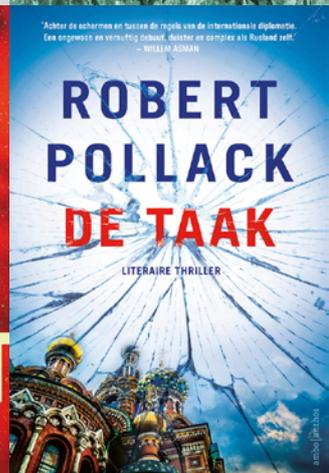
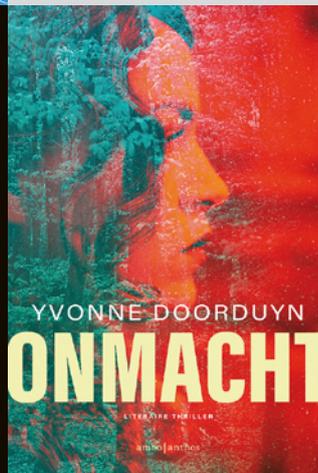
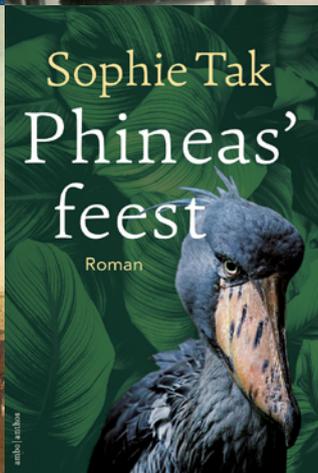
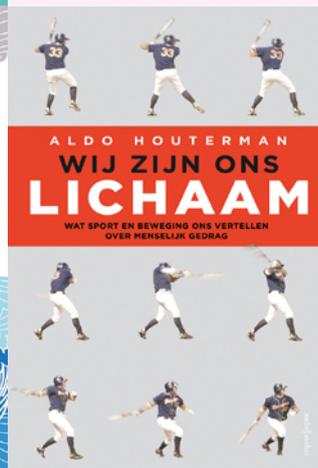
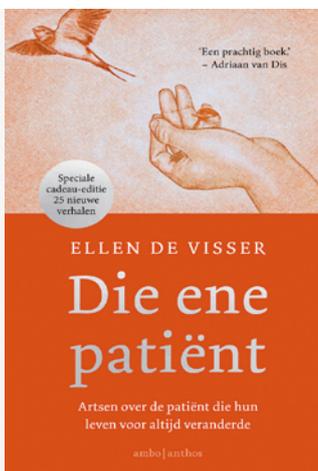


FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2020



ambo|anthos uitgevers





JAN GEURTZ

POINTING AT THE MOON

THE QUEST FOR ENLIGHTENMENT IN DAILY LIFE



In his previous books, including the bestseller *Addicted to Love*, Jan Geurtz offered a clear-headed account of his spiritual vision of ourselves and of reality. In this new book he takes this one step further. *Pointing at the Moon* is a collection of fascinating, sometimes moving stories—some autobiographical—that demonstrate how a regular person can kindle and develop spirituality in him- or herself. Geurtz shows that through love and suffering we can more consciously work towards the ultimate grasp of reality.



JAN GEURTZ studied orthopedagogy, didactics and philosophy of science. His books include *Quit Smoking in One Day*, *Addicted to Thinking*, *On Love* and *Letting Go* and *Addicted to Love* (more than 100,000 copies sold). Geurtz is inspired by Buddhism.

More than 100,000 copies of *Addicted to Love* sold.

‘An authentic narrative of spiritual growth through suffering.’
– *Trouw*

NON-
FICTION
240 pages
April 2020

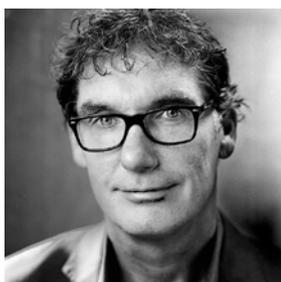
BRAM DE GRAAF

WITNESSES OF THE LIBERATION



Ten unique, personal stories and newly-discovered sources tell the story of the Dutch liberation: from September 1944 to May 1945.

