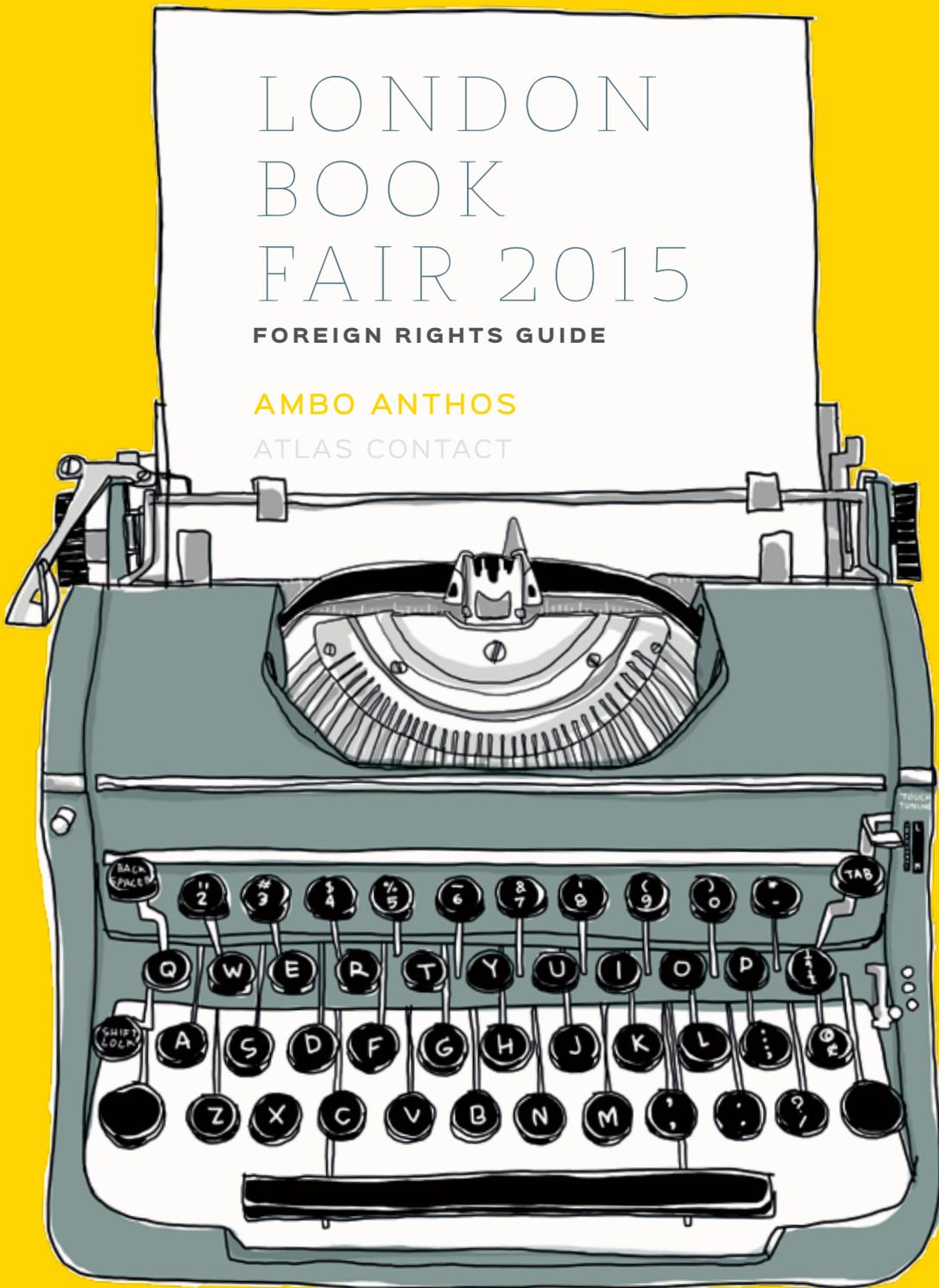


LONDON BOOK FAIR 2015

FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

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AUTHOR AGENCY AMSTERDAM

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The new bestselling title by Herman Koch

HERMAN KOCH

Dear Mr M.

MORE THAN 150.000 COPIES SOLD IN THE NETHERLANDS

The once celebrated writer M. had his greatest success with a novel about the notorious disappearance of Jan Landzaat. This history teacher disappeared after a brief affair with a stunning pupil, and was last seen at the holiday cottage where she was staying with her new boyfriend. The novel was a bestseller and marked M.'s international breakthrough, but now, at the end of his career, he is fading increasingly into obscurity. But not when it comes to his mysterious downstairs neighbour, who keeps a close eye on M. What does he have to do with the disappearance case?

From various perspectives, Herman Koch tells the intriguing story of a writer in decline, a teenage couple in love and a missing teacher. Thanks to the bestseller, their fate seems to be linked forever. *Dear Mr M.* is a magnificent novel about jealousy and envy, friendship and love. With his world-renowned sharp eye, Herman Koch once again spares nothing and no one.

PRESS ON DEAR MR M.

'*Dear Mr M.* comes very close to perfection.' – ***** DE STANDAARD

'The writing is crystal clear and unpretentious, typically Koch!'

– **** NRC HANDELSBLAD

'It is not just a page-turner, there are also plenty of belly laughs to be had.'

