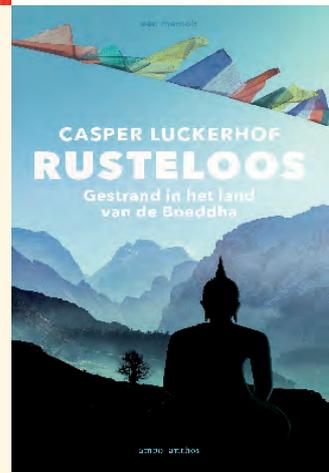
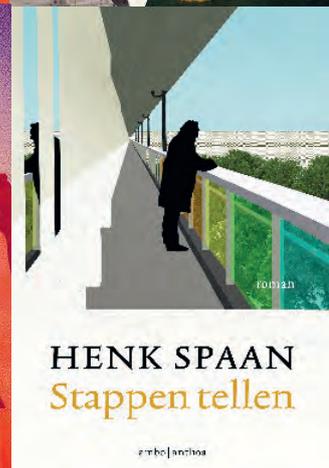
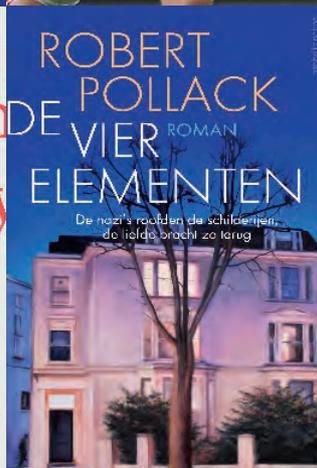
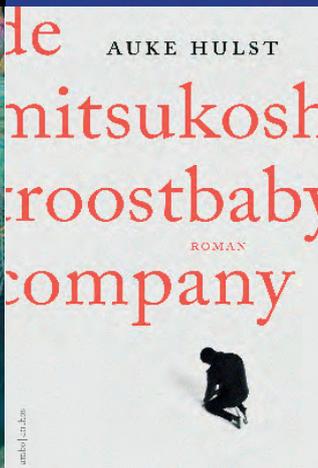
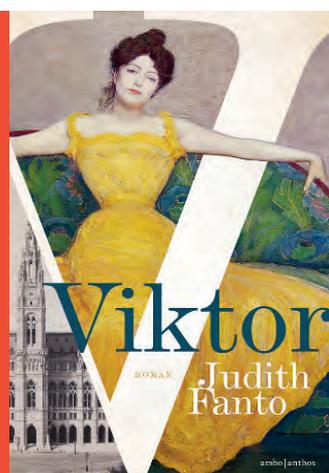




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FRANKFURT 2021

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THE MENSTRUATION GIRLS

SOMEONE IS ON THEIR PERIOD...

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW (AND MORE) ABOUT MENSTRUATION #NOFILTER



Is hiding your tampons on your way to the bathroom normal behaviour? Should you see the doctor about your period cramps? The Menstruation Girls leave no question unanswered. In *Someone is on their period...* Honorata van den Akker and Lieke Smets will tell you all you need to know about your menstruation. Even if you haven't had your period yet. For example, they discuss hormones, the seasons of your cycle, birth control, perfumed pads, menstrual cups, practical tips for inserting tampons, and the difference between your vagina and your vulva. Goodbye menstruation taboos! Also, Honorata and Lieke share their own personal period stories. And those of eleven other people. Because it's time we openly talk about it.



RUUD POS

'These girls handle things like pros. [...] Humour and honesty are their most important weapons.' – *Trouw*

'The Menstruation Girls put any feelings of shame about our periods to bed for good' – Eva Jinek, talkshow host

HONORATA VAN DEN AKKER AND LIEKE SMETS started the Menstruation Girls together, due to the PMDD-diagnosis of Honorata and the extreme menstrual pain of Lieke, and by doing so founded a menstruation empire that includes the *Menstruation Girls* podcast, an online magazine, an Insta-account and this book. And they are just getting started. It can certainly feel a little awkward sometimes, but that's exactly what they are trying to change: menstruation needs to be a subject we can openly talk about. Honorata is also an illustrator and Lieke is a communication professional.