The Netherlands was awaiting Liberation at the beginning of September 1944: the Allied forces had reached the border and the German army appeared to have collapsed. By now, more than 100,000 Jewish compatriots have been deported, hundreds of civilians killed by 'friendly fire' during Allied bombings, and thousands of resistance fighters arrested, many of them executed. Is the terror finally coming to an end? No. The Netherlands must endure another eight long, fearful months of hunger, struggle and hardship. A secret agent imprisoned in Camp Vught is sent off to a German concentration camp; a teenager witnesses the bloody Battle of Arnhem; a boy escapes three bombardments by the skin of his teeth during the Battle of the Schelde; and a girl from Texel sees her island transformed into a battlefield—with the end of the war in sight.



GERARD WESSEL

BRAM DE GRAAF is a historian and journalist. Previous books include *Het verraad van Benschop* (*The Betrayal of Benschop*) and *Spion van Oranje* (*Spy of Orange*). He is a researcher for the documentary series *In de voetsporen van D-Day* and *In de voetsporen van de bevrijding* (*In the Footsteps of D-Day* and *In the Footsteps of the Liberation*).

On Het verraad van Benschop:

'De Graaf traced witnesses and descendants, sifted through archives, and arrives at a conclusive reconstruction of the betrayal.'

– *Het Parool*

On Spion van Oranje:

'Stories like these can't be told often enough.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

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, **DANIËLLE 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.

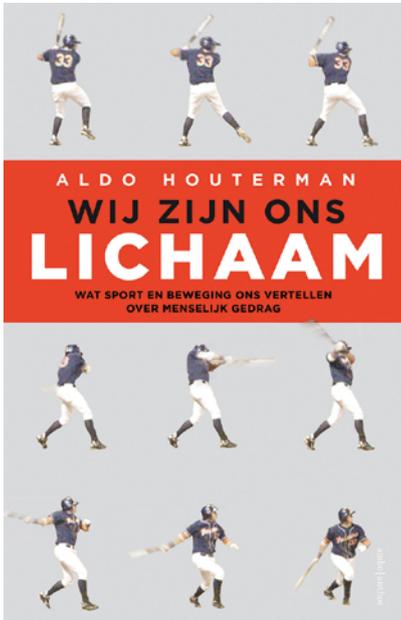
BARBARA SLAGMAN is a communications advisor, text writer and editor. Since 1998 her writing includes human interest articles and life-experience stories.

NON-
FICTION
256 pages
October 2019
English sample
available

ALDO HOUTERMAN

WE ARE OUR BODIES

WHAT SPORTS AND EXERCISE CAN TELL US
ABOUT HUMAN BEHAVIOUR



We attach more importance to our bodies than ever. We've never exercised as much as we do today and we watch what we eat closely. And yet at the same time, our bodies are less and less useful: robotization and artificial intelligence are making us redundant in the workplace. In *We Are Our Bodies* philosopher Aldo Houterman places the significance of our body in the current age. He counters the thesis of neurobiologist Dick Swaab (author of *We Are Our Brains*) that human beings are no more than their brain. Houterman demonstrates that the relationship between us humans and the world around us does not consist of our thoughts, but of our movements and corporality. It is the body that forms the basis of intelligent human behaviour. Using well-known examples from sports, as well as psychology, philosophy, literature and art, Houterman shows that the body is capable of reacting to a situation without the involvement of conscious thought.



RUUD POS

ALDO HOUTERMAN studied Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence. He teaches Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht.

We Are Our Bodies helps us to become aware of the capabilities of our bodies, and to understand and use them better.

From *We Are Our Bodies*: 'Running, cycling, rowing and playing football confronts people with their body, their desires and their ambitions. Sport gives one a special kind of self-awareness. Those who take the sporting experience seriously understand that awareness is not in your brain, but in your body.'



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



RUUD POS

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 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.



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.