– **** HET PAROOL

'*Dear Mr M.* fulfils the promise of a long-awaited new Koch after only a few pages.' – VRIJ NEDERLAND

'Koch demonstrates his great narrative talent.' – DE TELEGRAAF

'Koch has mastered all the tricks. He is the master of variety, balance and subtle cliff-hangers. [...] Plot-driven is an understatement: Koch cracks the whip to the very end.' – BOEK

'Tense, ingeniously constructed novel by a chuckling writer.' – ZIN



Ambo|Anthos, novel,
430 pages, May 2014

Rights sold: Picador (UK), Hogarth (US), Text (Australia), Belfond (France), Kiepenheuer & Witsch (Germany), Salamandra (Spain), Neri Pozza (Italy), Siltala (Finland), Keter (Israel), Colibri (Bulgaria), Ara Llibres (Catalonia)

* English sample translation *



Herman Koch (born 1953) is a renowned television producer and an internationally bestselling author. The translation rights of *The Dinner* (2009) have been sold to 42 countries, unprecedented for a modern Dutch novel. *The Dinner* has been adapted into several international stage plays and into a Dutch movie. Australian Academy Award winner Cate Blanchett will make her directorial debut with the English-language movie. *Summer House with Swimming Pool* (2011) is another international bestseller. The English translation of the book was published this summer in the US (Hogarth), the UK (Atlantic), and Australia (Text Publishing).

*‘Verhoef at her best. You’ll have no nails left to bite!’ – ***** Veronica Magazine*

ESTHER VERHOEF

Close to the Cradle



177.000 COPIES SOLD
IN THE DUTCH BESTSELLERLIST ALL YEAR ROUND

When Didi is confined to her bed after the difficult birth of her first child, she is delighted with the help of the maternity nurse. The baby is cute and healthy, but Didi’s recovery is slow.

Miriam, who works for the Rotterdam police force, cannot get over the sudden death of her brother. She suspects foul play on the part of his beautiful widow Hennequin. When she delves into Hennequin’s past, Miriam becomes convinced that she is dealing with a dangerous psychopath. And it is precisely this woman who is making herself indispensable to the young, vulnerable family..

Close to the Cradle describes ten critical days in the life of three young women. Vulnerability, will power and bloodlust find each other in a dark, poignant page-turner: Esther Verhoef’s scariest thriller to date.

PRESS ON CLOSE TO THE CRADLE:

‘The storylines are ingeniously combined. Verhoef tells the story effectively, with tantalising cliffhangers.’ – NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘Does it matter what her new book is about? Not really. You buy and devour every Esther Verhoef thriller without even reading the back flap.’

– MARIE CLAIRE

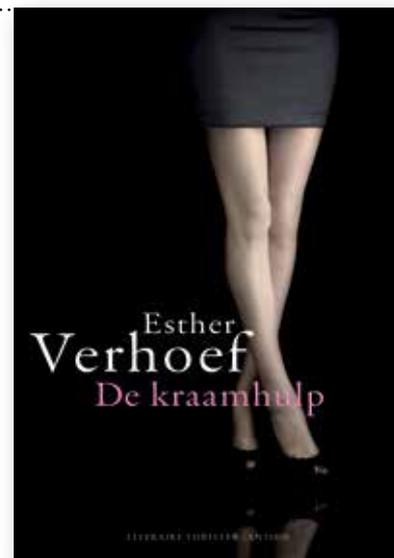
‘Superlatively dark.’ – DAGBLAD DE LIMBURGER

‘Shockingly suspenseful.’ – BOEK

‘OMG, she is the maternity nurse from hell! The spine-chilling new Esther Verhoef.’ – GLAMOUR

‘*Close to the Cradle* is a genuine page-turner with a masterful final plot twist.’ – DE VOLKSKRANT

‘Dark drama full of nail-biting suspense.’ – ***** ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD



Ambo | Anthos, thriller,
320 pages, February 2014

**Rights sold: btb (Germany),
Turbine (Denmark),
Ab Ovo (Hungary)**

*** English sample translation
and synopsis ***



Esther Verhoef is one of the most successful writers in the Netherlands. Her books have sold more than 1.5 million copies. She conquered the bestseller lists in 2006 with her thriller *Rendezvous*, followed by *Close-Up* (2007) and *Everything to Lose* (2008). Her thrillers have been nominated multiple times for the NS Book of the Year Award (NS Publicatieprijs), which she won in 2011 with *Déjà Vu*. Additionally, both *Rendezvous* as *Close-Up* were awarded the Silver Fin gerprint. The translation rights have been sold to the UK, Russia, Denmark, the USA, France, Germany and Spain. The film adaptation of *Rendezvous* (produced by Millstreet Films) premieres in May 2015.

Compelling novel about friendship and parenthood in a time when we are afraid to make choices

JANNAH LOONTJENS

But Then Again

But Then Again describes four days in the life of Mascha. She lives in Amsterdam, has a good job just like her boyfriend, and together they have two children. She leads a life that appears typical for our time, when social media and freedom of choice make life more fun, but also more complicated. We chat, WhatsApp, tweet, Facebook and find love online.

These four days in Mascha's life paint a contemporary picture to which many will relate. She enjoys wild evenings with her friends, does her best to be a good mother, puts her relationship under the microscope, and has a secret Facebook affair. Every day she struggles with her responsibilities.

But Then Again is an exceptionally rich novel, which depicts not only the adventures of a young woman, but also tackles the important issues of our time – a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to make choices.

PRAISE FOR *BUT THEN AGAIN*:

'*But Then Again* offers an intimate glimpse into the life of a modern woman in all her guises. Poignant, philosophical thoughts shine through the mundane. Excellent work!' – SASKIA DE COSTER (AUTHOR *WE AND I*)

PRESS ON *BUT THEN AGAIN*:

'What makes this novel so new, exciting and rich is the sophisticated way in which she inserts psychological, philosophical and social layers throughout the story.' – TROUW

'Vivacious and modern.' – JAN MAGAZINE

'Painfully recognizable.' – VERONICA MAGAZINE

'With this thought-provoking novel, Loontjens demonstrates the power of literature.' – HP/DE TIJD



Ambo|Anthos, novel, 234 pages,
August 2014

Rights sold: Typotex (Hungary)

*** English sample translation ***



Jannah Loontjens (born 1974) is a philosopher and writer. In 2007 she debuted with the novel *Good Luck*. Her second, acclaimed novel *What Time Really* (2011) was nominated for the Halebijn Literature Prize. The essay collection *My Life is Better than Literature* was published in 2013. Loontjens teaches literary theory and literary writing at ArtEZ Institute of the Arts and the Gerrit Rietveld Academie.

Fresh, new voice in the thriller genre

MARJA WEST

Out for the Count

'You'll never believe who moved in next door today,' I heard him say to his mother from the kitchen as they hung their coats in the hall cupboard.

The Wicked Witch of the West, I thought.

'Annelize van Pooijen Zuilensteijn,' he answered, before my mother-in-law had the chance to make a guess.

'No,' she said. 'Really? Good heavens.'

For the first time I agreed with her.

'How nice!'

That didn't last long.

Esther seems to have everything. She is married to bank manager Maarten and lives in a villa in the chic village of Aerdenhout. But then Annelize moves in next door, an editor at a leading culinary magazine – and Maarten's ex. Clearly she's still very interested in Maarten, and he also seems to have feelings for her, and seeks her out at every opportunity.

In order to save her marriage, Esther bends over backwards to satisfy all Maarten's demands. She goes to ever greater lengths to please him and be the perfect wife. Her desperate acts eventually have catastrophic consequences to save her marriage.

In *Out for the Count*, Marja West guides you into story, before turning everything on its head. It is a quirky, psychologically interesting, well-written thriller, reminiscent of the stories of Roald Dahl.

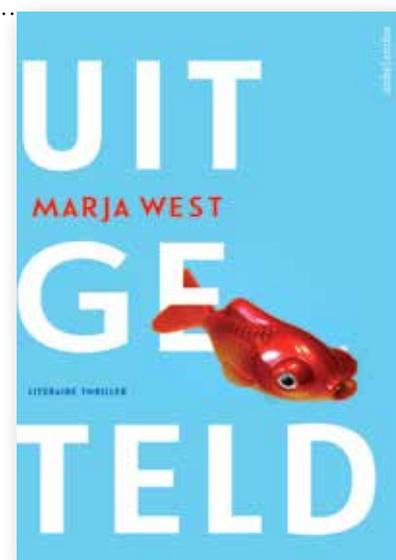
A surprising debut thriller about a woman who slowly loses control over her life.

PRAISE FOR OUT FOR THE COUNT:

'A promising writer with an original, humorous voice.'

– MARION PAUW, BESTSELLING THRILLER AUTHOR

'Marja West keeps the reader guessing long into the book. The mysterious parcel is slowly, but artfully and suspensefully, unwrapped. Strong plot and intriguing subject matter.' – JOOST HEYINK, THRILLER AUTHOR



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, thriller,
274 pages, April 2015

*** Dutch pdf ***



Out for the Count is **Marja West's** debut thriller. She was born in Bakkum, and spent years travelling the world. She is now back in the Netherlands, living in a log cabin in the woods, but her camper van gives her the freedom to move around from time to time.

An uplifting novel about life with a mental illness

JOSHA ZWAAN

Wildfire

**JOSHA ZWAAN SOLD ALMOST 90.000 COPIES
IN THE NETHERLANDS**

At first glance, Marthe, Barend and their three children look like a very normal family. But Marthe's life is dominated by fears and delusions. Barend looks helplessly on, and the children now worry more about their mother than she does about them. During the holiday that was meant to bring them all closer together, the situation escalates, and Barend takes off with the children. Marthe suffers a psychosis and wanders through Amsterdam for weeks. Very cautiously, she learns to accept herself, sparking a glimmer of self-confidence. But does she still belong in the life of her family?

With her beautiful, poetic style, Josha Zwaan manages to convey strong emotions. *Wildfire* is a story about love, madness and desire. But it is also an attempt to break the taboo of living with a psychological disorder. The novel shows that even under such difficult circumstances, life is still worth living.

PRESS ON WILDFIRE:

'With appealing themes and a clear, albeit style, Zwaan has secured a large readership.' – TROUW

'Beautifully understated.' – *** DE LIMBURGER

'Her prose is reminiscent of literature from the last century.' – OPZIJ

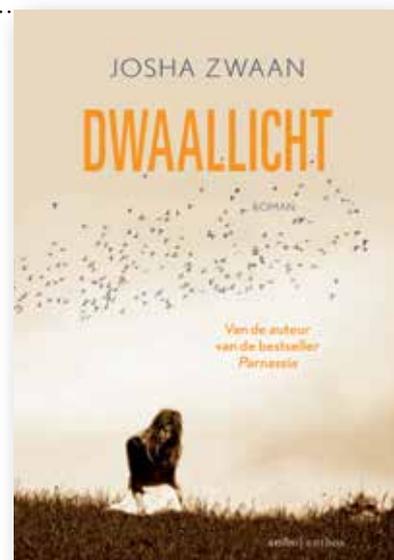
PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'Zwaan writes with deep empathy about people's troubles, but also about the strength of facing truth in their lives.' – SÜDKURIER

'365 pages that carry you away in a fluent and unmannered style.'
– BUECHERTREFF.DE

'*Parnassia* is so poignant it hurts.' – VIVA

'An intelligently written, heartrending portrait.' – ESTA



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, novel,
248 pages, February 2015

*** Dutch pdf ***



Josha Zwaan debuted in 2010 with the acclaimed, bestselling novel *Parnassia*. This was followed in 2013 by the equally brilliant *Sea Sparkle*. For many years Zwaan worked in health care and she now runs her own practice for coaching and process management.

There is only a very fine line between admiration, obsession and envy

EVA POSTHUMA DE BOER

Ica

As a debut author, Nadine Sprenger takes her first steps into the world of writers, publishers and bestsellers. At a party she meets her idol, the famous author Ica Metz. The debutant and the grand dame immediately establish an intuitive but rather inexplicable intimacy. Struck by Ica's personality, her work, and her joie de vivre, Nadine realises that she could not cast a better protagonist for her new novel than Ica herself. But as her book progresses, the line between fact and fiction becomes increasingly fine, until Nadine's admiration for Ica turns into an uncontrollable obsession that finally threatens to spin completely out of hand.

Eva Posthuma de Boer plays a thrilling game as she explores the limits of reality and fiction, and the consequences of limitless admiration for an idol. *Ica* shows that there is only a very fine line between admiration, obsession and envy.

Eva Posthuma de Boer was inspired by Connie Palmen, one of the Netherlands' most iconic writers, who seems to have a lot in common with Ica Metz.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'So sharp and so realistic, it gives you chills.' – ESTA

'A superbly written novel. Cast into words, brilliant and fresh. Perfect for the big screen.' – ****DAGBLAD DE LIMBURGER

'Posthuma de Boer manages to capture things convincingly in only a few words.' – NOORDHOLLANDS DAGBLAD



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, novel,
275 pages, April 2015

* English sample translation *



Eva Posthuma de Boer is a writer, theatre producer and columnist for *Het Parool*. Her previous novels include *Endless Days*, *Light Heart* and *The Comedy Club*, for which she received critical acclaim.

He knows that she's the one. She has no idea.

ELVIN POST

Dame Blanche

ELVIN POST SOLD OVER 80.000 COPIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

At first glance, thirty-four-year-old Jane Raimy has got it made. She has her own cooking show on television and enough millions in the bank to take it easy. But Jane is not happy. Her relationship has just ended, and, despite rising viewing figures, she is far from satisfied with the content of her television show.

What Jane doesn't know is that there are bigger problems on her horizon in the form of Jerry Lauper, a psychopathic ex-con who swears by the book *The Power of Positive Thinking*. He is more than a little in love with Jane, and determined to find out if the feeling is mutual...

Dame Blanche is suspenseful, witty, cinematic and irresistible, and reminds of Tarentino's *Pulp Fiction* and the work of Elmore Leonard.

PRAISE FOR DAME BLANCHE:

'Brilliant, fluent, cool, evocative writing, with pacey dialogues and characters that sometimes make you want to reach out and embrace them.'

– RENATE DORRESTEIN

'Once again, Elvin Post's wry humour is very strong in this book.'

– MARION PAUW

PRESS ON DAME BLANCHE:

'Another beautifully written book, full of humour and surprises. A must for fans of thrillers in the style of Elmore Leonard.' – THRILLERWEB.NL

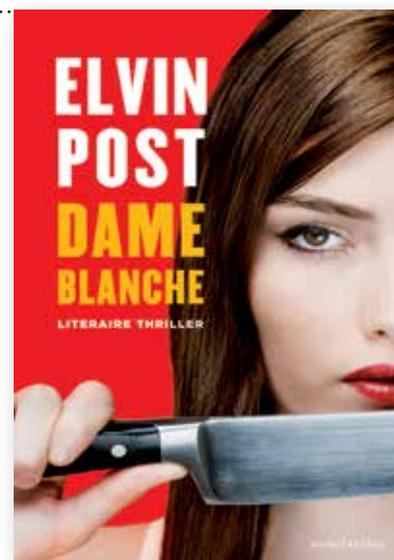
'A real nail-biter of a thriller. You will completely lose yourself in it.'

– GLAMOUR

'Above all, *Dame Blanche* by Elvin Post is a hilarious story set in New York, a comedy of manners full of twists both light and dark.' – AD MAGAZINE

'Elvin Post belongs to the crème de la crème of the thriller writer métier.'

– TELEGRAAF



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, thriller,
313 pages, January 2015

* English sample translation *



Elvin Post (born 1973) works as a journalist for *Algemeen Dagblad*. He previously worked at a literary agency in New York, and now lives in Rotterdam. *Green Friday*, Elvin's debut novel was the first debut novel ever to win the Golden Noose Award, the annual award for the best Dutch crime novel. His books are published in French (Seuil), German (Der Club Bertelsmann), Spanish (Paidós), Turkish (Acik Defer), Hebrew (Kinneret) and Indonesian (Pena Wormer). The Dutch film rights option for *Dame Blanche* has already been sold.

*A teenager with a mission, a terminally ill banker,
and a scientist looking for the key to eternal life*

AUKE HULST

Sleep Tight, Johnny Idaho

Johnny Idaho is an American teenager who, according to the world's databases, does not exist. He is alone in the world, a living ghost with only one goal: to reach the Archipelago, a heavily guarded island nation in the Pacific Ocean. Among those working there is Dutch banker William Gerson, a fifty-something who is confronted with the limitations and possibilities of wealth. He secretly funds the research of Japanese biomedical scientist Hatsu Hamada, hoping for the ultimate drug: immortality. But who influences her thoughts, and to what end?

Three characters, each from a different corner of the globe come together in a new world. What motivates them? And in what way are they inextricably linked to one another?

One of the most daring Dutch literary novels in years, *Sleep Tight, Johnny Idaho* reminds of *The Circle* by Dave Eggers, and it has the unsettling but fascinating feel of novels by Murakami and David Mitchell. Auke Hulst has created a daring, timely and unsettling vision of a capitalist society that is the logical result of ours.

PRESS ON SLEEP TIGHT, JOHNNY IDAHO:

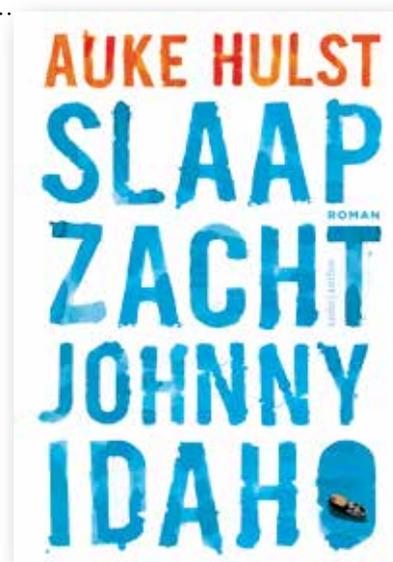
'Auke Hulst brilliantly balances the real and the virtual, the raw and the fictional. In a polished style and with sharp metaphors, Hulst evokes three people whose paths cross in a futuristic world.' – **** NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Hulst's language is fluent and compelling, the psychological depiction of his characters razor-sharp, the portrait of life on the Archipelago powerful and gruesomely believable.' – **** HAARLEMS DAGBLAD

'Auke Hulst has written an ambitious novel that is both entertaining and engaged.' – HET PAROOL

'In *Sleep Tight, Johnny Idaho*, Hulst relates major themes to human feelings.' – AD MAGAZINE

'A masterful example of scene-setting, a masterful atmosphere of complete paranoia. Sharply-honed style, full of bold metaphors and catchy descriptions. Reminiscent of Peter Buwalda's *Bonita Avenue*. Absolutely brilliant writing.' – GROENE AMSTERDAMMER



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, novel, 416 pages,
January 2015

* English sample translation
and synopsis *



Auke Hulst (born 1975) debuted with *You and I and Everything In Between*, but made his definitive breakthrough with his fourth, heavily autobiographical book *Children of the Savage Land*, which was received enthusiastically by booksellers and readers. He is also the frontman of the band De Meisjes, a literary critic, essayist and travel writer, and he writes for *NRC Handelsblad*, *Groene Amsterdammer* and *Vrij Nederland*, to name a few.

Brilliant, eerie novel about judgment and prejudice

DAAN HERMANS

The Delusion of Quisco

FOR FANS OF *TWIN PEAKS* AND *THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HARRY QUEBERT AFFAIR* BY JOËL DICKER

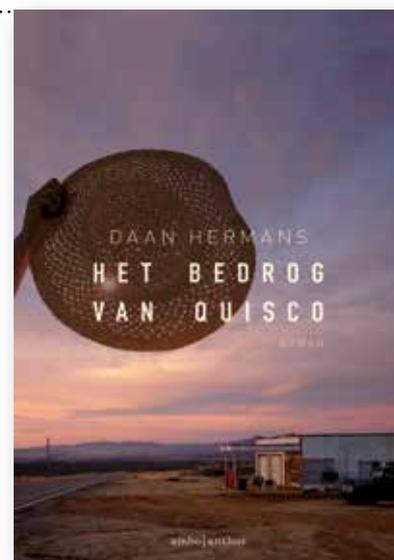
'It was well known that the residents of Quisco didn't like snoopers. There were no hotels or guesthouses, so it was impossible to spend the night unless you knew someone you could stay with. Like I did. Quisco's notoriety was also a result of the fact that there were no children. Except for one.'

From: *The Delusion of Quisco*

The young journalist Evander Clovis has a new assignment: to write an article about the mysterious disappearance of Martha Mulder in the curious - and almost inaccessible - town of Quisco. The residents of Quisco do not like strangers, children aren't welcome, and they have peculiar ways. During his stay, Evander soon becomes intrigued by Martha Mulder's mysterious child, nine-year-old Josie. He starts to interview Josie and the other residents about Martha's disappearance. But the longer he stays in Quisco, the more he becomes entangled in a web of intrigue.

Without wasting a word and in a seemingly light, visual style, Daan Hermans unravels the secrets of a fascinating town where nothing is what it seems.

The Delusion of Quisco is a brilliant novel about judgment and prejudice.



FORTHCOMING

Ambo|Anthos, novel, 338 pages,
June 2015

*** English sample translation ***



Daan Hermans previously wrote the impressive *The Silence in Me* together with Esther Verhoef. In 2008, Hermans made her successful debut with *The Tulip Virus*, which has been sold to more than eleven countries including the US, Germany and Italy.

Intense thriller about troubled family relationships, from bestselling author Marion Pauw

MARION PAUW

Kicking the Bucket

OVER 35.000 COPIES SOLD

SELECTED AS THE ONLY DUTCH NOVEL TO BE PRESENTED AT THE BOOKS AT BERLINALE 2015

Ron Casper has left behind a trail of unhappy people in his life, and still enjoys a hedonistic lifestyle at the age of seventy-six. His three children from two marriages, who are now adults, still struggle every day with the consequences of their traumatic childhood. All three are incapable of building healthy relationships with each other, their partners, or the people around them. When Ron Casper then starts frittering away the family fortune in luxury brothels, his children can come to only one conclusion: it's time Dad kicked the bucket.

With *Kicking the Bucket*, Marion Pauw has written yet another intense thriller with juicy ingredients such as jealousy, adultery and treachery. Each character (and each of them would fit right in a Woody Allen movie) has his own motives and his own history with Ron, which constantly wrong-foots the reader.

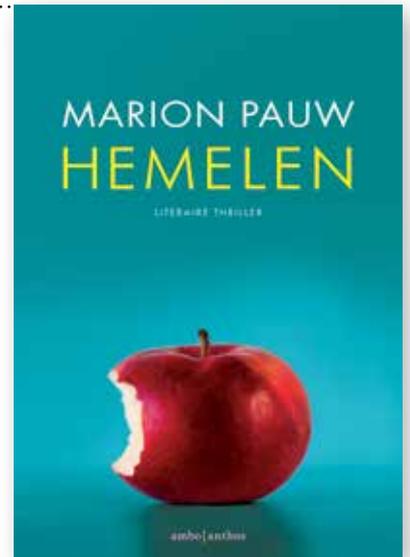
PRESS ON KICKING THE BUCKET:

‘Marion Pauw has returned to the genre in which she made her name: the thriller. And how! Pauw uses humour, maintains the pace, and often leaves a lot to the reader’s imagination. *Kicking the Bucket* is a tense whodunit that surprises until the very last page. In short, this thriller should be praised to the heavens.’ – **** NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘With *Kicking the Bucket*, Marion Pauw has once again written a first-rate story.’ – *** AD WEEKEND

‘Pauw depicts each character convincingly and successfully maintains the tension.’ – OPZIJ

‘A great thriller that touches subtly upon themes such as jealousy, betrayal and promiscuity. Marion Pauw does this with an impressive amount of humour. And what could be better than to be wrong-footed in fits of laughter. A very enjoyable holiday read.’ – *** DAGBLAD DE LIMBURGER



Ambo|Anthos, thriller, 256 pages, June 2014

★ English sample translation and synopsis ★



Marion Pauw (born 1973) made her debut with *Villa Serena* in 2005. Her big breakthrough to a wider readership and the critics came with *Daylight* (2008), which won the Golden Noose Dutch Crime award. It sold more than 200.000 copies and the Dutch film adaptation premiered in April 2013. Translation rights have been sold to William Morrow/HarperCollins (US), Heyne Verlag (Germany) and Szo Kiado (Hungary). Next up, she wrote the thrillers *Sinner Child* and *Jet Set*, which are both being adapted by NL Film, and the short story collection *Greedy*. Her books sold half a million copies in the Netherlands.

Does the world ever offer what we want?

COEN SIMON

Waiting for Happiness *A Philosophy of Desire*

WINNER DUTCH SOCRATES AWARD

Modern man wants too much, at least according to his own self-diagnosis. Therefore many of us throw ourselves into self-analysis. Because if we know who we are, we'll know better what we really want. Yet one question is constantly overlooked: does the world ever offer what we want?

In *Waiting for Happiness* philosopher Coen Simon immerses himself in his own feelings of hope, longing, laziness, love, aggression, impatience and embarrassment, and uncovers a surprising aspect of desire: it is not the fulfilment, but the desire itself that gives meaning to life.

PRESS ON WAITING FOR HAPPINESS

'The depth of the superficial and the personal, the clear, flowing style: these all combine to give reading pleasure and more.' - JAN SIEBELINK

'Simon's writing is flowing and elegant. He touches upon his subject, but without conquering it, and dances around it, but never takes it in his grasp.'
- DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

'Inspired by Schopenhauer, but in his own clear language and using personal experience, Simon explores the various forms of desire.'
- ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD

'Moreover, Simon switches effortlessly from literary narrative to rational analysis and back again. And for this very reason his conclusion becomes an age-old wisdom: it is not the fulfilment of our desire, but the desire itself that gives our life meaning.' - ***** DE VOLKSKRANT

'Combines sobriety with suspense. This is indeed literary philosophy.'
- HET PAROOL



Ambo, non-fiction / philosophy,
168 pages, March 2012

**Rights sold: WBG (Germany),
Planeta/Ariel (Spain) and Naklada
Ljevak (Croatia)**

*** English sample translation
Spanish pdf, German pdf ***



Coen Simon (1972) is a philosopher and writer. His essays for *NRC Handelsblad*, *nrc.next* and *Trouw* often feature in the public debate. He is a regular speaker at conferences (TEDx and others). His writings include the much-discussed *Looking at Man, Why We Look For but Never Find Ourselves*, and *And Then We Knew It All*. He was asked to write the Essay for the Month of Philosophy for 2013. Previous writers include Arnon Grunberg, Ian Buruma, Connie Palmen, and Hans Achterhuis.

You are the key to solving your relationship problems

JEAN-PIERRE VAN DE VEN

Why Don't You Listen to Me? *Clear Communication with Your Partner*

A good relationship is the best thing in the world. However, all relationships stagnate from time to time. When that happens, tackling your problems is simpler than you might think. Jean-Pierre van de Ven has years of experience as a relationship therapist, and he shows that no one has better solutions for relationship problems than couples themselves. When partners talk to each other without leaving or attacking one other, they come up with the best way to get back on track.

Direct communication is often the key to a good relationship. But how can you really talk to each other? And how can you put your solutions into practice? Using familiar situations from his consulting room, and a clear and accessible explanation of psychological theories, Van de Ven demonstrates that you can find your own way out of the jungle of relationship problems.

PRESS ON WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?:

'Psychologist and relationship therapist Jean-Pierre van de Ven has written a detailed manual on how to improve your relationship with your partner.'

– LEIDSCH DAGBLAD

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'*Are You Still Doing It?* is lively and filled with vivid scenes from the consulting room.'

– PSYCHOLOGIE MAGAZINE

'In his book, Van de Ven gives real-life examples and speaks matter-of-factly about love and relationships.'

– GPD



NEW

Ambo|Anthos, Non-fiction,
224 pages, January 2015

*** Dutch pdf ***



Jean-Pierre van de Ven (born 1968) is a psychologist and has his own practice for relationship therapy. He also works in a psychiatric clinic and is spokesman for the Mental Health Foundation and Korrelatie. Previously, he was a researcher and lecturer in relationship therapy at the University of Amsterdam. His earlier books for Ambo|Anthos include *Lucky in Love* and *Are You Still Doing It?* Van de Ven writes columns for magazines such as *Grazia*.

‘In his magnum opus Joep Dohmen wages war on indifference.’ – Filosofie Magazine

JOEP DOHMEN

Against Indifference

SOLD OVER 20.000 COPIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

In *Against Indifference*, Joep Dohmen shows us how we can give our lives meaning. He introduces the reader to classical thinkers such as Socrates, Aristotle and Seneca, as well as modern philosophers like Montaigne, Nietzsche and Foucault. A strong opponent of the popular art of living, he clearly demonstrates why. But above all he outlines the main themes of the art of living, the questions it raises and the various possible answers.

Dohmen shows how the art of living can be put into practice by addressing the following themes: authenticity, autonomy, moral attitude, ideals, practical wisdom, time, responsibility for self, friendship, values, virtues, self-knowledge and self-care.

PRESS ON AGAINST INDIFFERENCE:

‘Dohmen makes an attempt to flesh out a modern art of living. The great merit of this fascinating book is Dohmen’s effort to rescue autonomy from liberalism’s suffocating embrace while also protecting it from conservative enemies and spiritual quacks. A timely intervention.’

– GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

‘I personally read *Against Indifference* as a call for self-conscious individual autonomy at a time when that autonomy is being challenged or denied from all sides. It is possible to adopt an independent position towards the zeitgeist. Scepticism and self-criticism are not signs of weakness.’

– NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘A liberating, stimulating book that presents a refreshing alternative voice.’

– HAPPINEZ

‘Dohmen translates the ideas of thinkers such as Foucault, Socrates, Nietzsche and Montaigne to the present day. It’s surprising to read how relevant these ideas are.’ – MIND MAGAZINE

‘Dohmen writes superbly and his line of reasoning is very accessible. Philosophy with Dohmen is a great pleasure, and the book itself becomes a friend.’ – DE HUMANIST



Ambo|Anthos, non-fiction,
320 pages, 2007

**Rights sold: Rüffer & Rub
(Switzerland)**

* **English sample translation
German translation ***



Joep Dohmen (born 1949) is Professor of Philosophy and Practical Ethics at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht. His writings include *Nietzsche on Human Nature*, the anthology *On the Art of Living and Against Indifference*. In the Spring of 2010 *The Art of Aging* was published, the anthology that Joep Dohmen compiled with Jan Baars.

The political radicalisation of young revolutionaries on the eve of the Great War

GUIDO VAN HENGEL

The Days of Gavrilo Princip

How a Rebel Started the First World War

The 1914 assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo is the most famous terrorist attack in history - mainly because of its immense consequences. This murder is usually seen as the starting signal for the outbreak of the First World War, as has previously been described in detail by, for example, Christopher Clark in his bestseller *The Sleepwalkers*.

The Days of Gavrilo Princip, however, is not about the great history of heirs to the throne, but the brief history of the murderer. As the child of poor farmers, Gavrilo Princip moved to the city to join a group of promising young intellectuals. There, he came into contact with the modern world, which he relished but also found intimidating. In his desire for action he wandered through the streets of Belgrade, failed at school, and eventually volunteered for the war. Searching for an identity and social status, he found certainty in martyrdom.

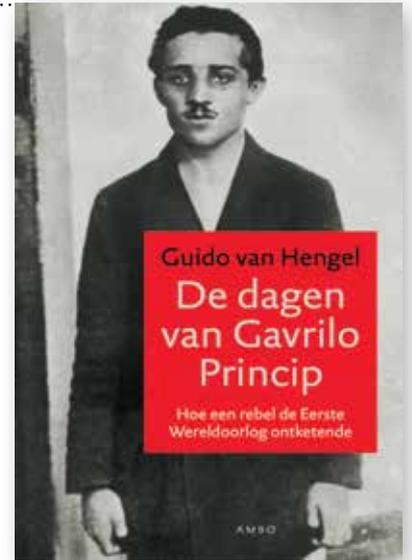
The Days of Gavrilo Princip is a story about radicalisation. It is the history of a generation of young idealists who unleashed an explosive cultural revolution at the beginning of the 20th century.

PRESS ON THE DAYS OF GAVRILLO PRINCIP:

‘However, this book is much more than an accurate reconstruction of this act. It is a biographical micro history that reveals Princip’s sociocultural origin, worldview and social environment.’ – GESCHIEDENIS MAGAZINE

‘This meticulously told story is an excellent example of that of a young man brought to extremes under influence of his social surroundings. Van Hengel studied in Belgrade, talked with Princip’s descendants and read documents in Serb and Austrian archives. That makes this book both source criticism and biography.’ – HISTORISCH NIEUWSBLAD

‘In *The days of Gavrilo Princip* Guido van Hengel focuses carefully on the short but turbulent life of his protagonist. Moreover, he connects to that story an exciting cultural and historical study of the Balkans. A vivid and intriguing picture emerges of an intelligent, keen and energetic individual who found himself under the millstone of the political madness of his time, and willingly let himself be grinded to powder. [...] Van Hengel has brought back to life Gavrilo Princip in a sober and very effective manner.’ – **** DE MORGEN



Ambo|Anthos, non-fiction,
256 pages, March 2014

* **Dutch pdf**
Prologue in German *



Guido van Hengel is a historian. He studied in Groningen, Jena and Belgrade and has worked as an editor, researcher and translator. He is currently a lecturer-researcher at the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Groningen.

An exciting, suspenseful novel about four women who want to leave their perfect lives behind

KARIN BELT

The Midlife Club

Femke's life has not turned out as she once dreamed. As a caring mother and practical wife, the days seem to fill themselves. She has become a shadow of her former self, happiest in jogging pants. What happened to the enterprising, attractive woman she once was? At what point in her life did she lose herself? Then she meets three colorful women. Every year they go on holiday to France together, to just do whatever they want. Femke joins them, hoping to find herself. Gradually it turns out she has taken the place of girlfriend number four, who appears to have vanished without a trace. Who was this woman? Why does she feel such a connection with her? Femke gets closer and closer to the truth. However, not everyone seems to be happy about that...

'A surprising climax.' – HAPPYMOMS

'The thoughts and feelings of the women, especially those of Femke, will be very familiar to women around the age of forty.' – *** VROUWENTHRILLERS.NL

'Exciting, feel-good novel that will also make you think about your own choices without realising it. A must read for the dark evenings.' – LIBELLE

What if losing the love of your life is the only way you'll ever find real love?

ESTHER VERHOEF

Backlight

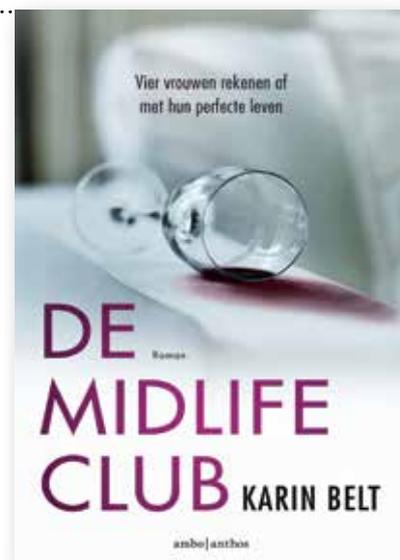
POIGNANT NOVEL BY BESTSELLING AUTHOR ESTHER VERHOEF

250.000 COPIES SOLD IN THE NETHERLANDS

Vera Zagt did not have an easy childhood. Her father maintains a strict regime at home, her mother is in a psychiatric clinic and young Vera is brutally bullied at school. As an adult Vera's self-image is still damaged, but when her marriage begins to crumble she panics and embarks on an affair. In a series of events Vera loses grip on her carefully constructed life. Will her fear become reality, has she inherited her mother's illness, will she too fall into insanity?

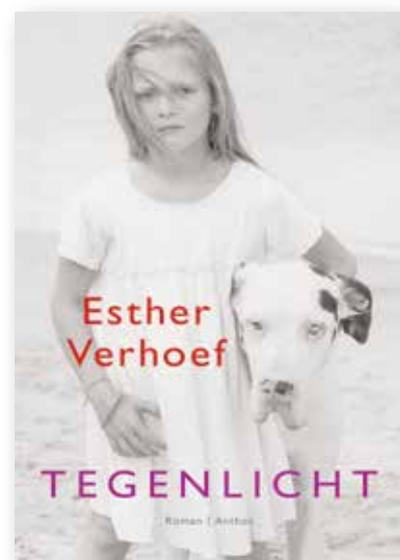
'Esther Verhoef is clearly part of our country's literary elite.' – ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD

'With *Backlight* Esther Verhoef proves that she does not just write good thrillers. Her descriptions of helplessness, temptation and resilience are painfully accurate. A touching novel.' – VIVA



Ambo|Anthos, novel, 352 pages, September 2014

* English sample translation and synopsis *



Ambo|Anthos, novel, 563 pages, April 2012

Rights sold: btb Verlag (Germany)

* English Brochure Sample translation *

Mesmerising love story about a family disrupted by war

ROSITA STEENBEEK

Rose: A Family in Wartime

In *Rose*, Rosita Steenbeek tells the story of her grandmother, the daughter of a Jewish mother and a German father, who in 1929 falls in love with a Dutch minister. Rose and her husband Gerhard settle in small village near Rotterdam – the ideal place to give her children an idyllic childhood after her own was so cruelly disrupted.

In the thirties, Rose's Jewish family fans out across the world, fleeing Hitler's anti-Semitic regime, but some refuse to leave Germany. In 1940 the German army invades the Netherlands, Rose sees the bombs fall on Rotterdam, and she is disrupted between her Jewish background, her German childhood and her new life in the Netherlands. Her husband joins the resistance and is arrested, and through twists of fate, Rose's family members end up on different sides of the front.

Rose is a story about a great love between two people, but also about good and evil, forgiveness, and how difficult it is to separate the world in black and white.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'The most delightful book I've read this year.' – RHEINZEITUNG

'Rosita Steenbeek has written a wonderful book.' – DAS SONNTAGSBLATT

'She writes movingly and is not afraid of big feelings.' – PZC

The first World War through the eyes of Europe's greatest poets

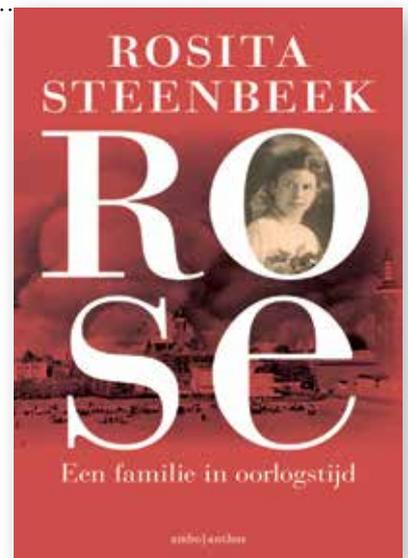
GEERT BUELENS

Europe Europe!

The First World War: a turning point in European history, politically as well as culturally. The Great War has been called the Literary War, and poems such as 'In Flanders Fields' are still part of the collective memory to this day. Never before has the story of the war been told in its full European context. Geert Buelens, professor in Modern Dutch Literature and a poet himself, discusses on the basis of their work and life how famous poets such as Rilke, Pessoa, Van Ostaijen, Akhmatova, Mayakovsky, Ungaretti and Apollinaire experienced and described the war.

'Buelens has written a brilliant and accessible book about the hyperbole of the Great War.' – DE VOLKSKRANT

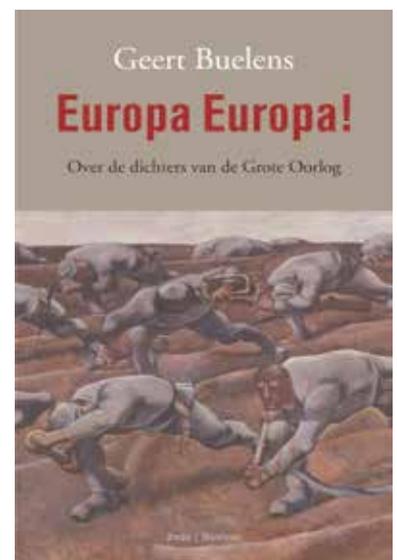
'Buelens shows how people in the countries of Western and Eastern Europe thought about nationalism and internationalism, with the First World War as a cathartic moment. His book also reads like an adventure novel, and often feels like a crime novel on account of the horrors of war.' – TROUW



FORTHCOMING

Ambo|Anthos, non-fiction,
304 pages, April 2015

* Dutch pdf *



Ambo|Anthos, non-fiction,
320 pages, October 2008

**Rights sold: Surhkamp/Insel
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