

RIGHTS GUIDE

FALL 2023 

publishing house atlas contact

ADRIAAN VAN DIS

Tenderness and a Warm Embrace

A nine-year-old boy goes to stay at his grandparents' house when his father, tormented by memories of war, is having a breakdown. But in that house, another war awaits him: the woman hired by the stern grandfather as a live-in 'maid for day and night' increasingly resists her serving role. She, Ommie, takes on the role of grandmother and grows into a peacemaker in her master's broken family. She had already proven herself a heroine during the war. The boy emulates her bravery and she helps him overcome his fears. A close bond develops between the two – coloured by their yearning for love and recognition.

In reconstructing Ommie's life and that profoundly significant summer, Van Dis shifts surprisingly from the past to the present and shows what today says about those earlier times. In *Tenderness and a Warm Embrace*, he has written a forgotten chapter in his oeuvre.



"Maybe you have to grow old to understand the child inside yourself." – Adriaan van Dis

On *Tenderness and a Warm Embrace*:

"Mezza's book panel fell like a log for the latest Adriaan van Dis: *Tenderness and a Warm Embrace*. (...) In this book Van Dis paints a beautiful picture of the period just after the Second World War, a period he has not written about before."

– AD Magazine

"It is the writer in the making: magnifying details until they start speaking, revealing their meaning by themselves, Van Dis is a master at it." – Friesch Dagblad

"Rhythmic, poetic and musical." – Het Parool

"The subtle way Van Dis exposes this exploitation and mutual dependence between the retired gentleman farmer and his maid makes this novel rise far above 'the private'."

– Neerlandistiek.nl

"A moving novel (...) a tender new chapter in Van Dis' magnificent oeuvre." – ZIN

- About the wondrous love between a nine-year-old child and a sixty-year-old woman: crackling, playful, witty, and sincere.



ADRIAAN VAN DIS has published novels and stories, most recently *Five Merry Tales* and *CliFi. I Will Come Back* was awarded the 2015 Libris Literature Prize and that same year Van Dis received the Constantijn Huygens Prize for his entire oeuvre.

NOVEL, 218 PAGES • OVER 25,000 COPIES SOLD • LOVE, MEMOIR

ROB VAN ESSEN

I Will Come Back to This

Journalist Rob Hollander is invited by his former fellow student Icks to visit him in Los Angeles. There, Icks offers him the opportunity to right past wrongs by travelling back in time. In the trip Hollander subsequently finds himself in, a major role is played by a childhood incident that had profound consequences, and a reunion with some fellow students casts a new light on everything. Is life a one-way trip or can you travel back every now and then to repair something? *I Will Come Back to This* is a compelling and surprising novel in which everything is interconnected. As in his previous – repeatedly award-winning-books, Van Essen successfully mixes everyday reality with the unexpected and the impossible in a novel about appearance, the burden of the past and the need to be part of a larger whole.

On the author:

“Resounding writing that roars. Heartbreaking and technically perfect.” – *De Groene Amsterdammer*

On *The Good Son*:

“[Van Essen’s] work reminds us of that of Murakami and Paul Auster, and sometimes of a James Bond story with all its bizarre fantasies, conspiracies, self-running backpacks, sex-supplying cars and the all-levelling basic income. A novel of ideas, about life, about art. Very special.” – *Trouw*

“A sparkling work of literary imagination. The novel is a brilliant confrontation with the shortcomings and challenges in our own lives.” – Jury report Libris Literature Prize

“The protagonist’s alienation has a profound effect on the reader of this rich, wonderful book.” – *NRC Handelsblad*

“*The Good Son* is written from a fundamental and recognizable feeling of displacement. What exactly has changed remains unclear, but that the civilization that was supposed to protect us from ignorance, violence, and the lust for power is rapidly disappearing (see Trump, Brexit, etc.) is an irrefutable fact.” – *De Standaard*



ROB VAN ESSEN’S acclaimed and often highly praised work occupies a unique position in Dutch literature; his oeuvre is comparable only to that of Saramago, Murakami and Auster. His stories were awarded the J.M.A. Biesheuvel Prize. His novel *The Good Son* received the Libris Literature Prize and has been translated into German and Russian.

NOVEL, 352 PAGES • TIME TRAVEL, HUMOUR, THE UNEXPECTED

DENIZ KUYPERS

Sing to Me Tomorrow

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL ABOUT FOUR GENERATIONS OF WOMEN

After his parents cut off contact because of the book he wrote about his father, the narrator of *Sing to Me Tomorrow* goes looking for answers. Why did his mother stay with a man who abused her? The search takes him back four generations to his great-grandmother, Levina, who got pregnant by a man who already had a family. The same thing happened to her daughter and her granddaughter, the narrator's mother. Is this a coincidence or are these bad choices resonating through successive generations? The result is a novel that is at once grand and intimate. It explores how the family stories that shape us always seem to exist somewhere between myth and reality. *Sing to Me Tomorrow* reads like a mosaic of longing and betrayal.

