

FOREIGN RIGHTS BROCHURE

... Frankfurt 2013 ...

FICTION



shared stories

AUTHOR AGENCY AMSTERDAM

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are proud to present Shared Stories, our brand new agency in Amsterdam. Shared Stories, an initiative of VBK Publishing Group, represents the publishing houses Ambo|Anthos, Atlas Contact, Luitingh Sijthoff and VBK|Media. The agency handles the translation rights, film and stage rights of top Dutch authors such as Geert Mak, Herman Koch, Dimitri Verhulst and Esther Verhoef. Uta Matten is the Rights Manager at Shared Stories. She joined the rights department of Ambo|Anthos and Atlas Contact in 2005. Since the expansion of the agency, Elaine Michon has joined her as rights assistant.

In addition to selling translation, film and stage rights, Shared Stories organises activities (including festivals, events and workshops) for authors and readers. With this unique combination of foreign rights and event planning, Shared Stories, headed by Dorien van Londen, has embarked on an adventure that is entirely consistent with the entrepreneurial spirit of the publishers it serves.

Since September 2013, Shared Stories has been up and running in its new premises at Herengracht 418 in Amsterdam.

We hope to meet and speak to you personally in Frankfurt, and we're looking forward to presenting the wonderful new titles in our Frankfurt rights guide. We wish you a successful Buchmesse with inspiring meetings and lots of enriching new stories!

Yours,
Uta Matten
Elaine Michon

PS.: At the Frankfurt Book Fair, you'll find us at the VBK Publishers stand, 5.0 C13. Feel free to come by!

'Bert Wagendorp keeps his readers firmly in tow in this glorious tragicomedy about friendship.' – De Morgen

BERT WAGENDORP

Ventoux

MORE THAN 100.000 COPIES SOLD

Bart Hoffman, crime reporter and cyclist, is almost fifty years old when his childhood friends André, Joost, and David come back into his life. They bring memories of the summer of 1982: the summer spent with his best friends, five men and one woman; the summer of his hopeless infatuation with the beautiful Laura; the summer of betrayal; and the summer of the death on Mont Ventoux. The five eighteen-year-old boys climbed the legendary mountain on their bicycles, and only four of them returned. An accident on the slopes claimed the life of Peter, the promising young poet, a tragic incident that shattered their near-magical bonds of friendship and drove the friends apart. Laura, Peter's muse, vanished without a trace.

Thirty years later, in the summer of 2010, Laura invites the four men to visit her home in Provence, where she works as a theatrical director. The friends find themselves travelling back into their past, with their racing bicycles strapped to the roof, their lost years in the back seat, and their inner demons trailing behind them.

All four of them have their own personal baggage. André has just ended his career as a coke dealer to the elite. Joost is a physicist and the winner of the prestigious Spinoza Prize, but he faces accusations of fraud. David, with his Surinamese roots, is now the proprietor of an adventure travel agency and still single, while Bart the crime reporter is working on a book about Spinoza and cycling, which seems to be stuck in the mud. What exactly happened on that mountain thirty years ago, and why are they going back?

Ventoux by Bert Wagendorp: a moving tragicomedy about the nature of true friendship, a hilarious and insightful portrait of a generation, and a two-wheeled journey toward the consequences of youthful choices, in search of forgiveness and a new beginning.

PRESS ON VENTOUX:

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

– BOOKSELLERS' PANEL, DE WERELD DRAAIT DOOR

'Hilarious, stirring, feel-good.' **** – PETER VANDERMEERSCH,

NRC HANDELSBLAD

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



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel,
368 pages, June 2013

* **Sample translation
available** * **Dutch pdf
available** *
* **Rights sold: btb
(Germany)** *



Bert Wagendorp (born in Groenlo, 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 Keyfilm (NL).

‘Female perspective and perception, sexuality and adultery: with these, Vonne van der Meer can do what very few, in fact no one, in Dutch literature can imitate.’
– Het Parool

VONNE VAN DER MEER

The Narrow Path

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

Floris and Françoise moved to France after the death of their youngest child. After the tragedy, they met Mae and Pieter Akkerman and they have spent the summers with them ever since. Mae and Pieter do not know the exact circumstances of the accident, and Floris and Françoise seem reluctant to talk about it. The friendship between the families seems to be for life – until Floris finds a listening ear in Mae and they fall in love with each other.

The Narrow Path is a story about an impossible love that paves the way to another desire. One of the rare books of our time that represents a quest for comfort and meaning from within.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

‘Vonne van der Meer writes about questions of faith: about guilt, confession, redemption. But she does this so vividly that even the most unbelieving reader will be touched.’ – TROUW

‘Fabulous writing, compositional ingenuity and sublime observations.’
– NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘Vonne van der Meer has a distinctive and compelling way of depicting her characters and their machinations.’ – STÉPHANIE HOFFMANN,
LE FIGARO

‘What is both fascinating and appealing about Vonne van der Meer’s stories and novels is that she allows all those little human shortcomings to shine through in her exercises in imagination, holds them up to the light, and tries to bring them into focus.’ – JAN PAUL BRESSER,
ELSEVIER

‘What touches us about this story and at times makes us acutely aware of our own identity, are the very sharp character sketches and the striking descriptions of certain experiences, which could easily be our own.’
– SABINE BRAND, FRANKFURTER ALGEMEINE ZEITUNG



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel,
192 pages, September 2013

*** Sample translation
available * English
synopsis available *
Dutch pdf available ***



Vonne van der Meer made her debut in 1985 with *The Lemonade Feeling*, which was awarded the Geertjan Lubberhuizen Prize. Since then she has written novels, short stories and novellas, which have garnered praise both at home and abroad and reached a large readership. Her work has been published in more than seven languages.

A brooding shadow play between two people condemned to each other

TOINE HEIJMANS

Pristina

Albert Drilling is a successful immigration officer, loyal to his minister and the law. He works alone. His missions are secret and sensitive. The 10,000 euros he carries in his jacket are to help him resolve matters as quickly and smoothly as possible. On the way to an island in the North Sea he reads the file on the young woman he is looking for. An easy assignment. But on the island, different laws apply, and slowly he becomes entangled in a story that shakes him to the core.

Who is the woman he is looking for? Where does she come from? And why should he control her fate?

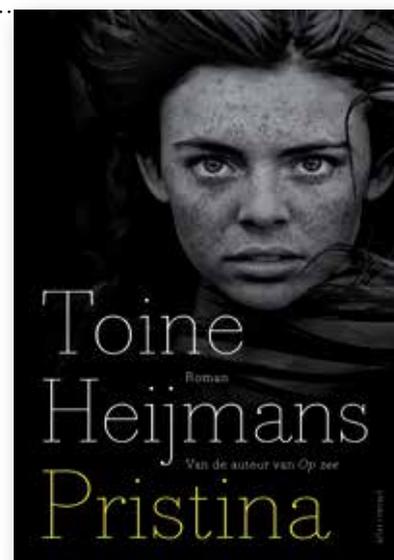
Pristina is a brooding shadow play between two people condemned to each other: an officer and an illegal immigrant. One lives in hotels, the other in immigration camps. Both are trying to make the best of their lives and they both know that one of them will lose.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

‘Sophisticated literary masterpiece between insanity and choppy waves.’ – DER TAGESSPIEGEL

‘An astute and poignant novel about drifting.’ – FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

‘A remarkable, tightly-written novel with thriller-like momentum that will appeal to the same kind of reader as Herman Koch’s *The Dinner*.’ – NRC HANDELSBLAD



FORTHCOMING
Atlas Contact, novel,
288 pages, January 2014

*** Sample translation
available ***
Dutch pdf available *



Toine Heijmans writes novels and is a reporter for newspaper *de Volkskrant*. For *Pristina* he travelled to Egypt and Kosovo. The television adaptation of his debut novel, *At Sea* (15,000 copies sold), will be broadcast this autumn by VARA and VPRO. *At sea* has been sold to Germany, France, Denmark and Hungary.

‘With The Lamb, Regnerus has written a beautiful novel; I will never again be able to look at Van Eyck’s painting without thinking of this book.’

– Cees Nooteboom

JANNIE REGNERUS

The Lamb

As a toddler, Clarissa’s son Joris is surprised to see a dead lamb left behind on a market square. Not long after, he urinates blood. Cancer. Clarissa watches helplessly as her child undergoes debilitating treatments. It changes her perception of the world around her, which gradually drains of colour and life until all she can see is decay and finality. Art offers an alternative, so she takes Joris to Ghent to see the “The Lamb of God” by the Van Eyck brothers and convince him and herself that not all lambs die.

Sober and restrained, and without the slightest hint of sentimentality, Jannie Regnerus describes a woman trying to cope when faced with the suffering of her seriously ill child. It is the unusual combination of images, associations and language that makes this novel a marvel of imagination.

PRAISE FOR JANNIE REGNERUS

‘I particularly admire the cool, restrained beauty of this story, which wards off fear, despair and total disorder.’ – P.F. THOMÉSE

‘A big surprise for anyone who encounters it, her prose is a pure, meditative melancholy.’ – ARJAN PETERS, DE VOLKSKRANT

‘Regnerus describes the area beyond the dike beautifully. I even felt a little homesick, which rarely happens to me.’ – CEES NOOTEBOOM



FORTHCOMING
Atlas Contact, novel
144 pages, October 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *
* **Sample translation**
in preparation *



Jannie Regnerus (born 1971) studied at the Maastricht Academy of Fine Arts and the Royal Academy in Amsterdam. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions and has had solo exhibitions in Amsterdam, Paris and Tokyo. Her work has been awarded 10 scholarships, fellowships and awards. In 2005 she published *The Full Moon as a Best Friend: Two Years in Mongolia* and in 2006 *The Sound of Falling Snow: Memories of Japan*, which won the Bob den Uyl Prize. Her novel *The Graft* was published in 2010.

‘Čičovački can teach us a lot about former Yugoslavia, that fractured land and its peoples.’ – Vrij Nederland

BORISLAV ČIČOVAČKI

Angels of Revenge

1500 Years of War in the Balkans
A historical phantasmagoria

Why were the wars in the Balkans always so horrific? The answer lies in the controversial history of the region. In *Angels of Revenge*, Borislav Čičovački subjects the most important figures of the last ten centuries to a fictional tribunal. Emperor Tiberius, Frederick I Barbarossa, the Turkish Sultan Murat I, Tito, Ratko Mladić: all appear before the judge, prosecutor and defender.

On the basis of their stories about the Balkans, the reader gains an insight into the course of history and an understanding of the actions of the men who were in charge. Even the actions of the ‘Butcher of Bosnia’, Ratko Mladić, will appear a very different light.

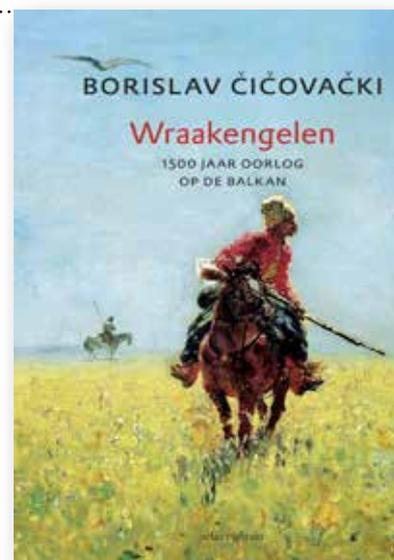
‘The reader is given the opportunity to understand history. In what kind of atmosphere, what historical context, did Ratko Mladić, Radovan Karadžić or whoever, commit their crimes? Make no mistake, understanding is not the same as apologising. It does not make the crimes any less heinous. I think readers will be most surprised by the figure of Tito. The story he tells the prosecutor is the story we had to learn in school as children of socialist Yugoslavia.’ – Borislav Čičovački in *Trouw*

PRESS ON ANGELS OF REVENGE:

‘Reads like a play.’ – NRC NEXT

‘His language is rich and the heroes in his novels are displaced, thinking back longingly à la Proust to their country of origin.’

– NRC HANDELSBLAD



NEW

Atlas Contact, novel,
272 pages, June 2013

*** Dutch pdf available ***



Borislav Čičovački (born 1966, Sombor, former Yugoslavia) studied biology and oboe in Novi Sad and in Amsterdam, where he has lived since 1991. As a musician he has performed throughout Europe and written libretti for leading opera houses.

‘His name is Dimitri Verhulst, and he truly is a modern hero.’ – De Groene Amsterdammer

DIMITRI VERHULST

The Latecomer

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FLEMISH LITERATURE FUND
OVER 50.000 COPIES SOLD

In a last-ditch attempt to make peace with his life, Désiré Cordier strays from the path marked out for him and takes revenge on his dull, loveless, bourgeois existence. When one memorable day, fit and well, he is placed in a home for dementia sufferers, he takes everyone for a ride by pretending to be a senile and incontinent old man on his last legs. Thus he regains the self-esteem his marriage has all but destroyed. But then the home has a few surprises in store for him, in the form of a childhood sweetheart and a former SS man.

PRESS ON THE LATECOMER

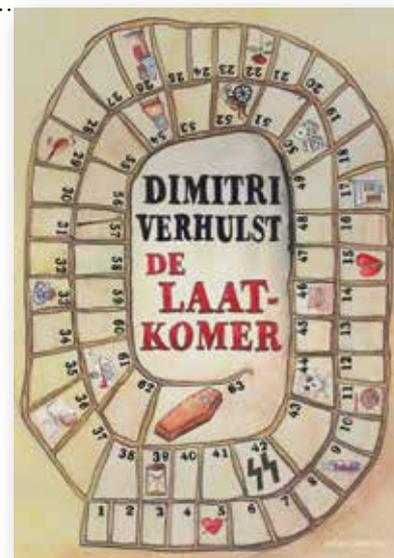
‘A wonderful novel. The Latecomer is one of those books you always hoped Verhulst would write: a perfect brew of social criticism with a strong anecdotal touch.’ **** – NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘A cracking novel.’ **** – METRO

‘A wonderfully moving, skilfully told story, full of grim humour.’
– VPRO GIDS

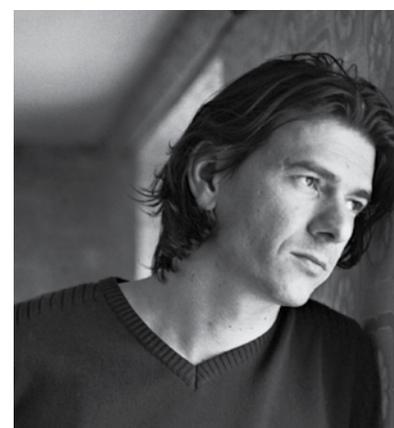
‘The Latecomer is smoothly written, extremely witty and often painful.’
– BOEK

‘The new novel by Dimitri Verhulst is both comic and wry, a trademark Verhulst combination. Laughter through pain. Verhulst has the gift of making the comical tragic and the tragic comical. He does so in language that sparkles and brims with life.’ – NOORDHOLLANDS DAGBLAD



Atlas Contact, novel,
144 pages, May 2013

*** Sample translation available * Dutch pdf available * Rights sold: Luchterhand (Germany), Portobello (UK, World English), Denoël (France) ***



Dimitri Verhulst (born 1972) is considered one of the best writers in the Dutch language. His breakthrough came in 2006 with the novel *De helaasheid der dingen* (The Misfortunates). The book won several awards including the Belgian Golden Book Owl and has sold more than 200,000 copies to date. The English translation was named one of the best books of 2012 by *The Irish Times*. It was also filmed and screened in Europe in 2009/2010. In 2009 his book *Goddamn Days on a Goddamn Globe* was awarded the Libris Literature Prize. Dimitri Verhulst's work has been published in 25 countries.

atlas contact

From famine to prosperity, a novel of great longing. The magnum opus of Oek de Jong.

OEK DE JONG

Pier and Ocean

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

SHORTLISTED FOR THE DUTCH LIBRIS LITERATURE PRIZE 2013

LONGLISTED FOR THE AKO LITERATURE PRIZE 2013

WINNER OF THE BELGIAN GOLDEN BOOK OWL 2013

In *Pier and Ocean*, Oek de Jong chronicles the history of Abel Roorda, his parents and grandparents, and the immense changes in the Netherlands between the winter famine of 1944 and the new affluence of the 1960s. The novel is set in Amsterdam and in rural Friesland and Zeeland, parts of the country that were then still considered deeply provincial. The gripping scenes from the marriage of Abel's mother and father provide glimpses of love in a bygone age.

Pier and Ocean is a novel of the water that is so central to Dutch life, from still pools in peat bogs to the sea crashing through breakwaters onto the beaches of Zeeland. Like his father and grandfather before him, Abel Roorda is drawn to water in its many guises. *Pier and Ocean* is a novel of profound longing.

PRESS ON PIER AND OCEAN

'Oek de Jong's *magnum opus*. A stunning evocation of time gone by and an authentic portrait of the artist as a young man.' – ELSBETH ETTY IN NRC HANDELSBLAD

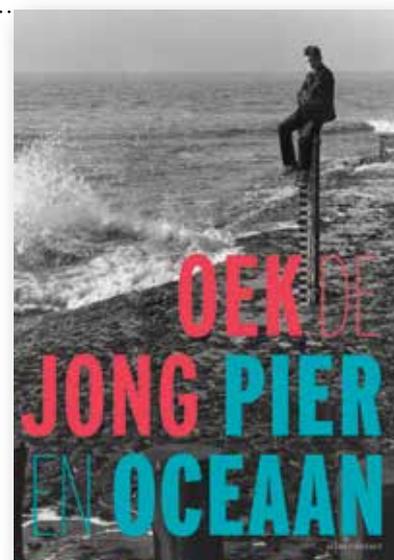
'A sweeping family history. *Pier and Ocean* is very likely to become the literary event of 2012.' – JEROEN VULLINGS IN VRIJ NEDERLAND

'Unquestionably Oek de Jong's finest work.' – JAAP GOEDEGEBUURE IN TROUW

'A masterful novel. De Jong has a slow, penetrating style of writing that never loses its light touch, and he is a master of describing emotion' – MARNIX VERPLANCKE IN KNACK

'An elegy to the provincial family life that has vanished.' – JOOST DE VRIES IN DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

'De Jong is not a wrathful god looming over his characters. He makes them shine in all their vulnerability.' – HUMO



Atlas Contact, novel,
816 pages, October 2012

* English brochure
available *
Sample translation
available * Dutch pdf
available *



Oek de Jong (b. 1952) is the author of essays, stories and successful novels such as *Opwaaiende zomerjurken* (*Billowing Summer Dresses*), *Cirkel in het gras* (*Circle in the Grass*) and *Hokwerda's kind* (*Hokwerda's Child*), which was nominated for the Dutch Libris Literature Prize and the Belgian Golden Book Owl. Half a million copies of his books have been sold, and his work has been translated into nine languages.

'This is edge-of-your-seat stuff.' **** – Metro

HANNA BERVOETS

Everything There Was

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

One Sunday, eight people gather at a school to record a television programme. But the programme is never made. After a loud bang, the authorities order all windows, doors and curtains to be closed. And stay closed. For days, then weeks.

Through the eyes of TV editor Merel, a young woman, we see the group trying to survive in a new world, a world of darkness and isolation, of sleeping on gym mats and living on ten grains of rice a day. As food supplies dwindle, tensions mount.

How do we adapt to a radically new situation? What do we have to give up? And if everything that once was is no more, what do love, loyalty and friendship mean?

PRESS ON EVERYTHING THERE WAS

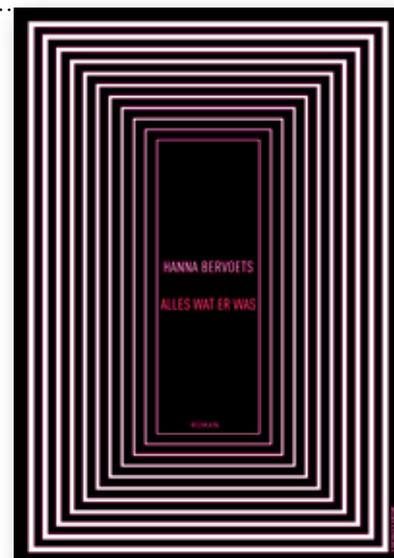
'This is one truly clever novel. A tragedy unfolds, brutal and hard-hitting. Before you know it, the calm, reflective tone has made way for a hallucinatory trip. An uncompromising piece of art.'

– DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

'In *Everything There Was*, Bervoets proves that she really knows what she's doing.' – **** DE VOLKSKRANT

'This book grabs you by the throat.' – NU.NL

'Hanna Bervoets has written an eye-opening novel that takes a fresh look at everything we're taking for granted.' – OPZIJ



Atlas Contact, novel,
288 pages, January 2013

* **Sample translation available** * **English synopsis available** * **Dutch pdf available** *



Hanna Bervoets writes novels, columns and scripts. Her columns for *Volkscrant Magazine*, collected in *That's Nice, Bye*, are hugely popular in the Netherlands. Bervoets won the 2009 Debutant of the Year Award for her first novel *Or, How, Why*. Its follow-up, *Dear Céline*, was awarded the Opzij Literature Prize 2012 for best book by a female Dutch author. It has since been adapted for the big screen.

The godfather of the psychological thriller at his best

RENÉ APPEL

The Lawyer

David Driessen is a criminal lawyer at a large law firm in Amsterdam. As a junior he is usually assigned minor cases, but his ambition lies in the bigger work. His wish appears to be fulfilled when he is asked to defend Hein Wesseling, a suspect from the Amsterdam real estate world.

A glittering career beckons. He develops a close relationship with Hein, but is it too close? When David suspects his wife of cheating, his attention is distracted and his situation becomes hopelessly complicated, putting him on a slippery slope.

In *The Lawyer*, his new, exceptional thriller, René Appel subtly shows how narrow the line is between good and evil and how tempting the money and glamour of the underworld can be.

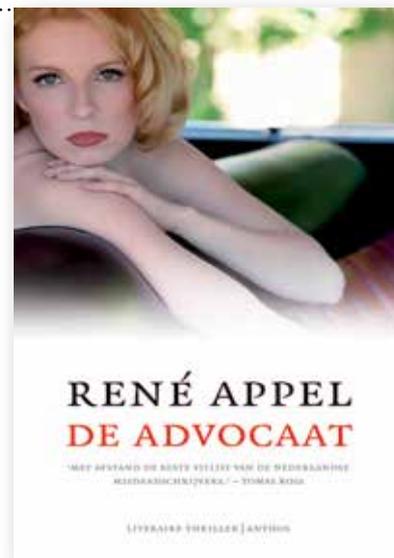
PRESS ON THE LAWYER

‘In *The Lawyer*, René Appel shows his very best side. A fascinating thriller about greed, infidelity and ruthless crime.’ – ***** ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD

‘Along with Charles den Tex, René Appel is still by far the best thriller writer in the Netherlands.’ – **** NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘Appel has never failed to come up with a tense, conclusive storyline, and with its admirably creative denouement, *The Lawyer* is no exception. An apparent side plot that has you wondering where the hell it will lead eventually takes deserved pride of place... A major crime writer reinvents himself again, to our delight’ **** – HET PAROOL

‘Appel skilfully portrays David’s inevitable demise, with a brilliant twist at the end.’ – BOEK



NEW
Anthos, literary thriller,
280 pages, July 2013

* English synopsis available
* Dutch pdf available *



René Appel (born 1945) has been one of the top Dutch thriller writers for more than 25 years. His work has been nominated numerous times for The Golden Noose, a prize he has won twice, for *The Third Person* and *Senseless Violence*.

'Her use of language borders on the poetic.' – De Telegraaf

LIENEKE DIJKZEUL

Delayed Happiness

A woman visits her mother's house for the last time, to say goodbye, but also in the hope of coming to terms with the past – and with herself. It seems a hopeless mission; bitterness and sorrow prevail. The image is turned on its head when she finds her mother's shoes, carefully stored for many years. Black velvet, high-heeled evening shoes, symbol of a life she dreamed of but never had.

More important is the discovery of the lost diary that she herself kept as a very young girl. While the adult daughter can only look back in anger, the child turns out to have been kind and nonjudgmental. This not only gives her a clearer view of her childhood, but also the turbulent life of her mother.

In this partly autobiographical novel, Lieneke Dijkzeul describes the life of a child in the Fifties in crystal-clear, razor-sharp prose. A child who should never have been born, but is nevertheless determined to prove her right to exist.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'Lieneke Dijkzeul is one of Holland's best thriller writers. This is a gripping story but also a human drama which at times is very affecting.'

– LIBELLE

'In her attractive style, Dijkzeul describes how the lives of her main characters become sucked into a whirlpool of violence and despair.'

– ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD



NEW

Anthos, novel, 272 pages,
September 2013

* Dutch pdf available *



Lieneke Dijkzeul (born 1950) writes thrillers, children's books and screenplays. *The Silent Sin*, the first book to feature the character of Inspector Vegter, was nominated for the Diamond Bullet. The second, *Cold Spring*, was nominated in 2008 for the Golden Noose. This was followed by *The Scent of Rain*, nominated for both awards. In 2011 *The Lost Son* was published, also to great acclaim. In Germany, the series featuring Inspector Vegter is published by DTV. With *Delayed Happiness* she proves she is an excellent literary writer as well.

'Fàbregas excels in evocative writing.' – De Morgen

LAIA FÀBREGAS

Yellow Days

This is the story of two best friends, Sira and Rut, who know that good days generally come with yellow skies and that hard times get easier when you climb onto something. That is why they joined a colla castellera: a small club devoted to building human towers.

But this is also the story of Cecilia, a heartless writer, and Nil, the brother of Sira who is in love with Cecilia and has secret writing ambitions. When Sira starts looking for her brother, things start to degenerate into a labyrinth of discoveries. Discoveries that cast an entirely new light on Cecilia's past and the family she is from.

Yellow days is a richly composed novel about friendship and writing, about memories distorting reality – and about everyone ultimately ending up with his own truth.

PRESS ON *YELLOW DAYS*:

'Fàbregas writes in an expressive manner, alternating between a poetic and a more straightforward style.' – DE TELEGRAAF

'Fàbregas is a master at giving the bottled-up passion of her characters a tragic dimension.' – DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER



NEW
Anthos, novel, 244 pages,
April 2013

* Dutch pdf available *



Laia Fàbregas (Barcelona, 1973) has lived in the Netherlands for almost twelve years. Within that period of time she has managed to master the Dutch language to a level of fluency that enabled her to start writing novels in Dutch. Early 2008 Fàbregas makes her glorious debut with the novel *The Girl with the Nine Fingers* of which the rights have been sold more than five territories. In 2010 her second novel – *Landing* – appears, which lands her an honorable nomination for the Opzij Literatuurprijs. She also wrote the scenario for the play *Follow* in 2011.

MARIQUE MAAS

Walls of Glass

The Encounter – Part one

FIRST PART OF SIZZLING EROTIC TRILOGY

Daniel Holland is a young, successful entrepreneur and a famous designer. Together with friends, Nadine de Jong runs a thriving catering company. When Daniel and Nadine meet by chance, sparks fly. The dominant Daniel drags Nadine into his world of glitz, glamour and sizzling erotic fantasies. She follows him to luxury hotels and gourmet restaurants, and accompanies him on the red carpet. Overwhelmed by Daniel's charm and extravagant lifestyle, Nadine gradually loses grip on her life. Daniel says that he cares about her, but remains difficult to fathom and gives little away about his past. Gradually, the lovelorn Nadine starts to ask herself: is this love, or just lust?

The Encounter is the first part of the sizzling *Walls of Glass* series, based around the characters Daniel Holland and Nadine de Jong. A sensual love story full of groundbreaking erotica.

PRESS ON WALLS OF GLASS:

'A hot-blooded story for cold nights.' – MARIE CLAIRE

'Domination, glitz, glamour and entertaining erotica.' – LINDA.

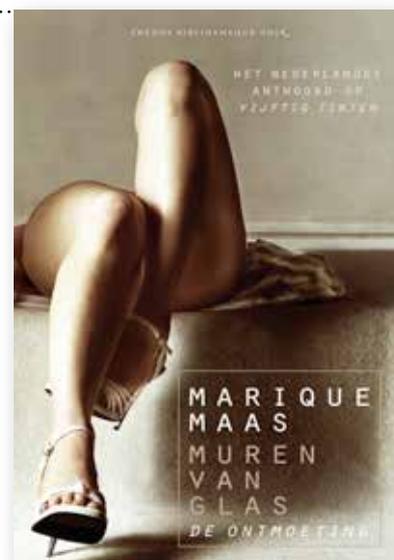
'A sizzling love story.' – AM MAGAZINE

'Turned on by *Fifty Shades of Grey*? You ain't read nothing yet...'
– COSMOPOLITAN

Hard Boundaries – Part two

In the second part of the *Walls of Glass* series, Nadine de Jong has broken up with Daniel Holland. However, he is not prepared to give her up and takes her to a beautiful ski resort. In the fairy tale snowy landscape, the two grow closer. But Nadine still has questions: what exactly is Daniel's relationship with Noa, his gorgeous assistant? And why is Michael, one of Daniel's employees, so eager to keep Nadine out of Daniel's life?

The questions remain unanswered, until Nadine, during a sweltering stay – in every respect – in southern Spain, is faced with the truth about her addictive lover. She must now make a final decision.



NEW
Anthos, novel, 320 pages,
June 2013

* Dutch pdf available *



NEW
Anthos, novel, 320 pages,
September 2013 (part two)

* Dutch pdf available *

Marique Maas is a pseudonym of bestselling author Esther Verhoef. While Verhoef focuses on psychological depth and airtight plots, Marique Maas' books are all about pure reading pleasure and sizzling eroticism. The pseudonym gives her the freedom to explore and respond to the genre popularised by *Fifty Shades*.

*‘Compelling and inventively-plotted thriller, perfect for the big screen.’ – **** Vrij Nederland.*

ESCOBER Overkill

A rapist, a killer and a paedophile are murdered. One element links all three cases: the law never brought them to justice. So who did? Ex-soldier Ronny lives by his wits, straddling the fine line between right and wrong. It’s how he chooses both his women and his clients. At the other end of the spectrum we have Reinier: Detective Chief Superintendent, father and husband, prisoner of his own life. Friends since childhood, both are accustomed to dispensing justice their own way. Meanwhile several criminals are killed in quick succession, presenting homicide detective Mark with some tough decisions.

Three men in the prime of life, one murderer who will not be stopped. When brutal killers take the law into their own hands, who decides what justice is?

Overkill is classic Escobar, a roller coaster of hard-hitting action, steamy sex and an unflinching look into the dark depths of the human soul.

PRESS ON OVERKILL

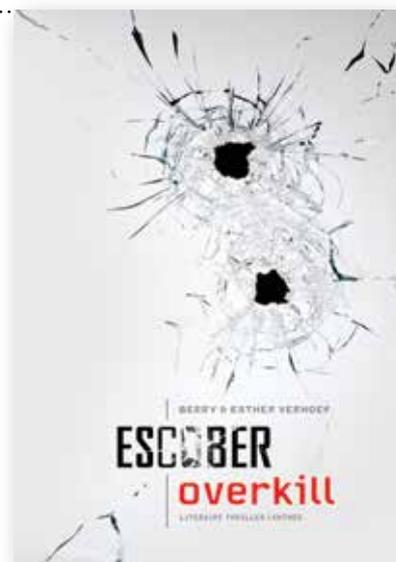
‘In the tradition of Escobar, *Overkill* is entertainment at its best.’

– **** ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD

‘The rawness of the content is in sharp contrast to the ease with which the book can be read.’ – ****CRIMEZONE.NL

‘With great skill and - thanks to the many changes in perspective - at high speed, Esther and Berry Verhoef work towards a surprising denouement, which leaves only one possible conclusion: *Overkill* is simply a fantastic book.’ – BOEK MAGAZINE

‘This solid thriller, with a generous helping of sex and violence, is exciting, pacy, and well plotted, with constant new twists and a surprising, compelling ending.’ – NBD BIBLION



Anthos, thriller,
306 pages, May 2013

*** Sample translation
available * Dutch pdf
available ***



Escobar is the pen name of best-selling author Esther Verhoef and her husband Berry Verhoef. Together they write psychological action thrillers. Escobar’s entire output has been nominated for awards; *Under Pressure* won the Diamond Bullet. The books have been published in translation in Germany and the United States. Rinkel Film / Fu Works has bought the film rights to the Sil Maier trilogy.

A suspenseful, witty novel that takes us to Amsterdam's underworld

HERMAN KOCH

Odessa Star

SUCCESSFUL BACKLIST TITLE FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE DINNER, WHICH SOLD OVER 1 MILLION COPIES WORLDWIDE

Fred Moorman is in his late forties and dreams of a black Jeep Cherokee and a whole new set of friends. His life has come to a standstill and bores him to tears. The days when he used to think about astronomy, about light years and black holes, are absolutely over. All he ever talks about now is endowment mortgages and cruise control. His fourteen-year-old son has long since stopped regarding him as a hero, and his wife thinks out loud about what her life would be like if he fell down dead. At the height of this midlife crisis, Fred happens to run into Max G., an old high-school friend who impresses him with his brutal, aggressive behaviour, his beautiful women, his bodyguard and his cars.

Max G. seems to have everything Fred doesn't have: guts, assertiveness and a glamorous life. Fred begins spending more and more time with Max, even roping him and his criminal friends in when it comes to getting rid of a troublesome neighbour. But then Max G. is shot dead in a spectacular scene outside a restaurant – and we see the two men's unequal friendship in a whole new light.

Odessa Star was the first of Herman Koch's occasional series of novels about slightly psychotic men who breathe fire and brimstone all around them out of deep frustration with their middle-class lives. A suspenseful, witty novel that takes us to Amsterdam's underworld.

PRESS ON ODESSA STAR

'Koch proved himself a master at recording absurd trains of thoughts and slapstick situations. Both painful and hilarious at the same time.'

– NRC HANDELSBLAD

'An ingeniously plotted story. *Odessa Star* reads like a thriller.' – TROUW



Anthos, novel,
304 pages, January 2004

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Herman Koch (1953) is writer, TV maker and columnist. He has written the satirical novels *Red ons*, *Maria Montanelli* (Save Us, Maria Montanelli, 1989), *Eindelijk oorlog* (Finally War, 1996), *Eten met Emma* (Eating with Emma, 2000), *Odessa Star* (*Odessa Star*, 2004), *Het diner* (*The Dinner*, 2009) and *Zomerhuis met zwembad* (*Summer House with Swimmingpool*, 2011).

A young girl's desperate quest for her lost brother

FEMKE ROOBOL
The Last Winter

Winter 1944, Amsterdam. Anna Verbeek, her mother and her younger sister are fighting against starvation. There is hardly any food or fuel in the city and Anna is most concerned about her younger brother Maarten, who was rounded up during a razzia in Putten and shipped off by train.

After liberation there is still no trace of him. But then Anna manages to track down a boy who survived the concentration camp Neuengamme and who is the spitting image of her brother... What happened to Maarten?

PRESS ON THE LAST WINTER:

'I am glad to see that this book has managed to regain attention for the story of the Putten razzia.' – JANNES PRIEM (THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE PUTTEN RAZZIA)

'Without unnecessary fuss and therefore all the more pervasive, the author describes how Anna prepares for her hunger expedition. Roobol has a pleasant writing style and knows how to keep you on the edge of your seat.' – NEDERLANDS DAGBLAD



NEW
Luitingh–Sijthoff, novel,
352 pages, March 2013

* Dutch pdf available *



Femke Roobol (1966) was born in The Hague and lives in a small town close to Alkmaar with her husband and her two children. She studied Italian language and literature and works as a foreign language coach. In her free time she performs genealogy research and draws up family trees for whoever wishes to know more about their origin and their ancestors. *The Last Winter* is her debut.

ALMAR OTTEN

Blue Gold

WINNER DIAMOND BULLET AWARD 2012

After the death of his mother, Matt Paddinge inherits a beautiful 'Book of Hours'. The heirloom belonged to his father, who vanished without trace when Matt was 10 years old. Historian Lineke Tesinga and her friend Laura cannot believe their eyes when Matt shows them the book: it appears to be a lost masterpiece, particularly because of the frequent use of the colour blue, a pigment that was extremely rare at the time and even more expensive than gold.

Soon, Matt is confronted by a series of mysterious events. Everything indicates that somebody is trying to get hold of the 'Book of Hours', but also that this person knows more about Matt's father. When Laura then finds herself in direct danger, there is no alternative: Matt must uncover the truth, and quickly...

PRESS ON *BLUE GOLD*:

'With his second thriller, Almar Otten more than confirms his reputation as a born storyteller.' – **** VN DETECTIVE EN THRILLERGIDS

'...a rich, full book, which also fascinates to the very end... nothing but praise.' – BOEK

Sins of Youth

Jan Kees Kreupel, a popular host of Evangelical television, has been kidnapped. Nobody knows where he is and his girlfriend Isabel has disappeared as well. Soon after, an orthodox Christian politician is murdered. Nobody makes a connection between the two facts...

Lineke Tesinga is faced with a series of strange events: a file on Spinoza disappears from the library, a former classmate starts stalking her, and she gets hold of the only copy of the 'Forbidden Book' - a blasphemous manuscript from her secondary school days, written by an unknown. Together with her friend Laura, Lineke starts investigating, leading them to encounter many horrors and startling crimes that appear to be rooted in her own past...

In *Sins of Youth*, the third Lineke Tesinga thriller, Almar Otten proves himself a born narrator and a master at developing plots. His second book *Blue gold* was awarded with a Diamond Bullet (2012).



Luitingh-Sijthoff, serie literary thriller, 368 pages, March 2013

* Dutch pdf available *



Luitingh-Sijthoff, serie literary thriller, 320 pages, March 2013

* Dutch pdf available *

Almar Otten (1964) graduated as a hydrology engineer from Wageningen University and has always been passionate about history and writing. He wrote four detective novels which met with great acclaim, including a nomination for the prestigious Diamond Bullet Award in 2010. In 2011 he published the historical thriller *The Descendant*, which was very well received. *Blue Gold* soon followed and was awarded with the Diamond Bullet. The Lineke Tesinga thrillers were born. *Sins of youth* is the third part in the series.

A touching novel about betrayal, forgiveness and God's guiding hand in our lives

MARIANNE GRANDIA Whiter than Snow

**BEST CHRISTIAN BOOK 2012
OVER 10.000 COPIES SOLD**

After a shocking discovery, Kathy Smit severs all ties with her father Steven. Years later, she meets him again at his bedside, but they do not reconcile. Her father dies and Kathy is forced to arrange his funeral. Kathy throws herself back into her work, but still cannot close the chapter on her father: his apartment has to be emptied and a woman called Ellen will not leave her alone. Ellen turns out to have quickly developed a special bond with her father and will not give up until Kathy hands over a bag of his personal belongings. And then there are also Martijn and Jeroen, who both want something from her that she cannot give...

PRESS ON WHITER THAN SNOW

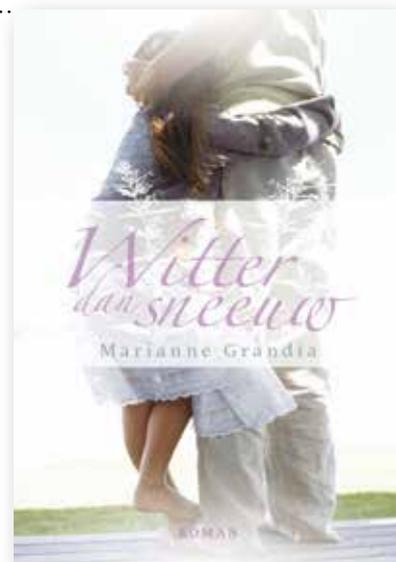
'Whiter than Snow gets more fascinating with every page you turn.'
– WOMEN'S MAGAZINE EVA

'Grandia writes fluently and accessibly about very ordinary characters; people like you and me.' – NEDERLANDS DAGBLAD, A DUTCH CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

'This novel is really captivating.' – EO VISIE, MAGAZINE OF THE EVANGELICAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

'The author is able to convey feelings and emotions in an understandable way without getting sentimental. She writes fluently, which makes this book unputdownable.' – DUTCH LIBRARY SERVICE NBD|BIBLION

'I hope she will write many more books!' – PASTORAL MAGAZINE ELISABET



Kok, novel, 394 pages
September 2011

*** Dutch pdf available *
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Verlag (Germany) ***



Marianne Grandia is a famous name in the Christian Netherlands. Since 2003 she has written for the Christian women's magazine Eva, translated dozens of books and speaks regularly at women's meetings. With her foundation Selah she teaches women biblical principles for recovery and growth through events such as themed weekends. In addition to her pastoral work, Marianne fostered the desire to reflect God's grace and love via a novel. This resulted in her debut novel *Whiter than Snow*.

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