



FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2020

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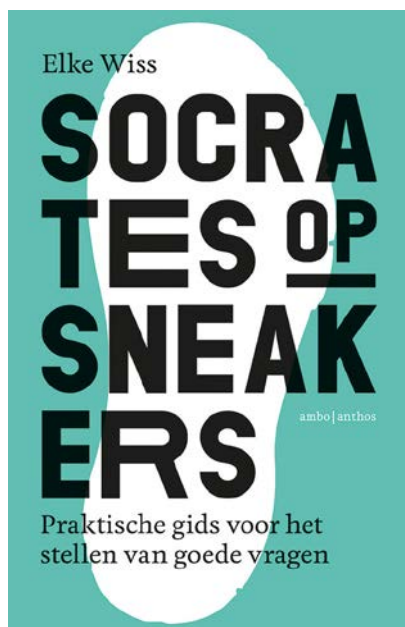


NON-
FICTION
224 pages
February 2020
English sample
available

ELKE WISS

SOCRATES IN SNEAKERS

THE BESTSELLING PHILOSOPHICAL GUIDE TO
ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



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

Highlighted by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Over 20.000 copies sold

Rights sold to UK, Germany and Korea



RUUD POS

ELKE WISS is a theater-maker and practical philosopher. She writes and directs theater productions, and gives trainings and workshops in practical philosophy and the art of asking questions. Elke also conducts Socratic dialogues within organizations and offers individual philosophical consultations.

In Socrates in Sneakers a young philosopher addresses millennials and offers the skills necessary to pose the kind of questions that make people think.

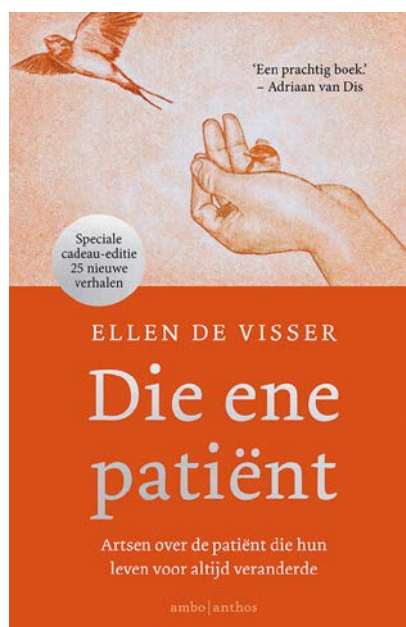
'Socrates in Sneakers is a hit. We can learn to genuinely ask another person questions.' – De Stentor

'A real conversation takes courage and radical honesty.' – Elke Wiss

NON-
FICTION
312 pages
February 2019
English sample
available

ELLEN DE VISSER THAT ONE PATIENT

EXTENDED VERSION INCLUDING CORONA-
RELATED TESTIMONIALS



That One Patient, featured as a weekly column in *de Volkskrant*, is one of the highest rated and most read sections of the newspaper. Every weekend, science journalist Ellen de Visser interviews a doctor or nurse about a patient whom they will never forget and who changed their view of their profession and life. The stories in this collection, put together by Ellen de Visser, offer a poignant and informative glimpse into the souls of our caregivers, from general practitioners to neuropsychologists. Every day, thousands of people share their pain, sadness and joy with a medical professional. To be able to do their job to the best of their abilities, medical experts use their 'professional empathy': they sympathize with their patients but keep their emotions in check. Nevertheless, every medical professional has been touched deeply by one particular patient, someone who changed his or her life. This book is about that one patient. By sharing these touching and recognizable testimonials, Ellen de Visser reaches out to people with a medical background as well as to those without.

Rights sold to UK/US, Germany, Hungary, Taiwan, Korea and Egypt

Over 50.000 copies sold



ELLEN DE VISSER is a science journalist for *de Volkskrant*. In 2017 she began the series *That One Patient*, which soon became one of the most highly regarded columns in the newspaper.

'Beautiful, heartbreaking and wise. Prescription: one story a day.'
– Matthijs van Nieuwkerk, Dutch talkshow *De Wereld Draait Door*

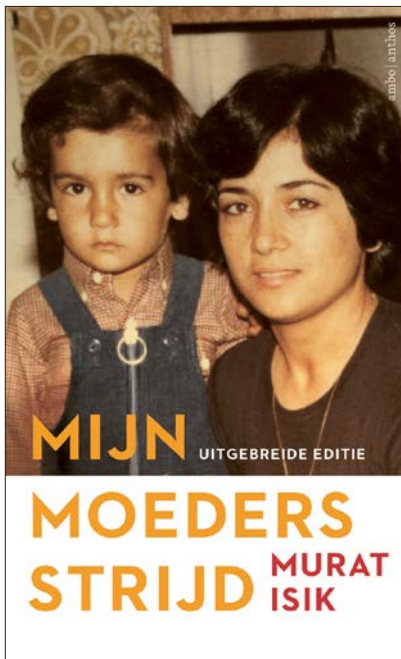
'The stories told by the doctors in Ellen de Visser's book are sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking and always inspiring. Now, more than ever, we need these stories of human connections and of the differences we can make to one another's lives, and we are so excited to be able to bring this remarkable book to our readers.' – Helen Garnons-Williams (4th Estate)

'A beautiful book.' – Adriaan van Dis, writer

NON-
FICTION
180 pages
April 2020
English sample
available

MURAT ISIK

MY MOTHER'S STRUGGLE



In *My mother's struggle* Murat Isik recounts his mother Aynur's struggle for emancipation. Born in a conservative Zaza village in eastern Turkey and raised in the coastal city of Izmir, where she hardly had any rights, she challenged her subordinate status as a woman and strove to claim control over her own life. But what an uphill battle it was: her brother first commits her (without consultation) to working as a maid for many years as a teenager and then tries to force her into arranged marriage. Aynur rebels, marrying the man with whom she sees a future, but the marriage proves to be a difficult and harsh one. In the early 1980s the family with two children finds itself living in a multicultural district of Amsterdam, where Aynur becomes socially isolated. Bucking expectations, Aynur continues her quest for emancipation and is determined to get the better of her domineering husband by finding a job, setting her apart from the women in her circle. Why did she do it, and what were the obstacles she had to overcome?

Highlighted by the Dutch Foundation for Literature



RUUD POS

Most successful Book Week Essay ever: 100.000 sold.

'A monument in words, by Aynur's own son.' – *Het Parool*

MURAT ISIK'S *Wees onzichtbaar* (2017) won an array of prizes, including the coveted Libris Literature Prize 2018, the Boekhandelsprijs 2018 and the Inktaap 2019. More than 185,000 copies have been sold to date. Isik made his literary debut in 2012 with the novel *Verloren grond*, which was awarded the Bronze Owl public's prize. His work has been translated into German, Swedish and Turkish.

NON-
FICTION
224 pages
January 2021

CORINE KOOLE

DISRUPTED DESIRES

ON LOVE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING
INTIMATE CASE HISTORIES



How do we love when we can no longer touch each other, or are forced together into close quarters? Love is rarely simple, but the six-foot distancing rule has struck at the essence of love: intimacy. Singles can no longer date without the dilemma of how to maintain the distancing protocol. Marriages, on the other hand, turn into pressure cookers when the partners' freedom of movement and outside socializing is limited. Other couples are unable, for a variety of reasons, to meet up face-to-face. From young to old, from puppy love to golden anniversaries: every type of love facing challenges these days comes under scrutiny in *Disrupted Desires*. Based on intimate interviews and with commentary from outside experts, Corine Koole offers a familiar, poignant, and at times amusing impression of the paradoxical 'new normal' of life in this era of social distancing.



RUUD POS

A book that highlights the many challenges of love during social distancing

'When we're talking about love, the clichés are there for the taking. But here they are aptly worded – leave that to Koole, author of two bestsellers about love.' – FD

CORINE KOOLE is an author and journalist. Her countless interviews, reports, and stories about love have appeared in major newspapers and magazines. Her column on love is amongst the best read in the Netherlands and Belgium.

NON-
FICTION
240 pages
July 2019
English sample
available

ANNEMIEK LECLAIRE

DO LESS, LIVE MORE

DESTRESSING IN THE BURN-OUT SOCIETY



One morning, journalist Annemiek Leclaire realizes that she has had enough of all the hassle and the hurry in her life. When she wakes up, she no longer looks forward to the day, but just sees an endless list of Things To Do. She notices the same struggle all around her too. Stress, tension and burnouts are the ailments of our time. Leclaire decides to make her life all about destressing. Doing less and living more – how exactly do you do that? This is the start of an extensive search, during the course of which she talks to academics and writers about bringing more calm, fun and meaning into your life. What matters, she realizes, is how you deal with your own freedom. When her partner suddenly dies, the life choices she made even help her through the grieving process. Daring to choose what your heart wants offers you protection.

Rights sold to Italy



ANNEMIEK LECLAIRE works as a journalist for NRC Handelsblad, Vrij Nederland and Flow. She wrote the series *Do Less, Live More*, which this book is based on, for Vrij Nederland. She lives in Amsterdam with her two children.

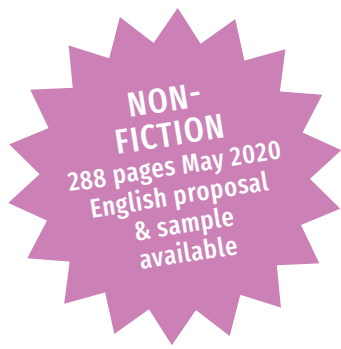
From *Do Less, Live More*:

‘We are human beings; we cannot be optimized.’

‘We experience a continual sense of lack. And that makes for a very restless life.’

‘If you’re so busy that you put off something that’s important to you often enough, this creates a feeling of emptiness that is filled with yet more meaningless activity.’

‘Our imperfections can help us learn how to focus, so that we don’t drown in all the possibilities.’



BART VERKUIL

THE HAPPY WORRIER

THE BENEFITS OF WORRYING, ESPECIALLY DURING CORONA TIMES



The alarm clock does not lie: it's 4:30 a.m. and you still haven't got a moment's shuteye. Where those thoughts come from, you don't know, but they're relentless. Rest assured, you're not alone: we have been worrying our way through life since the origin of our species. In *The Happy Worrier*, as entertaining as it is intelligent, researcher and psychologist Bart Verkuil explains worry's origins, its evolutionary benefits and how we twentieth-century beings can use it to our advantage. Because no matter what a trial a sleepless night can be, the occasional bout of worry appears to be rather useful for a person. Worry shows where your priorities lie and what aspects of life you value the most. *The Happy Worrier* is both a fascinating biography of the worrier and a practical guidebook all in one. After reading this book, your next sleepless night will be a lot less worrisome. Even during these difficult times.

Made the Dutch bestseller list



RUUD POS

BART VERKUIL is a clinician and associate professor of Clinical Psychology at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He began his scientific research into worry in 2002. Meanwhile, in his clinical practice he treats people suffering from excessive worrying.

Worrying isn't a problem, it's a strength!

From *The Happy Worrier*: 'The brain can be regarded as a prediction machine, constantly estimating the risks of our complex everyday life. At moments of uncertainty or in unfamiliar situations, it has been evolutionary adaptive to err on the side of caution, allowing us to engage in prolonged worry about threats and dangers.'

NON-
FICTION
256 pages
August 2020

JORIE HORSTHUIS

SAY HER NAME

IN SEARCH OF A SISTER WHO WAS NEVER THERE



Can you miss someone you never even knew? When Dutch journalist Jorie Horsthuis was about six years old, her mother told her that she had had a stillborn twin sister and made Jorie promise never to say her sister's name out loud. More than thirty years later, Jorie breaks the silence. Determined to find out more information about her twin sister, she contacts the hospital, the birth registry, and the crematorium. She interviews midwives, gynecologists, and scientists. But mainly she confronts her parents and brothers: why do they never talk about her sister? *Say Her Name* is a poignant book about taboos and their impact on a family. Horsthuis openheartedly describes her family's mourning and their inability to openly discuss their grief.



GERARD WESSEL

A touching, powerful book that deals with mourning, loss and finding the courage to talk about what was lost but should not be forgotten.

JORIE HORSTHUIS is a journalist and political scientist. She contributes to journals such as *de Volkskrant* and *De Correspondent*, and teaches at the University of Amsterdam.

NON-
FICTION
248 pages
May 2020

DANIELLE HERMANS & BARBARA SLAGMAN LIVING IN LIMBO

STORIES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER



Thanks to new medical treatments, at times experimental ones, people with life-threatening cancer can live months – sometimes years – longer than expected. This is good news. But there's a downside. With such an uncertain future, how do you pick up where you left off? What about your mental state? Has your self-image changed? Have you changed? Does your employer still appreciate you? How do you explain the situation to your children? Does your partner still understand you? And what about your friends?

In *Living in Limbo*, a wide range of people – young and old, male and female, with and without children – share their experience in dealing with their “new” life.