On *The Atlas of Everywhere*:

"The best part – and this makes *The Atlas of Everywhere* by definition an important book – is the underlying theme of feeling unrooted, saying goodbye to one place while never fully arriving at the other." – *NRC Handelsblad*

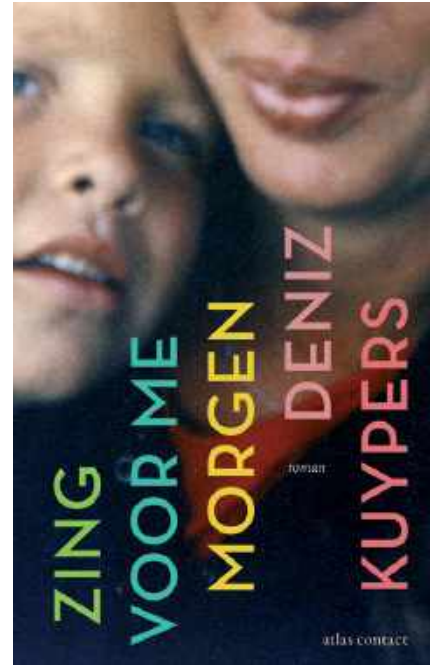
"[Kuypers offers us] a brutally honest and above all beautiful novel, a monument for his children." – *Trouw*

"Kuypers has turned a life into literature, allowing him to tolerate and perhaps even understand his father's behaviour. One of the basic tenets of literature: using fiction to keep horror at bay. That's exactly what Kuypers has done in this accomplished novel." – *De Groene Amsterdammer*

On *Sing to Me Tomorrow*:

"With compassion and admiration, Kuypers draws powerful portraits of women forced to conform to others' expectations and transfer their repressed anger to future generations. (...) *The Atlas of Everywhere* was about love stories. *Sing to Me Tomorrow* is about people who feel love but don't know how to deal with that feeling. With Kuypers' generation, that pattern finally seems to be reversing itself." – *Trouw*

NOVEL, 272 PAGES • AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL



DENIZ KUYPERS wrote the novels *Days without Dulci* (nominated for Academia Award 2013) and *The Noise of the World* (nomination BNG Bank Award 2014). He studied English literature at the University of Amsterdam and has lived in San Francisco since 2002. His novel *The Atlas of Everywhere* was published in 2021, was longlisted for the Hans Vervoort Prize and made the shortlist for the Libris Literature Prize 2022.

JAN VANTOORTELBOOM

Mauk

Mauk is old and sick and lies in a bed by the window. He is cared for by Jenny, the daughter of a woman he once loved. Mauk lives in his memories: he was a child who took on the colour of the background. Until his mother is injured. It is too much to comprehend. At that moment, Henri, the big brave brother he always wished for, overpowers his thoughts. Henri protects him, not from the violence of a threatening outside world, but from that of his tyrannical father. When Mauk faces tragedy at the age of twelve, Henri is the only one who can help him. Mauk is the story of a traumatised child who cannot resist a father's demons, but through his distorted imagination manages to hold his own.

On *Mauk*:

"Stylistically high quality. How Jan Vantoortelboom can write!" – *Nederlands Dagblad*

"Reading *Mauk* is digging deep to reach the bottom, but there lies gold." ★★★★★ – *de Volkskrant*

"*Mauk* is a complex but rich novel. You have to savour this book, take it slowly and attentively to fully enjoy it." – *Hebba.nl*

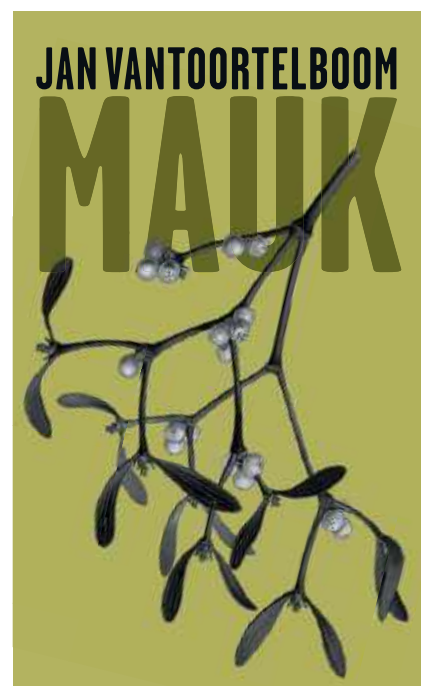
On *His Name Is David*:

"A book to be unashamedly excited about." ●●●● – *NRC Handelsblad*

"In his second novel, Jan Vantoortelboom once again gives evidence of his talent: his evocative prose transports the reader straight to Flanders during the First World War." – *Trouw*

On *The Man in a Hurry*:

"*The Man in a Hurry* contains enough material for a drama, captured by Vantoortelboom in exquisite vignettes. The universe in which he sets his little tragedies now feels familiar: a time when boys seal their friendship by becoming blood brothers and families still brushed mental illnesses under the carpet." – *Humo*



JAN VANTOORTELBOOM

studied German philology and ended up teaching via a series of detours. His debut *The Sunken Boy* was published in 2011. The book was awarded The Bronze Owl 2011 and the Literature Prize of West Flanders in 2012. *His Name Is David* has sold more than 25,000 copies and was translated into English (World Editions). His most recent novels are *The Carrier* (2017) and *Hunter's Moon* (2019).

