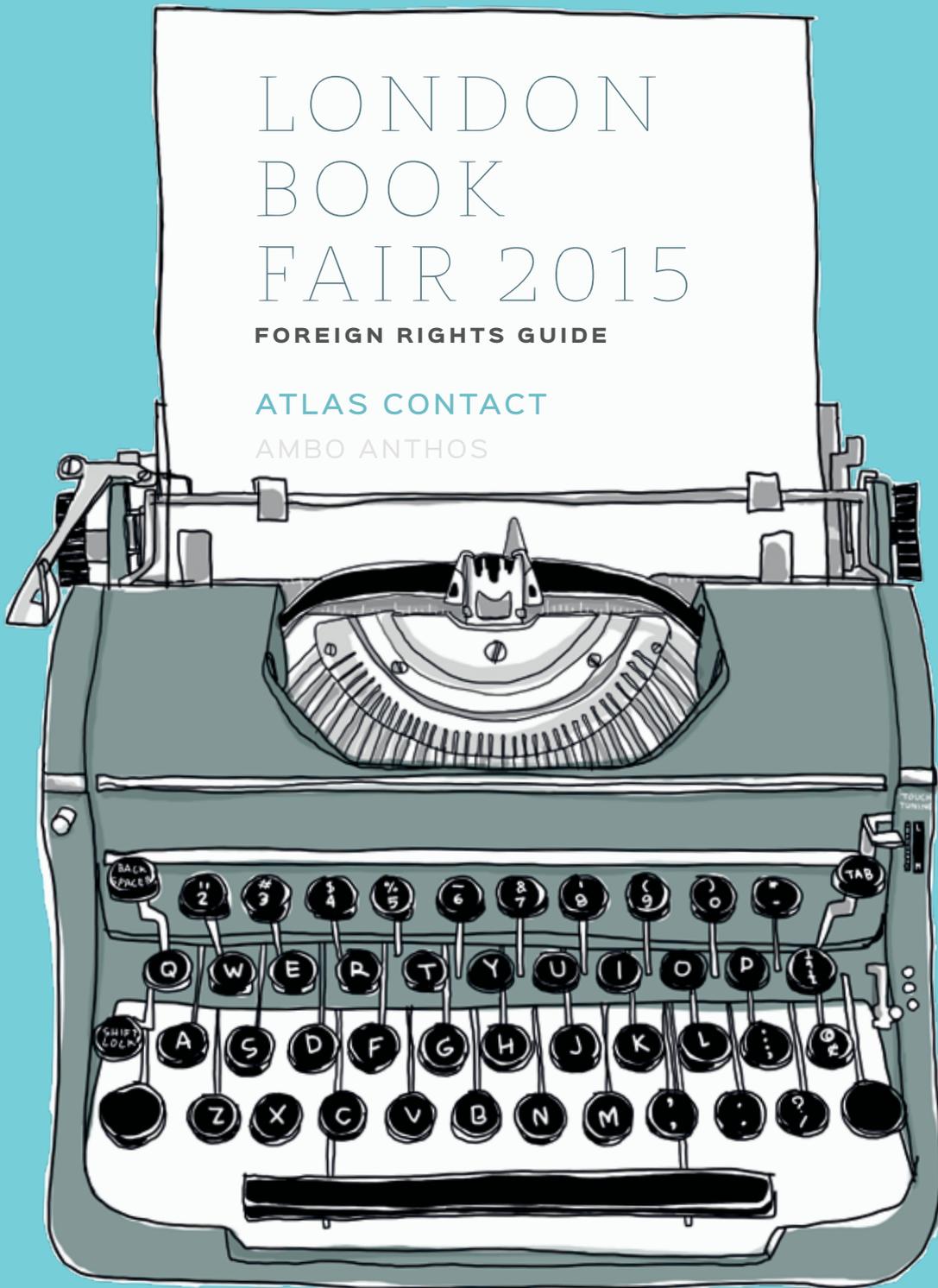


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*Can a father make amends for his mistakes as a son?*

P.F. THOMÉSE

## The Underwater Swimmer

When crossing the river to liberated territory – in the last year of the War – fourteen-year-old boy Tin van Heel loses his father. He does not find him until thirty years later, somewhere in West Africa, by a very different river, where he is given the chance to make up for the loss with a single, violent blow.

*The Underwater Swimmer* is about loss and the guilt it causes, and the desire to erase that guilt and reverse the loss.

### PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

‘He is master of his elegantly formulated explanations and is never short of a good story.’ – NRC NEXT

‘A magnificent demonstration of the proposition that good literature tells the truth through lies.’ – JURY BOB DEN UYL PRIZE 2012

‘Thomése writes magnificent, euphoria-inducing prose, witty, with tremendous pace to it. [...] At work here is a writer who has taken the form and content of his novel to their ultimate conclusions.’ – HET PAROOL



FORTHCOMING  
Atlas Contact, novel, April 2015

\* English sample translation  
and English synopsis \*



**P.F. Thomése** (born 1958) was awarded the AKO Literature Prize in 1991 for his debut *Southland. Shadow Child* (2003) spent several weeks in the top ten, was nominated for the NS Readers' Book of the Year Award, and was longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize. The book was his international breakthrough and was published in 19 languages. Since then he has written novels, short stories, essays and novellas to wide acclaim.

*A novel full of contradictions – love and hate, truth and lies, good and evil – from one of our greatest storytellers*

STEFAN BRIJS

## Moon and Sun

In the summer of 1961, Roy Tromp enrolls his twelve-year-old son Max in Brother Daniel's class. Max proves to be a talented boy who dreams of becoming a teacher. Brother Daniel decides to help him achieve this. Nearly half a century later, this dream has come to nothing. Max now has his own son, while his father is paralysed and lives in a nursing home. What went wrong in all those years and why has Max finally decided, for the first time in his life, to leave Curaçao and his family, perhaps for good? Brother Daniel, himself a child of the island, decides that he can no longer keep quiet. And in the meantime he starts counting down.

### PRESS ON POST FOR MRS. BROMLEY:

‘With his multi-layered but accessible novel *Post for Mrs Bromley*, [Brijs] contributes his own completely original, almost epic narrative about this bleak episode in the already bloody history of mankind [...]. *Post for Mrs. Bromley* starts life as a calm stream, but widens into a fast-flowing, hair-raising story about a time when uncultured triumphed over culture.’

– DAGBLAD DE LIMBURGER

‘With this meticulously, almost classically written novel, Stefan Brijs manages to suck the reader into history, shorn of all its trimmings. The tragedy of Poperinge and Ypres are brought back to life, as are the first two decades of 20th-century London. At the same time, he champions literature and its powers of imagination.’ – \*\*\*\* DE TELEGRAAF

‘The result is a walk through the Great War as vivid as the best non-fiction. For this reason alone *Post for Mrs. Bromley* is an important book; it is a remedy against the Great Forgetting.’ – \*\*\*HUMO

### PRESS ON THE ANGEL MAKER:

‘*The Angel Maker* is a swirling novel. Carnavalesque, sharp, like a picture by artist James Ensor. [...] Once more Stefan Brijs has succeeded in evoking sympathy for ugly, deformed and bad people, in short, for nature's faults. He is the master of compassion.’ – HET PAROOL

‘Magic realism with a strong dose of the Gothic. A page-turner.’

– LOS ANGELES TIMES



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel, September 2015

\* English sample translation \*



**Stefan Brijs** (born 1969) was born in Genk (Limburg, Belgium). October 2005 saw the publication of his novel *The Angel Maker*, which has been sold to sixteen countries, including the US, the UK, France, Germany and Russia. The book won the *Golden Owl Readers' Prize* 2006 and the *Boek-delen Prize* 2007, awarded by book clubs in Flanders and the Netherlands. It was also nominated for the *Libris Literature Prize* 2006 and the *AKO Literature Prize* 2006. In 2010 the French translation titled *Le Faiseur d'anges* received the *Prix des Lecteurs Cognac*, and the following year the book won the *Euregio-Schüler-Literaturpreis*, awarded by students from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

*From the author of The Misfortunates and The Latecomer*

DIMITRI VERHULST

## You Can't Stop Summer Either

A man in his early sixties kidnaps a severely disabled boy on the eve of his sixteenth birthday. They climb a seemingly random mountaintop in Provence and there the man uncorks some exquisite local wines.

As a bonus, the boy receives his family history as a birthday gift. The man explains why he chose this mountain and talks about his passionate love affair with the boy's mother.

With this book, Dimitri Verhulst is not afraid to tackle major themes.

### **PRESS ON YOU CAN'T STOP SUMMER EITHER:**

'Verhulst's book week gift is foamily written, like a verbally-talented, spittle-flecked coprolalia sufferer letting fly on paper. That baroque use of registers, the tendency to articulate woes in ornate language, spring naturally from the protagonist's character.' – VRIJ NEDERLAND

'*You Can't Stop Summer Either* presents Verhulst as we know him: heartrending and witty, flowery and baroque. But not always: the passive mildness surprises at the end.' – \*\*\* HUMO

'Verhulst pulls out his complete bag of tricks for this novella, full of autobiographical clues and sly digs. Meandering and somersaulting imagery celebrates triumphs. Shiploads of forgotten words are served up tastily in an attempt to offer the Dutch reader a dose of Flemish exoticism.'

– DE MORGEN

'*You Can't Stop Summer Either* is an easily digestible story with beautiful passages: a manageable introduction to the work of one of today's best writers.'

– NRC HANDELSBLAD



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel, 96 pages,  
March 2015

**\* English sample translation \***



**Dimitri Verhulst** (born 1972) is considered one of the best writers in the Dutch language. His breakthrough novel *The Misfortunates* (2006) won several awards including the Belgian Golden Book Owl and has sold more than 200.000 copies to date. The film adaptation screened in Europe in 2009/2010 and the English translation was named one of the best books of 2012 by *The Irish Times*. In 2009 his book *Goddamn Days on a Goddamn Globe* was awarded the Libris Literature Prize. *The Latecomer* (2013), sold over 80.000 copies in the Netherlands and has been adapted for the stage. His work has been published in over 30 countries. The Book Week Gift 2015 was published in a print run of 700.000 copies.

*An eternal guilt and the fear for a hereditary disease*

JAN VANTOORTELBOOM

## The Man in a Hurry

For as long as he could remember, Leon never showed his emotions. For that reason, people thought he was a strong man. But Leon is afraid. Afraid that he will die from the same hereditary disease that killed his mother. Afraid to make choices, afraid to commit, afraid to live. He is impatient, indifferent, and yes, in a hurry.

The only exception is his relationship with Elsie, a girl who suffered brain damage as a teenager in an accident that Leon witnessed. Is it guilt or love that has motivated him to visit her regularly all these years in the institution where she lives? Is it a sense of responsibility or an escape when he decides to put her out of her misery?

Years later, Leon looks back and wonders whether he did the right thing.

### **PRESS ON THE MAN IN A HURRY:**

‘Moral and emotional dilemmas, in short – it sounds as if Vantoortelboom is exploring more deeply the themes of *Master Mitraillette*. We should be very thankful for that.’ – HP DE TIJD

‘Jan Vantoortelboom is an atmosphere-builder, storyteller and observer in one!’  
– DE SCRIPTOR

‘*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

‘Painfully beautiful.’ – MONTFERLAND JOURNAAL



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel, 144 pages,  
February 2015

**\* English sample translation \***



**Jan Vantoortelboom** was born 1975 in Torhout, Belgium. After studying Germanic Philology at the University of Ghent, he ended up in education 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 most recent book, *Master Mitraillette*, has sold more than 25.000 copies and will be brought to screen.

WANDA REISEL

## Love Between 5 and 7

*Almost everybody reading this is in a relationship.*

*Almost everybody reading this sometimes thinks about cheating.*

*Almost everybody reading this knows someone who is cheating.*

*Some of you reading this are cheating right now.*

A normal weekday, 5 P.M., a hot summer in the city, bad news on television and much violence in the rest of the world. Liza Wolf, a human interest journalist working for a big newspaper, finds out on Facebook that her husband Luc has a second family in the United States. Before he returns from Boston that evening, where he gives a monthly seminar as a hand surgeon, Liza has to make a decision about the future of her marriage. She goes to the aquarium at the local zoo, looking for peace and quiet and a place to think things over. But the choice between self-delusion or the truth is not that easy for Liza. And the aquarium closes at 7 P.M.

Like no other, Wanda Reisel lays life's big questions bare in all their subtleties. Her work is like an inventory of human failings.

### **PRESS ON BLUEPRINT OF A YOUTH:**

'Magnificent and absolutely convincing.' – \*\*\*\* DE VOLKSKRANT

'A collection of the most original and inspiring writer's memoirs I have seen. A literary perpetual motion machine that is as solid as a house, a mythical villa bordering the Vondelpark.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Regardless of how unpleasant certain histories may be, Reisel manages to introduce an appealing lightness into everything, thus managing to strengthen the dramatic effect even more.' – DE VOLKSKRANT

### **PRESS ON NIGHT FALLS:**

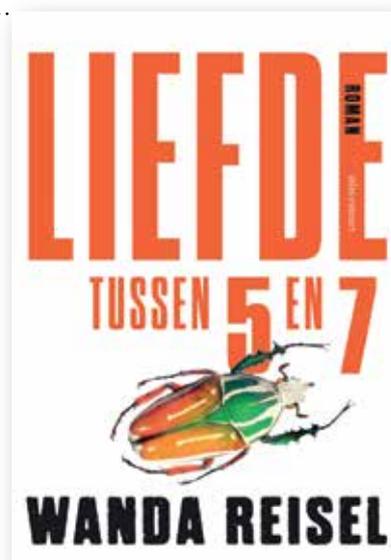
'With *Night Falls*, Wanda Reisel has written a successful contemporary twist on the age-old regional novel... a delicate, tightly-woven work.'

– \*\*\*\* DE VOLKSKRANT

'Tremendously powerful, scary, gruesome.' – \*\*\*\* NRC.NEXT

'An artfully assembled literary story.' – \*\*\*\* GPD /HET PAROOL

'A haunting novel with a scintillating finale.' – ESTA



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel, 240 pages,  
April 2015

**\*English synopsis\***



Wanda Reisel's work focuses on human shortcomings. As no other, she portrays important issues in life in all its subtleties. Ever since her debut in 1986, this is a constant theme in her thirteen novels, eleven plays and many stories. *Baby Storm* (1996) and *A Man a Man* (2000) were shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize. *White Love* (2008) was shortlisted for the AKO Literature Prize and won the Anna Bijns Prize for best literary novel written by a woman. *Love Between 5 and 7* will come out in April.

*Like a mushroom trip, a Coen Brothers film, and a Haruki Murakami story in one*

ABDELKADER BENALI

## Montaigne, a Native American and Max Kader's Nose

Max Kader is a moderately successful writer who uses an accommodation grant to work as a visiting writer in Canada on a book about Montaigne. There, he meets colleagues from all over the world, falls under the spell of a mysterious Native American, and, after a literary conference, finds himself in a dream that turns into a nightmare. Nothing is what it seems, but in passing, Max Kader raises the big questions of life.

### PRESS ON *MONTAIGNE, A NATIVE AMERICAN AND MAX KADER'S NOSE*:

'A book like a mushroom trip, a Coen Brothers film, and a Haruki Murakami story in one.' – VOLKSKRANT

'Quickly and sharply, Benali dissects the literary "white man's burden."' – NRC NEXT

'Benali's polished wisecracks make this a highly accessible book, even for easily bored readers.' – TROUW

'Sharply written novel about a writer who, despite his success, finds himself in a precarious position in life.' – NOUVEAU

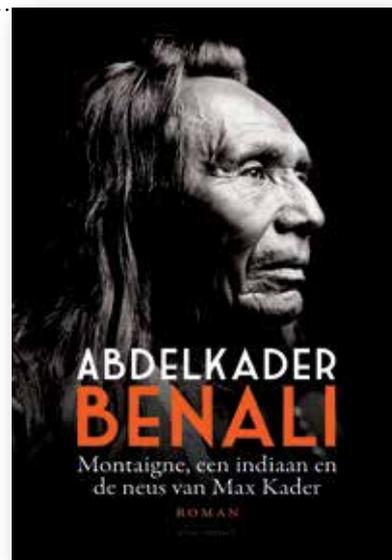
### PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'He chews on every word, he tastes and savours, it radiates pleasure.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Vivid, mythic and heartfelt.' – FINANCIAL TIMES

'Benali is an original magical-realist who succeeds in weaving the traditional with the modern, with astonishing and moving results.'

– INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel, 176 pages,  
February 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



**Abdelkader Benali** was born in Ighazzazen, Morocco, in 1975 and made his debut in 1996 with *Wedding by the Sea*, which was nominated for the Libris Literature Prize and awarded the Geertjan Lubberhuizen Prize. He has since written (award-winning) novels, stories, poetry, drama and journalism, as well as the cook-book *Casa Benali* with his wife Saida Nadi-Benali. His work has been published in French, German, English, Arabic and a dozen other languages. In 2003 his novel *The Long-Awaited* won the Libris Literature Prize

*The human story behind international terror*

MARGOT VANDERSTRAETEN

## The Butterfly Effect

The American Angela Gutmann, visits her son and his best friend in Mumbai. They stay at the famous Taj Mahal Hotel when, on 26 November 2008, four Pakistani terrorists burst in and start shooting people at random. For three days, the terrorists occupy the hotel.

Ten years after the attack – in the year 2018, when Hillary Clinton is president – Angela returns to Mumbai. During the homebound plane trip, she gets into conversation with the strange Jane, who is yearning for spirituality, and who poses her a number of confrontational questions. Along the way, the reader is informed in rough language of what happened in the days following 26 November 2008. Not that Angela is able to talk about the terrorist attack. She tells Jane about other dramatic events in her life. And then, through an internal monologue addressing her son, she lays herself bare.

It soon turns out that a five-star hotel is not the only thing with a shiny façade concealing a tangled, yet efficient, labyrinth of secret passages and connections; things are no different for people, or international political relations.

**PRESS ON THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT:**

‘In her new novel, Margot Vanderstraeten proves that she is an excellent journalist and novelist. [...] A beautifully composed story.’ – DE MORGEN

‘With her powerful novel *The Butterfly Effect*, Margot Vanderstraeten demonstrates her writing talent.’ – DE TIJD

‘I knew it at once: this is good. And to be honest, I expected nothing less, because I have read Margot Vanderstraeten’s earlier work and found it impressive.’ – LIBELLE



Atlas Contact, novel, 286 pages,  
October 2014

**\*Dutch pdf\***



**Margot Vanderstraeten** (born 1967) is a freelance journalist and columnist. Her debut as a novelist was *Alle mensen bijten* (All People Bite), which received a great deal of praise from press and readers and, in 2003, won the Flemish prize for the best debut, the Debuutprijs. In 2010 *Mise en Place*, was nominated for the Halewijn Prize. *The Butterfly Effect* is her fourth novel.

*The coming-of-age story of a girl facing her memories and yearning to belong*

REBEKKA DE WIT

## Short of a Miracle

It is summer. A girl is sitting in the back garden with her father, brother and sister. This year they have buried three people; suddenly there is a big hole in the family. They decide to go on a trip to get as far away from the world as possible. They lie there looking at the clouds, follow the flight of a condor, and listen to *Graceland*.

They have lost count of the number of ice creams they have eaten since the disaster struck. The girl tries to come up with an answer to the question ‘what now?’.

*Short of a Miracle* is a witty and sad coming-of-age story of a girl who must face her memories and yearns to belong.

### PRESS ON REBEKKA DE WIT'S THEATRE WORK:

‘... subtle humour and suggestive, broken sentences, empathic and fragile [...] the content, language, and acting all exude a tender melancholy. *Heimat* is moving and leaves a lasting impression.’ – DE THEATERKRANT

### PRESS ON I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT IT:

‘Incisive and razor-sharp, serious and witty, vulnerable and disarming.’ – DE THEATERKRANT



FORTHCOMING

Atlas Contact, novel,  
approx. 144 pages, May 2015

**\*Dutch pdf\***



**Rebekka de Wit** (born 1985) works as a theatre maker. Her graduation show *How This Became the Story* won a prize at the Theatre by the Sea festival in Ostend. With the show *Imagine, I Am Looking for a State*, she won the sabam Writing Prize. The show *Heimat* was selected in Belgium for Circuit x. In 2010 she won the first round of Write Now in Antwerp. Her work subsequently appeared in publications including *dw en b* and *Das Magazin*, and she performed in the 33rd edition of the People of Letters series from the Behoud de Begeerte organisation.

*Stage acting as a profession and in reality*

WILLEM VAN ZADELHOFF

## Hofman's Nights

In the autumn of 2012, the famous actor Max Hofman travels to Antwerp, where he will play the lead role in a new production of *The Seagull* by Chekhov. His stay in Antwerp does not go according to plan. His co-star turns out to be his ex-wife Tanja, the mother of his daughter, who left him for another man ten years ago. And there is one more demon from the past that not only visits him in his dreams, but gradually starts to affect his daily life. Hofman goes back in time in order to come to terms with what happened.

*Hofman's Nights* is a compelling novel about an actor who finds it increasingly difficult to play the role that he expects of himself and the world expects of him. Despite his success, he turns out still to be the damaged boy who yearns for attention.

**PRESS ON STEALING FIRE:**

'Disillusionment and desolation, these are the themes of *Stealing Fire*, presented as a collection of painful, sometimes touching, but above all merciless one-act plays.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD



NEW  
Atlas Contact, novel,  
approx. 192 pages, February 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



**Willem van Zadelhoff** was born in Arnhem in 1958. He trained to be a teacher at the Arnhem School of Acting and subsequently worked in a gallery, in the theatre, and as a television scriptwriter. He wrote the novels *A Chair* (2003), *Hollow Port* (2006, longlisted for the Libris Prize), *Stealing Fire* (2008) and *Don't Go* (2010). In spring 2008 he published his poetry debut *Time and Countries*, for which he won the Herman de Coninck Prize for best debut. Willem van Zadelhoff lives alternately in Amsterdam and France.

*Only under pressure do we realise how pure our ideals are*

**BARRY SMIT**

## Tahrir

When Vincent Westrik watches the uprising against the Egyptian dictator Mubarak on television, he is gripped by the optimism of the Arab Spring. He feels compelled to do his bit and travels to Egypt, a stone's throw from Tahrir Square, to teach the revolutionary leaders how to conduct a campaign. Although he is happy in Amsterdam with his girlfriend Tessa, in Cairo he falls for the activist Maryam. The longer he commutes between the two cities and two women, and as the first flush of victory of the Arab Spring fades, the harder it becomes for Vincent to postpone important decisions.

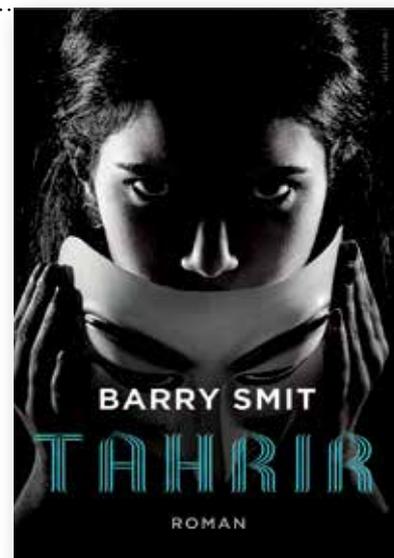
*Tahrir* is a frenetic novel about the fine line between idealism and opportunism. About freedom and faith. About people trying to take their destiny into their own hands, but also about people who muddle on until their fate is decided for them. Barry Smit's descriptions are so vivid we can almost feel the sting of tear gas in our eyes.

**PRESS ON NOW:**

'Sentence for sentence, word for word, a great writer.' – TOMMY WIERINGA

'The short sentences hit the reader like a series of rolling punches with which a boxer first overawes his opponent and then mercilessly knocks him down.' – HDC MEDIA

'A rough rollercoaster. A novel that grabs you by the throat.' – DE TELEGRAAF



NEW  
Atlas Contact, novel, 192 pages,  
April 2015

**\* Dutch pdf \***



**Barry Smit** (born 1974) worked as a spokesman and speechwriter in the Dutch Parliament, and gave campaign training courses in Egypt and Tunisia. He is also one of the creators of the political television drama *De Fractie*. Smit writes for publications including *de Volkskrant* and *De Revisor*, and in 2013 he published his debut novel *Now*.

*60 Dutch and Flemish debut authors from this millennium, compiled and introduced by Wim Brands*

WIM BRANDS

## Dutch Literature of the 21st Century

Dutch literature is alive and well in both the Netherlands and Flanders. It is not only to be found in books, but also in pubs, in shops, at festivals, on the internet, in living rooms, on mobile devices, and on TV. In many of these places you will also find Wim Brands, one of the biggest champions of Dutch letters. His mission: to spread the virus called literature. He does this via his television programme *Books*, on which he has introduced many new writers to a wide audience over the past decade. The starting point of every interview he has conducted is always: this is great; you should read this book.

In *Dutch Literature of the 21st Century*, Brands presents 60 writers who made their debut this millennium, authors whose work he recommends you read. Brands has selected a passage by each author that represents his or her work and that can be read as a story. The book can be regarded as the very first sampler of twenty-first century literature of the Low Countries.



NEW  
Atlas Contact, anthology,  
304 pages, March 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



**Wim Brands** is considered a great authority in the field of Dutch literature and is renowned for the passionate way in which he expresses his love for books. His VPRO programme *Books*, which has become an institution, has been on the air for ten years and is the longest-running book programme on Dutch television.

*How despots have been monopolising Turkish society over the past 600 years*

BETSY UDINK

## Atatürk's Girls, the Sultan's Sons *On Turkey*

In Turkey, it is always the despots who monopolise society and impose their will on the population. Betsy Udink describes five of these despots: Sultan Mehmed II, the conqueror of Constantinople, Enver Pasha, one of those responsible for the Armenian genocide, Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Atatürk), who dragged the country into the modern age using his so-called daughters, Fethullah Gülen, leader of a powerful Islamic sect and venerated as a saint by his followers, Abdullah Öcalan, responsible for tens of thousands of deaths with his Kurdish guerrillas, and finally president Tayyip Erdoğan, 'the Chosen Sultan.'

In other chapters, such as 'Phenomenally Happy in Haymana', and 'Paris Kuaför,' Betsy Udink talks about her great love for Turkey.

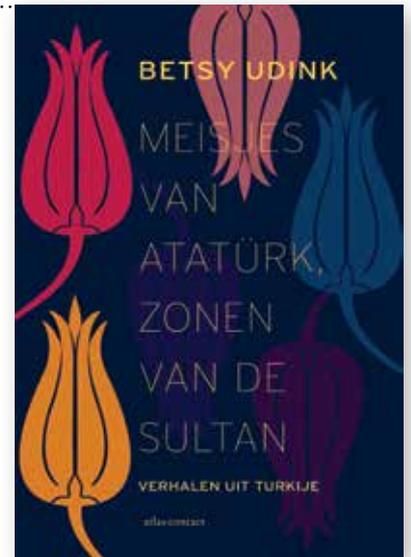
### PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'After reading you will not sleep easily and you will feel an angry sense of powerlessness. No, this is not a thriller or a novel that reads like a suspense-packed thriller. It is non-fiction. The cover should bear a warning like those on cigarette packets: "This book can be hazardous to your soul." Betsy Udink's report is based on extensive and precise research and deals with the situation of women (as well as men) and Islam in Pakistan [...]. What the author has to say is much more than exotic, socially-concerned literature or religious sentiment.' – DIE WELT

'Betsy Udink manages without the mild music of reconciliation. Her report *Allah & Eva* denounces "the unimaginable brutality" of men in a patriarchal Islamic society.' – BÖRSENBLATT

'Betsy Udink draws back the veil of the "feigned enlightenment" and leads her readers into the province, the world of villages and little towns, where child brides are married off to sixty-year-old men to pay off their grandfather's debts or as compensation for the accidental death of a neighbour's dog. [...] Betsy Udink applies one standard unerringly to this Islamic society: the dignity of man. And it is not reassuring.'

– FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG



FORTHCOMING

Atlas Contact, non-fiction,  
448 pages, May 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



Betsy Udink's work includes *Behind Mecca*, about her time in Saudi Arabia, *Allah & Eve*, on Pakistan, and *In Kurdish Circles*. Her books have been translated into several languages. From 2005 to 2009 she lived in the Turkish capital Ankara, and from 2013 to 2014 in Istanbul.

*From the bestseller author of Ventoux  
(130.000 copies sold)*

**BERT WAGENDORP**

## The Boys' Paradise

Bert Wagendorp isn't picky when choosing his subject matter. Whether it be Holland or hardship, authorship or sportsmanship, illusions and dreams - the wealth of subjects is enormous and his voice is unmistakable. He is one of those rare writers who can be merciless and melancholic, who can tinge surprise with compassion rather than annoyance. Not that he never gets annoyed. But when he does, humour is always the best medicine.

*The Boys' Paradise* collects the best stories, reflections and essays that he has written over the past five years. It is a book that gives us a portrait of ourselves, but it is also a self-portrait, as moving as it is impressive.

### **PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:**

'This book has it all. An unconventional story about friendship.'

– BOOKSELLERS' PANEL, DE WERELD DRAAIT DOOR

'Hilarious, stirring, feel-good.' – \*\*\*\* NRC HANDELSBLAD

'A boys' book (for men and women), a real page-turner.'

– \*\*\*\* DE VOLKSKRANT



Atlas Contact, non-fiction,  
224 pages, October 2014

**\* Dutch pdf \***



**Bert Wagendorp** (born 1956) is a columnist at the Dutch daily *De Volkskrant* and the author of the novella *De Proloog* (The Prologue) and the short story collection *De dubbele schaar* (The Double Scissors). The film rights of *Ventoux* have been sold to Keyfi Im (NL), release date May 2015. Translation rights have been sold to Btb (Germany), Turbine (Denmark), Kagge (Norway) and Galaade (France)

*A chilling account of diplomatic power games*

JUDITH SPIEGEL

## Sheikhs' Plaything

*A Reconstruction of My Kidnapping*

On their way to the laundrette in the city of Sana'a in Yemen, Judith Spiegel and her husband are ordered into a car by armed men. Their abduction will last six months.

Shortly after her safe return to the Netherlands, Spiegel begins to investigate: she must and will find out exactly what happened in the past few months. Who were their captors? Who secured their release? Was a ransom paid? Not everyone is happy about her search for the truth behind the kidnapping, not even her relieved family and friends.

*Sheikhs' Plaything* is a gripping reconstruction of the kidnapping and the search for answers. It gives a detailed account of an obscure diplomatic power game. Spiegel's cool-headedness helped her through the abduction, and with the same cool-headed determination she tries to uncover the facts of the abduction itself and the secret efforts to secure their release.



FORTHCOMING

Atlas Contact, non-fiction,  
224 pages, June 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



**Judith Spiegel** is a freelance correspondent and writes for publications including *NRC Handelsblad*, *Elsevier*, *De Standaard* and *Hard Gras*. She is also a radio reporter for Dutch and Flemish public radio and the VPRO. Her first book *A Headscarf against Bullets* was published in 2013.

*How to escape from modern-day capitalism and individualism*

JAN-HENDRIK BAKKER

## In Silence *A Philosophy of Solitude*

While individualism was once modern man's greatest asset, it now appears to be our greatest problem: we want to be free, but our greed forces us into an economic straitjacket; we want to be authentic, but our environment largely determines our identity; we want to be involved, but our digital world hinders intimate human contact. How can we turn the tide?

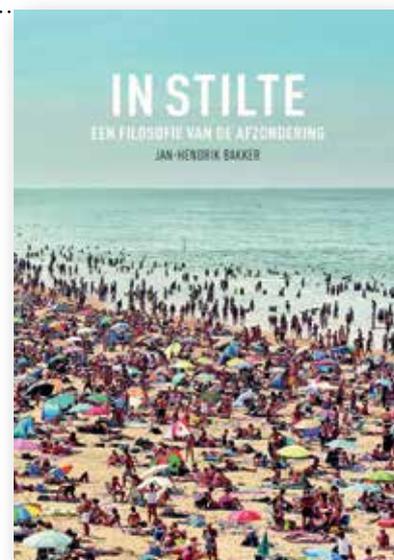
Jan-Hendrik Bakker argues for a reappraisal of quiet solitude, a condition that is regarded in our time as odd, pitiful and unhealthy. But, says Bakker, look at important writers and philosophers - including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Baudelaire, Merton and Thoreau - who sought solitude and silence in order to draw strength, protest against economic waste, and react against alienation and loss of privacy.

In today's world, solitude is harder to find than ever, and that is what makes it so essential. *In Silence* shows that this is the key to reassessing our individual values.

### **PRESS ON SOIL:**

'Bakker's infectious book offers unexpected insights.' – DE VOLKSKRANT

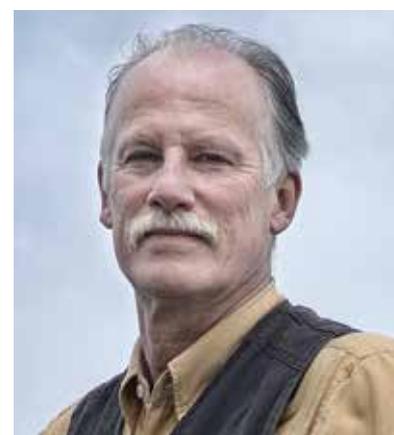
'It is important to find new, modern hybrids of economy and ecology, earth and inspiration. Bakker's original soil survey brilliantly conveys this pioneering insight.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD



NEW

Atlas Contact, non-fiction,  
208 pages, March 2015

**\* Dutch pdf \***



**Jan-Hendrik Bakker** (born 1953) studied philosophy, psychology, and literature, and obtained his doctorate in philosophy at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. As a journalist he worked for the *Haagsche Courant* and *AD*. For the past fifteen years he has written mainly about literature and philosophy, for publications such as *tpo Magazine*, and has written books including *Soil: A Plea for Earthly Thinking* and *a Green City*.

*Cycling between triumph and tragedy*

**BENJO MASO**

## The Dutch Have the Yellow Jersey *Cycle Racing in the Low Countries*

At one time, the Dutch National Road Race Championships were held on foreign soil. The government considered it too dangerous to allow people to cycle at speed in heavy traffic. Moreover, sport did not sit well with the views held by many Dutch people on the behaviour of good Christians. But in the summer of 2015, the Tour de France will start from Utrecht: a lot can change in the space of a century.

Benjo Maso tells this story with brilliance and a fine sense of mythology – he debunks a great many myths and unearths an equal number of wonderful stories. Maso is not just interested in the winners, nor only in the Tour de France. In *The Dutch Have the Yellow Jersey*, he describes how a cautious interest grew into a national passion. Triumph and tragedy alternate in this impressive book.

**PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:**

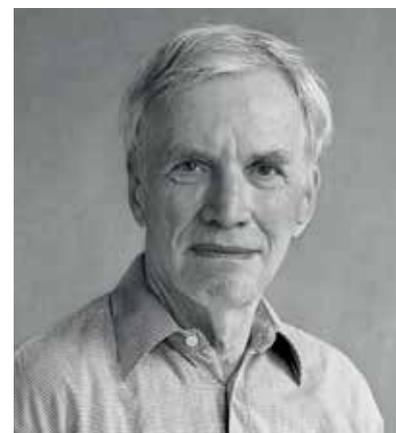
‘Reading *We Were All Gods* is an experience much like following an exciting Tour de France. The book transcends the vast majority of cycling books that too often get caught up in myths: Maso makes the almost religious atmosphere that surrounds the almost inhuman performance of the participants wonderfully palpable, but he does not surrender to it.’ – NRC HANDELSBLAD



NEW

Atlas Contact, non-fiction,  
448 pages, April 2015

\* Dutch pdf \*



**Benjo Maso** trained as a sociologist; he has written about *The Emergence of Courtly Love: The Development of Fin'amors 1060-1230*, but mainly about cycling, in two books that already enjoy a near-classic status: *Sweat of the Gods* (1990) and *We Were All Gods* (2003).

*No direction without a goal*

## MARCO FRIJLINK & WILCO VERDOOLD

# Achieving Business Goals with Social Media

Many organisations take a random approach to social media. They have no clear idea of what they want to achieve with their efforts. Of course, it often comes down to higher sales or lower costs, but there is no direct link between action and result.

For this reason, Marco Frijlink and Wilco Verdoold developed a smart and practical model based on twelve derived goals, such as increasing brand awareness or improving productivity. These goals are divided into three categories: customer, environment and organisation. For each goal, they show which activities on social media will help achieve that objective.

The model has been extensively researched and tested in the field – and it works! This book is the long-awaited guide for anyone who wants to use social media in a more focused way to achieve specific business goals.

### **PRAISE FOR ACHIEVING BUSINESS GOALS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA:**

‘With this approach, we were easily able to determine what we should and shouldn’t do to achieve our main goals with social media.’

– MARIEKE SCHOUTEN, DUTCH BURNS FOUNDATION

‘Thanks to this method we managed to align our social media activities with our business goals. As a result, we work efficiently and we can also see the results of our efforts!’ – PETER VAN DER LINDEN, GISPEN (OFFICE FURNITURE COMPANY)



NEW  
Business Contact, non-fiction,  
192 pages, April 2015

**\* Dutch pdf \***



**Marco Frijlink**, together with Wilco Verdoold, is founder of Budeco, a business development company whose basic principle is ‘online first’. Marco has extensive experience in transforming organisations by effectively combining creativity and technology, for example in the fields of marketing, e-learning and CRM.

**Wilco Verdoold** specialises in strategy and the implementation of on-line concepts. He advises and trains managers and teams in areas such as the effective use of social media, and regularly gives (guest) lectures.

*Louis van Gaal's coaching style translated to business strategies*

MAX CHRISTERN

## Switching Goalies

### *Management Lessons from Louis van Gaal*

In the 2014 World Cup, the Dutch football team had a remarkable winning streak. The team's coach, Louis van Gaal, was closely watched and his star rose ever higher. Van Gaal was widely praised for his strategy, his interventions, and his leadership style.

What are the secrets of this coach, who just two years earlier took charge of a Dutch team that nobody expected even to survive the group stage? What can managers and executives learn from his approach?

In this book, Max Christern answers these questions. He analyses Van Gaal's tactics with a journalist's love for sports and a keen sense of the business world, and distils seven leadership lessons from Van Gaal's theories and practices. Christern offers indispensable advice for those leaders who want to take their team to great heights.

#### THE PRESS ON SWITCHING GOALIES:

'Any creative team shares certain characteristics with a professional football team. Our editors do too. Thanks to this book, I am now also a bit closer to becoming Louis van Gaal.' – HANS NIJENHUIS, CHIEF EDITOR *NRC NEXT*



NEW

Business Contact, non-fiction,  
144 pages, November 2014

\* English outline \*



Journalist **Max Christern** (born 1964) was a business editor and international correspondent at leading Dutch daily *NRC Handelsblad* and editor-in-chief of the international monthly *The Optimist*. In 2011, he set up his own press bureau, moc Media. He is a writer, presenter, and a 'board challenger' - primarily in the areas of leadership, sustainability and innovation. Sport is his first love; he played Premier League field hockey in Amsterdam and is now a Centre forward in the Veterans League for VOC Rotterdam.

DIMITRI VERHULST

## Kaddish for a C\*nt

20.000 COPIES SOLD

AUTHOR OF THE DUTCH BOOK WEEK GIFT (700.000 COPIES IN PRINT)

*Kaddish for a C\*nt* is the story of the young people in the Zonnekind Children's Home, who are carelessly pushed like pawns across a chessboard by the Child Protection Services and will never bask in the warmth of a family. In rather uncomplimentary characterisations, Verhulst outlines the ordeals of Gianna, Stefaan and Sarah in government care. *Kaddish for a C\*nt* is full of black humour, but also reflects the total hopelessness the author felt as a boy.

'The author mercilessly exposes the hypocrisy of our society and writes from the depth of his soul [...] this book gives you the shivers.' – \*\*\*\*\* HAARLEMS DAGBLAD

'In *Kaddish for a C\*nt* you see Verhulst at his best, perhaps better than ever: he is sharp, empathetic and (yes, it's possible) subtle. It is one of the best Dutch prose texts of 2014. [...] Painfully moving.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Dimitri Verhulst's *Kaddish for a C\*nt* is [a book] I cannot forget after reading. His song of fear and (vain) hope. [...] Verhulst makes use of language that is buoyant and vital. As baroque as the hard-won life. Chillingly beautiful.' – VRIJ NEDERLAND

NIÑA WEIJERS

## The Consequences

WINNER OF THE ANTON WACHTER PRIZE 2014 FOR BEST DEBUT NOVEL 2013 AND 2014

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GOLDEN BOOK OWL AND THE LIBRIS LITERATURE PRIZE

Minnie Minnie Panis is 27 years old, and an established name in the international art world, admired for conceptual work in which she fearlessly puts her own life under the microscope. She is on the threshold of an experiment that goes beyond anything she has done before, an experiment in which she seeks out the ultimate boundary between life and art, which could well become the high point of her work. But how far can you manipulate reality without losing yourself?

'In this debut novel, sparkling with ambition and fascinating ideas, the life of the protagonist and her art revolve around absence, existence and disappearance. A quirky book with an uncompromising tone.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

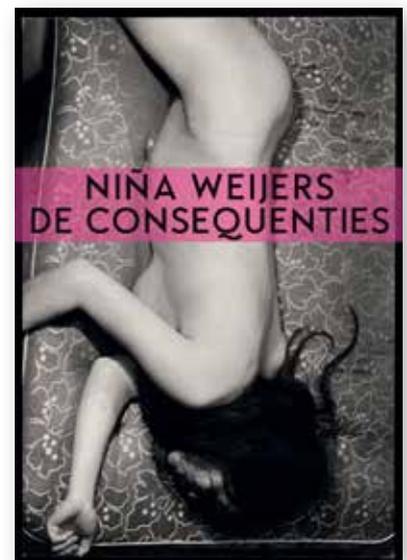
'And there was a surprise in the Netherlands as well, Niña Weijers, a writer who without any problem at all took her place, with her first book, among the considerable group of female authors whose names have been established for so long: Hella Haasse, Anna Enquist, Margriet de Moor.' – CEES NOOTEBOOM



Atlas Contact, novel, 160 pages,  
September 2014

**Rights sold: Luchterhand  
(Germany)**

\* English sample translation \*



Atlas Contact, novel,  
256 pages, May 2014

**Rights sold: Actes Sud  
(France), Suhrkamp (Germany)**

\* English sample translation \*

## JEROEN BROUWERS

# The Wood

30.000 COPIES SOLD

WINNER OF THE CUTTING EDGE AWARD 2015 FOR BEST NOVEL

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GOLDEN BOOK OWL

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

A boys' boarding school run by monks in the 1950s is rife with sexual abuse, sadism and humiliation. Brother Bonaventura witnesses this but, like everybody else, says nothing. Does this make him complicit?

*The Wood* gives a penetrating picture of the crimes and hypocrisy in the Roman Catholic Church, which still arouse outrage and frustration in the victims to this day.

'Extraordinary, this Brouwers. It twists and whirls itself together ingeniously on all levels. On every page there's a miracle to be found, a stroke of brilliance large or small, but so perfect that it's almost impossible to resist a bow.'

– \*\*\*\*\* DE VOLKSKRANT

'*The Wood* is a descent into hell that will haunt the reader for weeks.

We thank the Lord for this infernal masterpiece.' – \*\*\*\*\* DE STANDAARD

## ADRIAAN VAN DIS

# I'll Come Back

100.000 COPIES SOLD

SHORTLISTED FOR THE LIBRIS LITERATURE PRIZE

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

After a long life of coldness, silence and rejection, a mother suddenly starts talking to her son. He, a novelist, is permitted to become her biographer, but on one condition: he must give her a peaceful death.

'Painfully honest [...] Therein lies the power of *I'll Come Back*, in the way Van Dis, clumsily but sincerely, tries to get closer to his mother. [...] He brilliantly reveals his struggle with motherly love: how he must force himself to be fair to her, to immerse himself in her. [...] Fascinating to the last page.' – \*\*\*\* NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Clever [...] Van Dis captures many surprising elements by carefully selecting a single word, an apt half-observation, that only adds to the enigma that was his mother. [...] In this uncomfortable portrait about the conflict with his past, his mother and above all himself (as sum of his parts), Adriaan van Dis demonstrates his literary might.' – VRIJ NEDERLAND



Atlas Contact, novel, 288 pages,  
October 2014

\* English sample translation \*



Atlas Contact, novel, 256 pages,  
November 2014

\* English sample translation \*

# Authors of Atlas Contact



Pick 'n mix

## WORDSMITHS

*They do magic with words*



Diederik Verhulst



Anouk Nijland



Armando



Janna Ragnieux



P.F. Thomase



Stefan Eijpe

## CHRONICLERS OF FAMILY

*Everything is relative*



Nico Dijkshoorn



Philip Snijder



Yvonne van der Meer



Femke Krouzenberg

## STORYTELLERS

*Stories with beginnings and endings, but not necessarily in that order*



Jan Vantopelboom



Menno van Kesteren



Niha Wevers



Daphne Jong



Tom Reijnen



Helma Houdermaat



Wanda Beek



Jeroen Oomen



Adriaan van Die



Jannette Koolen

## HISTORIANS

*Digging for stories*



Jaap Scholten



Frouke de Buijn



Jan Broeken



Carolyn Vassar



Laura Stankovic



Geert Mak



Judith Koolen

## FUTURE WATCHERS

*They have the crystal ball*



Sander Kruis & Mart Willeard



Marjo Kaptein



Agai Hen



Jaap Seidel & Janka Halberstadt



Minna Lanting

## TRAVELLERS

*Around the world in a page*



Peter van Uhm



Koert Lindjer



Louise Joris

## MATCHMAKERS



Renè Wageningen



Hanna Berents



Christow Otten

**TONGUE TWISTERS**  
*Why we say what we say and how we say it*



Salomon Krouzenberg



Paulien Cornelisse



Nicolle van Goolbergen

## BRAIN DOCTORS

*What goes on under that skull of yours*



Rob Westendorp



Anne Jansen



Gert van der Meer



Tudy Delfos

## NATURALISTS

*Nature or nurture, that's the question*



Mikas Gekkers



Frans de Waal



Alexander Reeuwijk

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A.F.J. Dauterberg

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