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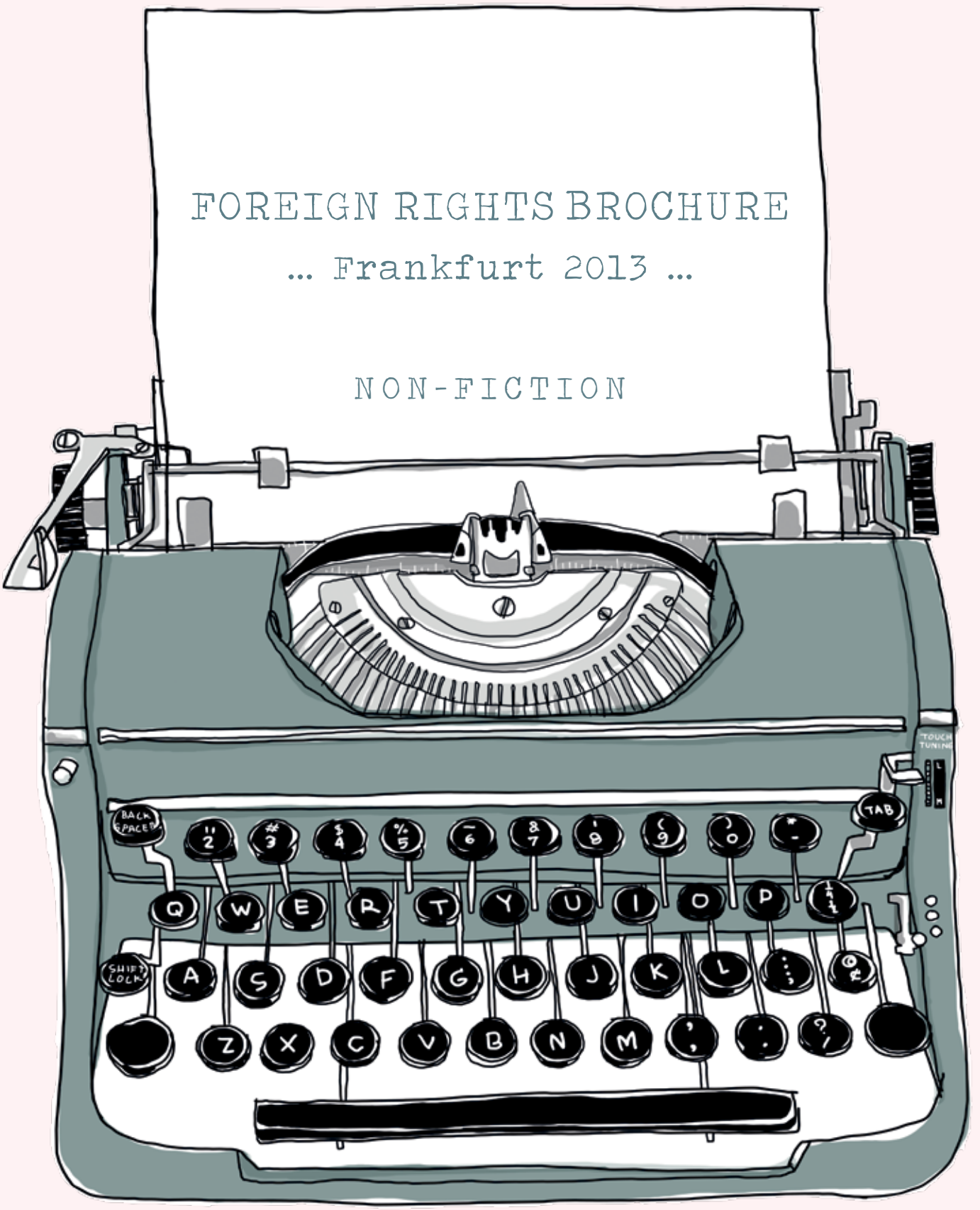

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The definitive book on old age, with the core message that we can do much more than we think!

FORTHCOMING
Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
256 pages, January 2014

*** English material available ***

RUDI WESTENDORP

Growing Older Without Growing Old

On Vitality and Ageing

The past century has witnessed a revolution: an explosion of life. Never before have so many people reached such an advanced age. It is the most radical change in our society since industrialisation. While less than a century ago the average life expectancy was 40, it is now 80. And there is no end in sight: the first person to reach 135 has already been born. Is this an awesome milestone or an extremely fearful prospect? Many wonder in dismay why no one has pulled the emergency brake. The answer is that it is we who wanted this, and we who made it happen. This is something we can be proud of, and something we need to turn to our advantage.

In his fascinating book, internationally respected gerontologist Rudi Westendorp explains what this involves, and how it came to be that every week we add a weekend to our lives.

Growing Older Without Growing Old is the definitive book on the hottest topic of the 21st century. It sheds light on our lives from all angles – from biology and medicine to care and society.

‘70-year-olds are still wet behind the ears. They need to make at least three five-year plans. So I say, “Surprise yourself. Surprise us. Then we’ll have something to talk about when you’re 85.”’ – Rudi Westendorp

Rudi Westendorp is a medical doctor, Professor of Medicine at Leiden University and founder and director of the Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing. This institute offers courses, conducts research and initiates developments that improve quality of life for older people. Westendorp frequently appears in the media to spread his knowledge to a wide audience.

'Joris is a conscientious and worldly reporter, refusing to be side-tracked either by sentimentality or bravado.'
– Caroline Moorehead, Times Literary Supplement

LIEVE JORIS

On the Wings of the Dragon

Travels between Africa and China

NEW
Atlas Contact, non-fiction, 320 pages, September 2013

*** Sample translation available * Dutch pdf available * Rights sold: Actes Sud (France) ***

What happens when people who don't share a colonial past, meet each other? With that question in mind, Lieve Joris heads from Africa to China. In keeping with the modus operandi she has refined over the past decades, she immerses herself in the world of the Africans and Chinese who venture into each other's territory in the slipstream of the big trade contracts.

The Congolese businesswoman who travels to Dubai to buy merchandise, the Malian trader who can barely read or write but flies to Guangzhou (China) three times a year, the Chinese art history teacher who sells watches on an ironing board in the streets of South Africa – with a magical mix of humour and heroism, Lieve Joris' characters lead us into a world that sparkles with novelty and in which Europe is reduced to a dusty museum. They cling to the wings of China's progress, hitch a ride and look around – they see everything.

Lieve Joris is one of Europe's leading non-fiction writers. She has won many awards for her books about Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 2010 she was conferred with the French honour Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters.

PRAISE FOR LIEVE JORIS:

'It is as deeply reported and directly observed as the very best non-fiction.' – PHILIP GOUREVITCH

'I have long admired Lieve Joris' African books.' – PAUL THEROUX

'Inside the invisible demi-Holocaust of the Congo. Powerful and brilliant. Highly recommended.' – HOWARD FRENCH

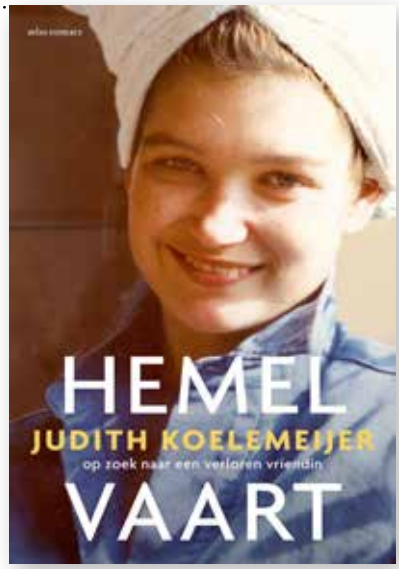
PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK

'Lieve Joris has that rare ability to follow both paths, the general and the particular, the panorama and the close-up, the analysis and the narrative, without ever losing track of either.' – LIBÉRATION (FRANCE)

'A consistently fascinating book. Travel writing doesn't get much better than this.' – NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

'In *The Rebel's Hour* Joris presents a bare, honest and powerful tableau that illuminates the African dilemma in hauntingly personal terms.' – PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (US)

Number 2 of the Dutch bestseller list!



NEW
Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
272 pages, August 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

JUDITH KOELEMEIJER

Ascension

In Search of a Lost Friend

20.000 COPIES SOLD IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS AFTER PUBLICATION IN AUGUST

Summer 1985. Six girls are holidaying in the Greek islands. They have just left school and the world is their oyster. Until, on the last night, an accident happens. With five girls, six backpacks and a coffin, they return home.
Judith Koelemeijer was one of them. In her first autobiographical book, she unravels this dramatic story from her youth. How could she lose her friend Annette so suddenly?
The quest takes her back to Paros, to Annette's parents, her old friends and the German boys who were involved in the accident. How did Annette's death affect their lives? And why are their memories of that fatal night all so different?

Ascension is a universal, relatable story about friendship, guilt and the pain of growing up.

PRESS ON ASCENSION

'*Ascension* reads like a novel. The literary quality lies in the refined composition and theme, and the clear style. Koelemeijer also proves herself once again to be a thoughtful storyteller with a strong expressive power.'
– **** DE VOLKSKRANT

What a beautifully written, poignant book is *Ascension*. Once I started reading, it would not let me go. I finished it in one sitting.' – MARIEKE LIP, BOOKSELLER

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'While reading her book I often thought of *Montaillou*, by the French historian Le Roy Ladurie. That book from the famous Annales history school was a world-wide bestseller around 1975 because the author succeeded in painting a portrait, still fascinating for our time, of an early fourteenth century village in the Pyrenees that was affected by heresy. *Montaillou* in 20th century Wormer – it's ours, without having to wait six centuries. Future historians will drool over this rich material for which Le Roy Ladurie had to perform sheer drudgery to reconstruct the reality from a long ago past.' – JAN BLOKKER

Judith Koelemeijer (born 1967) is a writer of literary non-fiction. Her debut, *The Silence of Mary Zachea*, sold well over 300,000 copies. 2008 saw the publication of best-seller *Anna Boom*, the adventurous life story of a remarkable woman, which was published in 2009 by DVA (Germany).

Thrilling reconstruction of a crime of passion

FORTHCOMING
Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
256 pages, November 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

STEFFIE VAN DEN OORD

Vonk

A Fateful Love Affair

Anna Maria Vonk, mother of four, stands on the scaffold with her lover, the poetic Lieutenant Behr. They have been found guilty of murdering Anna Maria's husband. It is 1713. Nijmegen's market square is packed. Did her lover – a freebooter – kill her children's father? Was she complicit?

300 years later, the documents relating to the 'love murder' read like a Shakespearean tragedy of seduction and betrayal. A well-documented book with compelling love letters that served as evidence, sensational testimonies. And a statement signed in blood by the Lieutenant in an attempt to seduce Anna Maria into abandoning her children.

Steffie van den Oord tells this fateful love story and courtroom drama with gusto. *Vonk* is historical non-fiction of the most thrilling variety.

Steffie van den Oord (born 1970) studied Cultural History and Literature, and worked for VPRO Radio. She wrote *Centenarians*, a book full of life stories of centenarians that became a bestseller with 30,000 copies sold, as well as *Love in Wartime*, *Westerbork Girl* and *I Was Old When I Was Young*.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'Her touching story about love in wartime (which thankfully does not tend towards kitsch) is a successful combination of fact and fiction from start to finish.' – DIE ZEIT

'*Centenarians* is at times so poignant that I had to put the book down. There is no greater compliment.' – DE TELEGRAAF

'*Love in Wartime* contains stories that show pointedly how love relationships sometimes survived the most painful circumstances.' – DE VOLKSKRANT

'Breathtaking and moving.' – BRABANTS DAGBLAD

How Spinoza can improve our understanding of the current Zeitgeist

RUDI ROTTHIER

The Naked Pear Tree

On the Road with Spinoza

FORTHCOMING
Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
352 pages, October 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

Years ago, Rudi Rotthier read an incomprehensible book in which the author rejected the concept of guilt and fought for the idea that freedom corresponds with insight. This writer was Spinoza, and the book in question was *Ethics*. In *The Naked Pear Tree*, Rotthier goes in search of Spinoza, the significance of his work, and the country where this work originated, the Netherlands. This voyage of discovery leads from Spinoza's home to Almere ('the most Spinozist city in the Netherlands'), to Waddinxveen (the lowest place in the country), and to Deventer and Zwolle. As he travels along straight roads, Rotthier discovers and reveals his possibly twisted version of Spinoza, someone who gave failure a chance, and thus gave democracy a chance.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'An extremely topical, accessible, at times moving, but above all challenging book […] His style is pure, unadorned and effective in its simplicity.' JURY BOB DEN UYL PRIZE, ON *THE KORAN ROUTE*

Rudi Rotthier (born 1957) worked as a journalist for the Flemish newspaper *De Morgen* until 1989, and has since been an avid traveller. His previous works include *The Koran Route*, for which he won the Bob den Uyl Prize, and *The Fetish Room* (2009), which he wrote with famous travel writer Redmond O'Hanlon.

Small country, big scam

MARTIN VAN GEEST, JOOST VAN KLEEF & HENK WILLEM SMITS

The First Tax Paradise

NEW
Business Contact, non-fiction,
256 pages, March 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

The world over, large companies are finding ways to pay little or no tax. We all know the Caymans, Barbados or Liechtenstein – but there's another paradise, and it actually is both one of the biggest tax havens in the world, *and* the inventor of the whole principle. Google, Ikea, Starbucks, Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones, the Italian mafia: they all use the special tax rules in the Netherlands to pay next to nothing in their own country. How is that possible?

The First Tax Paradise ruthlessly exposes how international fiscal money flows through the Dutch polders. Without jargon, the system is explained, the historical roots are described (taking in Germany after the First World War, and the remnants of Dutch colonization in the South Pacific), and the effects of the system for your country are put forward.

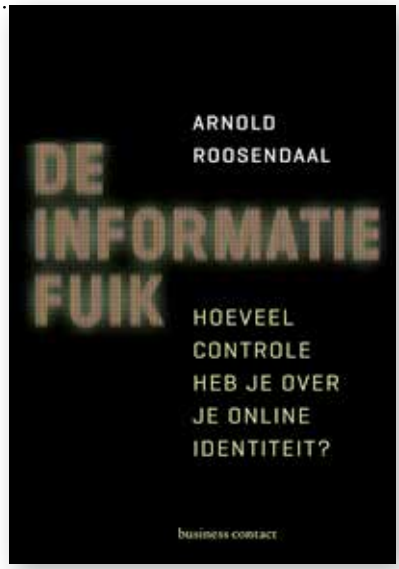
You may not like its message, but you will enjoy this book. It's well researched but light of tone, and gives a unique insight into an arresting, topical subject.

PRESS ON *THE FIRST TAX PARADISE*

'Remarkably perspicuous' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

Martin van Geest and **Joost van Kleef** are financial-economic journalists, writing for various newspapers and magazines, including *Quote*, *Het Parool* en *Nieuwe Revu*.
Henk Willem Smits is a research journalist who currently works for *Quote* and previously worked for the national daily *De Pers*.

Do you know what Google knows about you?



NEW
Business Contact, non-fiction,
192 pages, March 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

ARNOLD ROOSENDAAL

The Information Trap

Can You Control Your Online Identity?

Most people have various digital profiles. You create them by yourself, for example on Facebook or LinkedIn. But others are also working on a profile of you: think of your browsing history, tracked by advertisers, or medical and administrative files.

What illnesses have you googled? Are you searching for another job? Do you ever look at 'suspicious' sites, such as torrents? Companies and organisations are learning more and more about you. But it is almost impossible to find out what information is being stored, let alone what conclusions are drawn from it.

Arnold Roosendaal has carried out important research on this topic and unearthed facts that companies and organisations would prefer to keep hidden. In his book, he describes the extent to which Facebook, Google and others now affect your digital freedom, how far this impinges on your personal rights – and what you can do to avoid falling into the 'information trap'.

Arnold Roosendaal (born 1979) is a privacy lawyer. He has participated in several international studies on privacy and identity, and regularly speaks at international conferences concerning web and privacy issues. His research into Facebook's tracking techniques attracted global media attention in late 2011. This book is a popular reworking of his doctoral thesis.

'Reads like a top-class detective novel. And it all really happened!' – Geert Mak

JAN BROKKEN

The Reprisal

A Village in Wartime

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

SHORTLISTED FOR THE NS PUBLIEKSPRIJS 2013 (READERSHIP PRIZE)
SHORTLISTED FOR THE LIBRIS HISTORY PRIZE 2013

Rhoon, the small village in the province of South Holland where Jan Brokken grew up, has been harbouring a secret ever since the war.

In 1944 a German soldier dies as the result of an act of sabotage. The reprisal is horrifying: seven men from Rhoon are executed, their wives and children driven from their homes and all their worldly possessions burned. Who staged the attack on the German soldier? Why? Or was it purely an accident, with fatal consequences? To this day the villagers blame each other.

In *The Reprisal* Jan Brokken reconstructs these events based on thousands of pages of court documents and witness statements, as well as 150 interviews with the people involved. Just as he thinks that he knows what happened, the story takes a completely unexpected turn.

Atlas Contact,
non-fiction, 384 pages,
January 2013

*** Rights sold to Kiepenheuer & Witsch (Germany) * Film rights sold to Column (NL) * * Sample translation available * Dutch pdf available ***

PRESS ON *THE REPRISAL*

'I have rarely seen anyone in the Netherlands zoom in so effectively on an event like this and show how complicated everything was. Collaboration, resistance, we know all about that, but there are so many shades in between.'
– WIM BRANDS IN BOEKEN (VPRO)

'Brokken has developed his village drama with consummate skill. Tense, intriguing, sometimes moving. *The Reprisal* is the kind of book that you finish and immediately want to reread. The subtle portrayals of women contribute to this effect – of Sandrien, of Dien, of 'Kraut-whore' Dirkje. Brokken raises the question of whether she, as a single mother, really had a great deal of choice.'
– ***** INGE VAN DEN BLINK IN ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD

'The way he describes a trauma that continues to divide a small community to this day is spellbinding.' – ***** MICHEL KRIELAARS IN NRC HANDELSBLAD

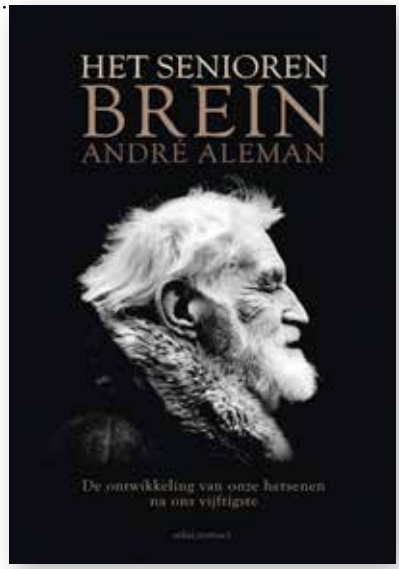
'...another great Brokken: a book written with urgency that will not let you put it down until you have read to the end.' – LIES SCHUT IN DE TELEGRAAF

'The Second World War brings out the best in Dutch authors. They deliver unique achievements when they tackle this war. Jan Brokken may now be added to the illustrious list of Harry Mulisch and W.F. Hermans. (..) *The Reprisal* is an impressive book.' – SIMON ROZENDAAL IN ELSEVIER

Jan Brokken is the author of the critically acclaimed and bestselling books *The Blind Passengers* (1996), *The Sad Champion* (1998), *Jungle Rudy* (2006), *In The Poets House* (2008) and *Baltic Souls (2010).* His books have been translated into several languages. Just two weeks after publication, *The Reprisal* hit the top of the Dutch bestseller list.

'Aleman's book is a plea in favor of a more positive view on growing old' – NRC Handelsblad

ANDRÉ ALEMAN
Our Aging Brain



Atlas Contact,
non-fiction, 224 pages,
October 2012

*** Sample translation available * German pdf available * Dutch pdf available ***
Rights sold: C.H. Beck (Germany), Corvina (Hungary), Scribe (Australia & World English), Autrement (France) *

OVER 35.000 COPIES SOLD

We all sometimes worry about our memory and mind, especially after the age of fifty. In this groundbreaking book, André Aleman shows that the deterioration of the human brain begins earlier than we think, but that it's not so bad. Indeed, an older brain is more resistant to stress and is better at dealing with complex situations than a young brain.

Our Aging Brain is a refreshing and very informative book about what happens in our head as we age. Using the latest scientific insights, it reveals how to recognise the signs of Alzheimer's, and what you can do to keep your brain healthy.

PRESS ON *OUR AGING BRAIN*

'Aleman clearly knows what he is talking about. He is a specialist on the aging brain and he distinguishes facts from fables.'
– HET FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD

'A book you can't put down, no matter how old you are.'
– PSYCHOLOGIE MAGAZINE

'Aleman's book is a plea in favor of a more positive view on growing old'
– NRC HANDELSBLAD

'A useful description of the aging brain.' – DICK SWAAB

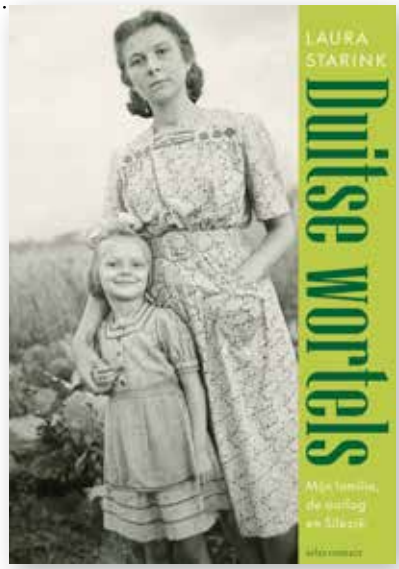
André Aleman (1975) is Professor of Cognitive Neuropsychology at the University of Groningen and is an internationally respected brain scientist. He has received international awards and scholarships for his work. In 2011 he published the successful book *Figments of Our Imagination: Why We See, Hear and Think Things That Aren't There*.

A personal yet diversified view on the complex history of the Silesian expellees

LAURA STARINK
German Roots

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE

When she was young, the war was never a topic of conversation at the dinner table. "You wouldn't understand," her German mother, Eleanor, would say. She came from a mining town in Silesia, but left for Switzerland in 1944 after contracting tuberculosis. In January 1945 the Russians arrived. For the family who had remained in Silesia, that's when the war really began. Fourteen million Germans were expelled from eastern Germany. Her parents died, her brother and sisters stayed in Poland for another five years. She herself married a Dutchman. Fifty years later, Laura Starink returned to the Heimat with her mother. Then came the stories: about growing up in Nazi Germany, fleeing the Russians, her parents' death, her sister's internment in Auschwitz.



Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
320 pages, January 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

PRESS ON *GERMAN ROOTS*

Book of the week in NRC Boeken: 'In this highly personal book, Starink illuminates a tragic, forgotten moment in history. A great achievement.'
**** – PIET DE MOOR IN NRC HANDELSBLAD

'Starink made her name with her probing reports on the political and social changes in Russia in the late 20th century. (...) In German Roots she recounts the fortunes of her mother's family, who, along with millions of others, were in danger of disappearing into the meat grinder of history. (...) Starink tells this story with great compassion and admirable clarity.'
**** – ANET BLEICH IN DE VOLKSKRANT

'Based on a sometimes disconcerting family history, the book gives an insight into a dark period in a relatively unknown region of central Europe. A great book.' – TROUW

Laura Starink (1954) studied Slavonic languages and literature and worked as a journalist for *NRC Handelsblad* for nearly thirty years. She spent some of that time as the paper's Moscow correspondent and wrote two books on Russia (*A Land of Hearsay, The Russian Hangover*). For seven years she was an editor at the newspaper and also edited monthly magazine *M*.

Geert Mak's lifelong fascination for America

GEERT MAK

Travels Without John

In Search of America

SHORTLISTED FOR THE NS PUBLIEKSPRIJS 2013 (READERSHIP PRIZE)
SHORTLISTED FOR THE LIBRIS HISTORY PRIZE 2013

On September 23, 1960, the legendary writer John Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, set out on an expedition that covered the American continent. The writer's aim was to become reacquainted with his country and his countrymen. Precisely fifty years later, to the hour, Geert Mak left from Steinbeck's former home. It was the start of a tour of inspection in the footsteps of Charley and John, but seen this time through the eyes of 2010. What changes had come to American cities and small towns during the past fifty years? Whatever happened to Main Street, USA? What were the dreams pursued by Americans throughout the centuries? And to what extent had they come true? What remained of that "city on a hill", that Promised Land once looked up to by the whole world? And above all, what do we still have in common, America and Europe, in the 21st century?

Like Steinbeck, Geert Mak avoided the beaten track. His journey reads like a kaleidoscope of histories, one after the other. Mile after mile, he drove through the potato fields of Maine and across the endless prairies of the Midwest, sat down at the table with farmers, workers, fishermen and teachers, stumbled upon glistening suburbs and boarded-up general stores, searching again and again for roots in this country that has never failed to capture the imagination.

PRESS ON *TRAVELS WITHOUT JOHN*

'A beautifully written book about the history of an America facing collapse.' – HET PAROOL

'*Travelling Without John* is all-embracing, extremely well written and utterly compelling. (...) Once again Mak displays astonishing erudition. Moreover, his anecdotes are never half-hearted. (...) Mak has the rare gift of being absolutely fascinating on any subject.'
**** DE STANDAARD

'...a monumental book with beautiful passages and a wealth of information. (...) In this book, Mak has just as many good moments as his illustrious predecessor. And in terms of reliability, he wins with ease.'
- **** PAUL BRILL IN DE VOLKSKRANT

'Brilliant reportage!' – FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SONNTAGSZEITUNG

Atlas Contact, non-fiction,
505 pages, August 2012

*** long sample translation available * German pdf available * Dutch pdf available * Rights sold: Siedler Verlag (Germany), Harvill Secker (UK plus ANZ), Czarne (Poland), Cappelen (Norway), Tiderne Skifter (Denmark), Buybook (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Literatür (Turkey), Jesenski & Turk (Croatia) ***

Geert Mak (1946) wrote the bestsellers *My Father's Century* (550,000 copies sold) and *In Europe* (450,000 copies sold). Mak received several prizes and was twice awarded the title Historian of the Year. In 2008 he received the Leipziger Buchpreis. The French government appointed Geert Mak in 2009 Companion in the Légion d'Honneur. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

Candid, full of new insight, and an inspiring read

Atlas Contact, non-fiction, 400 pages, February 2013

*** Translated material available * Dutch pdf available ***

FOKKE OBBEMA

Europe and China

Where Two Worlds Collide

One morning, Wang and I are walking to a Buddhist temple. He wanted to take me there to show that China is more than just an economy. But we got lost, so he asked a passer-by for directions. He did this so bluntly, without any introduction or word of thanks, that I indignantly asked him why he behaved this way. He blushed and apologised; I saw in his eyes the Chinese fear of losing face. 'That's because of the Cultural Revolution. We lost our sense of manners.'

Should we fear the rise of China? Or can a relationship of trust develop between Europe and China, despite the many political and cultural differences? What will happen when China starts competing with us as a full-fledged knowledge economy?

With these questions in mind, Fokke Obbema, former chief Economics editor at *de Volkskrant*, travelled through China and several European countries. He spoke to numerous experts on China, entrepreneurs, students and politicians – both Chinese and European. He visited hot spots of interaction between the Chinese and Europeans, such as the vineyards of Bordeaux, the textile regions of Italy and Chinese business parks. The result is a personal, lively and erudite account.

In three parts, covering media perceptions, economic globalisation and politics, this book urges us to change our idea of China. Obbema also holds up a mirror by describing how our sense of Western superiority works to undermine a relationship of trust. But fear is equally unhelpful, as well as unnecessary, for Obbema believes that China is still far from the new superpower.

PRESS ON *EUROPE AND CHINA*

'Smoothly written and well paced.' **** – NRC HANDELSBLAD

'In a frank and readable manner, Obbema examines relations between China and Europe. Obbema deserves praise for his many new insights. Read this book!' – HENK SCHULTE NORDHOLT, CHINA EXPERT AND PUBLICIST

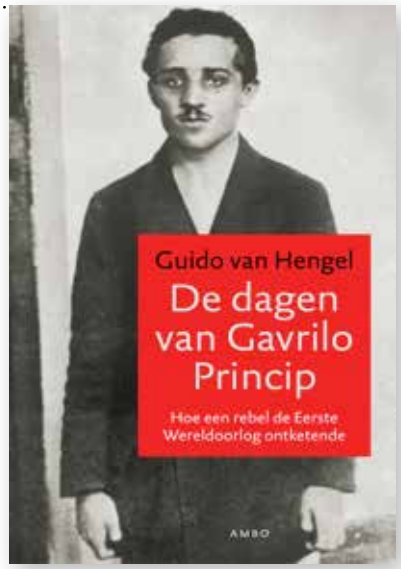
Fokke Obbema (1962) is foreign editor at *de Volkskrant*, specialising in international political and economic relations. The future of Europe also featured prominently in his previous roles as head of editorial (1999-2002) and France correspondent (2002-2007). From the start of the credit crunch in 2007 until the autumn of 2011 he was chief Economics editor and Economics commentator for the newspaper. In this capacity, he visited China and became fascinated by the country's rise and its political and economic implications for Europe. In 2011 and 2012 he reported from various European countries. His combined experiences inspired him to write this book.

The generation 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



FORTHCOMING
Ambo, non-fiction, 256 pages, January 2014

* **Dutch pdf available** *

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand is regarded as the trigger for the First World War. On 28 June, 1914, the Archduke and his wife Sophie were shot dead, and the European powers ended up in a catastrophic war. It is known that the killer, student Gavrilo Princip, was aided by shadowy army officers who were united in the Black Hand, but that is where the story usually ends. The shooter of Sarajevo thus appears to be a footnote in world history, but what social, cultural and intellectual background led him to this terrorist act? What moved him? And what were his aims?

Guido van Hengel follows Princip's personal development: poor farmer's son from the Bosnian mountains who moved with great expectations to the city, where he was radicalised and eventually became trapped in a new world. Princip's frustration is now, a century on, still frighteningly relevant.

The Days of Gavrilo Princip is not only the story of an individual, but also the history of a whole generation of young people who unleashed an explosive cultural revolution at the beginning of the 20th century.

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.

Is Scandinavia the mirror of our future?

STINE JENSEN

Light on the North

Searching for the Soul of Our Northern Neighbours

FORTHCOMING
Ambo, non-fiction,
224 pages, October 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

Scandinavia is on the rise. The Scandinavian languages, once considered the ugliest languages in the world, are now hip. Everyone reads Scandinavian crime fiction, buys their furniture at IKEA and is gripped by *Borgen* and *The Killing*. But what is real life like in the North? Are Scandinavians really the happiest people on earth? How do they cope with the darkness? And what is the downside of all this wealth, equality, natural beauty and safety?

Stine Jensen, who emigrated from Denmark at a young age, travels through Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland for the TV series *Stine in Scandinavia*. This trip is a personal search for her roots. Based on conversations with family, friends and experts, she analyses our image of our northern neighbours and gives us a glimpse into their lives. Is Scandinavia really the mirror of our future?

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'Jensen is no ivory-tower thinker, nor is she a superficial fast-food philosopher. Using literature, philosophy and new media, she looks for the bigger stories *behind* current events, always imbuing them with a personal touch.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

Stine Jensen was born in Denmark in 1972, but grew up in the Netherlands. She is a writer and philosopher and writes for *NRC Handelsblad*. Her publications include *Doctor Jazz*, *Turkish Butterflies*, *Olivia Newton-John's Trouser Suit* and *True Friends*. She also co-wrote the bestselling *Therefore I Am* with Rob Wijnberg and the sequel *Therefore I Am Again*. In television spinoff *Therefore I Am* (HUMAN), Jensen goes in search of the philosophical roots of our identity.

Does the world ever offer what we want?

COEN SIMON

Waiting for Happiness

A Philosophy of Desire

HIGHLIGHTED BY THE DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR LITERATURE
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.

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

*** sample translation available * Spanish pdf available * Rights sold to Planeta/Ariel (Spain) and Naklada Ljevak (Croatia) ***

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

'Coen Simon is a meticulous observer and he writes evocatively. He also switches effortlessly back and forth between literary narrative and logical analysis.'
– DE VOLKSKRANT

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

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.

Follow-up to Sitting Still Like a Frog

ELINE SNEL

Mindful Moments with Teenagers

Time Out, Tune In

Teenagers are funny, vulnerable, unpredictable and sometimes downright difficult. They crave independence, but they are often not yet ready for it. This demands a great deal of energy, not only from teenagers themselves, but also from their parents and teachers. The book, with the accompanying CD, offers practical mindfulness exercises that teach teenagers how to reflect on their own behaviour and parents not to immediately react to the behaviour of their children.

Mindful Moments with Teenagers helps to set boundaries and communicate better. Courage, confidence and compassion are essential. The exercises in the book will help adults, but also teenagers, to strengthen these qualities.

An app is being developed exclusively for teenagers, in close consultation with young people.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'Because of its lighthearted but deeply honest perspective, *Sitting Still Like a Frog* turns the cultivation of mindfulness into something more akin to a game, an experiment, and an adventure, rather than a burden. May this book find its way into the hands of all the parents and children who might benefit from it.' – JON KABAT-ZINN

'The book is very informative and realistic. The explanation of the method is very clear and the illustrations are beautiful. It is, overall, a very pleasant read. Some tips can actually come in handy for adults as well!' – LE FIGARO

'This book helps you find the 'pause button' on your child. With entertaining and easy exercises.' – J/M MAGAZINE

'Very effective, simple, clear and thorough. Eline Snel's methods are being translated and employed around the world for good reason.' – VIVES ONDERWIJSMAGAZINE

FORTHCOMING
Ten Have, non-fiction,
144 pages, January 2014

*** Dutch manuscript available ***
Rights sold:
Les Arènes (France) *

Eline Snel is a mindfulness trainer. Her method 'Mindfulness Matters' has had success in the Netherlands, France, Germany and Hong Kong. *Sitting Still Like a Frog* has sold more than 16,000 copies in the Netherlands and has been translated into French, German, English, Spanish, Norwegian, Danish, Korean, Russian and Catalan. The book has sold 40,000 copies in France alone.

'An unbiased, discerning report of a quest for deep perception and prospects. This is thinking, unimpeded by the fear of delving into the deep.'
– Désanne van Brederode

FORTHCOMING
Ten Have, non-fiction,
238 pages, March 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

CHRISTA ANBEEK & ADA DE JONG

Mountain of the Soul

A Personal Essay on Vulnerable Living

If there is anyone who knows what vulnerable living is, it is Ada de Jong. In the summer of 2008, her husband and three children were killed in a tragic accident while descending the Italian Mont Dolent. There is one question that has been weighing on her mind ever since: how to move on, now that everything has changed so radically?

Ada knew no one that had experienced such a terrible loss until she met Christa Anbeek, who lost her parents and brother at a young age and then lost her life partner only a couple of years ago.

The experiences of Christa and Ada make up the foundations of *Mountain of the Soul*, in which they explore important questions in life, such as: Who are you when there is no one else? How to rise above your grief? And what is responsibility when you are so utterly saturated with how vulnerable life is?

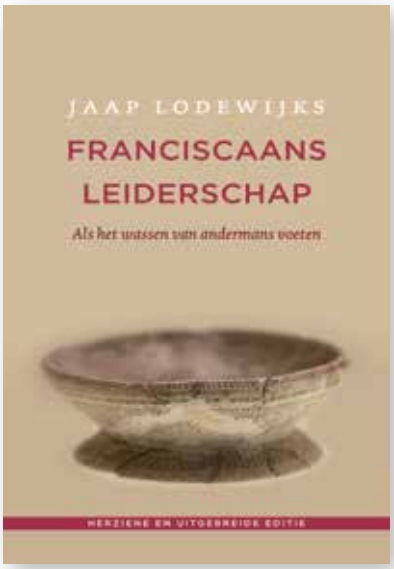
The authors have drawn these core questions from theology, but answer them in a personal and secular manner. The book is a great success in the Netherlands: over 10.000 copies were sold in a few months.

Christa Anbeek is a Professor of Theology at the VU University of Amsterdam. She has written various books, including the successful *Overlevingskunst; Leven met de dood van een dierbare* (The Art of Surviving: Living with the Loss of a Loved One) (publ. 2010).
Ada de Jong is a manager in health care.

PRESS ON PREVIOUS WORK:

'What makes this book unique is the existential dedication.'
– MAANDBLAD GEESTELIJKE VOLKSGEZONDHEID

What can the new Pope learn from the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi?



Ten Have, non-fiction,
96 pages, November 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

JAAP LODEWIJKS

Meeting Saint Francis in Modern Leadership

Like Washing Other People's Feet

The legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi, that spiritual master for all times, can be a great source of inspiration for managers and executives. In his book, Jaap Lodewijks links managers' decisions and experiences to lessons from the Franciscan tradition.

Saint Francis considered his leadership a necessity, but to him this role was no more important than washing other people's feet. Both had to be done properly, honestly and carefully. He deliberately looked for people of other beliefs, and sought common ground rather than differences between human beings.

Jaap Lodewijks also explains various Franciscan concepts such as temporality, the responsibilities of leadership, how to deal with leaders, and brotherhood. His writing is theoretical and practical, frank and concise.

Jaap Lodewijks is deputy editor of Dutch newspaper *de Stentor*. Together with his wife Els Lodewijks-Frencken, he wrote *Waiting for Zach* about the challenge of raising a troubled child. He regularly gives lectures and workshops on the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi.

PRESS ON *LIKE WASHING OTHER PEOPLE'S FEET*

'Choosing Saint Francis of Assisi as a source of inspiration is not for the faint-hearted. In his book *Meeting Saint Francis in Modern Leadership*, Jaap Lodewijks took on this challenge [...] and shows how that old Saint from Assisi can be relevant for today's managers.' – GERARD PIETER FREEMAN, ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TILBURG.

Lucia Rijker, a pioneer in the field of Combat sports, in search of hope, strength and wisdom in her a quest for spiritual knowledge

NEW
Kosmos Uitgevers, non-fiction,
224 pages, September 2013

* **Dutch pdf available** *

GEORGE SCHOUTEN WITH LUCIA RIJKER

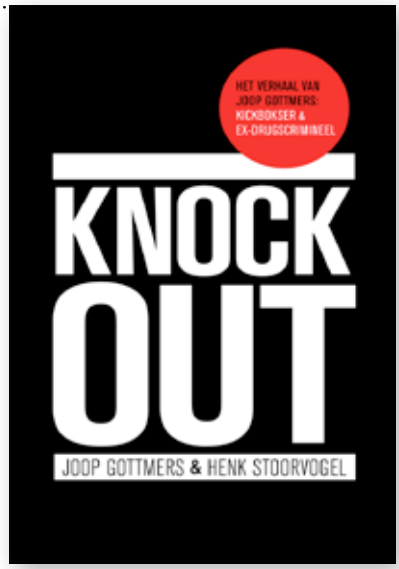
Lucia Rijker: Boxer and Buddhist

On a tough hike through the mountains, boxer Lucia Rijker recalls how she developed her inner strength in recent years. Together with director and writer George Schouten, the multiple boxing and boxing world champion searches for liberating insights. Topics covered include anger, obstacles, friendships, family, fame and love. The higher they climb, the more intimate the 'truths'. An intimate and refreshingly inspiring portrait of a strong woman, who never lost a fight.

George Schouten has made films and directed several television programmes. He has made many documentaries for Dutch Buddhist Broadcasting.

Lucia Rijker is a multiple boxing and boxing world champion. In addition to her boxing career, Rijker has also appeared in several films including the Oscar-winning *Million Dollar Baby* directed by Clint Eastwood. Today she also works as a coach and trainer for female boxing talents.

From gentle boy to champion kickboxing. From ordinary kid to drug dealer. From criminal to knock-out.



JOOP GOTTMERS & HENK STOORVOGEL

Knock-out

OVER 15.000 COPIES SOLD

Voorhoeve,
272 pages, 2010

*** sample translation available ***
Dutch pdf available *
*** English manuscript soon available ***

'I got my first punching bag from Santa Claus. Yellow bag, red gloves. What a lousy present! I loved to play football, but my father wanted me to learn how to fight.'

Joop Gottmers is the son of a barkeeper. His life has spiraled downwards into a desperate chain of violence, drugs, money and misery. When he meets God, he takes his first faltering steps towards the long journey back. He lived his life like a raging bull until God knocked him out.

Henk Stoorvogel is the founder of the Dutch branch of *Athletes in Action and of The Fourth Musketeer*, a men's ministry. *The Fourth Musketier* is a fast growing movement and 2013 is the year of spreading out their wings internationally (Germany, US). He is the pastor of an evangelical church, public speaker and author/coauthor of several books. Henk spent time with Joop and then helped him to write down the story of his rough life. His book The Fourth Musketeer is sold to Gerth Medien (Random House), Germany and will be published in autumn 2013

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