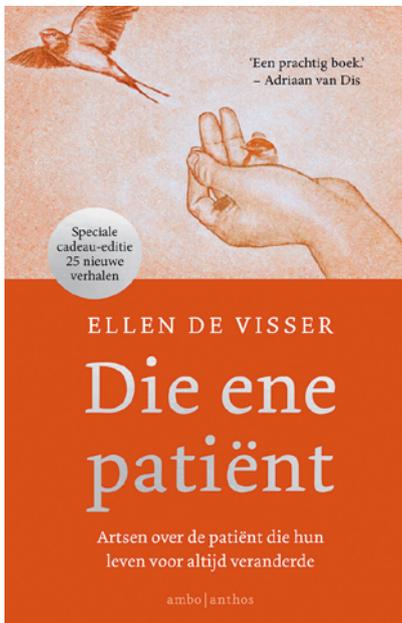
Worrying isn't a problem, it's a strength!

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
312 pages
February 2019
English sample
available

ELLEN DE VISSER

THAT ONE PATIENT



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 and Korea



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 Garmons-Williams (4th Estate)

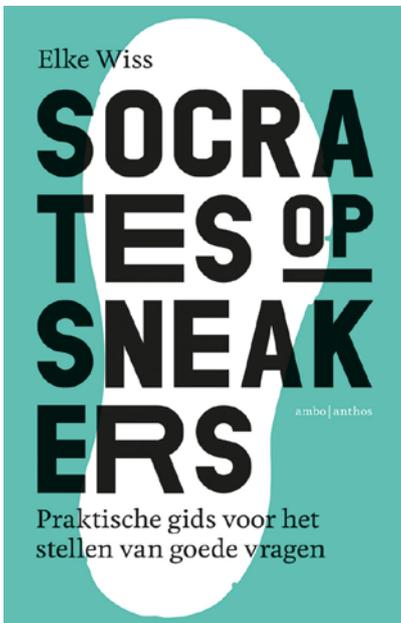
'A beautiful book.' – Adriaan van Dis, writer



ELKE WISS

SOCRATES IN SNEAKERS

A 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.



RUUD POS

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

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.



MOHAMMED BENZAKOUR

FADIL'S EYES

A UNIQUE, EVOCATIVE AND SENSUAL
COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES



A diabolically handsome youngster works magic with his eyes. Two white nuns harbour a shocking secret. A culinary-wunderkind-turned-royal-cook snookers the king. A young child is given lessons in love from an old spinster, Zoubida, the daughter of Humphrey Bogart. Talking donkeys, laughing spirits, flying dogs, smoking snakes and praying bees populate Mohammed Benzakour's short stories; all of the characters seem to have a hidden secret that suddenly comes to light. *Fadil's Eyes* smoulders, scrapes and luxuriates; his characters chitchat and gossip, struggle and love.



ROELOF POT

Yemma:

'His observations and sentiments are at once social and universal, yet personal and intimate. His account is a literary achievement of the highest order.' – jury report *E. du Perron Prize*

De koning komt:

'Benzakour compels admiration with his masterful and evocative use of language' – *Nieuw Wij*

MOHAMMED BENZAKOUR is an author, fisherman, journalist and beekeeper. His books include *Yemma* (2013, winner of the E. du Perron Prize) and the novel *De koning komt* (2015, winner of the ANV Debutant Prize). In 2018 he published *Tien op een ezel*, an autobiographical book of Berber proverbs.



WILLEMIJN VAN DIJK

THE WHITE AND THE PURPLE

WINNER OF THE BNG LITERATURE PRIZE 2019



The White and the Purple brings Rome to life as never before: a world full of intrigue, murder and manslaughter, of powerful emperors and wily senators.

Pallas is sold as a slave in Greece at a young age. He ends up in Rome and, after years of service for a wealthy widow, he is granted his freedom. As a freedman, Pallas defies the common prejudices about ex-slaves in Rome and violates the rigid rules of Roman society. His star rises to unprecedented heights and eventually he finds his way to the court of the reigning emperor, Claudius. With the gruesome murder of Emperor Gaius still fresh in his mind, the old Claudius fears that chaos will break out in Rome when he dies, as his oldest male heir is still too young to succeed him. The ingenious Pallas sees an opportunity to penetrate into Claudius's small circle of advisors. His decision to play the dangerous game of politics at the Julian-Claudian court clears the way to the heights of power, but at what price?



TESSA POSTHUMA DE BOER

WILLEMIJN VAN DIJK is an ancient historian and writer. Her previous publications include *Via Roma. De geschiedenis van Rome in 50 straten* (*Via Roma. The History of Rome in 50 Streets*) and *De opvolger* (*The Successor*), a literary biography of Emperor Tiberius, and were sold to the US, Germany, Colombia and Korea.

