



FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

FRANKFURT 2025

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ANNE MIEKE BACKER

*I Was the Girl***An astounding interplay of fiction and reality**

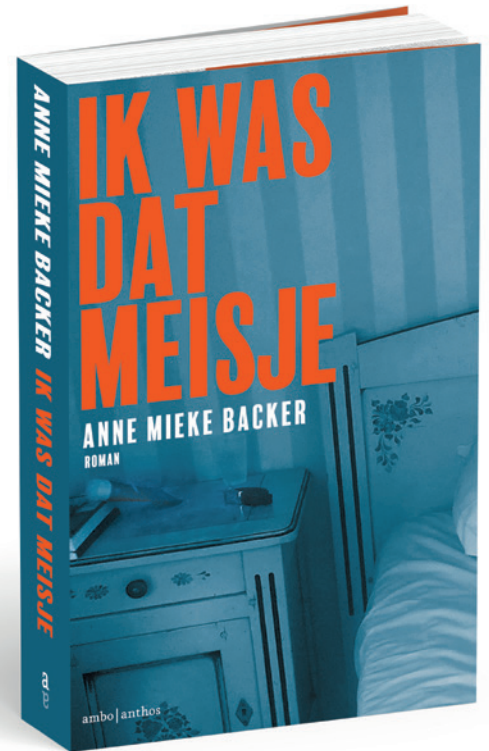
He, an American writer, went travelling to discover the real France. A young girl became an essential part of this journey. Five years after their encounter, the American penned an erotic novel about their relationship, praised by critics for its literary beauty and radical candor. In his book the male protagonist is a brilliant student, while the French girl is described as inexperienced and as malleable as clay. The student is a fictitious character, but the girl really did exist.

In the enchanting novel *I Was the Girl*, she is a grown woman. When she reads the book about their relationship again, her recollections meld with the story it tells, but between the lines it becomes clear that what the writer regarded as *a sport and a pasttime* felt like the start of real life for the girl.

‘It is very well and convincingly written, very cleverly composed, and evokes a world – the world of my youth – in which young women started struggling to liberate themselves from conventions, explore their sexuality, discover their voices.’
– Nelleke Noordervliet

‘An ingenious novel about a young woman’s sexual awakening, against the background of the France we know so well from Annie Ernaux’s *The Years*.’ – Janneke Vreugdenhil

‘The original by James Salter is so thoroughly redone that not much remains except a footnote to ‘I Was the Girl’.
– Frans Thomése



Novel – 248 pp – October 2025

Sample translation available

Based on a true story**Great imagination and rich prose:
a phenomenal debut!**

ANNE MIEKE BACKER (b. 1950 in Surabaya, Indonesia) has authored books about landscape history and architecture. Her book *A Woman Was Standing in the Garden* received three prizes. Backer is also a conceptual artist. As such, she wrote her literary essay *The Dreamed Friend*. *I Was the Girl* is her first novel.



© VOSSE A. DE BOODE

AUKE HULST

Tooth Hunter

‘A tremendous literary adventure’ – *Trouw*

Vos Jacobsz is a tooth hunter. He roams the battlefields of Napoleonic Europe looking for young war dead with perfect sets of teeth, which dentists use to produce false teeth for rich customers. When Vos comes across the most beautiful teeth he has ever seen at Quatre-Bras, he decides to have them implanted in his own mouth in London. These marvellous teeth help him to penetrate higher circles, where his eye falls on a marchioness with equally fine teeth. During an awful year without a summer, she initiates him into a hidden world of decadence and exploitation. But how much blood on your hands and your teeth can you justify to yourself?

Tooth Hunter is a quirky historical novel in which gothic horror, politics, love and eroticism converge in a blood-curdling and extremely topical story about class distinction, plunder, exploitation and the price of ambition.

★★★★★ [...] What a wonderful stench and chilling horror rises from *Tooth Hunter*! [...] *Tooth Hunter* is both an excellent historical novel and a chilling Gothic horror story. [...] Hulst conjures up all kinds of images and plays with all kinds of literary references.’ – *NRC*

‘[Hulst] is able to incorporate such a seemingly implausible layer into the story in a convincing manner. This is due to his exceptional style.’ – *Het Parool*

‘An impressive, rich novel, a scandalously opulent buffet of piled-up organ meat and southern fruits.’
– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

‘Only one person could pull something like this off, and with such stylistic excellence.’ – *Kunststof*



Novel – 432 pp – May 2025

Sample translation available – Translation grant available

10.000 copies sold

**Nominated for the Boekenbon
Literary Prize 2025**

AUKE HULST (b. 1975) has written eight novels and five travel books. His autobiographical novel *Children of the Savage Land* sold 50.000 copies since its publication in 2012. An Italian (Carbonio) and a Turkish (Alef) translation were published in 2025. His novel *The Mitsukoshi Consolation Baby Company* (2022) was shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize and the Boekenbon Literature Prize. Hulst is also a literature critic, essayist and a musician/song-writer.



© MARK UYL

JANNEKE SIEBELINK

A Stray Summer Day

Does the past define you, or do you define the past?

Cape Town, South Africa, 1989. 31-year-old Camille makes her yearly visit to the grave of her mother, the famous poet Astrid Viljoen. Camille is now the same age her mother was when she walked into the sea one winter morning and disappeared from her life. As the moment approaches that she will have lived longer than her mother did, she feels her presence more strongly than ever. Who was Astrid, and who has Camille become in her absence?

Douglas, South Africa, 1933. Astrid is born in a small village on the Orange River. She grows up in a world of rules and rituals. As her life and the country change and tensions rise, Astrid seeks solace in language. She becomes a writer, marries, and has children, but she is increasingly entangled in loss, a longing for freedom, and the unrest of a divided country.

A Stray Summer Day is a gripping and inventive portrait of Ingrid Jonker, the iconic South African poet whose life was marked by brilliance, rebellion, and tragedy. Quoted by Nelson Mandela in 1994, Jonker became a symbol of resistance. This novel reinvents her legacy in a voice that is both urgent and unforgettable.

‘This is impressive, a story about birth, death, war and smouldering questions, told in a restrained, precise and, yes, even calm way. Janneke Siebelink can do it.’ – Arjan Peters

‘Ingrid Jonker is rightly regarded as “the South African Sylvia Plath”: beautiful poetry, intense romances, a life cut too short, and a self-chosen death... For Jonker, all of this was intensified by the Apartheid against which she fought with both words and actions, not sparing herself. Inspired by that fateful struggle, Janneke Siebelink wrote a moving and captivating book.’

– Tom Lanoye



Novel – 384 pp – September 2025

This novel is based on the life of Ingrid Jonker (1933–1965), a poet and one of the pioneers of modern Afrikaans literature. Her poetry has been translated into numerous languages.

Jonker's work gained international recognition when South African President Nelson Mandela recited her poem *The child (who was shot dead by soldiers at Nyanga)* — during his address at the first sitting of South Africa's first democratically elected parliament in 1994.

JANNEKE SIEBELINK (b. 1974) made her debut with her novel *Sometimes it Snows in April* in 2022. A year later, she published *We'll Skip December*, in which she told of her touching and instructive encounters in a hospice where she cooks once a week.



© FRED BAGGEN

INGRID DE VRIES

The Violinist

‘A moving story about trauma, friendship, and the power of music.’ – *linda.nl*

Laurens has plenty of reasons to want to escape his family home. He finds refuge with Guido, who introduces him to the violin and becomes his teacher. Laurens proves to be a great talent and devotes all his free time to music. His relationship with Guido intensifies, and he gets better as a musician. When he is admitted to the conservatory, Laurens can finally go his own way, free from everyone. For decades Guido longs to see him again. Until he decides not to wait any longer and tries to find Laurens. But when he finds him, Laurens is seriously ill.

‘A small masterpiece that will leave no reader unmoved.’
‘De Vries also poignantly illustrates how Alzheimer’s disease takes hold of a person’s mind. She skillfully juxtaposes light and dark.’ – *De Nieuwe Koers*

‘It’s not a thick book, thankfully, because believe me, the gripping story of Laurens and Guido will stay with you. You won’t want to miss a single word or sentence. A book to cherish; she undeniably consolidates the successes of her previous works. We look forward to the next story from this talented author.’
– *De Boekenkrant*

‘Ingrid de Vries is my literary discovery of the year! Her prose is calm and empathetic but at the same time incredibly suspenseful. *The Violinist* deserves a large readership.’
– Hanna Bervoets



Novel – 168 pp – July 2025

**Even a bond that seems
unbreakable cannot hold up if
someone wants to forget the past.**

INGRID DE VRIES (b. 1948) is a journalist, editor, and author. As a researcher and copywriter, she has contributed to various television programs. She penned the highly acclaimed novels *False Fruit* and *Water Fall*.



© JOOST PLOMP

ALINE SAX

Nineteen Nineteen

A former soldier returns to the Ypres Salient to come to terms with himself.

Great-Britain, 1919. After coming home from the war, Henry Bennett can no longer adapt to his civilian life. He feels detached from his surroundings and suffers from survivor's guilt, hallucinations and nightmares. He decides to return to Flanders. But Ypres isn't the same place he left behind in 1917 anymore. Belgian civilians want to rebuild their town, and the first British tourists and pilgrims are visiting the area, while battlefields are being cleared and the fallen are being reburied.

Nineteen Nineteen is a psychological novel which starts where most war novels end: at the point where soldiers are no longer soldiers and are confronted with what to do next.

'Sax shows what language is capable of: how words can convey the sense of life losing all its meaning when it comes down to it.'

– NRC



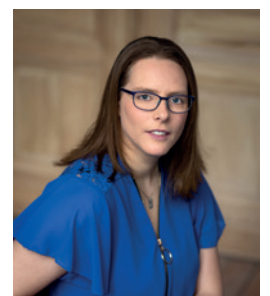
Novel – 416 pp – September 2025

Translation grant available

A story about remembrance and new beginnings, about holding on and letting go, about guilt and love

Award-winning children's and young-adult author's debut with her first novel for adults

ALINE SAX (b. 1984, Antwerp/Belgium) is a historian and writer. She has authored 15 books for children and young adults, many of which won prizes. Her most recent book, *What We Have Left*, was critically acclaimed and won the Boon Literature Prize, the most prestigious Flemish prize for the best Dutch-language books.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK



The Seaside by Tina van Dijk

A warm feelgood series
ca. 50.000 words

***The Seaside Café* – complete English translation available (Part 1)**

Emmie has taken some time off from her demanding job at a law firm after fainting from exhaustion during a meeting. Now she is at home, but she still cannot seem to relax. Fortunately, her mother comes up with a plan: Emmie can stay with her uncle Bart, who runs a small café in the lovely village of Duijnen, on the coast. Emmie hesitates, wondering whether she can just leave her life in Amsterdam behind, but a walk on the beach won't do her any harm, and she can always help out in the café and meet the locals. Will Duijnen give her the chance to find herself again? And who knows, maybe she'll even find love.

***Settling in at the Seaside* (Part 2)**

Emmie has become co-owner of her uncle Bart's café and she has also found love with Tom. But when he goes to France to help his aunt with renovations, Emmie begins to have doubts. Can they handle a long-distance relationship?

***Winter at the Seaside* (Part 3)**

Emmie has her life pretty much sorted. After Tom returned from France, they moved in together and their life seems to have settled down... Until Lana, Emmie's sister, suddenly shows up on their doorstep. She is having relationship problems. Fortunately, Emmie is there to support her.





Love, of course by Susan Muskee

A sparkling feel-good series about four friends
ca. 75.000 words



***Scones and Spotlights* – complete English translation available (Part 1)**

Cleo's life is pretty much the same every day. She works, organises dinner parties with her friends Kim, Sophie and Abigail, occasionally takes a yoga class and, oh yes, she is head over heels in love with Sjoerd. Cleo gave up her dream of becoming a musician when she was rejected by the conservatory. But when Sophie posts a video of Cleo at a karaoke night this goes completely viral. Cleo is scouted for a talent show. Is this the big break she has been hoping for?

***Polaroids and Powder tins* (Part 2)**

Kim is back from Italy, where she was supposed to set up a studio with her 'great love' Fabian and work on her graduation project for her photography course. But things turned out differently: There was no studio and Fabian had pocketed the money Kim had invested. When all seems lost, Aunt Pauline invites Kim to come to Berlin for a while. Pauline shares a house with three other artists, with whom Kim discovers the vibrant city and Berlin's nightlife – and love life also.



***Marathons and Mokka Cakes* (Part 3)**

Abigail is busy renovating her father's gym. Everything is going smoothly until her father and brother have to go on a trip. The men are confident that Abigail will manage, but she is not so sure... Does she dare tell her loved ones that she is actually quite stressed and that she is thinking more and more about her mother, who left without a trace fifteen years ago?

***Fireworks and Snowflakes* (Part 4)**

Sophie has just arrived in New York, where she faces the enormous challenge of settling into her tiny flat and finding a job as quickly as possible, which proves to be quite difficult. To make matters even more complicated, Liam isn't exactly thrilled about Sophie's return. But there is June, her new neighbour, who encourages her and gives her a crash course in New York. But Liam seems difficult to avoid...



ELKE WISS

Just Between Me and Me

How to Examine Your Own Thinking

We fool ourselves constantly. We harbor unexamined assumptions, sneaky faulty arguments, and comfortable fallacies that determine our actions without us ever realizing it. We rarely think critically or methodically about our own thinking. Our self-reflection stays surface-level— how do you actually dig deeper?

Just between Me and Me offers practical philosophical tools for the craft of thinking: concrete techniques that help you examine your thoughts with razor-sharp precision. Through personal stories and surprising examples, Elke Wiss shows us how to think clearly, make thoughtful choices, and gain deeper insight into who you are and what you truly want. This is practical philosophy in Wiss' signature fresh style—the same approach that made *Socrates in Sneakers* a bestseller.

About *Socrates in Sneakers*:

'Practical philosopher Elke Wiss teaches us what we can learn from Socrates about the art of a good conversation.'
– *de Volkskrant*

'A recommendation' – *Financieele Dagblad*

'Wiss teaches you the art of a good conversation, which is asking good questions' – &C

'You can practice really listening, asking curious, open questions. And Socrates on Sneakers helps with that. Read this book, and awaken the Socrates in yourself.' – *Vakblad Od Overheids-documentatie*



328 pp – September 2025
Sample translation available

Elke Wiss' philosophical guide to asking the right questions *Socrates in Sneakers* sold 230,000 copies; and translation rights to 24 countries.

ELKE WISS (b. 1986) 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.



© ANNELIEN NIJLAND

EVELIEN VAN VEEN

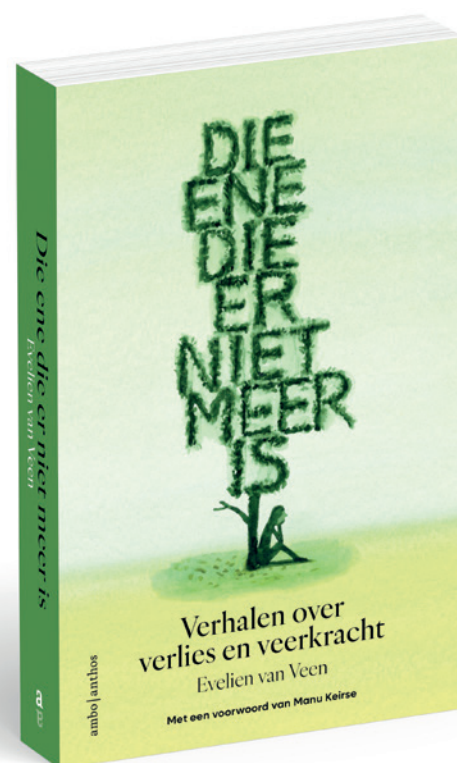
The Absent One

Stories About Loss and Resilience

Some people say that anguish for a deceased loved one never fades. Others say: 'Perhaps you think more about someone who has died than someone who is still alive.'

How do you carry on after the death of your child, your partner, your father or mother, brother, sister or other family member, friend, lover or colleague? How does grief feel, and how do you grieve? Journalist Evelien van Veen makes readers feel how things change when someone you love dies and how you keep going despite everything. Because even though there will always be a 'before' and 'after', there is life after death. As one of the people she interviewed, who lost both her children, says: 'I could shout it from the rooftop: you have more resilience than you think.'

The Absent One is a collection of interviews about grief showing that life continues after loss, even if it will never be the same again.



256 pp – September 2025

Sample translation available

On carrying on after the death of a loved one

EVELIEN VAN VEEN (b. 1965) is an interviewer and an editor at *de Volkskrant* and has been writing the column 'Life after Death' since 2023.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

KINA SMIT

Raise Them Resilient

The Dutch secret to confident children in a complex world

Dutch children consistently rank among the happiest in the world, with international studies like UNICEF's confirming it year after year. But times are changing. Today's children are growing up in a more complicated, fast-paced world and it's starting to show.

Child psychologist Kina Smit meets many parents who worry about their child's behaviour, angry outbursts, anxiety or restlessness withdrawal and worry: what am I doing wrong? But more often than not, the answer isn't found in therapy. It's found in connection. Children don't need fixing, they need their parents to see them, hear them, and be there for them. According to Smit, what is often seen as 'abnormal' child behavior is actually a normal response to growing up in hectic times, with a pressure to perform, screens, and labels.

Many parents, aiming for a perfect family life, set the bar too high for themselves and their children. But letting go is often the solution – allowing kids to figure things out for themselves. Let them bike head on into the wind – which is how Dutch children find their resilience.

This warm and practical book offers parents clear guidance for navigating the pressures of modern family life. Kina Smit reveals the Dutch secret behind raising the world's most confident children: a parenting approach grounded in trust, calm, and clear boundaries.



256 pp – September 2025

Sample translation available

A practical guide to raising resilient, confident children in a stressful world

With over 20 years of experience, child psychologist **KINA SMIT** (b. 1979) supports children, adolescents, and their parents at her practice in Haarlem, the Netherlands.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

MARIËTTE BOON
& LIESBETH VAN ROSSUM

Fat. The Secret Organ

Facts and fiction about the new anti-obesity drugs, burning fat, nutrition and hidden sources of weight gain

In this fully revised and updated edition of *Fat: The Secret Organ* (originally published in 2019), obesity experts Dr Mariëtte Boon and internist-endocrinologist Professor Liesbeth van Rossum reveal the latest scientific insights into fat, weight gain, the yo-yo effect, fat burning, and the revolutionary new weight-loss medications.

Packed with surprising facts and practical advice, this book explains why some people gain weight more easily than others, why losing weight is so hard, how the new drugs work—including their benefits and potential side effects—and how you can achieve and maintain a healthy weight in a responsible way. A must-read for anyone who wants to understand their body better—and take back control.

Internationally respected speakers who translate cutting-edge science into better care and policy for people with obesity. 'A book that hits the mark.' – *NRC*

'It's an eye-opening book which casts a tired subject in a new light, and has more potential to help people live in harmony with their fat than any number of unsubstantiated diets.' – *The Herald*



256 pp – pub date revised edition

December 2025

English translation available

50,000 copies sold

Rights were sold to Quercus (English world), Zhejiang Science (simplified Chinese), Al Arabia (Egypt), Actes Sud (France), Heyne (Germany), Scolar Kiadó (Hungary), Cross Media (Japan), Plataforma (Spain). Gribaudo/Feltrinelli bought Italian rights for the revised edition in a pre-empt.

Winner of the Women's Health Award and the Prix La Science se Livre

Dr **MARIËTTE BOON** is a physician, senior researcher, and expert in obesity and fat metabolism. She works at the Obesity Center CGG at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands.

Professor **LIESBETH VAN ROSSUM** is an internist-endocrinologist and internationally recognised researcher in the fields of obesity and stress. She is co-founder of the Obesity Center CGG and plays a leading international role in improving obesity care and policy. From 2021 to 2025, she served as European Clinical Lead for Obesity, Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolism within the European Society of Endocrinology, and she currently contributes to the U.S. Obesity Pharmacotherapy Guideline of the Endocrine Society.



© RUUD POS

HANS LUITEN

How to Understand Central Europe

A Journey Through the Present and Past

Hans Luiten takes the reader on a journey across contemporary Central Europe and gives a historic perspective on this extraordinary region nowadays.

Walking through a city like Prague or Warsaw, one lurches between familiarity and a sense of otherness. It is not Western Europe, but neither is it the Russian East – although the influence of both is clearly visible. Welcome to Central Europe: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, western Ukraine and southern Lithuania. Hans Luiten takes the reader on a journey through the region and through time. From Saint Adalbert, who met his demise in Poland in 997, and whose remains spread across Europe as relics, to the campaigners he meets in a Hungarian metro station, who speak of the terrible Treaty of Trianon as if it was signed only a week rather than a century ago.

Luiten combines history and his own travel experiences in fascinating stories which reveal not only known but also intangible facets of an eventful part of the world. His work sheds light on the region that gave rise to autocrats like Viktor Orbán and Robert Fico.

On Do you still understand the Middle East?:

‘Filled with useful insights and analyses.’ – *NRC*



360 pp – September 2025

Sample translation available

Clear and accessible explanation of the complexities of Central Europe



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

HANS LUITEN is an inspired history teacher and travel guide. He regularly gives talks. Together with Sven de Graaf he previously published *Do you still understand the Middle East?*.

REMCO BREUKER

The World According to North Korea

North Korea's influential role on the world stage

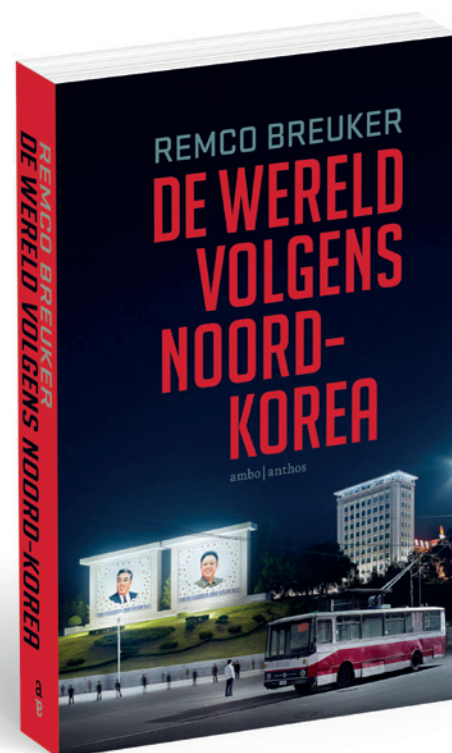
The news in 2024 that North Korean soldiers were fighting for Russia in Ukraine came as a surprise to many. Isn't North Korea that inward-looking dictatorship, where human rights are violated on a massive scale? But the country seems to have great ambitions abroad and to want to strengthen its presence in the world.

North Korea expert Remco Breuker explains things. What exactly is the country's connection with Putin? Why is North Korea involved so much in southern Africa? And what are its connections with groups and countries in the Middle East? While the world order has been rocked to its core, North Korea is on the eve of perhaps its greatest heyday since the Korean War in the 1950s.

On North Korea Inc.:

★★★★ 'Fascinating analysis of North Korea as a totalitarian gangster state.' – *de Volkskrant*

●●●● 'In *North Korea Inc.*, Remco Breuker goes in-depth. The most famous Korea expert in the Netherlands highlights in a unique way the profit model of the North Korean regime.' – *NRC*



224 pp – October 2025

Sample translation available

While the world order is shaking on its foundations, North Korea is on the verge of what may be its greatest period of prosperity since the Korean War in the 1950s.

Professor **REMCO BREUKER** (b. 1972) is a historian, translator and professor of Korean Studies at the University of Leiden. He has published several other books, including *North Korea Inc.*; 2018 and *The Korean Wave*; 2023.



© DIRK-JAN VAN DIJK

JACQUELINE OSKAMP

Louis Andriessen. The Biography

The life of composer

With his stunning piece *De Staat* (1976), Louis Andriessen wrote history. Other notable works, such as *De Materie* and *La Commedia* became famous worldwide. At the end of his life, Andriessen was in fact more appreciated in the United Kingdom and the United States than in his native Netherlands.

Andriessen was the youngest child in an illustrious family of musicians. He was typical of the 1960s generation: against the war in Vietnam, for accessible art, antiauthoritarian, for free love. The Dutch cultural world came to know Andriessen as an intelligent, sharp-witted man never at a loss for a one-liner. This bravura concealed a complex personality. He greatly needed harmony but often created contentious situations. When a scuffle broke out between the audience, protesters, musicians and police during the infamous 'Notenkraker Action' at the Concertgebouw in 1969, Andriessen kept a low profile on the balcony. Jacqueline Oskamp accessed Andriessen's private archive, which included hundreds of unpublished letters. The result is this gripping biography, in which she brings to light surprising facets of the composer.

★★★★ 'A book that provides a beautiful picture of the person behind the composer and the composer behind the person.'
– ZINGmagazine

★★★★ 'Oskamp displays a keen eye for telling details [...] She vividly sketches Andriessen's development and personal life [...]'
– NRC

'A beautiful ending, a rich life, a beautifully composed book.'
– HP/De Tijd



496 pp – May 2025

Sample translation available – Translation grant available

JACQUELINE OSKAMP (b. 1964) studied political science at the University of Amsterdam. As a music critic and journalist, she wrote for *De Groene Amsterdammer*, *de Volkskrant* and *Vrij Nederland* for years. She has published several books about Dutch music. In 2025 she has been awarded the Theo Bruins Prize for her service to Dutch music.



© MERLIJN DOOMERNIK

IVO PAKVIS & STIJN KEURIS

The Formula

The Secret Behind the Most-Successful F1 Teams

Red Bull and Mercedes dominated Formula One for years, but change is underway. Teams like McLaren, Ferrari and Aston Martin are rattling at the gates and are achieving the same professionalism as the top teams. The race-driver, the design, the motor supplier, the race engineer and thousands of other things: everything must be right to win races in the fastest sport in the world.

In *The Formula* Ivo Pakvis and Stijn Keuris look for the story behind the teams and uncover the secrets behind the talent, the history, the rules, the motors, the design and the tracks.

Is there a formula for the pursuit of speed? *The Formula* – as thrilling as it is informative – is the result of years of research by two experienced F1 journalists.



288 pp – January 2026

Synopsis available

Formula One teams and their pursuit of speed

IVO PAKHUIS is a sport journalist and has been following Formula One for twenty years. **STIJN KEURIS** is a journalist and historian. He has written for magazines and newspapers and was the editor-in-chief of *GPUupdate*.



© NICO PAKVIS



© FRISO KEURIS

UMAYYA ABU-HANNA, MARY
ANN JARAISI & ANOUK
JANSEN

A Palestinian Dinner

A history in Stories and Dishes

In *A Palestinian Dinner*, Umayya Abu-Hanna takes us on a journey through the long, rich history of Palestine and Palestinian cuisine. She recalls memories of Christmas dinners from her childhood with her family in the cities of Haifa and Nazareth, among other things. She shows that in her culture, few things play as important a role as food and spending time with family and friends. The dishes, prepared according to centuries-old traditions, are varied and largely vegetarian.

‘This book was created by Palestinian women who pass on their heritage through words, recipes, and stories. It is a living archive of memories, resilience, and connection.’ – Sami Tamimi



Approx. 160 pp – pub date November 20, 2025

An ode to Palestinian culture



UMAYYA ABU-HANNA is a Palestinian writer and journalist, born in Haifa. She lived in Finland for many years, where she published several books. She has been living in Amsterdam since 2010.

MARY ANN JARAISI is a Palestinian artist and ceramist from Nazareth, who now lives and works in Amsterdam.

ANOUK JANSEN is a designer, chef, and culinary entrepreneur, also based in Amsterdam.





35,000 copies sold

HERMAN KOCH

The Yard

Rights sold: Pegasus (Estonia), Siltala (Finland), Neri Pozza (Italy)

Novel – 304 pp – December 2024

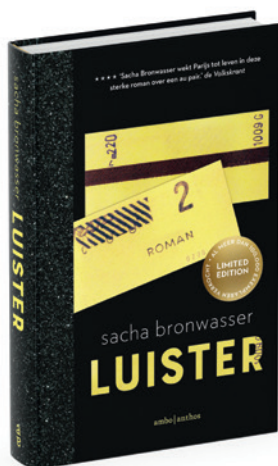
Complete English translation available – Translation grant available

After visiting a prison book club, Simon Hanson, a writer of international bestsellers, receives stories from hardened criminal Derek L. Hanson immediately recognises Derek's literary talent and sends the collection, *The Yard*, to a publisher. The writer has arranged for Derek L. to attend his own book presentation during his weekend leave – provided he stays at Hanson's home during this time. Simon's wife Hanna is a detective specialised in serious and organised crime; it couldn't be safer. At least, in theory.

'His satire of a crime novel is playful, with bold descriptions and countless cheerful winks.' – *de Volkskrant*

'A successful blend of satire, self-deprecating humor, mise en abyme and thriller. ... With visible pleasure, he parodies a genre. To read *The Yard* is to be on a rollercoaster: swirling, merry-making and exciting all in one.'

– *De Telegraaf*



125,000 copies sold

SACHA BRONWASSER

Luister

Rights sold: PRH (World English), ICU (Bulgaria), V.B.Z. (Croatia), NLN (Czechia), Docendo (Finland), Arche (Germany), Antolog (Macedonia), Solum Bokvennen (Norway), Otwarte (Poland)

Novel – 256 pp – February 2023

Complete English translation available – Translation grant available

Shortlisted for LIBRIS, NS Public Prize and Hans Vervoort Prize 2024 – Nominated for Inktap 2025 – Best novel of 2023 (*Het Parool*), Best novel by a Dutch author 2023 (*De Volkskrant*), Top 10 of best books in 2023 (*NRC*)

In 1989 twenty-one-year-old Marie leaves the Netherlands in a great rush. In Paris she starts work as an au pair for a bourgeois family and tries to build a new life for herself. The new language, the thankless work in a complicated family and the impressive but pitiless city offer her the anonymity she longs for.

★★★★★ 'A highly ingenious novel' – *NRC*

'Cannily constructed and gracefully written, this thought-provoking literary thriller offers a charcuterie board's worth of rewards.' – *Publishers Weekly*



50,000 copies sold

LEX PALEAUX

Hitchhiking to Heaven

Rights sold: Simon & Schuster Canada (World English)

Novel – 312 pp – September 2024

Complete English translation available – Translation grant available

Winner of the 2025 Dutch Booksellers' Award, nominated for Best Book For the Young Award 2025

Sixteen-year-old Quintin has just been released from a juvenile detention centre when he once again gets himself into trouble. His desperate parents send him to a remote part of Canada, where he must hold his own in a strict religious community. Quintin's loveless host family mainly sees him as free domestic labour, and the farmer he is assigned to help sees it as his duty to get Quintin back on the right track with a firm hand.

'Lex Paleaux knows how to put himself in the shoes of a 16-year-old boy. He alternates the present with flashbacks every time something unpleasant happens to Quintin in Canada.' – *de Boekenkrant*

'A gripping, touching coming-of-age story.' – *Trouw*



28,000 copies sold

JUDITH FANTO

The Bystander [Narcis]

Rights sold: Kein & Aber (German language)

Novel – 320 pp – February 2025

Sample translation available – Translation grant available

Nominated for the Silver Rainbow Award 2025

Haarlem, 1916. After the death of his mother, ten year old Manno is forced to leave the neutral Netherlands to go and live with his father's family in the wartorn metropolis of Vienna. The demands imposed on him by his new life drive him to despair until, at a summer camp, he makes friends with five children his age. In the decades that follow, their close friendship survives all kinds of difficulties. But by the time Hitler invades Austria on the eve of the Second World War, societal issues have turned deeply personal, forcing each of the friends to take a stand.

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Novel – 192 pp – September 2023

Complete English translation available – Translation grant available

Shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature 2024, the Amarte Literature Prize 2024 and the Nature Book Prize 2024

This is the story of the Aras River in Iran and the nomadic people that camp on its banks. Lovingly, but also with a hint of jealousy, the river observes how Saray becomes a young woman and how a childhood love turns into an adult relationship with Aydin.

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Novel – 184 pp – March 2021

English sample translation available – Translation grant available

Winner of the Debutant Prize from the Society of Dutch Literature 2022, Winner of the Bronze Owl Public Prize 2021, Longlist Libris Literature Prize 2022, Longlist Hebban.nl Debut Prize 2022

Arghavan is a young Iranian woman who has only recently moved to the Netherlands. While she struggles to build a new life, she is plagued by memories of her childhood in Iran. A childhood that took a negative turn when her mother left one day to the next, and her father became addicted to opium. She then made a radical decision: she left behind the mountainous landscape of Iran and departed for the flattest country in the world: the Netherlands. Arghavan works in a thrift store in Amsterdam, where she befriends some customers, such as Anna, a deaf dancer, and the old Johan, who records the sound of trees. Then she falls in love with Mees, a young musician, who completely turns her world upside down.

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Novel – 224 pp – November 2024

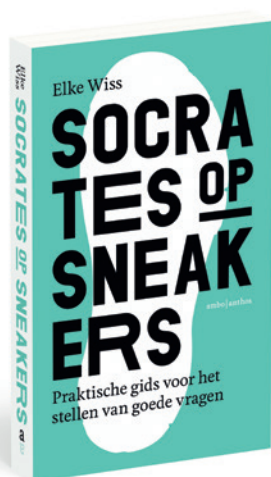
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