MIRANDE PHERNAMBUCQ

‘Breakthroughs in the field of cancer treatment mean that more and more people live longer with cancer. This raises psychological issues and demands a great deal of resilience within this group, who live in a constant state of uncertainty. We recognize an urgent need to share these experiences. This book can help lots of people, including professionals.’ – Marije van der Lee, Head of Scientific Research at the Helen Dowling Institute and health care psychologist

In addition to thrillers and a novel, **DANIELLE HERMANS** has written two non-fiction books. In 2014 she was diagnosed with cancer, which returned twice following operations and chemotherapy, but is now in remission. Neither she nor her oncologist has any idea if it will stay that way. The illness has turned her life upside-down.

BARBARA SLAGMAN is a communications advisor, text writer and editor. Since 1998 her writing includes human interest articles and life-experience stories.

NON-
FICTION
256 pages
September 2020

MARTINE VAN ZIJLL LANGHOUT

LIFE IN THE WILD

WHAT WILD ANIMALS TAUGHT ME



How does a city girl from a conservative Dutch background become a wildlife veterinarian in Africa – one who researches wild gorillas, shoots tranquilizer darts from a helicopter, captures lions at nighttime, frees elephants from traps, and combats poachers? Her dream seemed out of reach, but with perseverance and by following her instincts Martine succeeded in making a career as an all-round wildlife veterinarian in Africa. Living in the wilderness is easier said than done: the challenges are many, and she wonders whether she will ever feel at home. But by trusting herself, her team, and the animals, Martine learns to understand herself and the wilderness better, and finds a place for herself in the wild.



TESSA POSTHUMA DE BOER

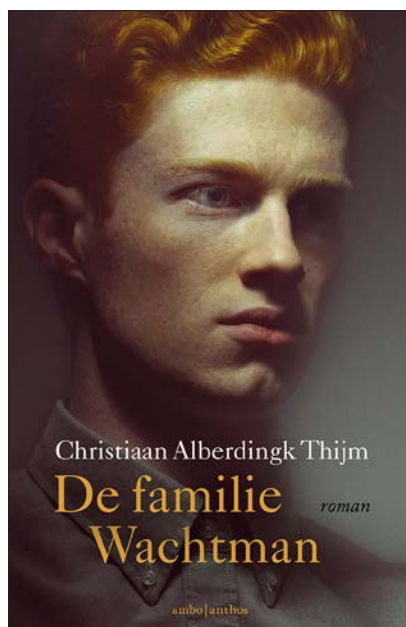
*'I have learned to live in harmony with nature and to trust wild animals, my intuition, and my own physical capabilities.' –
Martine van Zijll Langhout*

MARTINE VAN ZIJLL LANGHOUT is a wildlife and zoo veterinarian. Since 1992 she has worked as a wildlife vet worldwide and as an advocate for nature conservation. In addition to her current posts as veterinarian at Amsterdam's Artis Zoo and Stichting Aap, she teaches, researches, publishes articles, and gives lectures. Her aim is to inspire others to look differently at animals and at themselves.

FICTION
320 pages
October 2020

CHRISTIAAN ALBERDINGK THIJM

THE FAMILY WACHTMAN



Legal scholar Philip Wachtman's career is in the doldrums. His PhD on the anonymity of sperm donors has become redundant, and it seems unlikely he will be given university tenure. What a contrast with his girlfriend, the successful voiceover actress Freya de Koning. But for Freya, too, there is a gaping hole: she is 39 and still childless. The problem must be with Philip, she is convinced. But he knows better: Wachtman has an estimated 411 children, the result of excessive 'practical research' at his friend Dr. Dumortier's sperm bank. A court order may force Wachtman to reveal his secret. Pursued by his past, and by a student who claims to be his daughter, he must go in search of himself.



TESSA POSTHUMA DE BOER

CHRISTIAAN ALBERDINGK THIJM is a well-known attorney-at-law. His debut novel *Het proces van de eeuw* ("The case of the century") was enthusiastically received both by the press and within the legal profession.

About *The Case of the Century*:

'Uncommonly real-life characters. Debut of the year.' – *HP/De Tijd*

'Terrific book. Linguistically clever. Intelligent and sparkling. Strong debut.' – *De Morgen*

About *The Family Wachtman*:

A relevant and modern-day novel on identity, donorship and its ethical implications.

TWO EXTRAORDINARY NOVELS BY LITERARY TALENT FROM THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM

FICTION
192 pages
August 2020



AZIZA EL BARAKA THE MEANING OF LOVE

Time pauses for no one. On his deathbed, Riyan reveals a lifelong wish. He wants to marry Fatima, even though there is no time left and he hasn't seen her in sixty years. He hopes his wife and children will forgive him for his final choice.

The Meaning of Love is a rich and touching tale about how the heart rules, about painful endings, about lovelessness and the power of love – in every moment, word, and deed.

Aziza el Baraka holds a master's degree in political science and English. Her literary debut, the collection of short stories *De zorgstroom*, was nominated for the Selexyz Debut Prize.

FICTION
224 pages
September
2020



GERRIT JANSSENS LEN,

Just before a crucial Bundesliga football match, Jon receives a postcard from his elder brother Len. Until that moment, Jon had never shared his feelings about growing up with his complicated brother. At the apex of Jon's professional sporting career, the brothers' all-or-nothing game resumes. With just as much gusto as in sports, where no one is indifferent. *Len,* is a stand-off between siblings, ending in a merciless counter in overtime. A novel that strikes at the heart, regardless of whether you like the game.

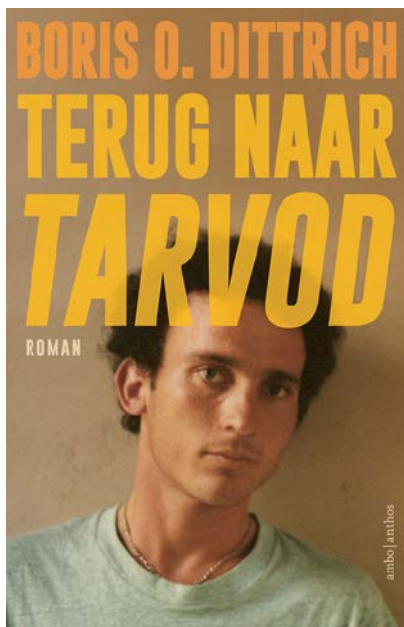
Gerrit Janssens lives in Antwerp, Belgium and loves soccer. His debut novel *Twaalf* ('Twelve') was nominated for the Bronze Owl and was praised in *Het Parool* for its refined and sensitive style.

FICTION
320 pages
May 2020

BORIS O. DITTRICH

RETURN TO TARVOD

A TOUCHING NOVEL ABOUT A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY'S BUDDING LOVE



Sophie works at the Central Government Real Estate Agency. Her department's job is to track down heirs of a person who has died alone and without leaving a will. Her probes lead her to Roman Ronnes, a former judge who died a few years earlier under less than clear-cut circumstances. She finds Roman's memoirs from his stay as a volunteer at kibbutz Tarvod in 1977, and these memoirs tell the story of an intense love affair between two young men, Roman and Noah, one a Dutch volunteer, one a young member of the kibbutz who is married and has a baby. Sophie is determined to find out if Roman has any heirs, to get to the bottom of the love affair in the kibbutz, and to learn how he met his end forty years later. In the last part we return to present-day Israel, where a surprising discovery regarding Roman's death is revealed.

Return to Tarvod is a compelling coming-of-age love story about the fickleness of budding love. Dittrich draws a tender picture of life in a kibbutz in 1970s Israel.



Compelling novel about yearning, hope, and lost happiness that unexpectedly resurfaces many years later, for readers of *Call Me By Your Name*.

Return to Tarvod is a novel dealing with the complexity of human dynamics. The story is convincing and feels very authentic. The work of an accomplished author.' – *De Telegraaf*

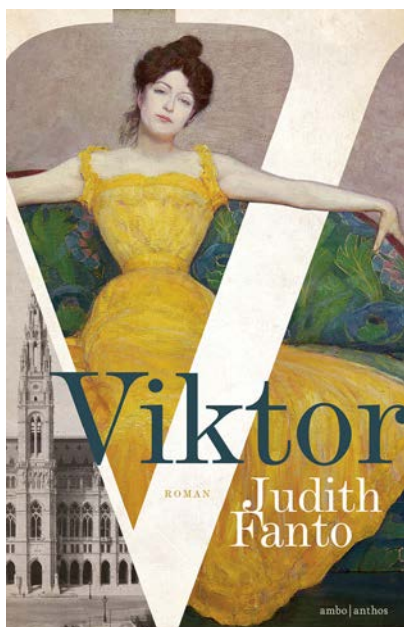
BORIS O. DITTRICH worked as an attorney and judge, and for many years was a member of the Dutch parliament as leader of his party's delegation. For twelve years he served as one of Human Rights Watch's advocacy directors. In 2019 he became a senator in Parliament's upper house. He has published four enthusiastically-received thrillers, including *W.O.L.F.*, chosen 'best Dutch-language thriller of 2016' by the *VN Detective & Thriller Guide*.

