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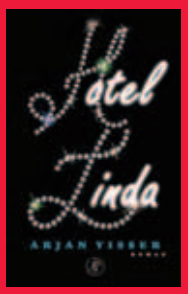

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Contents

Arjan Visser - *Hotel Linda* 5

Peter Terrin - *Post Mortem* 6

Christiaan Weijts – *Euphoria* 7

Roderik Six - *Flood* 8

Britta Bolt - *Valour* 9

J.J. Hermsen - *Walking Wounded* 10

Anna Enquist - *Anaesthesia* 11

Marieke van der Pol - *Footlights* 12

Christophe Vekeman - *An Extraordinary Woman* 13

Pauline Slot - *Surabaya* 14

Marion Bloem - *The Hundred-year-old Girl* 15

Arthur Japin – *To The Outside Gaze* 16

Kisling & Verhuyck - *Black Lace* 17

Jan-Willem Anker - *A Civilized Man* 18

'A wonderful story between dreams and reality, past and present. Amsterdam and Brazil.'

Selected for *Ten Books from Holland and Flanders*

Arjan Visser
Hotel Linda

Jonah Jacobson, a Jewish diamond cutter from Amsterdam, has lived in Brazil for a long time, sixty-five years to be precise.
After all these years, he is returning to Amsterdam for the very first time.

During his stay, he begins a quest, a search for a former girlfriend lost in a forest of memories.

Where is the woman who helped him to flee the war?

Will Jonah admit to Linda how he repaid her? Or should he, as Marcus Aurelius suggests, expect and ask for no gratification for his good deeds?
Hotel Linda is a compelling story told through the prism of old age that takes place between dreams and reality, past and present. Amsterdam and Brazil.

Literature: 232 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
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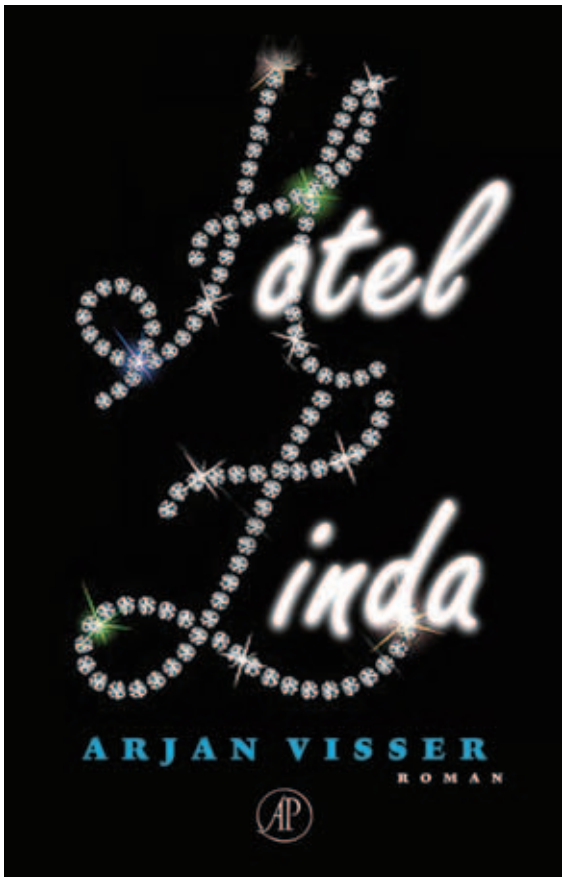
English sample available

Arjan Visser 1961 is a well-established Dutch journalist, interviewer and writer.
Arjan has worked for the ***Nieuwe Revu*** and ***Trouw***.
He has won the **Anton Wachterprijs**, the **Geert Jan Lubberhuizenprijs** and was nominated for the ***AKO* Literatuurprijs** with his debut **De laatste dagen** (The Last Days, 2003).



His second novel Hemelval (Fall From Heaven) came out in 2006, followed in 2009 by ***Paganinipark***. Hotel Linda is his fourth novel.

