



FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2021

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NON-
FICTION
February 2021
256 pages
English proposal
available

ROEL COUTINHO

VAXX

WHAT WE ALL SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
VACCINES AND WHY WE NEED THEM



In *Vaxx* Roel Coutinho describes the historical and medical stories of the infectious diseases against which we can arm ourselves by means of vaccinations. In a world shaken to its foundations by Covid-19, Coutinho describes how vaccines were developed in the past and looks at the contribution they make to our health.

Polio, smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, rubella or hepatitis B – there is no need to go far back in time to gain an impression of how disruptive infectious diseases were worldwide in the past. Although many antivaxxers think otherwise, the preventive effects of vaccination programmes have liberated us from serious childhood diseases and older people are increasingly well protected too. New pandemics and epidemics – of Covid-19, AIDS, SARS or Ebola – have shown time and again, however, that it is naive to think we have conquered infectious diseases for good.

Made the Dutch bestseller list



ROGER CREMERS-LUMEN

ROEL COUTINHO trained as a doctor, microbiologist and epidemiologist. He was director of the Amsterdam Municipal Health Service (GGD), professor of epidemiology and the combatting of communicable diseases at the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht, and director of the Centre for Infectious Disease Control at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). His previous books include *The Plagued Human* and *Epidemics and Pandemics*.

‘Roel Coutinho, as the previous director of the Centre for Infectious Disease Control at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), knows like no other how vaccines have influenced our daily lives. Our society would look very different if we did not get standard vaccinations against many diseases. Coutinho has written about all these vaccines and their history in his wonderful book *VAXX*’ – *Talkshow OP1*

‘Each chapter highlights a disease or illness, with interesting factual but also juicy information and amazing background history on its vaccine development.’ – *Medisch Contact*

NON-
FICTION
224 pages
April 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.



FRANK RUITER-LUMEN

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
January 2021
256 pp.

GIJS VAN DER SANDEN

THE THINGS YOU FORGET

GRIEVING FOR BEGINNERS



Just a thirty-something crisis, thinks journalist Gijs van der Sanden when he finds himself on his therapist's couch with mild depression. But his symptoms soon prove a good deal more complex. 'Deferred grief' becomes an element of his treatment plan.

In *The Things You Forget* he investigates what it means to grieve, having lost both his parents unexpectedly when he was in his early twenties. Drawing upon memories, reflections and self-examination he attempts to find answers to the questions, big and small, that surround grieving and loss.

Who are you when both your parents are no more? Why is he so averse to the word 'orphan'? Why is it so difficult to share your bereavement with another person? Is grief ever over and done? As he writes he gets closer and closer to the essence of his loss.



MERLIJN DOOMERNIK

GIJS VAN DER SANDEN studied Dutch at the University of Amsterdam. He writes about his generation, about identity and about travel for publications including *Vrij Nederland*, *Het Parool* and the *AD*. *The Things You Forget* is his first book.

'Van der Sanden's writing is both journalistic and literary, accessible and stylized. The book reads like a novel.' – Barbara van Beukering, author

'We think in opposites: you're either sorrowful or contented. But life isn't as black and white as that. You can grieve terribly for your parents and be helpless with laughter an hour later; you can be happy and unhappy at the same time. That's how complex grieving is.' – Gijs van der Sanden in *Het Parool*

NON-
FICTION
October 2020
224 pp.

MARJAN SLOB

THE EMPTY SKY

A SHORT PHILOSOPHY OF LONELINESS



The word 'loneliness' is doing the rounds. Worried policymakers are taking steps to 'combat' loneliness among isolated elderly people and gaming youth. The concept itself, however, is little researched. In her new book, Marjan Slob presents 'loneliness' as the unpleasant feeling you get when experiencing an absence of interconnectedness. But loneliness is also a power. When you're lonely you suffer from what isn't there, which shows that you are capable of self-reflection and imagination. Slob makes this idea easy to grasp with the help of ideas from major thinkers including Blaise Pascal, Daniel Dennett and Simone de Beauvoir, but also from novels, films and pop songs. She playfully explores loneliness through phenomena like stage fright, masks, selfies, space travel, and primping and preening in the ladies toilets – with David Bowie as a guide who knows how you can play with your inescapable sense of being lost.