WILLEMIJN VAN DIJK

THE ITALIAN PRINCESS

THE RESTLESS LIFE OF MARIANNE OF ORANGE-NASSAU



Marianne of Orange-Nassau (1810-1883), the infamous daughter of King William I, is the least known by far of the princesses of the Dutch royal family. At the age of twenty she married her first cousin Albrecht, but the marriage was deeply unhappy. Marianne ran away and reinvented herself as a freethinking art collector, composer and traveller. The discovery that she was having an affair with her coachman was explosive. After many peregrinations she moved into Villa Celimontana in Rome, which she transformed into a refuge for Dutch artists and a cultural salon for the higher social circles. In that sun-drenched yet shadowy world she decided she no longer could, nor should, keep her biggest secret to herself. In *The Italian Princess* Willemijn van Dijk reconstructs the forgotten life of an unknown princess. Against the background of a rapidly changing Europe, she describes beautifully Princess Marianne's valiant fight for her revolutionary ideals.



RUUD POS

The life story of a forgotten princess – an account of courage, freedom, great aspirations and a small measure of happiness.

WILLEMIJN VAN DIJK is a historian of antiquity and a writer. She is the author of *Via Roma. The history of Rome in fifty streets* and *The Successor*, a literary biography of Emperor Tiberius. Her work has been translated into English, German, Spanish and Korean. In 2019 she published the historical novel *The White and the Purple*, which won her the BNG Bank Literature Prize 2020.

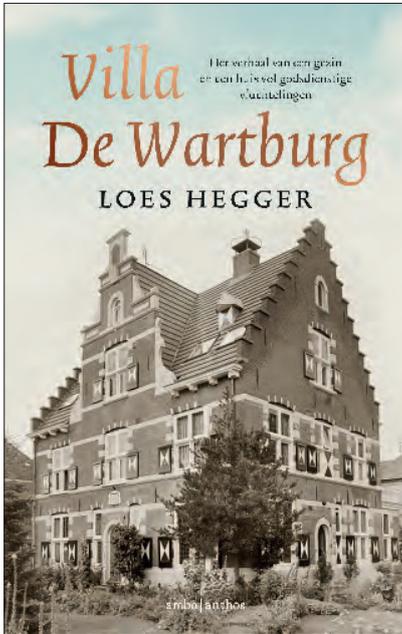
NARRATIVE NON-FICTION IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN



LOES HEGGER

VILLA DE WARTBURG

THE STORY OF A FAMILY AND A HOUSE FULL OF RELIGIOUS REFUGEES



Loes Hegger grew up in a family of seven children. After her father left his monastery, he and his wife decided to receive lapsed priests into the family. De Wartburg, named after Martin Luther's castle – became a place of asylum. The need was great. Those leaving monastic life lost both status and identity, and furthermore they were cast out by family and friends. Some even feared for their lives. People streamed in from all over the world, like Renato from Italy, Aniano from Spain, Orlando from Venezuela, Gust from Belgium and Thottil from India. Sixty years after the opening of De Wartburg in 1962, Hegger reconstructs her unusual childhood in an assured literary style. She investigates the eventful life of the former priests and describes how their decision to leave the silence of the monastery brought them to a large family in a Dutch village. It was a lively community with weddings, babies and unusual habits. Their personal stories are linked to social developments in politics, culture and religion, enabling the book to paint a revealing picture of how history is reflected in the lives of ordinary people.



RUUD POS

'A book to cherish.' – Eva Vriend, author

LOES HEGGER Loes Hegger's studies included a period at the École Internationale Formation Théâtrale in Paris. She works as an actor, director, teacher and scriptwriter. *Villa De Wartburg* is her first book.



RIK KUIPER

THAT ONE PUPIL

TEACHERS ON THE PUPILS WHO CHANGED THEIR VIEWS FOREVER



Which pupil made you look at your profession differently? Most teachers don't need to think for very long in order to answer that question. The girl who rang my doorbell one evening, they'll say. That pupil who wanted to come and live with me. That kid with the knife. The lad who deradicalized in my classroom. The one we decided to give the benefit of the doubt. They are the children discussed in the interviews Rik Kuiper publishes every week in his series 'That One Pupil' in *de Volkskrant* – cheerful, touching or moving stories that take the reader into the classroom, through the door that usually remains shut. They show what education is all about: the relationship between teacher and pupil. The stories collected here show the dilemmas teachers struggle with, the doubts they experience and the things they've got wrong in the past. They are also about what the teachers themselves have learnt. What did they start to do differently after having that one pupil in their classroom?



RUUD POS

The sequel to the international bestseller *That One Patient*, which sold more than 65,000 copies in The Netherlands and has been translated in seven countries.

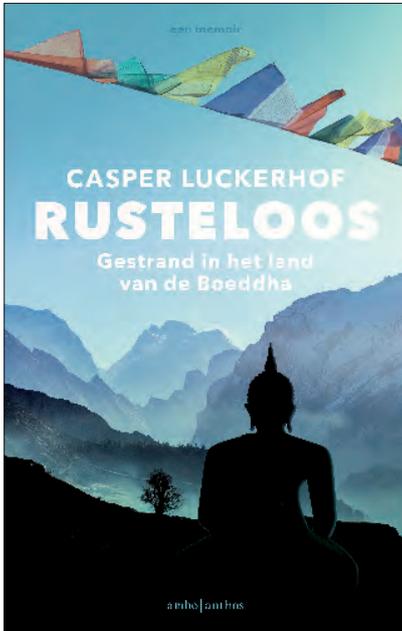
RIK KUIPER is a reporter for *de Volkskrant* who frequently writes about education. He won the 2018 Prize for Education Journalism and was twice nominated for De Tegel, the most important journalistic award in the Netherlands.

NON-
FICTION
January 2022
256 pp.

CASPER LUCKERHOF

RESTLESS

STRANDED IN THE LAND OF THE BUDDHA



In 2017 Casper Luckerhof travels to Nepal. He plans to write a book about the Buddha, Asia's greatest philosopher, that will unmask him as a power-hungry sect leader. It's the only way for Casper to draw a line under a childhood full of spirituality and to prove to his parents that he can live his own life.

But events take an unexpected turn. In Lumbini, where the Buddha was born 2,500 years ago, he is offered a job in the world's largest Buddhist library. In an institute that seems built like a fortress, he works with a German Tibetologist and an Italian academic. Casper's main task is to keep visitors out; the institute is their secret. Shortly before his father comes to visit him, Casper loses everything as the result of a conflict. Disillusioned, he sets off with his father on an epic trip through the Himalayas. *Restless* is an enchanting memoir about an almost obsessive quest for independence, meaning and a place in the world. It is also the story of an improbable friendship between three men who, in a remote region of Nepal, eventually drive one another to despair.



RUUD POS

The incredible and true story of a personal quest for freedom and independence, for readers of *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

CASPER LUCKERHOF is a historian and an expert on India. He writes for publications including *de Volkskrant* and *De Groene Amsterdammer*. In 2016 he published *A Lonely Bridgebuilder: Travels through the India of P.A.S. van Limburg Brouwer*.



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

Sold to Spain



'The Empty Sky is a 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

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.



ELKE WISS

AND THEY PHILOSOPHIZED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

STORIES TO CHALLENGE YOUR THINKING



In her new book, Elke Wiss, known for her international bestseller *Socrates in Sneakers*, shows how we can have better conversations by means of short philosophical stories.

Which questions work and which don't? How do you construct a good discussion? How can you make your own opinions clear and explore someone else's? What is the best way to stimulate your thinking and that of your conversation partner? *And They Philosophized Happily Ever After* is an accessible and beautifully illustrated book that teaches, by means of inspiring stories and challenging questions, how to achieve greater profundity in conversations. For parents who want to philosophize with their children. For managers struggling with leadership and the need to delegate. And for anyone who wants to have a good, deep conversation during a meal with family or friends.