FICTION
360 pages
Spring 2020
English sample
available

JUDITH FANTO

VIKTOR

A CAPTIVATING STORY ABOUT THE MEANING
OF FAMILY TIES



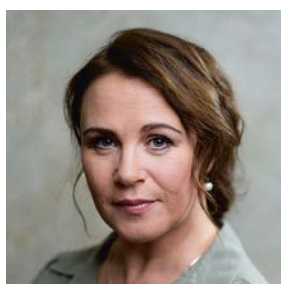
Vienna, 1914. Viktor, a member of a well-to-do Jewish-Viennese family, is a good-for-nothing bon vivant and a womanizer who – a great sorrow to the intellectual Rosenbaums – doesn't finish any of his many studies. The 1938 Anschluss turns out to be a personal turning point: by showing courage, ingenuity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

Nijmegen, the Netherlands, 1994. The Rosenbaums are having problems with Geertje, the youngest member of the family, who rebels against the fear and shame with which the Rosenbaums regard their Jewish identity.

When will her family finally come 'out of hiding'? And why doesn't anybody ever want to talk about Viktor, her grandfather's brother? Geertje decides to investigate and comes across an extraordinary family secret.

Rights sold to Germany

20.000 copies sold



MERLIJN DOOMERNIK

JUDITH FANTO, who worked as a lawyer for many years, was born in Delft as Geertruide van den Heuvel and has taken her name from her Jewish grandmother Trude. At twenty she changed her first name to Judith. Fanto, the real surname of the Rosenbaums in her novel, is her literary pseudonym. *Viktor* is based on the story of Judith Fanto's Viennese-Jewish family. Viktor, to whom the book is dedicated, truly existed.

Viktor is a dazzling novel exploring the impact of stifling family trauma on shaping your own identity. Lovingly and with quirky wit, Fanto writes about the influence of someone's name on their destiny, and the subjective significance of truth and lie. In a courageous and authentic manner she dares to ask sensitive questions.

**'Staggering and enriching novel by a talented new writer.' –
*Friesch Dagblad***

FICTION
288 pages
January 2020
English sample
available

HERMAN KOCH

FINNISH DAYS

NEW NOVEL BY HERMAN KOCH, INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE DINNER*



At events or dinner parties, people often ask Herman Koch about his 'Finnish period' – with a note of pity. He tries to laugh it off, mostly due to the implausibility of his experiences. A tall, awkward nineteen-year-old boy choosing to leave home and find work in an extremely remote part of Finland. It may sound romantic, but reality was quite different. His mother had passed away shortly before and Herman went to Finland to get away from his father and his father's new girlfriend, and to put off something he had known for a long time.

Forty years later Koch is back in Finland, where he stumbles upon a poetry book that explicitly refers to his earlier stay. He can no longer pass this period off with a laugh. He puts his own past under the microscope, examines how memories work and how to relay this story without misrepresenting the facts.

Rights sold to Finland, Germany and France



MAARTEN KOOLS

HERMAN KOCH is an internationally bestselling author. In 2009 he wrote *The Dinner*, which was translated into 42 languages and acquired world fame. During subsequent years, bestsellers such as *Summer House with Swimming Pool* (2011), *Dear Mr M.* (2014) and *The Ditch* (2016) were published. In *Finnish Days* Koch returns to his youth, which also inspired his debut novel *Save Us, Maria Montanelli* (1989).

Finnish Days is a probing novel about grief, coming of age, and about what we should put into words and what's better left unsaid.

'Koch commands his metier with an effortless superiority.'
– *de Volkskrant*

This could very well be Koch's best novel' – *Het Parool*

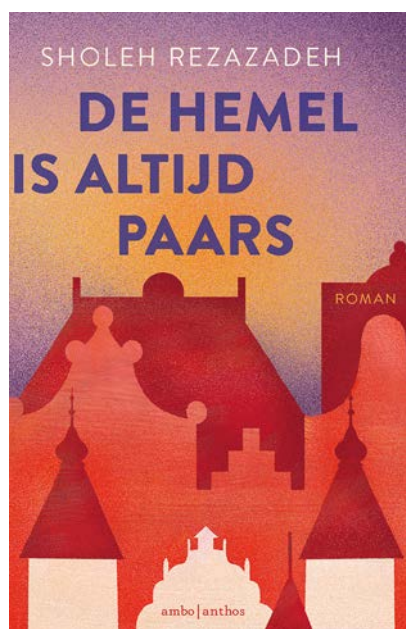
'Chilling scenes' – *NRC Handelsblad*

FICTION
208 pages
November 2020

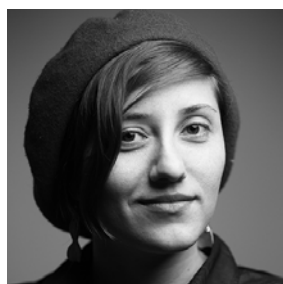
SHOLEH REZAZADEH

THE SKY IS ALWAYS PURPLE

A POETIC DEBUT NOVEL BY A MAJOR NEW
LITERARY TALENT



Arghavan is a young Iranian woman. A newcomer to the Netherlands, she struggles to build a new life but is plagued by memories of her youth in Iran. A youth that began as an idyll but took a turn for the worse when her mother suddenly abandoned the family and her father, her anchor, became addicted to opium. She made a radical decision: to leave the mountain landscape of Iran for good, and emigrate to the flattest place on earth: the Netherlands. Arghavan works in an Amsterdam thrift store, where she strikes up a friendship with a few of the customers. The country amazes her, this place where everyone is in a hurry and where really connecting with one another seems an impossibility. Then she falls in love with Mees, a young musician, and her world is turned upside down.



NOORTJE DALHUIJSEN

SHOLEH REZAZADEH is a poet and author. She came to the Netherlands in 2015. In November 2019 she won the El Hizjra Literature Prize for poetry. *The Sky is Always Purple* is her debut novel.

“A new voice. Rezazadeh writes beautifully. And very strong.” –
Kader Abdolah, writer of The House of the Mosque

The Sky is Always Purple is a sensual novel about love and yearning, about memories, and about whether you can ever really know another person.

THRILLER
288 pages
June 2020

MAX VAN OLDEN

THE BLACK DOSSIER

LEGAL THRILLER PRAISED BY THE PRESS



After Riemke's relationship falls apart, she is left in debt and with sole responsibility for her son Nils. A job at an Amsterdam law firm offers her the chance to reboot her career, but the mistakes pile up and she faces dismissal. Her only chance to redeem herself is to make a success of 'the black dossier'. It is an uphill battle, with the pressure of deadlines and threats from an underworld heavyweight who is attempting to pull strings from prison. Riemke and Nils have to go into hiding, leaving her colleagues to explain her disappearance to the media. What began as a normal workday ends as a life-or-death struggle.

Movie rights available



RUUD POS

MAX VAN OLDEN is an attorney-at-law. His debut *Lieve edelachtbare* ('Dear Your Honor') won the Schaduwprijs 2016 and was nominated for the Hebban Thriller Debut Prize.

"Max van Olden's third legal thriller *The Black Dossier* proves he belongs to the Dutch top echelon." – *Het Parool*

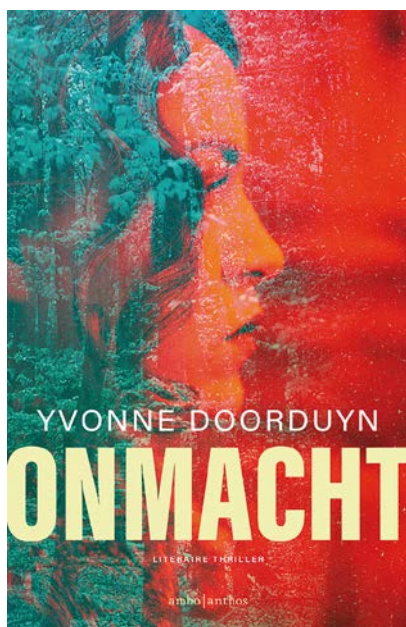
"Another slam-dunk!" – *De Telegraaf*

"A pageturner with an excellent plot. Dutch top thriller." – *Thrillzone*

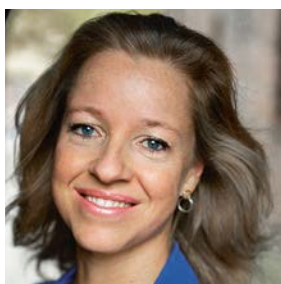
THRILLER
288 pages
May 2020

YVONNE DOORDUYN POWERLESS

AN INGENIOUS PLOT SET IN THE WORLD OF
POLITICS AND MEDIA



Sarah Bovens is a speechwriter for a Dutch cabinet minister. Since losing her young son in an accident three years earlier she has been looking for ways to give her life new meaning. So she grabs the chance when her employer offers her the opportunity to attend a three-day course at a renowned institute for rhetoric and oratory. In the woods, far from the hubbub of the city, the institute trains the Dutch political elite. The owner, however, is hiding a dark secret. A secret into which he draws the influential guests, and which no one in The Hague's politics dares mention. When Sarah learns the truth and refuses to keep silent, everything and everyone turns against her. And when her best friend is murdered and she is jailed as a suspect, her fate appears sealed.



RUUD POS

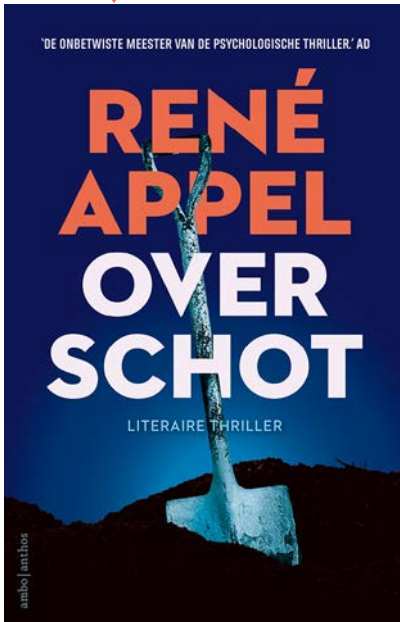
For aficionados of the Danish hit TV series *Borgen*:
a fast-paced thriller by a walloping new talent.

‘Refreshingly modern’ – *De Volkskrant*

‘The Dutch *Borgen* or *House of Cards*. A true pageturner’
– *Algemeen Dagblad*

YVONNE DOORDUYN is a speechwriter at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. Before that she was a spokesperson for the Minister and a journalist at *de Volkskrant*, where she reported on The Hague's politics. *Powerless*, her debut, is not only an ingenious thriller, but also gives the reader a realistic peek behind the scenes of Dutch politics.

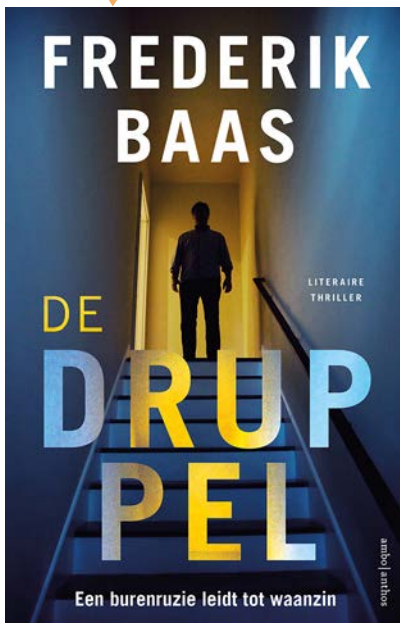
MASTERS OF THE GENRE: TWO NEW THRILLERS



RENÉ APPEL REMAINS

Arend Meulenhoeck receives a threatening phone call claiming that his stepson Ferry owes the caller thousands of euros. Arend confronts Ferry, who nonchalantly dismisses the matter. The dilemma of the shadowy, criminal extortionist and the delinquent Ferry push Arend and his wife Maud to the brink. To make matters worse, Arend is involved in a serious traffic accident, where the victim is a teenage girl. His work as an estate agent is under the gun, Ferry sinks deeper into trouble, the girl's boyfriend puts pressure on him, and the underworld tightens the screws. How are Arend and Maud to save their skin?

Two-time Golden Noose winner and proven talent René Appel has been one of the Netherlands' top thriller authors for the past thirty-plus years.



FREDERIK BAAS THE DROP

There is a form of torture in which water is made to drip onto a victim's forehead every few seconds in order to drive him insane. He hopes it will stop, but it keeps on dripping. Then he begins to look forward to the drops and misses them when they are suddenly withheld. The effect is maddening.

Tom left his wife because he could no longer stand her junk, and then wrote a bestseller about tidiness, calm, and regularity. He lives in a small apartment and follows a rigid routine. But when his upstairs neighbor stalks him and disturbs his rhythm – the effect is like that of water torture – Tom snaps. He pushes the neighbor down the stairs. He must get rid of the body. Tidy up. Get his life back.

Frederik Baas (pseudonym of the author Jan van Mersbergen) once again pushes the limits of the thriller genre with *The Drop*.

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