NOVEL, 192 PAGES • SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

COBI VAN BAARS

The Unintended

A GRIPPING NOVEL ABOUT TWINS WHO WERE SEPARATED AFTER BIRTH

The Roman-Catholic Dutch province of Limburg, 1960s. A time when adoption is still in its infancy and the Mother Church calls the shots. The birth of twins Aaf and Annemarieke was not planned and they were given up for adoption against the wishes of their birth mother. The girls grow up in different families, unaware of each other's existence. Only at the threshold of adulthood is this secret unveiled, and so their search begins. First for each other, then for the past they missed out on. *The Unintended* is a poignant story of promises, misses and gaps, of the unruly truth and its own instrument: chance.

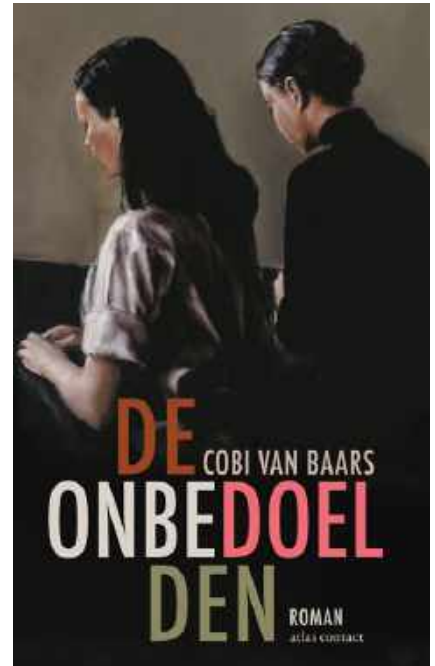
On *The Unintended*:

"A rich and extraordinarily engaging, tightly composed novel (...) based on true events, a circumstance used by the author to play an ingenious game." – *NRC Handelsblad*

"You cannot avoid becoming emotional when reading *The Unintended*; (...) based on true facts, this overwhelming story is about our lives and the loss we feel." – *Limburgs Dagblad/Dagblad de Limburger*

"In this novel about twins who were separated, Cobi van Baars makes the unbelievable believable. (...) Is it possible to miss the absent 'other half' if you don't know them? These are questions commonly asked in separated-twin books, but the author's skill make them feel new here. (...) Van Baars also cleverly manages to avoid all clichés and the ever-present risk of sentimentality that goes with the subject. With thanks to her witty, often laconic narrative style. (...) Almost automatically you follow the friendly-directive author. (...) You feel that you are being manipulated, but you surrender. Anyone who can do that, is undeniably an accomplished writer. (...) An impressive and moving book, that demonstrates Cobi van Baars' strong psychological insight and shows her to be a great author."

★★★★ – *de Volkskrant*



COBI VAN BAARS is steadily building a compelling body of work. Her 2017 debut novel *Schipper & Son* was followed by *Over the Cracking Egg* (2019) and *Burning Hours* (2021). Van Baars' writing is evocative and poignant, each time confirming her talent for conjuring up entire worlds with few words.

NOVEL, 224 PAGES • OVER 10,000 COPIES SOLD • SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE • FILM RIGHTS SOLD

BILAL AL MASHTA

Coulis

Cou-lis (the; m; plural: coulis)

1 A semi-liquid puree of fruit or vegetables.

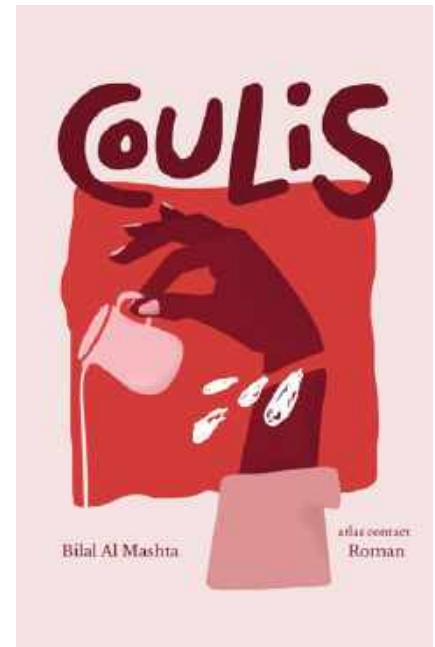
2 An imperative of the verb "to eat" in the Arabic language.

3 Stem of the word "coulisse": a movable side piece of stage scenery.

Algeria. The casbah, 2019.

Amin is a controversial theatre director. After a misstep, he is banned from the theatre for good. He finds refuge in his mother's kitchen. With the help of a nomad with cannibalistic daydreams and a problem teenager sent from the Netherlands, he decides to cater a wedding as a cover for his latest grand creation. It looks like a random attempt to return to society, but the wildfire of ambition is all-consuming.

Bilal Al Mashta pours his homesickness onto paper in a multifaceted debut about coming home and freedom, written in a language that reverberates Algeria's fascinating culture. With great humour and bravado, he merges three storylines into an extraordinarily rich and entertaining novel that reads like a true spectacle.



On *Coulis*:

"Al Mashta is a generous storyteller, who obviously takes pleasure in combining human stories and a clever construction, in language brimming with ambiguities, humour and fine inventions. Al Mashta nor his protagonist conform to expectations: it is the free artist who ultimately wins out over the migration background in the novel. In his personal stories, Al Mashta always strikes the right, individual tone, showing a remarkable (linguistic) sensitivity that suggests that this debut novel is not the only story he has to tell." – *NRC Handelsblad*

"Tasty debut (...) *Coulis* is an original novel, written with humour and taste." – *Jan*



NOVEL, 256 PAGES



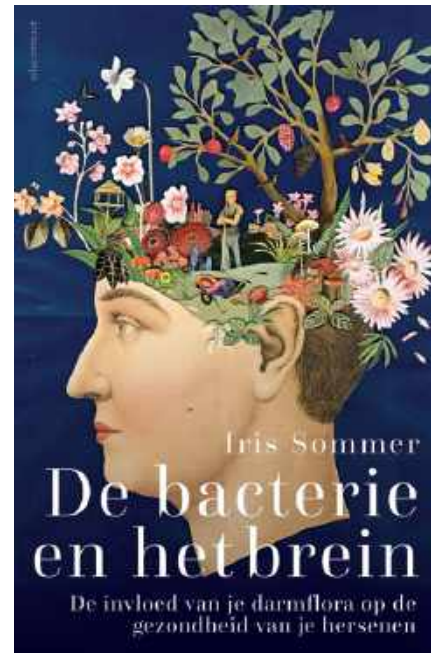
BILAL AL MASHTA is a writer, graphic designer and owner of the two vegetarian restaurants HUmmUS. In 2008, he received the El Hizjra Literature Prize and in 2008-2009 and 2010, he won the preliminaries of Write Now! Rotterdam and Write Now! Amsterdam respectively. *Coulis* is his debut novel.

IRIS SOMMER

The Bacterium and the Brain

HOW YOUR GUT BACTERIA INFLUENCE YOUR BRAIN HEALTH

Your gut bacteria are important for your immunity. We know this. But the fact that the health of our gut also affects the health of our brain is new knowledge that is currently the subject of pioneering research. One of the top researchers in the field is Iris Sommer and *The Bacterium and the Brain* gives a crystal clear explanation of how it works. For instance, how unbalanced intestinal flora disrupts the immune system and communication between brain cells, which leads to suboptimal functioning of the brain. This means that processes in the gut affect common brain disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. And this, apart from being a very interesting discovery, is also a hopeful insight. By following a healthy eating pattern, everyone can contribute to a healthy gut and a healthy brain. In *The Bacterium and the Brain* Iris Sommer once again proves that she possesses the gift to make fascinating scientific research accessible to a wide audience.



On *The Female Brain*:

"While at first glance this might seem like a book on the unique characteristics of the female brain, it turns into a passionate plea to look beyond the dichotomy of man and woman (...) Hopefully Iris Sommer's book will motivate those higher up to leave their prejudice behind and consider a more gender-diverse world." – *Financieel Dagblad*

"Iris Sommer unravels the mystery of the female brain with incredible clarity." – *Elle*

"Iris Sommer gives a fascinating insight into the female brain, its strengths, differences and their consequences for the personality. Exciting." – *Brigitte* (Germany)



IRIS SOMMER is a professor of psychiatry at the University Medical Centre Groningen. Previous books include the bestsellers *The Faltering Brain* and *The Female Brain*, which has been translated into German and Spanish. Last year, her cookbook *Feed Your Brain* was published by the Dutch Brain Foundation.

SUMMARISES INNOVATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME

NON-FICTION, 224 PAGES • HEALTH, GUT FLORA, BRAIN, POPULAR SCIENCE

MILIO VAN DE KAMP

Maybe You Should Aim a Little Lower

A PERSONAL AND RAW STORY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF POVERTY AND UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The house Milio van de Kamp grows up in regularly has no light or hot water, and crime is commonplace in the neighbourhood where he lives. Yet he eventually manages what so many fail to do: escape from poverty. Although his teacher advises him to 'aim a little lower', he manages to reach university from secondary school. But the social ascent does not come without sacrifices. In *Maybe You Should Aim a Little Lower*, Milio tells about the impact of poverty and unequal opportunities through his own experiences. Alienation from your family, not feeling fully at home anywhere, high debts, depression. Again and again, he runs up against the stigmas surrounding poverty. This book exposes crystal clear the complexity of social inequality. It is not a paean to the idea that you can achieve anything, provided you try hard enough. It acknowledges the unimaginable resilience of people who are confronted with their unequal starting position in life from an early age.

On Maybe You Should Aim a Little Lower:

"The harrowing events chronicled by Van de Kamp evoke the same sentiment as the documentary series 'Classes', although Van de Kamp portrays them even worse and more raw." – *Trouw*

"He wrote an illuminating, courageous and personal book about the long road he has travelled, with failure and perseverance." – *de Volkskrant*

"The story Milio tells is harrowing and courageous. (...) With this book, Milio van de Kamp has explained and exposed this problem (inequality of opportunity) engagingly and in clear terms." – *Leestafel*



MILIO VAN DE KAMP is a sociologist and works as an associate professor at the UvA. In 2022, he was voted Faculty Lecturer of the Year. Growing up in poverty, he provides a unique, personal perspective on social inequality. He has previously written about inequality of opportunity and poverty in, among others, dailies *de Volkskrant* and *Het Parool*.

NON-FICTION, 214 PAGES • SOCIOLOGY, AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL • SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Becoming Escher

BY JORIS ESCHER

**WONDERFUL LITERARY NON-FICTION
ABOUT THE GENESIS OF THE YOUNG M.C.
ESCHER, WRITTEN BY HIS SECOND COUSIN**

In a nineteenth-century Chinese lacquer box of ivory puzzles, Joris Escher finds two drawings by his great uncle, the world-famous graphic artist M.C. Escher. The sheets have not seen the light of day for at least 90 years. He suspects that these early studies are a key to Escher's development as an artist and begins a journey of discovery into the origins of his fascinations. Who was his uncle Mauk? How did he become Escher? In the footsteps of M.C. Escher, the reader is taken from Haarlem to Italy, from Japan and China to Canada, and from Spain back to Baarn. Joris Escher learns to carve himself, draws in the places where his great uncle drew, and finds countless still-unknown stories, joys, friendships and connections from Escher's life. Through the eyes of M.C. Escher, the reader experiences his development from a young man to a graphic artist, then to an artist and finally to the Escher we all know. *Becoming Escher* thus turns the genius Escher back into a touchable and fallible human being.

On *Becoming Escher*:

"A fascinating artist biography in novel form." – *Trouw*

"A metaphorical fugue (...). Unique. Not to be missed!"
– Michel Dutrieue, *Stretto*

"You creep into Mauk's head, but increasingly you also feel the passion and obsession of Joris [Escher] to tell this story well. He arranges his copious material with care."
– *Biografie portaal*

"For all fans of Escher, a great read." – *Optisch fenomeen*

"Both Joris and the reader get closer to M.C. Escher, as a person and as an artist." – *Museum Magazine*

"Becoming Escher awakens the urge to travel."
– *NRC Handelsblad*



JORIS ESCHER designs and guides sustainable social change, primarily in the water sector. He previously ran a gallery and publishing house for artists from Asia and Latin America for ten years. *Becoming Escher* is his debut.

NARRATIVE NON-FICTION, 368 PAGES • SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
• SOLD TO ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD (ENGLISH WORLD RIGHTS)

EKE KRIJNEN

A Real Parent

ON QUEER PARENTHOOD

Eke Krijnen's children have three parents: two mothers and a father. Their family regularly provokes questions: Do your children have the same father? So who is the real mother? Did you conceive them naturally? Sometimes these questions amuse Eke, sometimes they annoy her, and sometimes they hurt. In *A Real Parent*, she explores our heteronormative ideas about family life and parenthood that only become visible when you don't fit the standard. Why do we see one parent as a "real" parent and not the other? Why do we see one family as "normal" and another as extraordinary? Krijnen sharply analyses all queer culture about family life she encounters and adds her own views and experiences. *A Real Parent* is a book about kinship, about swimming against the current and wanting to be normal at the same time.



EKE KRIJNEN teaches linguistics at the Dutch Language and Literature Department at the University of Amsterdam. She also works to achieve better legislation for multi-parent families: families in which the children have more than two parents. Eke herself is a mother in a multi-parent family. Her essays and opinion pieces are published in *NRC Handelsblad*, *de Volkskrant* and *Trouw* newspapers. *A Real Parent* is her debut.

NON-FICTION, 224 PAGES • QUEER, EMANCIPATION, PARENTHOOD, SOCIETY, ESSAYS, INEQUALITY

PETER VAN UHM & SANDER KOENEN

A General's Notes

INSPIRING LESSONS FOR YOUR CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE FROM HOLLAND'S BEST-KNOWN SOLDIER

At the age of seventeen, Peter van Uhm chose a career in the armed forces. Forty years later, he left the service as the highest Dutch military officer, with more than sixty thousand people under his command. During that time he carried around a small notebook and jotted down valuable lessons.