About *The Successor*:

'This beautifully written and well-documented book is both novel and non-fiction. Because her descriptions of life in Rome around the beginning of our era and her depiction of the frequently complex family ties in the Roman upper classes read like a novel. She presents historical events as if she had witnessed them herself.'

– *NRC Handelsblad*

About *The White and The Purple*:

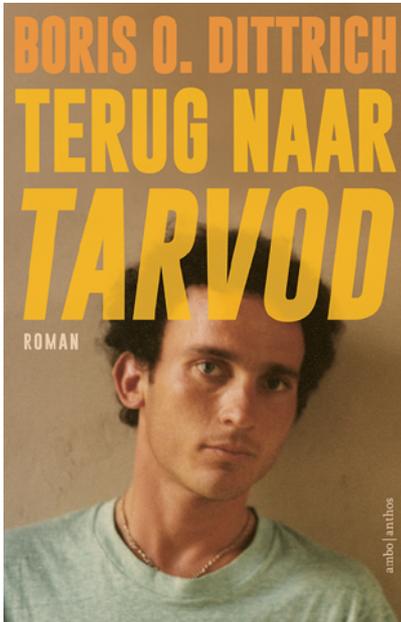
'A novel that brings the ancient past closer than a visit to the Eternal City ever could' – jury report BNG Literature Prize

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. Alongside this 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*.



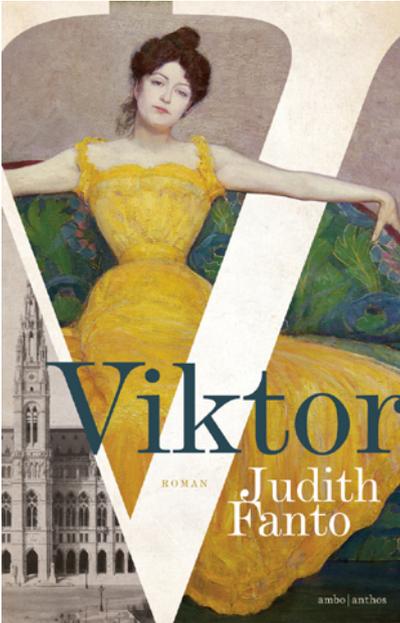
BORIS O. DITTRICH worked as an attorney and judge, and for many years was a member of the Dutch parliament as leader of his party's delegation. For twelve years he served as one of Human Rights Watch's advocacy directors. In 2019 he became a senator in Parliament's upper house. He has published four 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



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.

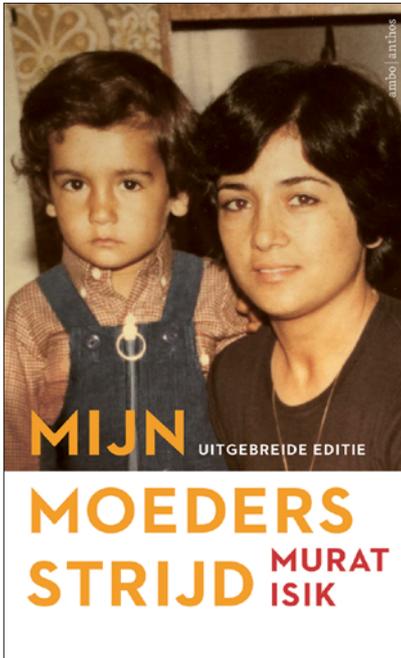
Viktor is a dazzling novel exploring the impact of stifling family trauma on shaping your own identity. Lovingly and with quirky wit, Fanto writes about the influence of someone's name on their destiny, and the subjective significance of truth and lie. In a courageous and authentic manner she dares to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

'What impresses is the authentic tone. The story is very touching and full of life. This book stands far apart from other books on the subject.'
– Christine Christ, Verlag Urachhaus

NON-
FICTION
180 pages
April 2020

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 had hardly 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?



RUUD POS

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.

Most successful Book Week Essay ever: 100.000 sold.