Highlighted by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Shortlisted for Socrates Challenge Cup 2020



MARJAN SLOB is an essayist and philosopher. Her earlier books include *Guilty Fantasies*, *The Other and I* and *Brain Creature*, which won her the Socrates Challenge Cup in 2017. She publishes a column every two weeks in *de Volkskrant*. *The Empty Sky* has been shortlisted for the 2020 Socrates Challenge Cup.

'The Empty Sky is an extremely rich book that makes you reflect upon your own situation, your own identity, your own happiness and unhappiness, your own loneliness. It does not give you ready-made answers, but makes you think deeply about yourself and the people around you. Comforting' – Trouw

'Beautifully written' – NRC

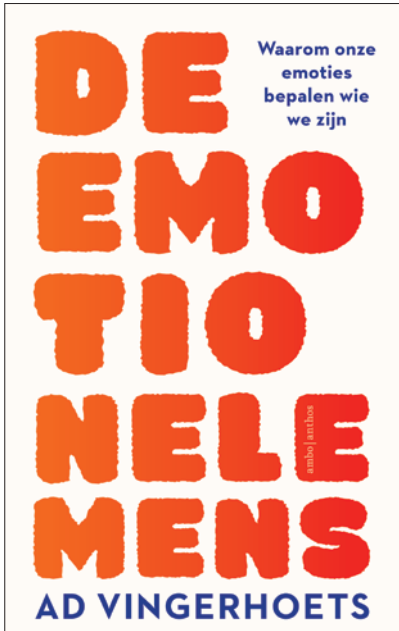
'In The Empty Sky philosopher Marjan Slob delves into loneliness, a growing problem in our societies that does not seem to be age-related. Loneliness has other forms besides just that lost feeling that results from a lack of connectedness.' – Margriet

'A scintillating and quirky book about loneliness, surprisingly multidimensional in scope. Supplely and attractively written.' – Jury report for the shortlist Best Spiritual Book of 2021

NON-
FICTION
April 2021
256 pp.

AD VINGERHOETS

THE EMOTIONAL HUMAN



Blushing with embarrassment, screaming with anger, weeping with sorrow, laughing with joy, stiffening with fear – these are all expressions of the emotional software with which evolution has equipped us. For a good reason, too, as emotion expert Ad Vingerhoets explains in this fascinating search for the essence of our emotional life. Emotions are more than just feelings.

Armed with the latest scientific insights, in *The Emotional Human*, the author explores what lies at the heart of human emotions like fear, happiness, sorrow, pride, shame, envy, regret, nostalgia, and disgust and shows how these emotions remain crucial to us. We cannot function socially and morally adequately without them.

Vingerhoets, therefore, advocates a re-evaluation of human emotions. We are social creatures by nature, and if we are to hold our own in society, we need to understand our emotions – and those of others – and deploy them in the right way.



FRANK RUITER

'The Emotional Human is a fascinating book that astonishes readers again and again by demonstrating the importance of our emotional faculties for our social and moral functioning.'

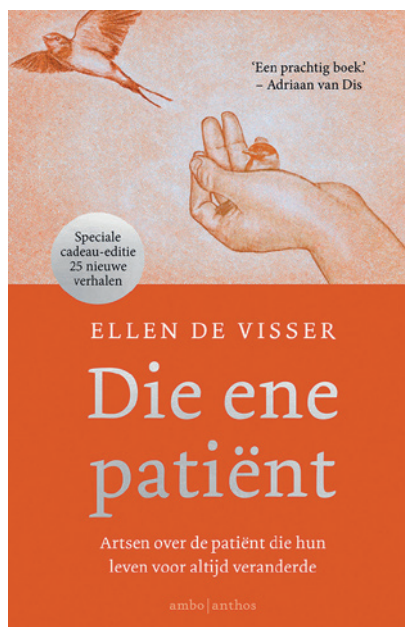
AD VINGERHOETS is an emeritus professor of emotions and wellbeing, affiliated with Tilburg University. The social function of tears is his specialist subject, and he has become known as the world's only professor of crying. His work has been published in authoritative scientific journals. Vingerhoets is much in demand as a speaker and performer.

NON-
FICTION

312 pages
65.000 copies sold
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, Egypt and Japan

Over 65.000 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)

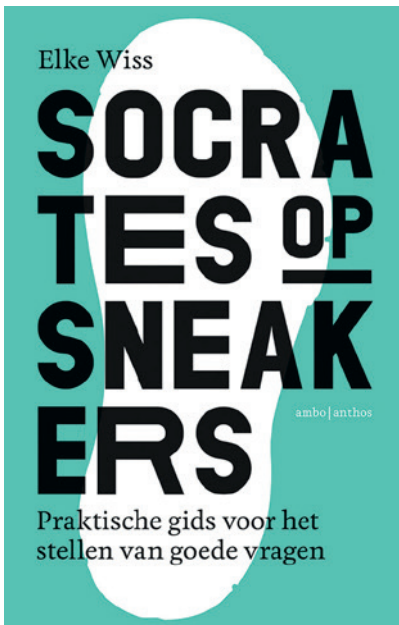
'A beautiful book.' – Adriaan van Dis, writer



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 40.000 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*

In May 2021 Elke Wiss' second work will be published: *And They Philosophized Happily Ever After. Stories to challenge your thinking.*

In her new book Elke Wiss will present short philosophical stories that show how we can have better conversations with each other.





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.



RUUD POS

‘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

‘*Life in the Wild* is a driven and loving testimonial of a woman with a big heart for the beautiful, fragile wildlife in Africa’ – Leesclub van Alles

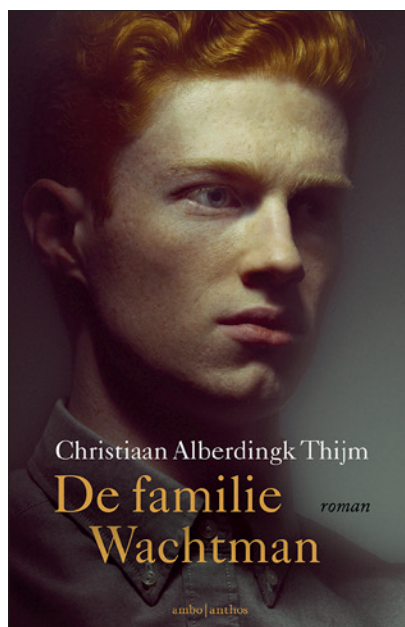
MARTINE VAN ZIJLL LANGHOUT is a wildlife and zoo veterinarian. Since 1992 she has worked as a wildlife vet worldwide and as an advocate for nature conservation. In addition to her current posts as veterinarian at Amsterdam’s Artis Zoo and Stichting Aap, she teaches, researches, publishes articles, and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

FICTION
320 pages
January 2021

CHRISTIAAN ALBERDINGK THIJM

THE FAMILY WACHTMAN

A TIMELY NOVEL ABOUT IDENTITY AND PRIVACY



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.



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.

'Alberdingk Thijm's writing style has the critical and contemplative character of work by Herman Koch. In the last thrilling part of the novel everything falls into place' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'The well-constructed plot keeps you guessing about Wachtman's next steps. The heroism of an antihero, who you are rooting for until the surprising ending' – *Het Parool*

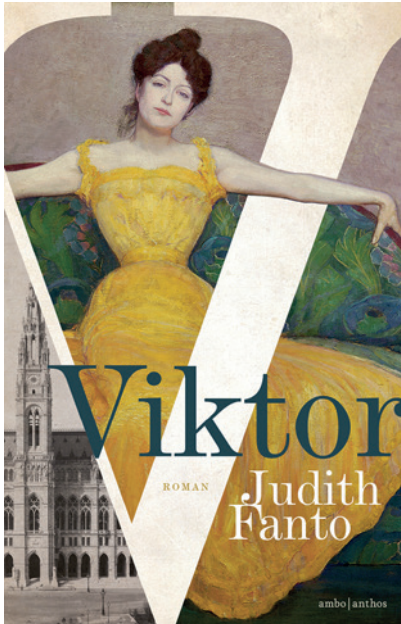
'What an experience; fine language, extraordinary subject, beautifully written.' – *De Telegraaf*