***Socrates in Sneakers* sold over 60,000 copies in The Netherlands. Translation rights have been sold in the UK, Germany, Spain, Korea, Egypt and Taiwan.**



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

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

'*And they philosophized happily ever after* is an insightful and accessible book with inspiring stories, that teaches you to add depth to your conversations' – *Managementbook.nl*

ELKE WISS is a dramatist and a practical philosopher. She writes and directs theatrical productions, and gives training sessions and workshops in practical philosophy and the art of asking questions. She also conducts Socratic dialogues within organizations and offers individual philosophical consultations.

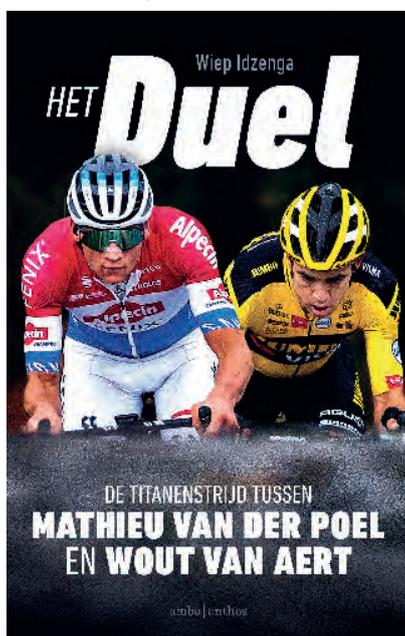
SPORTING LEGENDS WITH INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

NON-
FICTION
June 2021
256 pp.

WIEP IDZENGA

THE DUEL

THE TITANIC BATTLE BETWEEN MATHIEU VAN DER POEL AND WOUT VAN AERT



Cycling world stars Mathieu van der Poel and Wout van Aert have been fighting duels in the mud and clay since they were teenagers. In cyclo-cross they share seven world titles (4-3) and since they started racing on the road they push each other to greater heights in the major spring classics like the Tour of Flanders and Milano-Sanremo, and the Tour de France. In *The Duel* Wiep Idzenga takes stock of the epic battle between the two legends, which recalls and even surpasses the days of Bartali and Coppi.

‘Compelling.’ – *de Volkskrant*

‘I want to read everything about Wout and Mathieu. Especially if it’s written by Wiep Idzenga.’ – Tim Krabbé, writer of the classic cycling novel *The Rider*

NON-
FICTION
June 2021
192 pp.

KLAAS-JAN HUNTELAAR

HOMAGE TO A GOAL-SCORING MACHINE



On 14 January 2021, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar came on in the 89th minute of a soccer match between FC Twente and Ajax. The score at that point was 1-1. Ajax had made nineteen vain attempts to force a second goal. Thirty-seven-year-old Huntelaar ran onto the pitch and within four minutes he made it 1-2 and then 1-3. Illustrative of the striker’s eagerness is the fact that he scored more than 400 goals during his career, making him the first Dutch footballer ever to pass the 400-goal mark for club and country.

In *Klaas-Jan Huntelaar*, a range of prominent authors pay homage to this goal-scoring machine. Their stories take us to a great list of clubs where the striker excelled and together they form a full account, narrative and anecdotal, of a glittering career.

FICTION
August 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

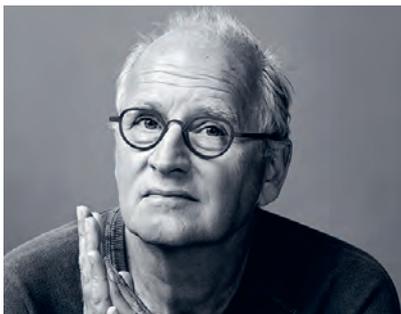


'Do you perhaps know where Sophia is? She didn't come home last night and I haven't got her boyfriend's number. Give me a call.' So runs the message received by film director Stanley Forbes on New Year's Eve from Karl Hermans, a celebrated writer.

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.

Sold to Italy, Finland & Israel

Highlighted by the Dutch Foundation for Literature



'Herman Koch delivers surprising strikes in his cutting new novel *Starring Sophia*' - Jeroen Vullings, *Elsevier*

'*Starring Sophia* is a tirade against the ever increasing modern-day restrictions on artistic freedom' - *Trouw*

'A successful novel about the complexity of human nature' - *Margriet*

On previous work:

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*

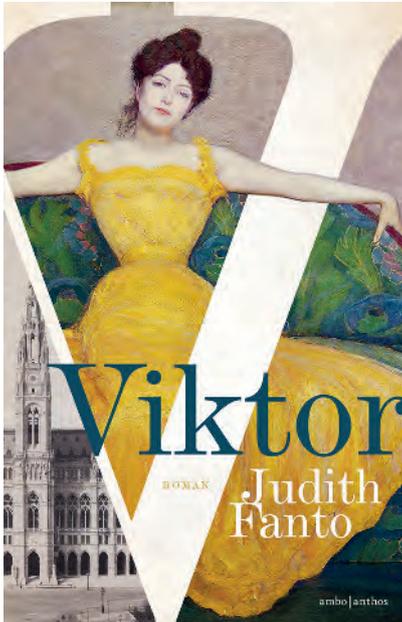
HERMAN KOCH is an internationally bestselling author. In 2009 he wrote *The Dinner*, which was translated into 42 languages and brought him worldwide fame. Subsequent years saw the publication of bestsellers including *Summer House with Swimming Pool* (2011), *Dear Mr M.* (2014) and *The Ditch* (2016). 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 August 2021.

FICTION
360 pages
40.000 copies sold
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 and Russia

Over 40.000 copies sold

Winner of the Hebban Best Debut Prize 2020



MERLIJN DOOMERNIK

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

'What a grand debut!' – *Berliner Morgenpost*

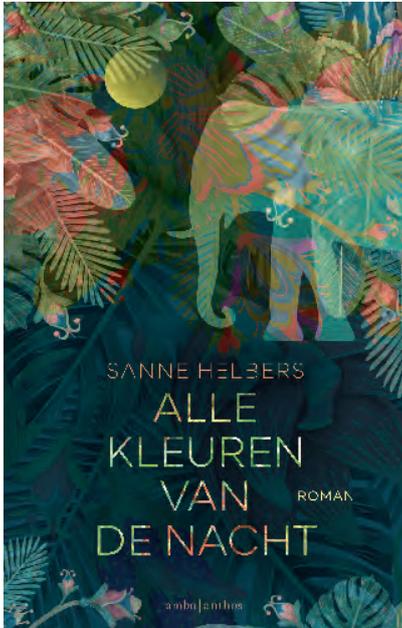
JUDITH FANTO, who worked as a lawyer for many years, was born in Delft as Geertruide van den Heuvel and has taken her name from her Jewish grandmother Trude. At twenty she changed her first name to Judith. Fanto, the real surname of the Rosenbaums in her novel, is her literary pseudonym. *Viktor* is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

FICTION
June 2021
280 pp.

SANNE HELBERS

EVERY COLOUR OF THE NIGHT

THE MILLENNIAL COUNTERPART TO *EAT PRAY LOVE*



Helena is finding life difficult. Or, at any rate, living life in such a way that she doesn't experience a sense of emptiness. The daily grind of work makes her restless and her boyfriend Taco doesn't understand her. She is also struggling with persistent depression, which raises its head from time to time. Online she meets Raavi, a photographer from India, and a close relationship between them develops. She resolves to travel to Asia. Her first destination is Mumbai, to meet Raavi. When Raavi turns out to be a young woman, Helena feels greatly confused. They spend a few days together and Helena realizes that she is capable of feeling fierce, fervent love for a woman. But Raavi's sexual identity is a threat to her own safety and that of her loved ones. Helena has to choose between two continents as she struggles with the emptiness and absurdity of existence.



RUUD POS

'Every Colour of the Night is a dazzling story, full of empathy, about how to live, make choices and be happy.' – Elfie Tromp, writer

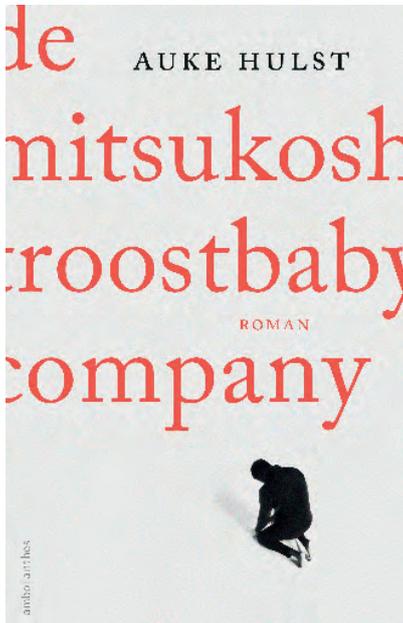
SANNE HELBERS graduated in cultural studies at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. She creates programmes for the Studium Generale at the Delft University of Technology. During a world trip she travelled through India, which laid the basis for *Every Colour of the Night*.

FICTION
September 2021
608 pp.

AUKE HULST

THE MITSUKOSHI COMFORT BABY COMPANY

MONUMENTAL NOVEL BY A CELEBRATED AUTHOR



In a near future, a lonely science-fiction writer buys a robot daughter intended to make up for the loss of an unborn child. Meanwhile he works on a novel in which his alter ego goes back in time with the aim of changing the course of history, so that his unborn child can be born after all, if only in a story. Will reality and fiction succumb to coercion in the hands of a writer? *The Mitsukoshi Comfort Baby Company* is an ambitious combination of memoir, robot story, time-travel tale and alternative history, in which loss, guilt and parenthood are central. In this gripping novel, Hulst demonstrates both the power and the limitations of fiction.



MARK UYL

'A gifted visionary who constructs his wondrous world out of words alone.' – *Trouw*

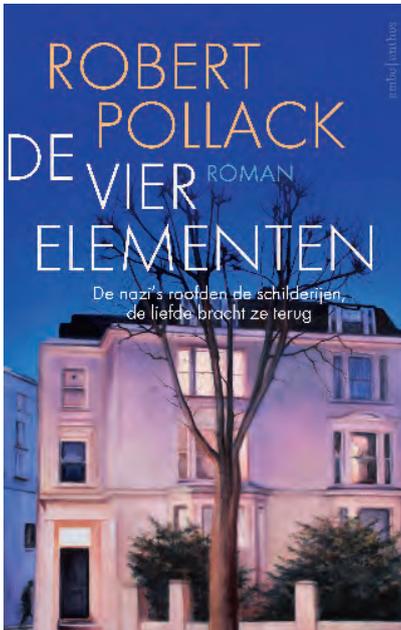
AUKE HULST made his breakthrough in 2012 with an autobiographical novel called *Children of the Rough Country*, which has since been reprinted twenty times. His work has won him many prizes. He received the Harland Award for *Sleep Tight*, *Johnny Idaho* and *And I Recall Titus Broederland*, and the Bob den Uyl Prize for *Motel Songs*. As well as being an author, Hulst is a songwriter and a literary critic.



ROBERT POLLACK

THE FOUR ELEMENTS

THREE GENERATIONS UNDER THE SPELL OF NAZI-LOOTED ART



German industrialist Bernhard Wenzel is accused of using his company to hide four valuable paintings, 'The Four Elements', which were stolen from a Jewish family by the Nazis during the Kristallnacht. Wenzel aspires to a political career and needs to avoid this scandal. It is lawyer Leo Spier's job to help him.

But what actually happened eighty years ago? Bernhard's father wasn't allowed to marry the half-Jewish woman he loved, because the family firm was dependent on the German war industry. Did 'The Four Elements' play a part even back then?

For Leo Spier this delicate case is an immense challenge, not only because of his Jewish background but also because he finds himself up against Christine Lavergne, a French lawyer with whom he has a past.



MERLIJN DOOMERNIK

'I devoured *The Four Elements*! Pollack writes with pace and flair. Nazi-looted art is a great subject that unites past and present.'

– Nicolien Mizee, author

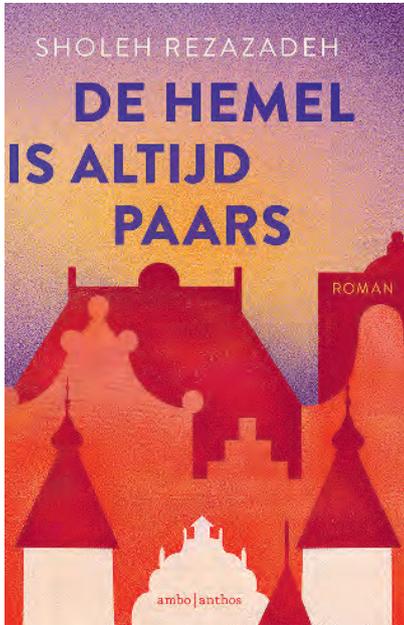
ROBERT POLLACK (pseudonym) is regarded as an authority in the field of Nazi-looted art. He used to be a partner in a large international law firm and among his clients was the Dutch parliament. After almost twenty-five years in the legal profession, he made his debut as a writer, while continuing to work part-time as a judge. His first novel, *The Task*, was well received by the Dutch press.



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.

Shortlisted for the Bronze Owl debut prize 2021



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. Rezaadeh 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.

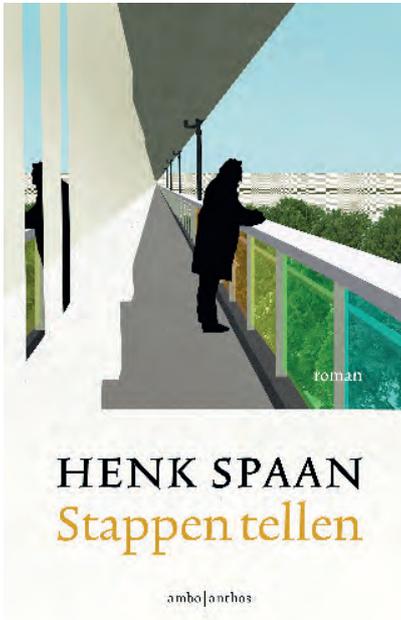
‘Her writing is incredibly beautiful... Her use of the rhythm of language in this novel is poetic.’ – *de Volkskrant*

FICTION
October 2021
192 pp.

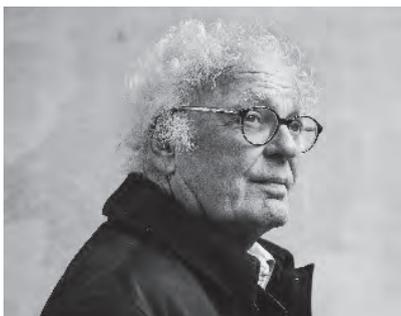
HENK SPAAN

COUNTING STEPS

GETTING OLDER, DESCRIBED WITH UNUSUAL SENSITIVITY AND LIGHTNESS OF TONE



Now aged seventy, Eduard Wakker recently moved into an apartment complex for people of sixty-five and over. The highpoint of his week is participating in the working group *Rituals After the Death of a Fellow Resident*. His wife died a year and a half ago. Eduard knows that life simply goes on. And that it isn't easy. But he could never have suspected that the sense of loss would be so great. He makes notes and tries to commit their shared happiness to paper. His memories take him back to their holidays in Italy, where they were married. With his friend and fellow resident Wally, Eduard often walks from the flat to the café and back. They check their phones to count how many steps they've totted up. They talk about their lives and the paths they have taken, and as Wally's memory declines, Eduard gradually wins his life back from his wife's death. The novel *Counting Steps* is deceptively breezy in tone. Beneath the humour lies the central character's grief, to which he refuses to succumb out of love for his wife.



'Spaan's book is full of vitality, extremely witty, never sentimental, yet deals with loss. To pull off a thing like that you need to be a damn good writer.' – Peter Buwalda, author of *Bonita Avenue*

HENK SPAAN is editor-in-chief of the football magazine *Hard gras*. He has published a number of poetry collections inspired by football and writes a column for *Het Parool* almost daily. His impressive non-fiction book *Nouri*, about the promising young footballer Abdelhak Nouri, was a bestseller.

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THE DINNER HERMAN KOCH

WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER