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

FICTION
288 pages
January 2020
English sample
available

HERMAN KOCH

FINNISH DAYS

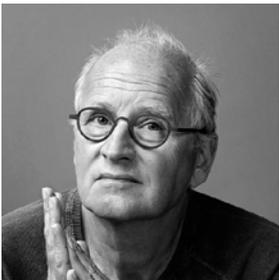
NEW NOVEL BY HERMAN KOCH, INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE DINNER*



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*

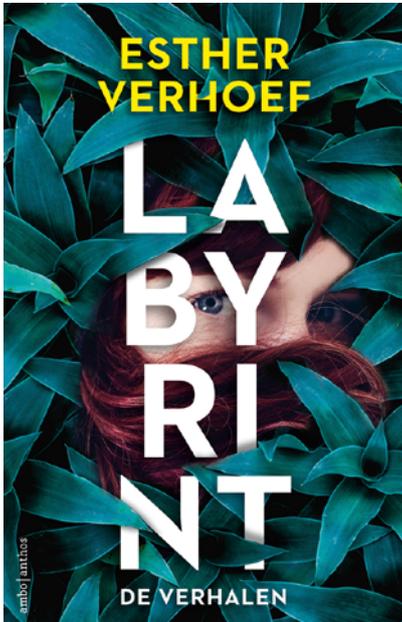
‘Chilling scenes’ – *NRC Handelsblad*



NOVA LEE MAIER

LABYRINTH

TENSION, INTRIGUES, ACTION, SEX, MURDER AND REVENGE: THE BEST ELEMENTS OF AN ADDICTIVE TV SERIES ON PAPER



In thirteen gripping and compelling stories, Maier pulls out all the stops in this amazing new thriller. Maier forges new paths in the mysterious 'Labyrinth', where the main character Hanna finds herself in an obscure underworld. 'Dirty hands' zooms in on a solitary gardener and her sinister secret, and in the 'Dead man's ride' of bankrupt businessman Aad, the tension keeps a stranglehold on the reader until the very end. Nova Lee Maier is able to make a masterful impression with few words: this is thriller writing at its finest.



NOORTJE DALHUIJSEN

NOVA LEE MAIER is one of the Netherlands' most versatile and successful writers, with nearly 2.5 million of her novels and thrillers sold. Maier's work has appeared in more than twenty foreign countries, including the United States, the UK, Germany and Korea, and has frequently received nominations and prizes.

'If you're able to keep the reviewer's adrenaline rushing till deep into the night, that's craftsmanship.' – *de Volkskrant*

'Nova Lee Maier clearly belongs to the writing elite.' – *AD*

'The strength of Maier's thrillers is their style, which is just as spicy as the characters. Makes you gasp for breath.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

HISTORICAL
NOVEL
320 pages
April 2020

BRENDA MEULEMAN

ANGEL OF MESOPOTAMIA

SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF EXOTIC IRAQ
AND COLONIAL FIN-DE-SIÈCLE ENGLAND



Angel of Mesopotamia, inspired by the life of archaeologist and explorer Gertrude Bell, follows the adventures of the eccentric and headstrong Helen King. Helen is successful at almost everything she does, but she carries a heavy burden: a horrifying accident during her youth in which her younger brother was killed. This event, amplified by her courageous and ambitious character, spurs her to undertake travels to desolate, dangerous regions. It's 1920 when, after having braved the highest peaks of the Alps and the vast desert plains of the East, Helen finally arrives in Baghdad. As Oriental Secretary she holds a powerful position within the British colonial administration. But her heart goes out to the locals she desperately wants to help, and a love affair is on the horizon. Will fortune smile upon her?



RUUD POS

BRENDA MEULEMAN studied business communication and art history. She divides her time between writing and her work in the art and antique trade. Previous titles include *Het verraad van Julia* and *Felle streken*.

For readers of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

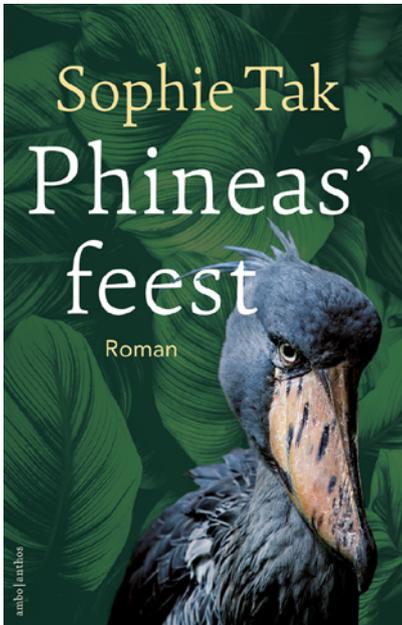
'Meuleman's writing means pure enjoyment for aficionados of art, history and a good story.' – *Nederlands Dagblad*



SOPHIE TAK

PHINEAS' PARTY

MASTERLY FAMILY EPIC WHERE THE HIDDEN PAST SLOWLY BUBBLES TO THE SURFACE



Johannes is the black sheep of the family. His erratic behaviour throws his sisters' and parents' lives into turmoil. When the last straw finally tears the family apart, father becomes a recluse, mother sinks into a depression, one sister dives headfirst into her career and the other into an ever-growing family of her own. Johannes, meanwhile, seems to have vanished from the face of the earth. Until he resurfaces twenty years later, planning to make an appearance at the party to celebrate the birth of his nephew Phineas.



RUUD POS

Phineas' Party is a marvellous debut about a psychologically challenged son and the disruptive effect he has on his family.

SOPHIE TAK teaches Dutch. While studying she edited the literary magazine *Moxi*, for which she wrote stories and columns. She has also written reviews for the newspaper *Trouw*.

THRILLER
280 pages
March 2020

LIENEKE DIJKZEUL

A KIND OF BETRAYAL



Lieneke Dijkzeul – the Dutch Henning Mankell – has been nominated for prizes including the Golden Noose, the Diamond Bullet and the Crimezone Thriller Award

Only days before his wedding, Inspector Paul Vegter receives a threatening letter with the message, 'I've got a score to settle, asshole.' A second letter, threatening his fiancé—and colleague—Renee, has been delivered to his home. They're worried but don't have a single lead. A night-time attack on Paul and Renee's house makes the danger real and present. Shocked, they are given protection and continue investigating the case of a child who fell from a balcony under suspicious circumstances. On their wedding day, as they leave City Hall through a double-file honour guard of their colleagues, an automatic weapon is aimed at them from a passing car.



'Dijkzeul's prose is clear and compact, her characters credible and her plots engaging.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

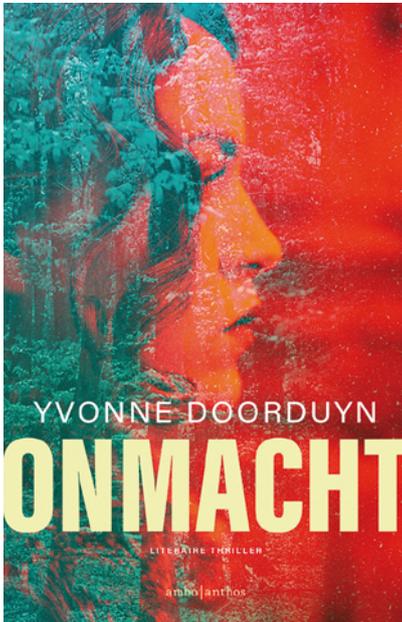
LIENEKE DIJKZEUL writes literary thrillers, children's books and scenarios. All of her thrillers featuring Inspector Paul Vegter have been nominated for prizes including the Golden Noose, the Diamond Bullet and the Crimezone Thriller Award. In 2013 she published her first novel, the semi-autobiographical *Achterstallig geluk*. Her work has also been published in Germany.

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

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.

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

THRILLER

369 pages

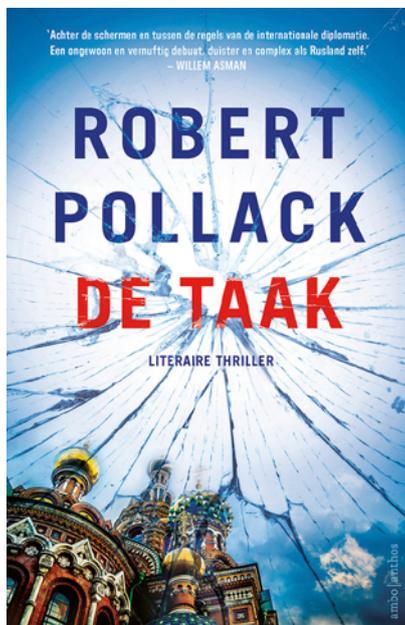
June 2019

English sample
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ROBERT POLLACK

THE TASK

INSPIRED BY THE MAGNITSKY CASE



Frenchwoman Christine Lavergne and German Steffen Rittershaus, both lawyers for the Council of Europe, have been sent to Russia to investigate the death of a local solicitor in a prison cell. One witness dies, another disappears. During their investigation, Christine and Steffen are confronted with their personal demons. Steffen secretly gets involved in The Task, an underground organisation that aims to uncover government corruption. It is an exciting group of people, but when Steffen's involvement threatens to jeopardise the official mission and tensions rise, he has no choice but to confide in Christine. However, Christine is dealing with her own issues and not everything in her life is what it seems. This dazzling story takes the reader from Saint Petersburg to Washington DC, and from Strasbourg to New York City. A dynamic thriller about power, integrity and secrets, which radiates great authenticity.



ROBERT POLLACK (pseudonym) used to work as a partner in a large international law firm. One of his clients was the Dutch parliament. After almost twenty-five years in the legal profession, he made his debut as a writer, while continuing to work part-time as a judge. In this novel, he puts the spotlight on the interface between law and politics with intelligence and skill; his legal expertise and inside information are tangible on every page.

★★★★★ 'Impressive storytelling. [...] Pollack has successfully and stylishly managed to intertwine various storylines in which power, blackmail and secrets come to the fore. [...] With this ingenious work, Pollack reveals himself to be a talented thriller writer.' – *MR.*

★★★★★ 'Outstanding thriller. [...] Superbly written, ambitious in scope, with some finely-drawn characters and a satisfying plot.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

'The American president happens to never read a book, otherwise you might heartily recommend Robert Pollack's *The Task* to him.' – *The Dutch Review of Books*

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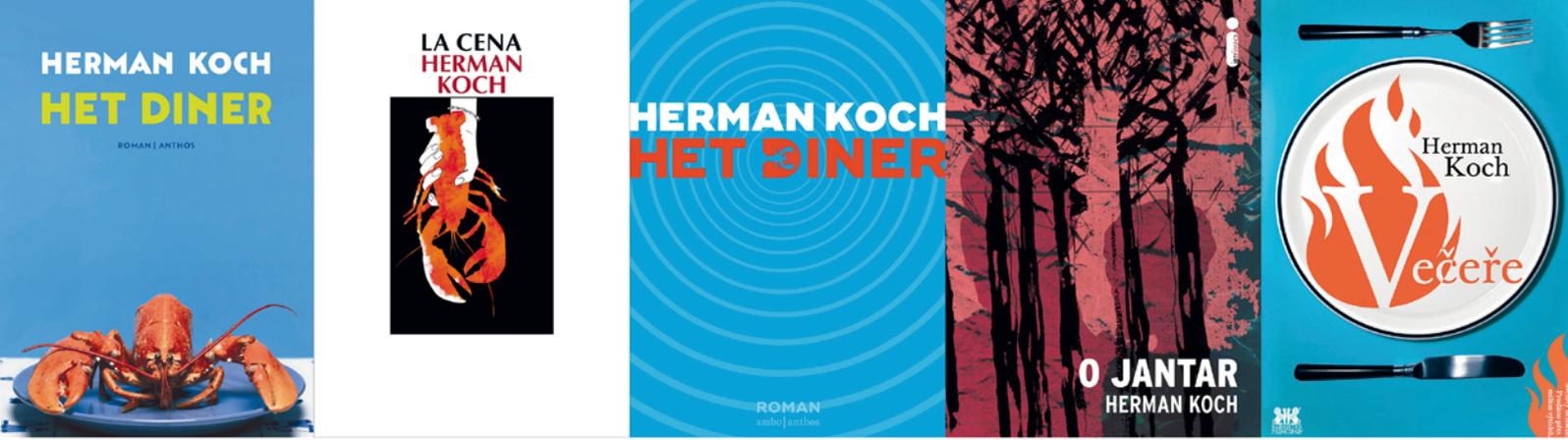
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THE DINNER HERMAN KOCH

WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER

