gradual disintegration.

Simone Lenaerts's description of her own youth is unparalleled: the collapse of Soviet Communism, her father's desperate struggle, her mother's hesitating yet unavoidable steps towards independence, and the sensitive young Rosa's vision of her environment and herself.

'A novel in a very intelligent way driven by the language and style. This is literature that brings an ode to the strength and power of language. (...)Lenaerts shows her craftship as chronicler of a realistic and intimid period.' – *Jury Flemish Debutprize 2009*

'More than a moving family history, the novel provides a detailed portrait of the oppressive 1950s, during the Cold War period in which poverty was rife. The copious details, splendid images and incisive Flemish dialogues, which Lenaerts appears to produce without effort, give the book a unique quality.' – *de Volkskrant* (4-star review)

'Wonderful book.' – *De Standaard der Letteren*

Emmanuel LippCHINCHILLA SONG (*Chinchilla Song*)

2006

Sensational story of the experience of absolute freedom if freedom is conditional

Michael and Benny grow up in a village on a canal, not far from the sea. Michael is the son of a cobbler who breeds chinchillas and revamps old Mercedes cars. It is a lascivious world where time seems to stand still and where the church is surrounded by twenty bars, where families go to relax after Mass, while on the outskirts of the village two brothers live in a pit, and seven centenarians live in the monastery. The dangerous force of attraction that exists between Benny and Michael becomes apparent when the man in the beige suit comes to the

village. He seduces children. A mystical triangle between Benny, Michael, and the man materializes. The man's murder seals the bond between Michael and Benny. When at the end of 2006 it was revealed that Emmanuel Lipp (supposedly serving a sentence in prison) was a pen name used by the duo Oscar van den Boogaard and Steven Van Watermeulen, Belgium was thrown into an uproar. The author, presented as a murderer, had been brought forward so convincingly that no one had doubted his authenticity.

'A sensational debut.' – *de Volkskrant*

'Exceptionally sultry.' – *Trouw*

'One of the most interesting debuts in years.' – *Elsevier*

'Pure desperation, carefully constricted in a clever, sober style.' – *Humo*

Elizabeth Nobel

THE TALENT (*Het Talent*)

1998

In a contemporary love story about a talented young violinist, his teacher and his restless wife, a former ballet dancer, the conflict is made tangible between talent and discipline, reckless courage and frustrated ambition, passion and routine.

Elizabeth Nobel, whose sensitive novel DIAMONDS ON MY CHEEK was published in 2000, has found a loyal audience in the Netherlands.

'Everything fits: sharply drawn characters, authentic atmosphere, impeccable style, true-to-life dialogue, interesting storyline.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Sold to: Germany (Ullstein Verlag), Spain (Seix Barral)

Agent: Alice Toledo

Elizabeth Nobel

WITHOUT (*Zonder*)

2008

Three women want the same man for different reasons. When he vanishes, they are at the utter mercy of their desire. Desperation drives all three of them to turn their daily lives upside down. His life partner, Marian, is thrust back into her past where she lost her twin daughters. More severely than ever, his lover Natasja is confronted with her increasingly demented husband. And Dominique, a sixteen-year-old girl with a past of incest, misses the man whose model she was and who made her feel stronger.

We share in their searches, their doubts, and their dreams. The taut composition, the complex storyline, and the substantial theme make WITHOUT a contemporary story about love, fidelity, and betrayal.

'A quality book, with four great stories for the price of one!' – *Libelle BE*

'Dazzling narrative, with razor-sharp dialogue.' – *Toon*

'Her books are beautifully structured, her use of language smooth and the various themes finely handled (...). The German publishers fought over her book.' – *Vrij Nederland*

Rashid Novaire

HERONS IN CAIRO (*Reigers in Caïro*)

1999

In 1997, Rashid Novaire (1980) won a contest for Dutch authors of Arabic origin, and two years later made his debut with a collection of short stories, HERONS IN CAIRO. He was nominated for the NPS Culture Prize and stayed in Bamberg, Germany, as a writer in

residence. In 2002 his novel CORN BLIGHT was published, which was shortlisted for the prestigious Libris Literature Prize 2004. In 2004 he stayed in an artist's community in China for several months to do research for his new novel, THE SONG OF THE STINGRAY.

'A strong and surprising debut. The way in which Novaire describes a country, a region, a village in whispering, love-making, play-acting language, commands admiration.' – *Vrij Nederland*

Rashid Novaire

CORN BLIGHT (*Maisroest*)

2003

Shortlisted for the prestigious Libris Literature Prize 2004

Ten years after the death of his brother Gerben, journalist Dito Keep reflects on the period leading up to the murder that took place somewhere in Central Europe. Dito applies his imagination to the reconstruction of the attack. By creating a more hopeful version, he attempts to love a man who was difficult to love.

How terrible is it not to love your brother? Dito realizes that he will have to write about himself. About his own stalled ambitions, his hidden desires, and about the sickness that rises in him from time to time – the way in Central Europe blight creeps up the yellow corn.

'In the stories in my first book, HERONS IN CAIRO, I zap from one location to the next. I'm part of an image culture, which accounts for this zapping. However, in CORN BLIGHT I abandon all exoticism. To speak in multicultural terms: the novel has a white décor, which doesn't mean that homogeneity is its premise. Far from it – the people in the book are characterized by forms of duality, they collide with themselves and their surroundings. For Gerben, it ends in tragedy. As a writer I'm not really interested in a single, homogeneous culture.' – Rashid Novaire

Rashid Novaire

THE SONG OF THE STINGRAY (*Het lied van de rog*)

2007

A novel about a religious revolution in ancient China.

China, 11th century B.C. Emperor Zhou Xin's Shang dynasty is under fire. A solar eclipse appears to be the harbinger of the gods ceasing to support the ruling authorities. In the life of young Fu Chen, a riverbank builder, the turmoil in the immense kingdom plays no part. He ensures that the river remains within its banks, as always. One day, a fallen woman is brought to the village. She, Li Ting, does not believe in the religious laws that propose that only nobility are in possession of a soul. She has been sentenced to death and awaits the execution of her sentence in the house of Fu Chen. For Fu Chen, she quickly becomes more than his prisoner. Fascinated by her courage, the boy manages to convince the village ruler to show her mercy and pardon her. However, when he follows Li Ting on a journey through the ravaged kingdom, he discovers that there is more than meets the eye.

Rashid Novaire

ROOTS (*Afkomst*)

2008

Semi-autobiographical novel about a young man in search for his family roots

When young author Nabil el Maroudi publishes his first collection of stories, he is compelled by the urge to delve into the past. What is it that makes the relationship with his father, a first

generation immigrant of Moroccan origin, work? What did his Polish/German great-grandmother feel when she was decorated by the Nazi regime?

Through actual and imaginary journeys in The Netherlands, Poland, Germany, and Morocco, Nabil unravels the history of his family. What occurred in the past? How would history have progressed if these past events were different?

In an inimitable way, full of curiosity and perseverance, dreamy thoughts, and pleasurable observations, Novaire describes Nabil's journey of discovery.

'Novaire does not lack imagination; with the greatest of ease he sends his main protagonist on a journey in time, into ideas and imaginary worlds. Light and malevolent as a fairy tale.' – *de Volkskrant*

'With Novaire the beauty lies within the secretive.' – *Boek*

Ton van Reen

STOLEN YOUTH (*Gestolen jeugd*)

2002

A novel by Ton van Reen, a prolific author who also writes books for adolescents, television scenarios and essays.

STOLEN YOUTH is based on events in the life of a farmer's son (who is alive today) in the southern part of the Netherlands before, during, and after World War II. In an interchange of perspectives the boy, his elder sister and their family are depicted during the Dutch mobilization, the German invasion, and the evacuations. Then, when the war is almost over, the boy, 15 years old, is sent off to a German labour camp. The story of his toils as a forced labourer and his account of the Hildesheim bombing constitute poignant parts of the book.

'Van Reen's method, in which ordinary events obtain a status of indispensable components, endows the seemingly insignificant with a subtly poetic quality. (...) His characteristic, transparent style is accompanied by a great sense of the visual.' – *Trouw*

'An accessible and intimate book. A remarkable family history that should not be missed.' – *margriet*

Ton van Reen

THE DEEPEST BLUE (*Het diepste blauw*)

2004

A disabled man lives in a small village with his wife and daughter. His illness causes him to be dependent of others and makes him feel isolated. He doesn't want to face the fact that his annoying behaviour is also to blame for his loneliness.

He starts writing the history of the flourmill, which has been the social and economical centre of the village for a long time. While writing, his thoughts wander off to his youth. To the time when everything was possible. To times he relives over and over again. As a boy, he shared his feelings with two friends, a boy and a girl. They fantasized about the future and dreamed of a trip to far-away China. It was a time of thoughtless adventures, mixed with the 'minor' pains of puberty.

Both boys are in love with the girl. They are aware of the rivalry and also of the danger this carries. The girl postpones choosing one of the two, because she knows that she will lose the other one as a friend. Until a dramatic event changes the relations completely.

Ton van ReenCONCERT FOR THE FÜHRER (*Concert voor de Führer*)

2005

During Operation Market Garden in 1944, a patrolling German soldier gets caught in the line of fire. On one side, the Allied paratroopers are under fire from the German army. The soldier takes refuge in a church.

While he plays the church organ and waits for things to come, he remembers the time when he was with his Dutch grandparents as a young boy. Nearby the place where he is now. His thoughts go to a childhood friend, a talented pianist in favour with the Führer. He had the courage to desert the army, and was executed by a firing squad for this act. In the meantime, the parachutists march on. The soldier looks for an opportunity to escape.

<http://auteurs.degeus.nl/tonvanreen/>

David SandesTHE MIRACLE METHOD / SERGEI BUBKA'S MIRACLE METHOD (*De wondermethode / Sergei Bubka's wondermethode*)

2004

A classic Bohemian lifestyle in bustling contemporary Paris

David Sandes (1967) studied piano and composition at the conservatories of Arnhem and Rotterdam. After finishing his education, he moved to Paris and performed abroad solo as a jazz pianist. In Sandes' debut, THE MIRACLE METHOD, Bram Poons carefully plans out his future in a five-year plan. Eight hours of piano study per day – alternated with yoga, stretching, soap operas, the middle hand technique of the great Hungarian master, Sergei Bubka, and the help of his mother, Lea – must help Bram to transform into a concert pianist. Part of the plan is a pilgrimage to Hungary to pay tribute to Sergei Bubka. During the journey, he meets a French homosexual, Luc. Moving in with Luc in Paris inaugurated the beginning of a turbulent and formative period that revolves around the fulfillment of a dream as a pianist and around love.

'Sandes is humorous and merciless: his Belleville lives and scintillates with a vengeance.' - *Vrij Nederland*

'His greatest asset is his sense of humour.' - *Trouw*

'His style is reminiscent of Grunberg's. (...) Not as nihilistic as Grunberg, he allows his book to end in a conciliatory note. Yet this does not diminish his tackling of society, in this case, the metropolis of Paris. And how he describes the gay scene, it is almost parody.' -

Eindhovens Dagblad

Sold to: France (Mercure de France), under the title *La méthode miraculeuse de Félix Bubka*.

David SandesTHE BRIDGE (*De brug*)

2006

After the demise of his adoptive father, Romain Dumaine sets out in search of his biological parents. Retracing his father's steps leads him to Yugoslavia. He discovers a country disrupted by war while his investigation arouses the interest of the Serbian Secret Service, and he is questioned about the assassination of Premier Zoran Djindjic. With the assistance of an influential figure, Romain finally reaches his father's village. There, his personal history converges with his father's past as it is mirrored in the turbulent history of the country.

David Sandes (1967) wrote his first novel, SERGEI BUBKA'S MIRACLE METHOD, in 2003. A French translation was published by Mercure de France in 2004. Sandes's novels distinguish

themselves by an extremely sensual and rhythmic sensitive flair, combined with a touch of irony.

Sold to: Actes Sud (France)

Marylin Simons

TIGHTROPE WALKERS (*Koorddansers*)

2006

Surinamese writer Marylin Simons encapsulates in language and theme South America's erotic sweltering, the quasi-carefree lifestyle of its residents, and knows how to capture the harrowing social contradiction.

She draws the reader into stories about relationships between people, without idolizing their exotic background. The language lends each story an extra emotional charge and a large dose of authenticity. You taste the sea, you inhale the tropics, and you become friends with the characters.

'The stories in this collection are people's lives. You do not need to search this out. They are hurled uninvited into your face. They are just normal people who render the material of unusual stories.' – Marylin Simons

Rosalie Sprooten

NEW TENANTS (*Nieuwe huurders*)

2006

A single woman has inherited a farm that she wants to rent out. One day, new tenants arrive. They are a somewhat strange, but amiable couple with little demands. The woman is a writer. Her liberated ideas clash completely with the more reserved views of the farm's owner. The more they become acquainted with each other, the more an understanding between them grows. Until the author turns out to be working on a novel with which she intends to take exacting and merciless revenge on an ex-lover that spurned her.

Rada Sukkar

TREASURES OF BABYLONIA (*De schatkamer van Babylonie*)

2006

An exceptional family saga from Iraq that spans over a century.

The novel unfolds at the inception of the last century and describes the lives of a lineage of harbor barons in the city of Basra. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the English control economic life in Iraq. Western influences and customs which gusted over from India mix with Iraqi culture, wherein religious movements of every kind, exist next to each other, like a mosaic. The family's story is the enthralling story of the development of Iraq in the twentieth century. Set against the background of the international strife for the country's rich oil reserves, the yearning for independence, and the political contradistinctions, life goes on. Rada Sukkar, daughter of a doctor, who, as a leader of the political opposition combats the regime, married a Dutchman and fled Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Pearl SweetlifeSEA DEVIL FOR AMALIA (*Zeeduivel voor Amalia*)

2008

In SEA DEVIL FOR AMALIA, Pearl Sweetlife manipulates the rules for a sentimental novel. On the surface she writes about a sophisticated world, but there is a deeply felt tragedy that hides behind it which is being depicted by literary means. The book balances on a tightrope between unabashed melodrama and critical pastiche.

Pearl Sweetlife's major examples are the Luis Buñuel film *Belle de Jour* and the writers D.H. Lawrence and Henry James. The author's name turned out to be the second pen name from Oscar van den Boogaard and Steven van Watermeulen, who had previously written under the name of Emmanuel Lipp.

'CHINCHILLA SONG was about a small world, about anatomy, about the body, everything was being viewed from a suffocation vantage point. Amalia, the heroin in SEA DEVIL FOR AMALIA, lives in a world where everything is too big. It is an all-encompassing novel of a woman, sort of like Dostoevsky.'

Luc VandrommeSUITCASE FROM CARACAS (*De koffer van Caracas*)

2002

It is an incredible story, yet it is true – unknown letters and photographs by Vincent van Gogh have been discovered. In the port of Antwerp, two artists who are in the midst of a project to celebrate their lustrum, search a place where goods are stored that have been left behind on ships. An old shipowner confides to them that there is a suitcase that was once found on a South American vessel from Caracas. It was sold to an antiquary who retired soon after that. Fired with curiosity, the two artists check on the antiquary and they discover to their utter amazement that the suitcase contains original photographs and letters by Vincent van Gogh. A graphologist's enquiry and expert statements prove that this cannot be a hoax, it is real.

'If you are looking for a book that is riveting, shocking, and amazing, that is breathtaking to the point of knocking you off your chair, I can highly recommend SUITCASE FROM CARACAS.' - *Tijdschrift Academie voor Journalistiek*

Luc VandrommeTHE EYE OF MARIA CONCEPCIÓN (*Het oog van Maria Concepción*)

2003

A shepherd and his family are forced to leave their home in the Spanish Pyrenees under the threat of the Spanish Civil War. With a flock of hundreds of sheep they wander through France, ending up in Belgium, where, thanks to the miraculous talents of the three sisters, they manage to hold out. Of the threesome, the most striking one is Maria Concepción. An excellent cook, she has access to the ancient secrets of medicine, but most remarkable is her talent to read the future and the past with the help of photographs. Good news travels fast, and from all over the world, people come to Belgium to consult her. At the insistence of her niece, Maria Concepción reveals all she has predicted on her deathbed. A motley procession passes – politicians, artists, businessmen, lovers, scientists, spiritual leaders, patients and ordinary people. Time and again, the visionary's memoirs turn into a playful commentary on current affairs.

'A breathtaking, intriguing diptych, this debut "descends" from broad Marquezian writing to the small life on Belgian cobblestones.' – *Eindhovens Dagblad*

Luc Vandromme
PATCHOELI (*Patchouli*)

2006

A novel infused with patchouli – the flower-power scent that symbolizes freedom and nonconformity.

May 10, 1979. In Paris, a student residence burns down completely. Six corpses are found, of the house's residents and of Elise, the landlord's daughter. There is no reason to assume that a crime has taken place. Many years later, however, Paul, Elise's boyfriend at the time, has a chance encounter with one of the women who had supposedly perished in the fire. Their conversation leads him to suspect that intent was indeed implicated, and Paul resolves to reconstruct the facts. While delving into the past of the house and its residents, he unearths bizarre discoveries that ultimately must bring the truth to light.

Annelies Verbeke
GIANT (*Reus*)

2005

From the author of SLEEP!

Kim and Hannah are sisters of about thirty years of age who easily tell lies and incidentally steal. They have a lot in common. As they become older, they remain close, albeit less frequently. When they get together, they discuss their lives, just as they always did. Their love lives are reviewed, their emotional connection, and their boring men who do not understand them. Their desire for an extramarital affair is openly discussed, and they are compatible in deliberating on their children. Often, the conversations are enough to invoke restlessness, but the more they contemplate it, the more stifling it becomes. When pregnant Kim threatens her husband with a plastic knife, they realise that action must be undertaken. The sisters depart for Australia. Like a sort of Thelma and Louise, they cross the great continent. Escaping from routine and searching for real life. Further to this, they do what the situation calls for, almost unscrupulously.

Sold to: Romania (Univers)

Annelies Verbeke
GREENER GRASS (*Groener gras*)

2007

Sharp, humorous and exciting stories on winning and losing

Following the publication of SLEEP! Annelies Verbeke was often asked to write stories and columns. The piece-work suited her so well that she set herself the task of writing a short story from time to time. In 'Greener Grass', fifteen perfect stories are collected with the theme of winning and losing. Stories about people who could be your neighbours, but who maintain a 'different' lifestyle.

'The stories are fresh, funny, sometimes with surreal humour, but always assuming the need to capture the ambiguity of life. Verbeke manages to bring her characters alive in a few sentences. It leaves you wanting to carry on reading about their adventures a bit longer. Nice.'

– *Gazet van Antwerpen*

'An extremely fine style with an eye for the poignant and for detail. (...) Beneath it all there stalks loneliness, for make no mistake, this is no sweet little bundle of fairytales, but a painfully direct hit.' – *HUMO* 2008 top 15 books

'Again, Verbeke lends her generous powers of imagination to her hallmark: a sobriety that suddenly takes flight, always mixed with her unique, sometimes perplexing irony.' – *De Morgen*

www.anneliesverbeke.nl

Sold to: Turkey (Askel Yayincilik)

Andrea Voigt

AUGUST IN PARIS (*Augustus in Parijs*)

2007

Razor-sharp, gripping debut novel about the human condition

Life is simple for some; like a straight line without any obstacles worth mentioning. This is not what seems to be in store for Lisa, who has been experiencing a sense of want and yearning ever since she was born. Want of a father, of structure in her life, of self-esteem. A yearning for love and security. And since one can't give what one doesn't have, as an adult she keeps searching for something that might be called happiness. It is because of her awareness of her own shortcomings that alcohol and drugs seem but temporary lovers. A fighter, Lisa now needs the guts to confront her own demons.

Andrea Voigt (1968) studied Scandinavian language and literature in Amsterdam where she now works as an independent translator and editor. She made her debut in 2004 with *Saturn's Temple*, a book of poetry. *August in Paris* is her first novel.

Ard Volkers

DANCE FOR EMMA (*Dans voor Emma*)

2009

A beautiful novel with a powerful theme and a sober but penetrating writing style

Despite being rejected by drama school twenty years earlier, Ferdinand has become a celebrated actor. He constantly doubts his own talent and suspects it is 'the other' who is playing him. After a performance in a country town, Ferdinand decides to stay on for a while. In the local theatre's rehearsal room, he intends to prepare for the role of Stepan, an ardent revolutionary. Then the director asks him to stand in as a clown – a most unusual role for him. He has ten days to prepare. During that time, he regularly visits Emma, who did believe in him in those early drama school days and has always followed his career. Now she is seriously ill. At her deathbed, the clown in Ferdinand takes over.

THRILLERS

Anthony van Dijk

THE MASK OF AENEAS (*Het masker van Aeneas*)

2006

Dutch archaeologist Arnold Meijer is slain during an archaeological excavation near Rome. The police suspect that the murder is connected with a scientific dispute between Meijer and Professor Hartman, the leader of the excavation. However, the members of the archaeological team are not convinced that Hartman is capable of burying a pickax in Meijer's skull. Arnold's cousin Emiel Blasco, a marginalized church historian, is also a member of the excavation team, albeit for therapeutic reasons. In Arnold's Roman pied-à-terre, Emiel comes across a number of pottery fragments that seem to indicate a prehistoric discovery. Was Arnold possibly on the trail of a spectacular find? Could it have led up to his ultimate demise? A little

later it is discovered that Meijer's girlfriend, Giovanna Licosa, was also murdered. She was involved in counteracting art theft, art smuggling, and corrupt art officials. All the more reason for Emiel Blasco to expand his research in that particular direction.

THE MASK OF AENEAS is a robust thriller about archaeology, Italy, the Second World War, the Cold War, corruption, and art smuggling. For (thriller) readers who cherish art, history, and Italy.

Tess Franke

THE INITIATION (*De inwijding*)

2006

Femke Wolzak is a self-aware woman of 26. She shares her East Amsterdam flat with Roel, young lover and problem child in one. As a lawyer with Thans, Spreeuwenberg en Spreeuwenberg (devil's advocates), Femke has to deal on a daily basis with serious criminals and their morals. Things go well as long as she remains professional and aloof, yet Femke is unable to maintain this attitude very long. When a gangster's wife informs her of her divorce plans, Wolzak disregards her professional attitude, allowing her compassionate instinct to take over. She mediates between the married couple until an agreement is reached, which is hard, but fair, and holds enough security (an incriminating written declaration in the safe) to provide the wife, Hermanna, with a safe exit. Then everything goes terribly wrong, with the divorce degenerating into a gory tragedy when Hermanna's murdered body is found at Femke's front door.

THE INITIATION is a strikingly well-written literary thriller. Pointed, sharp, fast, and describing in detail young women's modern life.

'An expertly written, up-tempo story with lots of funny asides. More!' – *Vrij Nederland*

Sold to: Germany (Ullstein)

Tess Franke

THE TEST (*De beproeving*)

2008

In THE TEST, Femke's talents are again tested to the limit in two sensational cases. She lands in situations that demand her utmost expertise, boldness and empathy. She defends a serious criminal who is indirectly co-responsible for the death of her boyfriend, and she unwittingly becomes involved with a group of desperate Dutch Christian activists who, in an act of despair, kidnap the son of the American ambassador in The Hague. Femke must swerve, stand tall, demarcate her authority as lawyer, come to terms with her conscience and all the while keep an eye on her clients' interests.

THE TEST is a thriller for readers, female ones in particular, who want to read about women at the top. Personal and professional dilemmas vie for priority. The novel shares common ground with current social and political developments such as the integrity of the legal profession and the growing resistance to the American war in Iraq.

Aad van den Heuvel

WAR CORRESPONDENT (*De oorlogsverslaggever*)

2008

Nominated for the Diamant Bullet 2008

Documentary crime novel revolving around Dutch politics, with a wink at Frederick Forsyth's *The Day of the Jackal*

Martin Mendes, a war journalist who is plagued by nightmares, is investigating the violent death of his ex-girlfriend, who perished in a terrorist attack in Istanbul. What could have brought her there? He picks up the scent of a sinister Muslim terrorists intrigue. This conspiracy is taken more seriously by the Dutch Intelligence Agency than the signs of a potential attack being devised by right wing politicians and businessmen. In order to practice as a war correspondent, Mendes does not have to travel to distant, violent parts of the world. The Netherlands amply fulfils the requirements.

'Aad van den Heuvel's writing has documentary style, is evocative, and involved.' – *Crimezone*

'A more than entertaining book of many talents. (...) Well-structured story that reads smoothly.' – *VN Detective & Thrillergids*

Chris Rippen

ETERNAL BEACHES (*Eeuwige stranden*)

2005

Nominated for The Golden Noose 2005 (Best Dutch Crime Novel of the Year).

Refined and ethereal crime novel about brotherly love, guilt, and the settlement of old obligations.

The assignment Murk Stuart is sent on in Martinique seems simple: find Xander Bijlefeld and tell him his mother is dying. Despite this, Stuart is met by a wall of distrust. Bijlefeld has already eluded the Dutch Department of Justice for eight years and remains out of Stuart's reach. Everyone is protecting him: the charter yachtsmen clan, the former doctor Doc Barnard, and especially Bijlefeld's girlfriend Marie-Ange. Is Bijlefeld still alive? Is that bizarre story about a funeral at sea going around the island possibly about him? Stuart also pursues his co-convicted half-brother, Victor, in Bijlefeld's shadow. Stuart's search attracts the attention of the police, and as he unintentionally becomes entangled in a spectacular cocaine smuggling operation, he gets local drug gangs, as well as Antillean Drug Squads, after him. The tropical paradise becomes a hell and his simple assignment becomes a treacherous trap.

'Rippen consistently delivers a substantial plot in cool, effective, intriguing style.' – *Vrij Nederland Detective & Thrillergids (***)*

'An exquisite psychological thriller, with splendid ambiance, humour, and romance.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'A remarkably suspenseful and ingenious novel. Several story lines are interwoven and together form a web of intrigue. Fascinating from beginning till end.' – Jury Golden Noose

Charles den Tex

THE WASTE GAME (*Dump*)

1995

Business thriller about international chemical waste trade in which one man stands up against a conglomerate of 'dirty' interests.

This man, Alex Duffield, succeeded his deceased father as managing director of Duffield Chemicals – against his will, as chemics is not his thing, let alone messing around with chemical waste. Alex is determined to clean up Duffield Chemicals, but in doing so he will have to tackle an international criminal organization. So far, the waste conspirators are oblivious: 'International TransChem had no idea about the pressure it was going to meet. The simple thought that a single man could jeopardize a waste trade multinational's future, never occurred to them.'

'This is a story full of lively dialogue, that keeps haunting the reader.' – *de Volkskrant*
'Den Tex manages to wrap up a contemporary social issue into a suspenseful story in such a way that technical details never once become boring.' – *NRC Handelsblad*
'Seductively written, with a chillingly convincing depiction of the chemical dump trade.' – *De Telegraaf*

Charles den Tex

CHANCE IN HELL (*Schijn van kans*)

2002

Best Dutch Crime Novel 2002

CHANCE IN HELL is set in the world of corporate take-overs – where confidential information may be a fearsome weapon, but also a perilous enemy. Upon the sudden death of her boss, his young and talented assistant, Matti van der Donk, faces the task of concluding a major take-over deal he started. The novel is based on an idea of former ING Group official Aad Jacobs, who bought Barings Bank in London. A unique cooperation of a banker and a thriller author.
'A book that in stylistic matters surpasses all others, that abounds in pointed description of ambience and excellent dialogue, and that almost imperceptibly initiates the reader in matters incomprehensible in matters ordinary mortals cannot understand.' – *Jury Golden Noose*
'CHANCE IN HELL offers interesting insights in the world of mergers and take-overs.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Charles den Tex

STEGGER (*Stegger*)

2003

Jan Stegger, the protagonist in CODE 39, an earlier thriller by Golden Noose winner Charles den Tex. In STEGGER he is the commercial manager at electronics company Heci, intent on taking over their rival company, Switchtronics. New and inexplicable obstacles keep hampering progress. Slowly, Stegger finds out that a dubious accommodation address in the Caribbean has been the impeding factor in the Switchtronics take-over. Stegger travels to Curaçao to set things straight once and for all.

'Only a very good author is able to invent such a protagonist.' – *HP/De Tijd*

Charles den Tex

ANXIETY TRAP (*Angstval*)

2004

Innovative thriller by triple Golden Noose winner Charles den Tex

Peter Kram is a private investigator. However, he prefers to avoid questions about himself as much as possible. He steals for customers and hides himself 'from the world' in a flat at an unknown address. He is not afraid of anybody, except of people who come too close. Those he avoids, always. But the beautiful Miranda puts him off his stride; she unleashes willpower unprecedented to him. She tempts and seduces and pushes him on in a quest for a mysterious molecule. In the meantime, Kram's life is falling apart. Fleeing from every wrong decision he has made, he drags along an increasing chaos. Inescapably, the anxiety trap locks him in. Kram is paralysed by his own desperation. The events around him hunt him. Further and further, until, against his will, he bursts into action, and everything proves to be different from what he thought it was.

Narrated in rhythmic, short sentences, catching descriptions and dialogues, philosophical ideas that are quite naturally weaved into the story.

'A compelling adventure. A dazzling outcome.' – *Brabants Dagblad*

'A splendid, bizarre, and absurdistic book where everything spectacularly gets out of control. The delightful ludicrousness sits in the way of the suspense, but it remains a pleasure to read.'
– *Vrij Nederland Detective & Thrillergids* 2004

Jac. Toes

THE SMALL LIE (*De kleine leugen*)

2006

A contemporary thriller about the functioning of memory, animal rights activism, and antiterrorism.

Ghislaine Kaiser does everything within her power to recover her husband, Danny, who has abruptly vanished. Since she cannot expect much help from the police and her search soon proves to be unsuccessful, she hires a lawyer, Fred Benter. Danny's disappearance takes its toll on the remaining family members. Ghislaine watches her relationship with her seventeen-year-old son, Ferry, deteriorate further as Danny remains missing. Ferry retreats completely into his own world and shuts Ghislaine out. That is when Benter and Ghislaine discover that the animal rights activism Ferry plunged himself into is connected with Danny's disappearance. Ferry seems to have become a plaything in the hands of intelligence servicemen specialized in antiterrorism. The ascertainment of Danny's secret life forces Ghislaine to retroactively reassess her marriage. This leads her to the conclusion that she would leave Danny, if he would ever return.

Jac. Toes won The Golden Noose (Best Dutch Crime Novel) in 1999 for his thriller, PHOTO FINISH (*Fotofinish*).

Sold to: Germany (Grafit Verlag)

Toes and Hoeps

ART WITHOUT MERCY (*Kunst zonder genade*)

2007

Nominated for The Golden Noose 2008.

A German art historian and a Dutch profiler jointly investigate two murders with an 'artistic' nature. All evidence points to an art maniac who for once is aiming at people rather than paintings. In a German museum the wife of a Dutch museum director is murdered. It is obvious that her killer was inspired by a work of art. For that reason, the expertise of art restorer Robert Patati is brought to the case.

What was the woman actually doing in Mönchengladbach? It soon appears she recently ended her affair with the German museum owner. Both he and her cuckolded husband have a reason and sufficient knowledge of art history to commit this 'artistic' murder. The case takes a radical turn when a similar bizarre murder is committed in Arnhem. This must be the work of an (art) maniac. Psychologist Micky Spijker of the Arnhem police force and restorer Robert Patati join forces to catch a psychopathic killer.

ART WITHOUT MERCY is co-authored by Dutch writer Jac. Toes and German writer Thomas Hoeps. Together they have written a crime novel in which a passion for modern art, entangled relationships and large-scale money laundering by the nouveau riche form an explosive blend. The novel was simultaneously published by De Geus in The Netherlands and Grafit Verlag in Germany.

Peter de Zwaan

ALIBI BUREAU (*Het alibibureau*)

2000

Winner of the Golden Noose 2000

De Zwaan is an aficionado of the California school of hard-boiled American novels (including Elmore Leonard, Carl Hiaasen or Harlan Coben). De Zwaan's thrillers are no enjoyable who-done-its that have their culprit locked behind bars in the end. An ingenious linguistic wizard, De Zwaan like no other knows how to portray fringe elements, petty crooks and eccentrics. To this end, it's the darkest kind of humor that serves him best.

In ALIBI BUREAU, Suz Kcrams runs the infamous alibi office on the sly. Together with his crony Charlie he provides alibis for criminals, not shunning violence and extortion. The only insider is his secretary and lover Carrol, an ex-escort girl who would like to make their relationship permanent. One day a young woman leaves a plea for help on Kcrams's answering machine. Her voice reminds him of his daughter Maryam and he immediately sets out to investigate. Thereafter, every conceivable thing goes wrong.

Kcrams becomes involved in a sinister case involving sexual abuse and assault, in which he suddenly becomes the main suspect. Someone has been framing him, someone who has good reason to hate him intensely.

'His most captivating and witty thriller to date.' – *HP/De Tijd*

'ALIBI BUREAU offers everything one could wish for in a crime novel.' – *Algemeen Dagblad*

'The national top in the genre.' – *De Telegraaf*

Peter de Zwaan

THE FEEDER (*De voeder*)

2006

De Zwaan's fascination with America is affirmed in his thriller, THE FEEDER, where he flirts with clichés that surround the American gangster. A hilarious book spliced with a grave topic: a feeder is a person who derives (sexual) pleasure from the act of feeding another person. After a rampageous heist of an illegal casino, Jeff Meeks has set out on a reckless flight from Denver. After having savagely pummelled a police officer, who will remain disabled as a result, he must keep out of the police's grasp. And then there is Boss Madden, the mobster who thinks Jeff got away with all the cash. For years now, Jeff has been living in the American wilderness. Transformed into an authentic mountain man, he is lord and master of his own domain. His experience proves to be advantageous when two men arrive, tasked by Madden to escort Jeff back to Denver. After putting both of them permanently out of commission, Jeff is aware that he cannot hide from Madden any longer and that he must personally rectify the Denver situation. Once there, he discovers two things: first, that Madden indulges in a peculiar fixation: he is a feeder. And second, that the woman who is currently subjecting herself to him is Jeff's ex-girlfriend.

'De Zwaan has made splendid use of the archetypal hardboiled thriller. (...) A lot of action, well-depicted portraits of extortionists and other fringe elements.' – *Vrij Nederland Detective & Thrillergids*

'With an opening passage that is the ultimate in black humour, the rest of this novel is stylistically superior.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Peter de Zwaan

THE DEVIL'S BACK (*Duivelsrug*)

2007

THE DEVIL'S BACK is Peter de Zwaan's second hard-boiled 'American' thriller. Jeff Meeks, the protagonist in THE FEEDER, has settled in the Arizona desert. He meets Kaya who lives in a trailer in the next valley with her handicapped husband Len. The three of them occasionally keep each other company in the barren desert, developing some sense of family. When Kaya and Len are murdered, Jeff will stop at nothing or no-one before he has tracked down their killer or killers.

A touching crime novel (with the warm heart hidden behind Jeff Meeks's rough exterior), THE DEVIL'S BACK awards us a wonderful glimpse of life on the edge of US society, beyond the reach of the 'civilized' part we know. De Zwaan introduces weird Americans: religious fanatics, (Christian) swindlers, blatant racists, people only interested in violence, believers in the American dream, and forlorn new-age followers.

NONFICTION

Mohammed Benzakour

DESPERATE REMEDIES (*Stinkende heelmesters*)

2008

Until recently, the Netherlands was known worldwide as a paragon of tolerance. The country saw itself a sort of guide, a point of reference when it came to the formation of opinion. The so-called polder model, in which political parties with varying interests entered into dialogue in order to reach consensus attracted considerable praise in international circles. With the murders of politician Pim Fortuyn and filmmaker/columnist Theo van Gogh, however, cracks began to appear in this long-maintained image. Tolerance was publicly proclaimed to be a weakness. Crass statements of rightist politicians such as Geert Wilders nourished popular dissatisfaction.

Among the opinion makers and watchers of (Dutch) society, Mohammed Benzakour (Marocco, 1972) holds a unique and independent position. The statements and descriptions of situations he publishes often are cause for uproar. But time has proven him 'right' on more than one occasion, although being right is not his primary concern. Benzakour's goal is to engage in discussion on the basis of arguments. He nails his colours to the mast and hopes that others will do the same. The articles, columns and essays collected here reflect a development of ideas and opinions that runs parallel with developments in the social arena.

Bronkhorst, Daan

Encyclopædia of Humanity (*De encyclopedie van de menselijkheid*)

2007

Amnesty International

THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF HUMANITY is an inspiring and practical guidebook, available at a time when answers must be found for pressing issues. The book contains 1000 international entries on human dignity, which makes it a superb source of information for newspaper readers, journalists, students and educators alike.

It's a book for anyone seeking to learn more about topics such as the right to asylum, the greenhouse effect, the death penalty, sustainable development, fundamentalism, humanitarian intervention, the International Court of Justice, sexual rights, terrorism, or the arms trade.

Including biographies with citations for 200 activists, specialists, philosophers, and writers. Special attention is paid to Nobel laureates.

Daan Bronkhorst writes for Amnesty International and has compiled a large number of books, including collections of poetry published by De Geus.

Margot Dijkgraaf

TODAY'S LITERATURE IN FRENCH (*Franstalige literatuur van nu*) 2003

French literature is alive and kicking. Over the last ten years, new blood from within and beyond the French borders has enriched French writing. Writers from the former colonies appeared on the scene, French literature in Canada was galvanized, and a new, mainly female, generation of writers reached for the pen. This resurgence has not gone unnoticed. Many translations appeared of writers such as Michel Houellebecq, Catherine Millet, Andreï Makine and Frédéric Beigbeder – and Margot Dijkgraaf, in her post with the major Dutch daily *NRC Handelsblad* closely followed these developments. A frequent visitor of Paris, she met writers and publishers, read the latest books and discussed these in articles, essays, interviews and reviews. In TODAY'S LITERATURE IN FRENCH she sets out her findings: a literary pantheon that goes from Patrick Modiano and J.M.G. Le Clézio to names that will be famous in ten years time. In 2001 the French Minister of Culture made Margot Dijkgraaf Knight of the French Order of Art and Literature, in recognition of her services to French literature.

Dylan van Eijkeren

WITBOI. HOW THE WEST WAS LOST (*Witboi; Hoe de West werd verloren*) 2006

On his journey through the former Dutch West Indies, Van Eijkeren is conned by Surinam Airlines, frequented by Brazilian prostitutes and poisoned by American tourists. He narrowly escapes a malariaridden mosquito and drinks a centipede. He argues with artists, immigrants, businessmen, and politicians. He rents six cars, sails four boats, and boards fifteen planes – all to the benefit of the reader, for the result is an enthralling travel journal about seven former Dutch colonies, that, while sharing a common past, initially seem to have nothing in common any more. As buoyant as it is sensational, HOW THE WEST WAS LOST casts a fresh and new light upon the laborious relationship between the Netherlands and its former colonies. Dylan van Eijkeren (The Hague, 1967) earlier wrote THE ONLY GUEST – A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THROUGH GERMANY. It was nominated for the 2005 Bob den Uyl Award for best travel book.

'WITBOI's forte is its wealth of amusing self-reflections and laconic humour, lavishly strewn across the pages.' – Gerrit Jan Zwier, *Leeuwarder Courant*

'Delicious, hilarious, touching.' – Ronald Giphart

Dylan van Eijkeren

THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. A JOURNEY THROUGH BELGIUM
(*Het beste land ter wereld. Een reis door België*) 2007

A sharp and humorous portrait of a torn country

For the third time in his life, Dylan van Eijkeren quit his job to write a book. After having written travel books about Germany and about Surinam and the Dutch Antilles, he focuses on yet another country closely involved with the Netherlands: Belgium. He investigates what

makes Belgium into Belgium, and in the course of his travels he uncovers Belgium's Big Problem. Concluding, nevertheless, that it is The Best Country in the World.

'A nice portrait of Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels, that tries to look beyond the clichés.' – Yves Desmet, journalist *De Morgen*

'Slapstick prose. (...) Great to devour.' – *de Volkskrant*

'An enticing travel book on the lovely Belgium.' – *De Standaard*

www.dylanvaneijkeren.nl

Ireen van Engelen

YOU HAVE TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL (*Jij mag nablijven*)

2006

When your children start going to school, you assume that they are in good hands. When two boys, Vincent and Pascal, start exhibiting strange behaviour, the cause is initially sought for with the boys themselves. Until their teacher's abuse comes to light. In this book, the parents of Vincent and Pascal disclose what no parent would ever wish to experience. They make it poignantly clear how severe the consequences of abuse are to their children and families. They also reveal the shortcomings of teaching staff, social workers, and other parents.

Pay-Uun Hiu

2007

ORANGE SOUP OF WHITE CLOUD. A CULINARY EXPLORATION OF MY CHINESE ROOTS
(*Oranje soep van Witte Wolk. Een culinaire zoektocht naar mijn Chinese afkomst*)

A literary and narrative cookery book that doubles as the author's exploration of her Chinese identity. With recipes from the Chinese cuisine it is a electable book for readers who cook and cooks who read.

Pay-Uun Hiu (Amsterdam, 1960) is the daughter of a Chinese father and a Dutch mother. She is an editor with *de Volkskrant* newspaper and permanent author of its cooking column, The People's Kitchen. Through her explorations of Chinese cuisine, her pieces describe Chinese custom and culture, and via that route also her father's past.

Peter Ho

IT'S JUST CHINESE TO ME (*Dat is Chinees voor mij*)

2007

For centuries China and the Chinese have fascinated us. We can neither read their characters nor understand their language. Their mores and customs seem incomprehensible.

Nevertheless, we do want to understand the Chinese and China, especially now that not only its population is on the increase, but the country itself is rapidly becoming an economic superpower. How do ancient traditions relate to modernisation? What lies behind that imperturbable Chinese smile?

Professor and China-specialist Peter Ho has lucid answers to many questions. In this book he proves himself a born storyteller who manages to captivate the reader's attention by alternating between expert knowledge, wit, and interesting details.

Ruth Hopkins

I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO AGAIN (*Ik laat je nooit meer gaan*)

2005

After prostitution was legalized in the Netherlands in 2000, the brothel Flair, located in a small community, was placed on a permit list. Journalist Ruth Hopkins spoke with the manager of the brothel, who candidly spoke about the consequences of this legal change. He had difficulty finding personnel, since Dutch women prefer anonymity. However, he found a solution: 'I organized women from Eastern Europe. They were brought here via Portugal. I paid out twenty thousand for their passports.'

In I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO AGAIN Ruth Hopkins depicts the ramified, callous international trafficking effected by a Dutch brothel owner and the fates and lives of the victims of the trafficking of women in Albania and Bulgaria.

Ruth Hopkins is an international lawyer and investigative journalist. She is a frequent guest on the important current affairs programs on radio and television. The book includes black and white photographs by Caro Bonink, who joined Ruth Hopkins in her travels to places and countries where trafficking in women takes place.

Fouad Laroui

ABOUT ISLAMISM: AN INTIMATE REBUTTAL (*Over het islamisme; Een persoonlijke weerlegging*)

2006

Moroccan born Fouad Laroui casts an illuminating light on the taboos and clichés that surround Islam. With a sharp and erudite pen, he dissects the fundamentalist menace, using humour to put things into perspective. Contemplating the nature of islamism, Laroui wonders: is it the political exploitation of Islam? Naturally. Depleting a religion of its character, it is Islam's very opposite. Moreover, it is a construct that, although it may seem solid, is in fact based on nothing of substance. On sand, wind, a mirage, whatever you wish.

Rights: Robert Laffont (France)

Mark Leenhouts

CHINESE LITERATURE OF TODAY (Chinese literatuur van nu)

2008

All aspects of contemporary Chinese literature in one book and a broad perspective on China's cultural heritage.

Mark Leenhouts (1969) obtained his doctorate at Leiden University with a thesis on contemporary Chinese literature. He has translated several Chinese novels. Leenhouts writes reviews for *de Volkskrant* newspaper and is an editor of *Het trage vuur*, the Dutch magazine on Chinese literature.

All aspects of Chinese literature are represented in this book – from writers and trends to social backgrounds and cultural differences. While China is gaining in global stature in terms of politics and economics, there is an increasing focus on Chinese culture and literature, an area hitherto unknown for many readers, due to lack of access and insight into what is, in fact, a rich literary history. Therefore, this is an important publication. Its themed chapters cover a wide range of topics, discussing politics, tradition, engagement and entertainment.

The book's emphasis is on the current period – prose works and (to a lesser degree) poetry published after Mao's death in 1976. Yet it also looks back on the twentieth century as a whole and provides connections with earlier, traditional literature.

Lavishly illustrated, *Chinese Literature of Today* is equipped with an extensive index.

Manon Ossevoort

TO THE SOUTH POLE BY TRACTOR (*Op de tractor naar de Zuidpool*)

2007

A true, candid story about a journey never before undertaken

Part I: The Netherlands to northern Uganda

While studying at the Theaterschool Amsterdam, Manon Ossevoort (1976) decided to create a theatrical performance about realizing one's dreams. This was the start of a journey to 'the end of the world': the South Pole. Travelling by tractor – symbol of power, sense of humor and perseverance – Manon left The Netherlands in July 2005, trekking through (former) areas torn by war, crossing the desert and desolate regions, passing through prosperous cities and slums. The book draws attention to the people she meets and their stories.

TO THE SOUTH POLE BY TRACTOR is more than a travelogue. It's an intimate, encouraging book about awakening to and gaining self-knowledge. About where people find strength to press on against all odds and continue to say: 'It's a beautiful world!'

Presently Manon is pressing on towards the South Pole.

Peter Ouwerkerk

UNKNOWN (*Ongekend*)

2006

Rini Wagtmans: I never lied, but I didn't always tell the truth. Rini Wagtmans simply had to become a cyclist. Wim van Est was his neighbour, he was Wout Wagtmans' nephew, and his father was a masseur to professional cyclists. His professional career was short, but profound. He was a master at descending, but also an excellent climber, winning him 5th place in the 1970 Tour de France. Upon his debut, he was already sixth. Wagtmans was a hard worker. He discontinued school at a young age in order to start working, and oversaw his wife's family business at the age of nineteen, for which he fought hard. Entrepreneurism was in his blood; after his professional career, he established 32 international companies. Just like his pro-cyclist career, he had to abandon his business for health reasons. Although Rini Wagtmans was a successful businessman and pro-cyclist, he always had the inclination to prove himself. This started at a young age, due to his mother's scornful attitude and his father's drinking habits. Wagtmans already cared for his brothers and sisters early on. At a young age, he was cast out into the street by his mother, their relationship never to be recovered. Also, at a later stage, she never wanted to acknowledge him as her son. *Ongekend* is a homespun book, a biography in dialogue form, in which veteran journalist Peter Ouwerkerk (33 times in the Tour de France!) sketches a portrait of an extremely colourful and successful man who had been trying to prove himself his entire life.

David van Reen

COUNTRY OF BURNT FACES. LIFE IN ETHIOPIA (*Het land van de verbrande gezichten.*

Leven in Ethiopië)

2008

A striking impression of another Ethiopia in pictures and words

What we know about Ethiopia, the land of the burned faces, is filtered by the media and is determined by often tragic, newsworthy events. Daily life remains largely hidden even from tourists and travellers passing through.

David van Reen has travelled, lived, and worked in Kenya and Ethiopia for years. This has put him in the position to observe sharply. In front of and behind the camera. Adding, in some mysterious way, his commitment to his talent to capture what may escape others. This is what makes his work special. This book is a reflection of his vision of Ethiopia.

Trees van Rijsewijk

KUMARI, MY DAUGHTER FROM NEPAL (*Kumari, mijn dochter uit Nepal*) 1999

Whereas many people only talk about it, Trees van Rijsewijk (1952) did it. Fed up with her hectic life as a teacher, she bought herself a bike and cycled, all by herself, through India, China and Nepal. When in Nepal, her life changes dramatically upon meeting Kumari, a tiny orphan girl. Trees is told that she should become Kumari's mother. Her book is the honest and moving account of the intense struggle that ensued.

'A moving story of patience, openness and infinite love.' – *Libelle*

Sold to: Marion von Schröder (Germany), Ruta (Poland)

Trees van Rijsewijk

I USED TO BELONG TO NO ONE, NOW I BELONG TO MYSELF (*Ik hoorde bij niemand, nu hoor ik bij mezelf*) 2006

A sequel to KUMARI, MY DAUGHTER FROM NEPAL; 50.000 copies sold.

During an extensive bicycle tour through India, China, Tibet and Nepal, Trees van Rijsewijk met her future daughter, Kumari. She transformed her journals about this important period in her life into a candid report that was a tremendous success with her readers. Everyone who read Kumari wanted to know what became of the girl Kumari and the projects that Trees van Rijsewijk has since initiated in Nepal under the supervision of the Tamsarya Foundation. I USED TO BELONG TO NO ONE, NOW I BELONG TO MYSELF is an account of the author's own life and that of Kumari's after arriving in the Netherlands. Van Rijsewijk, who has meanwhile become a 'mother' to hundreds of Nepalese children, discovered that they all have compelling stories to tell. A number of these stories and several stunning portraits of Nepalese children have been brought together in the second part of this impressive book.

Nell Westerlaken

MR MOFID'S PAVILION (*Het paviljoen van meneer Mofid*) 2007

For decades the Palestinian Territories have mainly been in the news as a hotbed of trouble. Violence in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank veils ordinary Palestinian life from view. Top journalist Nell Westerlaken traveled through the Palestinian Territories to record daily life under Israeli occupation. She held long, sometimes emotional, conversations with ordinary people trying to build a daily existence under extremely difficult circumstances. Nell Westerlaken (1962) has been an editor for *de Volkskrant*, one of Holland's major daily newspapers, for 21 years. She has traveled the world and written lengthy eyewitness accounts on a large number of topics. In 1997 she published THE EMPEROR'S OLD CLOTHES, a travel book about Ethiopia.

POETRY

Jaap Robben

THE NIGHT CRICKETS (*De kracht krekelt*)

2007

Poetry that winks at you, laughs, and briefly puts you in a contemplative mood
Jaap Robben describes the accessibility of his poetry and short prose pieces as being ‘pedestrian poetry’. In 2004 he privately published TWO FLIES, the successful and breathtakingly funny sublime collection of poetry that was arrestingly styled by designer Suzanne Hertogs. In THE NIGHT CRICKETS, the depiction of the world is seriously tongue-in-cheek. Robben sees what we see, but is especially drawn to the hilarious or the disturbing. Beyond this, he is a romantic who does not shy from tenderness and caresses.

Jaap Robben (1984) studied Environmental Studies and continued with an education in the performing arts. He refers to himself as a ‘cabaret teller’ and performs his poetry on a regular basis. Robben authors columns and stories on commission. His work has appeared in Dutch quality newspapers *NRC Handelsblad* and *Trouw*. He is often welcomed on radio programmes and performs his work frequently.

CHILDREN BOOKS

Sandra Lanzing

KAROUF. THE INTERNECINE STRUGGLE (Karoef. De broederstrijd)

2007

A breathtaking history with a philosophical undertone, a tribute to classical Asian narrative art
In this history play, power-hungry Prince Rombert attempts to seize the bordering kingdom belonging to his uncle, King Hapar, with the assistance of the red Dragon Horsemen. By way of a devious scheme, he can take his cousin, Princess Tessien, prisoner in Dragons’ Castle. After a dangerous escape, the princess meets young Karuf and together they wage war against Prince Rombert and his Dragon Horsemen. Will they succeed in liberating Lions’ Castle? In the great courtyard, it ultimately ends up in a blood-curdling confrontation involving all those concerned and the future of the kingdom is determined for once and for all.
Earlier, Lanzing has authored a youth novel, THE STONE GATEKEEPER, published by Facet, which was followed by TIGERWOOD, published by De Vries/Brouwers in 2007. The author studied Sanskrit and Indonesian. She is married and has two children.

Ton van Reen

THE GOAT RIDERS GANG (*De bende van de Bokkenrijders*)

THE GOAT RIDERS GANG is a timeless and exciting classic about social struggle that has been turned into a successful TV-series. Towards the end of the 18th century, people were exasperated by poverty and hunger. Some joined gangs that stole from the rich to give the poor their share. The gangs were called Goat Riders because rumour had it that they travelled through the air on goat’s backs – like the devil. The novel tells the story of Mathijs – a farmer’s son who as a doctor’s apprentice discovers that the man he works for is the leader of the Goat Riders Gang.

Jaap Robben

LET'S START A FOREST (*Zullen we een bos beginnen?*)

2008

A poetic adventure for children from 8 years on; Illustrations by Benjamin Leroy

Shortlisted for the Golden Owl Children's Literature Prize 2009

Adventure, the discovery of one's own world and the world outside, are central to LET'S START A FOREST. Minor observations, grand ideas, unusual brain waves and curious associations combine to make the poems a stimulating read. Poems from this collection were published in *NRC Handelsblad*, *Boekie Boekie* and *Kwam dat zien! Kwam dat niet!* (compiled by Ted van Lieshout). Benjamin Leroy's comical illustrations add an extra layer of commentary to the poetry.

'These poems are a refreshing punch in the face, enough to make you smile. Hoorah for Jaap Robben!' – Edward van de Vendel

'In my opinion, this exquisite anthology opens another window on this chaotic world, and children could well discover a love of life in poetry after reading it.' - *Frank Groothof*