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 and Russia

Over 30.000 copies sold

Winner of the Hebban Best Debut Prize 2020



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*

'Fanto commands her language down to its finest details and has a smooth narrative style that makes her writing seem effortless. She has produced a novel about the Second World War unlike any other. She shows how the experiences of decades ago still affect a family to this day.' – from the Hebban Debut Prize jury report 2020

FICTION
May 2021
304 pp.
English sample
available

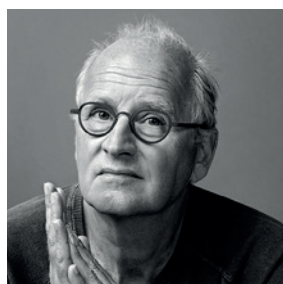
HERMAN KOCH STARRING SOPHIA

NEW NOVEL WITH FRESH THEMES AND
KOCH'S VINTAGE STYLE AND DARK HUMOR,
REMINISCENT OF HIS FIRST NOVELS



'Do you perhaps know where Sophia is? She didn't come home last night and I haven't got her boyfriend's number. Give me a call.' So runs the message received by film director Stanley Forbes on New Year's Eve from Karl Hermans, a celebrated writer.

Stanley has cast Karl's stunningly beautiful seventeen-year-old daughter in his latest film, which is intended to be his great comeback in the Netherlands after his American venture. He eagerly sets himself up as a father figure to Sophia. But during shooting of his ensemble film, with a main role for star actor Michael Bender alongside Sophia, Stanley's motives become increasingly unclear. What does he really want, for this film, for this girl and for himself? He knows precisely where Sophia is, but decides not to answer immediately.



MAARTEN KOOLS

HERMAN KOCH is an internationally bestselling author. In 2009 he wrote *The Dinner*, which was translated into 42 languages and brought him worldwide fame. Subsequent years saw the publication of bestsellers including *Summer House with Swimming Pool* (2011), *Dear Mr M.* (2014) and *The Ditch* (2016). In *Finnish Days* (2020) Koch returned to his youth, which also inspired his debut novel *Save Us, Maria Montanelli* (1989). *Starring Sophia*, his most recent book, will be published in May 2021.

Koch keeps the perpetrator's identity a secret and swings the pendulum of guilt from one character to the next.' – *Chicago Tribune*

'Herman Koch's art consists mainly of giving the reader the shivers by creating characters whose cruelty is hidden behind thin facades of decency and manners, waiting to be discovered by those who fail to play along with the game of polite, arms-length relationships.' – *Der Spiegel*

FICTION
February 2021
272 pp.

RASHID NOVAIRE

ON THE EVE



When in the late 1930s Hitler calls on all German housemaids to return to Germany, young Trude Kuña, who lives in the Netherlands, is faced with a difficult choice. She will either have to marry her fiancé Johannes within a year, or abandon him and return home, where her family is active in the party and has achieved a great deal. Johannes refuses to hear a word about her family, and Trude doesn't at all like the fact that after closing time he meets young women in his shop who ask for his help. Matters gather momentum after a visit from Trude's brother Rudi, who has been serving with the Foreign Legion in Morocco. Trude learns more about her brother than she wants to know, and Germany comes closer. When Rudi discovers that Johannes is leading a double life, he takes a decision that has far-reaching consequences for them all.



'On the Eve is a poetic novel about people faced with impossible choices and is partly based on the author's family history.'

'Rashid Novaire writes beautiful, poetic, sometimes melancholy sentences.' – Nederlands Dagblad

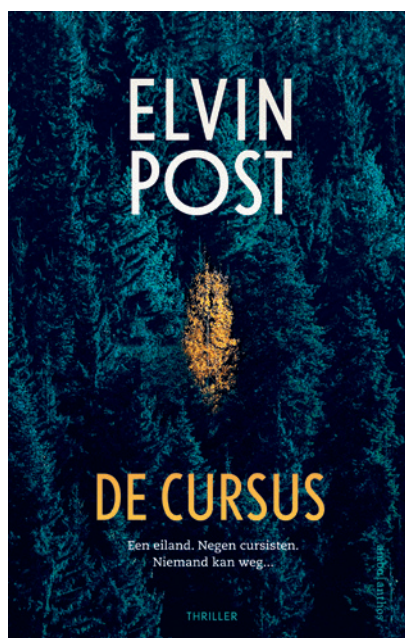
RASHID NOVAIRE has several novels to his name and has twice been nominated for the Libris Literature Prize. He has also made podcasts and written for the theatre, in Germany among other places.

THRILLER
January 2021
360 pp.

ELVIN POST

THE COURSE

NEW EXHILARATING THRILLER BY ONE OF THE
BEST WRITERS IN THE GENRE



Carol Arrington has a dream: to become a writer. As the result of a combination of circumstances and procrastination, nothing has come of it. Then a friend draws her attention to Kill Your Darlings, an annual writing course on Big Rock Island given by bestselling author Victor Aster. Carol decides to go. But when two participants die on the island in quick succession and communication with the mainland proves impossible, she quickly starts to understand that her aim of getting a book off the ground might be turning into a fight for her life.

Movie rights available



In 2004 **ELVIN POST** became the youngest ever writer to win the Golden Goose with *Green Friday*. His second thriller, *False Picture*, was nominated for the same award. With *Room Service* he won the Diamond Bullet, the most important Flemish thriller prize. His work has been published in German, Spanish, Turkish, Hebrew and Indonesian.

The Course is an excellent whodunnit. To the very last moment you cheer on those of the course participants who are still left, joining in their search for the murderer. Elvin Post demonstrates why he has already won so many prizes and ranks among the top writers of the Dutch thriller genre.' – *Thrillzone*

'The critics regard Post as one of the best thriller writers in the Netherlands, perhaps the very best.' – *Trouw*

On previous work:

'*Green Friday* works like a Swiss watch. All the pieces come together to create a fully involving and addictive story. Elvin Post knows his stuff and it all shows here. I didn't want this story to end and when it did, I wanted more.' – Michael Connelly

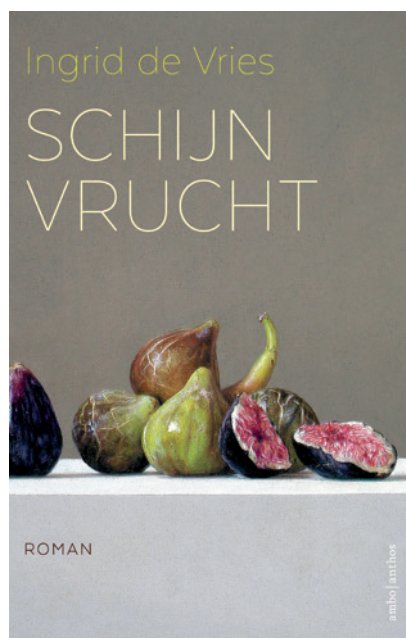
'*False picture* is one of the most compelling European crime novels I've read in the past few years.' – Jens Lapidus

FICTION
April 2021
288 pp.

INGRID DE VRIES

FALSE FRUIT

A MULTI-LAYERED STORY ABOUT THE
SUBJECTIVITY OF TRUTH AND THE VOLATILITY
OF HAPPINESS



One summer's afternoon in 1940, when she is thirteen years old, a girl meets the man who will determine the course of her life. He is an artist, twenty years older and married. When her father discovers they are seeing each other, she is grounded. But nothing can stop her. At night she creeps out of the house and goes to his studio, a forty-five-minute walk through a blacked-out city. Those nocturnal meetings – against a background of physical danger and fear of discovery – awaken in her great expectations of permanent, intimate togetherness. When they marry after the war, the reality is different. Vague hints grow in her head until they become a devastating certainty. She suppresses them and talks to no one about them.



JOOST PLOMP

'Good writers tell stories that stay with you. *False Fruit* is one of them, a tale of love that is forbidden yet grows nonetheless. Intriguing, moving and very beautiful.'

INGRID DE VRIES is a journalist, editor and author. As a researcher and scriptwriter, she has worked on several television programmes. *False Fruit* is based on her mother's life.

FICTION
208 pages
March 2021

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.



AFRA ASIABI

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.

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THE DINNER HERMAN KOCH

WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER