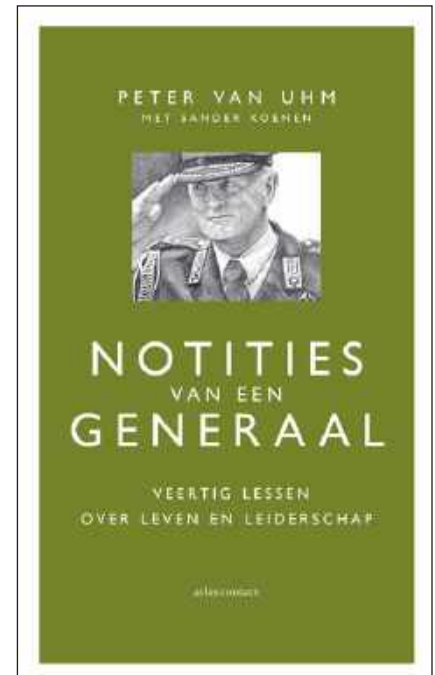
In this book, Van Uhm shares his personal insights and lessons in leadership. Lessons that are useful within the armed forces but definitely also beyond. Lessons about trust and dealing with criticism. About courage, guilt, and responsibility. And about how you can also be in charge, even if only of your own behaviour.

On *I Chose Arms*:

"Outspoken and inspiring." – *Tubantia*

"A fascinating journey through a significant career."

– *Kijk Magazine*



PETER VAN UHM, a former Chief of Defence, is praised worldwide for his leadership qualities. He shared his life story in the book *I Chose Arms*. He is currently in the charts with his podcast *Generals*.



SANDER KOENEN is a writer and journalist – his work includes *I Chose Arms* and *Dream Flight*, about the life of astronaut André Kuipers.



TEDX talk

NON-FICTION, 160 PAGES • LIFE LESSONS, LEADERSHIP, COURAGE, SELF-REFLECTION

ANNE BROEKSMA

A Scaly Story

THE QUEST FOR THE STRANGEST AND MOST ENDANGERED MAMMAL ON EARTH

When it becomes clear to Anne Broeksma that she isn't realising her dreams, she decides something has to change. During a ceremony with a hallucinogenic drug from the jungle, she encounters not herself, but the pangolin: a unique result of evolution that turns out to be the most poached mammal in the world. These mysterious tree dragons become her guides during the years of searching across Asia and Africa. Hidden behind the strange creature is a world of stories, about colonial history, evolution, anthropology, ecotourism, illegal wildlife trade and more. When coronaviruses are found in pangolins in China, Broeksma's previously obscure favourite animal becomes world famous overnight. *A Scaly Story* is a monument to a mammal that managed to escape every pigeonhole but is now threatened with extinction. It strongly encourages us to follow our fascinations, especially when the future looks bleak.

On *Vesper*:

"*Vesper* is a plea for looking deeper, for daring to experience, in order to become part of nature again." – *Trouw*

- For readers of *Shark Drunk* by Morten A. Strøksnes and *The Pineapple* by Lex Boon
- Release date: 17 February 2024 on World Pangolin Day

A MONUMENT TO A VERY SPECIAL MAMMAL

NON-FICTION, 224 PAGES • NATURE, ADVENTURE, BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY, TRAVEL



ANNE BROEKSMA is a poet and journalist. For her debut poetry collection *Rain Cosmos Houseplant* she received the C.C.S. Crone Stipendium and her second collection *Vesper* was nominated for the Herman de Coninck Prize and the J.C. Bloem Poetry Prize. She brings her poems and short stories to many literary stages and writes about nature and nature conservation.

KARL MARX & FRIEDRICH ENGELS

The Communist Manifesto

... in the 21st Century

Delivery people are squeezed dry, buying a house is only for the rich, and politics still sides with polluting multinationals. The downsides of capitalism are more obvious than ever before. But couldn't we have seen this coming?

175 years ago, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published one of the most influential texts ever. In *The Communist Manifesto* they analysed in plain language how the capitalist system benefits only a small elite and called for it to be dismantled. The manifesto has inspired generations of revolutionaries and provided the ultimate paradigm for people who want to fight for a better world.

In this new edition an explanatory reader's guide elucidates the classic text and the work is placed in context. Additionally, thought-provoking essays by contemporary thinkers show how the manifesto can help shape the social and ecological struggles of the 21st century.



- Introduced by Hannah van Binsbergen and with contributions by Harriët Bergman, Helmer Stoel, Grâce Ndjako, Reijer Hendrikse and Rodrigo Fernandez
- Published in association with *Jacobin Nederland*, the new socialist magazine



KARL MARX (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) were two of the most influential political thinkers of the 19th century. Their ideas, recorded in, among other publications, *The Communist Manifesto*, were at the heart of Marxism.

NON-FICTION, 112 PAGES • CAPITALISM, MARX & ENGELS, POLITICAL ACTIVISM, CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

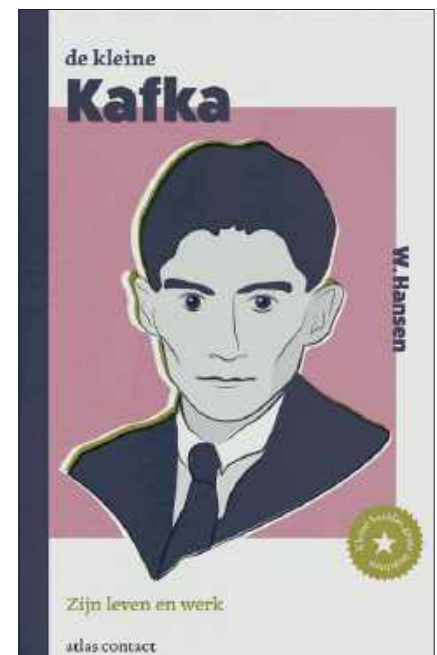
W. HANSEN

The Essential Kafka

PORTRAIT OF A WRITER WHO WANTED TO BE ERASED

Franz Kafka wanted all of his (largely unpublished) literary work to be destroyed after his death. It wasn't. In fact, no 20th century writer sparks the imagination more than he does. Associated with his name are relentless bureaucracy, existential loneliness, the painful inability to commit oneself, grotesque and bizarre stories that, depending on your interpretation, are as hilarious as they are serious. His name has generated a word that (highly exceptional for a writer) is included in many dictionaries: *Kafkaesque*.

He has written several novels and stories that are among the best in world literature: *The Trial*, *The Metamorphosis*, *The Castle*, *Amerika*. The intensity of his diaries is unprecedented. But if it had been up to him, we would never have heard of Franz Kafka from Prague.



NON-FICTION, 96 PAGES • LITERATURE

W. HANSEN has written for *NRC*, *de Volkskrant* and *De Morgen*. He is a writer, editor and translator.

TRUDY DEHUE

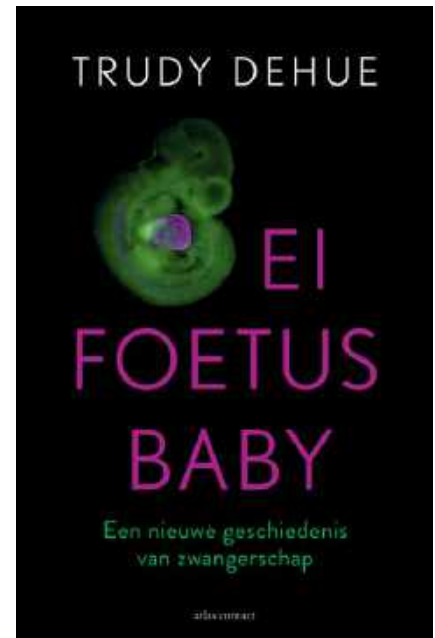
Egg, Foetus, Baby

A NEW HISTORY OF PREGNANCY

What happens in a pregnant belly? For centuries, people, mostly men, have been trying to answer that question. Scientific researchers pondered it, using a wide range of techniques and methods. Word usage about pregnancy also varied and varies over time. For instance, when can or should you be called “pregnant”, and is it of an “egg”, “foetus” or “child”? What counts as “an abortion”?

Trudy Dehue is fascinated by the creation of knowledge. What is the pregnant person’s place in the many studies of the pregnant belly? Facts are always the end product of human actions and human decisions, she argues, often with major consequences for the likes and dislikes of others. So behind every fact is a story.

In *Egg, Foetus, Baby*, Dehue unravels many stories behind the facts about pregnancy and pregnancy termination. In her research spanning five centuries, she charts sometimes gruesome, sometimes loving and sometimes alienating techniques and mindsets. At the same time, she offers new insights about the relationship between our knowledge and reality.



On *Egg, Foetus, Baby*:

“The evocatively-told stories of individual women are gripping and unsettling.” – *de Volkskrant*

“Trudy Dehue has written an important book (...) Anyone who wants to make big statements about pregnancy, religiously or otherwise, should read this book first.”

– *Nederlands Dagblad*



TRUDY DEHUE is emeritus professor of science theory and history of science at the University of Groningen. She previously wrote the bestsellers *The Depression Epidemic* and *Better People*, among others. In 2019, she received the KNAW’s prestigious Academy Medal.

NON-FICTION, 336 PAGES • SCIENCE, BIOLOGY

MAAIKE MEIJER

Desperate Heroes

After decades of writing about the portrayal of women in cultural history, Maaïke Meijer decided to give literature, films and series by male creators and ditto protagonists another chance. And what she found there surprised her: they are teeming with histories that feature a distinct anti-hero as their subject, at odds with the prevailing social image of masculinity.

Meijer sees these stories not as universal but specifically as men's stories and opens new windows on "the men's issue".

She rereads Melville, Wolkers, Te Gussinklo, Hermans and Houellebecq, among others, watches *Casablanca*, *The Power of The Dog*, *Dolor y Gloria*, *The Big Lebowski*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and TV series like *Borgen* and *The Queen's Gambit*. She rewrites Freudian tales of castration anxiety and penis envy, explores her own relationship to gender fluidity, describes masculinity within herself and considers male suffering with an equally critical and empathetic gaze.



On *Desperate Heroes*:

"In *Desperate Heroes*, Maaïke Meijer aims to show that there is no single universal, powerful representation of masculinity. Men suffer. And can anything be done about that? Yes, look to *Big Lebowski's* the Dude." – *Het Parool*

"In *Desperate Heroes*, Meijer mixes literary analysis with her personal experiences with masculinity. That approach works, moves at times, and also amuses." – *Trouw*

"An impressive study of the representation of masculinity in literature and film (...) A fascinating book that everyone should read." – *Neerlandistiek*



MAAIKE MEIJER is professor emeritus of gender studies, biographer and publicist. Her biography of M. Vasalis (nominated for the Golden Book Owl and the Biography Prize) was published in 2011 and that of F. Harmsen van Beek (nominated for the Biography Prize and the Bookspot Literature Prize) in 2018.

NON-FICTION, 256 PAGES • GENDER

AGLAIA BOUMA

Housemates

INSECTS IN AND AROUND OUR HOMES

You live with many more creatures than you think. Hundreds of animals scurry, fly and run in and around your home, during all seasons. They are small and usually keep themselves hidden, as discovery often forces insects to pay with death. Yet they are fascinating to those who look closely. Bouma does just that. With humour and great knowledge, she takes you to nooks and crannies in the attic, to pots of herbs in the kitchen and the stones and earth in your garden. There she shows social cockroaches and caring earwigs, optimistic bumblebees and bizarre tang wasps pass by, she points out help from unexpected quarters from moth flies and it becomes clear why that one bedbug or lemonade wasp ruins it for the whole group. *Housemates* changes your view of the unjustly unpopular insects forever.

On *Housemates*:

"After reading Bouma's book, you get the urge to open your doors wide to all those fascinating housemates – let them stay, room enough! And it is precisely this connectedness that we need in order to tackle the insect crisis. If we feel enough positive emotions for these special animals, reason should hopefully follow." – *NRC Handelsblad*

"In *Housemates*, Aglaia Bouma opens our eyes to the tiny creatures in our immediate environment. (...) Bouma's light, humorous tone is a breath of fresh air in the doom and gloom that hangs over this subject." – *de Volkskrant*

THE LIVES AND ADVENTURES OF MYRIADS OF SECRET ROOMIES

NON-FICTION, 264 PAGES • BIOLOGY



AGLAIA BOUMA is a writer, speaker and entomologist. She is a researcher at Naturalis and has a popular column on insects in *NRC Handelsblad* daily. She published *Full of Insects* (2020), which was also translated into Italian.

SASKIA SCHEPERS

When All Brains Work

IT'S TIME FOR A NEURODIVERSE WORKPLACE

Every brain is unique and nowhere is this more apparent than in the workplace. Where too many meetings drive one person crazy, another one needs clear directions. And where some thrive on working from home, others flourish on the liveliness of the workplace. These differences are a huge strength, because people who think, communicate and process stimuli differently also arrive at different insights and solutions. Yet many work environments are geared only to the most typical brains and do not accommodate neurodivergent brains – which we often label as giftedness, ADHD or dyslexia. This means the enormous potential of neurodiversity is lost in a neurotypical workplace.

Saskia Schepers spoke to numerous neurodivergent individuals and developed immediately applicable tools that employees and managers can use to develop a neuro-inclusive workplace. This book offers neurodivergents a new perspective on their own capabilities and provides their environment with the tools needed to fully utilise those capabilities. And that benefits not only neurodivergents, but everyone – because ultimately, every brain works differently.

The facts:

- Each brain is different
- Some brains are so different that we assign them labels like autism, ADHD or highly sensitive
- People with a brain like that are called “neurodivergent”
- 20% of the population is neurodivergent
- Neurodivergents suffer burnout and conflicts at work more often than others
- As a result, their talents, creativity and innovative insights are underused
- It doesn't have to be that way: it's time for a brain-friendly workplace!

- Includes immediately applicable working methods, such as the brain profile and the collaborative thinking session
- Saskia Schepers is an expert on neurodiversity in organisations

NON-FICTION, 304 PAGES • NEURODIVERSITY, BUSINESS



SASKIA SCHEEPERS is a consultant and project manager in the field of HR and wellbeing. She has worked for various companies, including Ahold, ABN AMRO bank and Douwe Egberts Coffee, and for (local) authorities, business services providers and social organisations. In 2022, she and the Diversity & Inclusion Team won the first Dutch Neurodiversity Award for the neuro-inclusive policy at ABN AMRO.