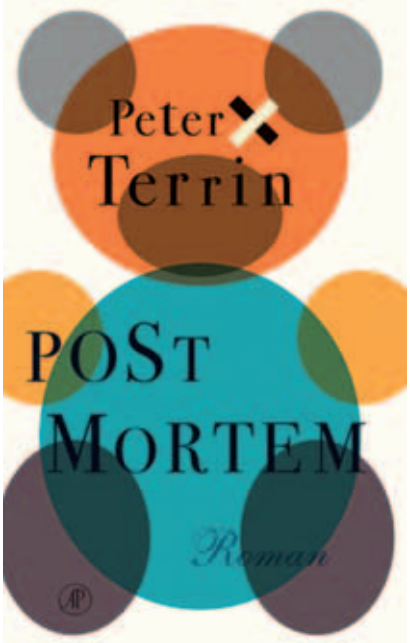
What the press says about Hotel Linda:

"The story completely gripped me. A novel that is as ingenious as it is rich." – ***Kees van Beijnum***

'An author's unforeseen circumstances.'

Selected for *Ten Books from Holland and Flanders*

Peter Terrin
Post Mortem



"Due to unforeseen circumstances."
The unknown writer Emil Steegman is in the shower while this thought comes to his mind, as he is trying to think of a last minute excuse to avoid an awkward dinner party with a delegation of colleagues from Estonia.

It is a trite phrase, rather vague but it has impact. The question of how these fictitious "unforeseen circumstances" will be perceived by an ambitious biographer who at some point in the future will read his email exchange, will not leave him in peace and provides him with a brilliant idea for a new novel.

Audaciously, Steegman decides that the time has come to reveal his personal life in the literary battle.
Until something disastrous happens to Renée, his daughter, almost four years old,

Literature: 288 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
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English sample available

His previous book *The Guard* is a highly acclaimed page-turning huis-clos about war, paranoia and the human condition.

- Winner of EU Prize 2011 (for best Belgian book in past 3 years period).
- Shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize 2010.
- Subsidies available from the EU and the Flemish Literary Funds.

Rights sold to: Gallimard France, Bompiani Italy, MacLehose Press UK, Dauphin Czech, Canetti Bulgaria, Zavet Serbia, Carmel Israel, IBU Romania, Goncol Hungary, Modrijan Slovenia, Turbine Denmark
Film rights sold to Caviar.

What the press says about *The Guard:*

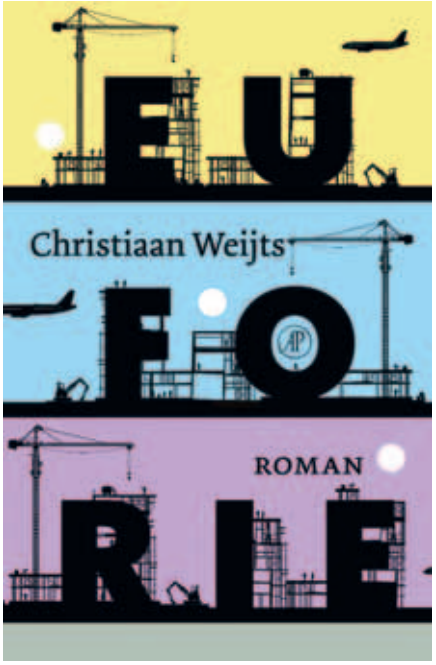
"I will say it right away...– *The Guard* is a sublime book...this novel has an unbelievable amount to offer, in first place a brilliantly told story. It doesn't get much more accessible than this." – ***Het Parool***

"The most intriguing author of his generation." – *De Tijd*
"It is not that Peter Terrin will become great, he is already."
– De Morgen

Peter Terrin (1965) studied at the University of Ghent. He writes novels, short stories and contemplative pieces. His novel *Women and Children first* was nominated for the BNG Literature Prize, both *Blanco* (2003) and the stories *The Bee-eaters* (2006) were nominated for the AKO Prize and he also won a regional prize for the latter (West-Flanders province).

'An uncompromising reflection of the Zeitgeist.'

Christiaan Weijts
Euphoria



Following a terrorist attack in The Hague on a summer's morning, an architect, Johannes Vermeer (allegedly a descendant of the famous painter) becomes the protagonist of a prestigious project.

He is put in charge of the designs for the redevelopment of the area devastated by the attack.

This project will have a major impact on his personal and professional life.

Euphoria is about the generation that grew up in the nineties, in the bloom of technology, wealth, air travel, parties, globalization, and its actual limits. This is an indispensable book for anyone seeking to understand our time.

Literature: 452 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
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English sample available

- ***Euphoria*** will be published in November 2012

Christiaan Weijts (1976) is an author but also a columnist for the ***NRC.next***.and the ***Groene Amsterdammer***.
In 2003, he published a collection of columns entitled ***Sluitentijd***.

In 2006, his debut novel ***Art.285b (The Scarlatti Fingerings)***, whose title refers to the stalking article in the Dutch Penal Code, *Art. 285b.* received high praise, and earned him nominations for both the **AKO Literature Prize** and the **Golden Uil.**

In October 2008 he published his second novel, *Via Cappello 23* and was named by Peter Steinz as "a natural successor to Mulisch." The novel was nominated for the Golden Owl and the AKO Literature Prize, and won the Gerard Walschap prize. *In 2009*, ***The Window Dresser*** was published and was selected for the *Libris Literature Prize*. It is also fully available in English.

About his previous book ***The Window Dresser:***
In **The Window Dresser**, Christiaan Weijts sets up a conundrum of moral responsibility of the kind that Hermans and Mulisch explored in stories about German-occupied Holland: a violent eco activist group attacks a large department store known to invest in such things as arms trafficking and child labor. Trapped between the antagonists is the talented artist and window dresser who is redesigning the store and whose long-lost love turns out to be a member of the protest group. Never declaring where the novel takes place, Weijts constantly stresses the sameness of urban environments worldwide, a similarity that is extended to the consciousness of their inhabitants...Thus in the frame of a recognizably Dutch solemnity Weijts questions what it might mean to have a national identity in the modern world.

- ***The New York Review of Books*** by Tim Parks

'An uncompromising reflection of the Zeitgeist.'

Roderik Six
Flood

For months now, an infernal rain has been lashing the earth. From the rooftop of a hall of residence, four students watch as the city is slowly inundated. They are the last remaining residents; the others have long since fled. Survival has become a full-time occupation. As the young people fight boredom with sex, alcohol and the new synthetic drug Ultra, the unrelenting water keeps rising. When one of the students is fatally injured during a storm, their relationships come under pressure: was it a tragic accident or something else? Desperately, the four cling to that one sign of life: a tiny rent in the clouds, admitting a few measly rays of sunshine. Is it enough to turn the tide?

Roderik Six deploys his razor-sharp style to deliver a chilling story about the resilience of man and his ruthless urge to survive.

Literature: 352 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
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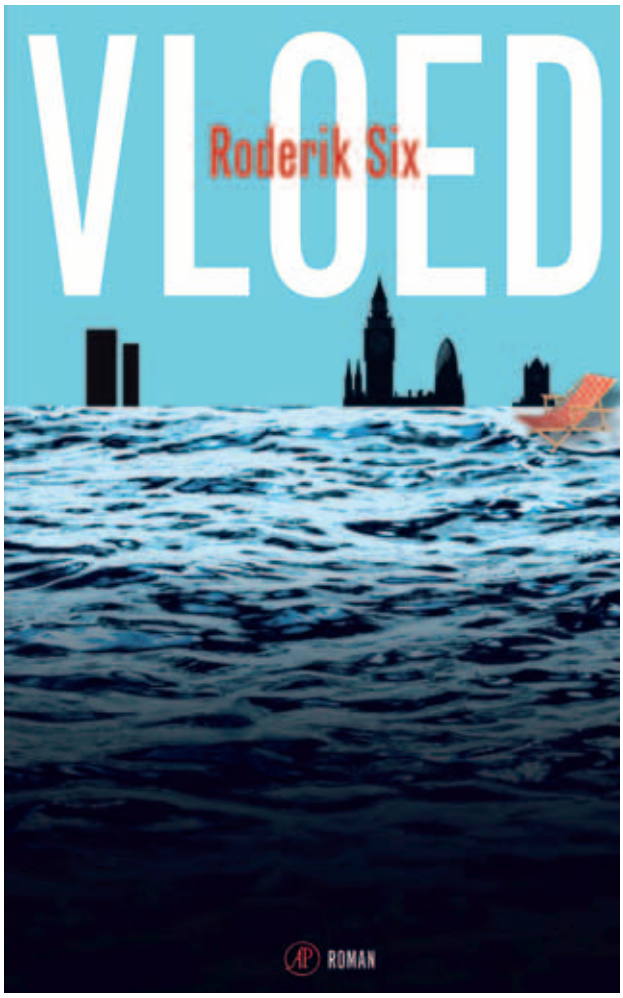
English sample available
***Flood* will be published in September 2012**

Roderik Six works as a literary critic for *Cutting Edge* and *Focus Knack*. He is on the jury of this year's edition of the Gouden Boekenuil, Flanders' premier literary prize. His short stories have appeared in *De Brakke Hond*, *DWB* and *Poëziekrant*.

Stop Press:
- **Roderik Six** has won the Literature Award from the province of West-Flanders.
- **Roderik Six** is nominated for the *Bronze Uil* 2012* with his debut novel ***'Flood'***.
  ***(The prize for the best debut novel in the Dutch language)**



What the press says about *Flood:*

'Roderik Six's writing has such a strong rhythm that you can almost hear him as you're reading. At the end of his novel, a city is overgrown by vegetation following a tidal wave. His prose has a similar primal force.' – ***Hugo Bousset, professor emeritus modern Dutch literature, University of Brussel***

'Damn, he's a good writer, I thought to myself after only a few pages. Not since Yves Petry has a debut made such an impression on me.' – ***Johan Vandenbroucke, literary journalist and founder of bookshop De Zondvloed***

'A great new character-driven detective series, set in Amsterdam.'

Britta Bolt

Valour

Pieter Posthumus is an extremely busy man - a suicide in an attic, a naked body found in a canal, an unknown tourist who suddenly dies on the street.

Posthumus works for the City of Amsterdam. He organizes funerals for anonymous corpses found within the city limits, for people who die with no traceable relatives, and for those abandoned by their families. Funeral directors, mortuary assistants, police officers and detectives of all ranks – and of course dead bodies – are all part of Posthumus's working week.

Posthumus' problem is that he cannot leave things alone, taking their courses. He is convinced that he has discovered a murder, even if the police treat the cases as accidents.

Picture taken by Erik Smits

Publication date: September 2012.
- Written in English

Thriller: 352 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
Laetitia.powell@apawb.nl

Britta Bolt is the pen name of the writing duo **Britta Böhler**, a German criminal lawyer and **Rodney Bolt** a South African journalist.

Britta Böhler (Germany 1960) is a criminal lawyer, she became well known by defending Volkert van der Graaf, Pim Fortuyn's murderer, and Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

Rodney Bolt (South Africa 1957) has lived and worked for over fifteen years in Amsterdam. He writes regularly over the city for the international press (including *The Daily Telegraph* and *Conde Nast Traveller*). Bolt also writes short stories and biographies. His book, *Lorenzo da Ponte*, the librettist of Mozart's life, was nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

Both authors live in Amsterdam. They are insiders and outsiders at the same time. They have a unique view on the city of Amsterdam and the social political events of the Netherlands.

'Hermsen takes a slice of middle class midlife crisis and turns it into a magnificent drama.'

J.J. Hermsen

Walking Wounded

The winter is upon us. It has come early this year. A group of old friends is well aware of the change of seasons as they make their way out of Amsterdam in the Friday rush hour, all in their own cars through heavy snowfall to a country house in Drenthe, owned by one of them. They became friends during their time at University and met through the Student club *Nil Desperandum* 'never despair'.

There is something recognisable about the middle aged educated circle: they are either married or divorced, living together but not childless, childless but not alone, having an affair or all of the above.

They finally arrive at the house, tired and late and there are not enough beds for everyone. The old group together with their partners and offspring will now spend the weekend under one roof, and things will take an unexpected turn...

Literature: 370 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
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Picture taken by Joap de Jonge

J.J. Hermsen (1961) is a writer and philosopher. She debuted in 1998 with the novel *Het dameoffer*, which was followed by the historical novel *Tweeduister*, *De profielschets* and *De liefde dus*.

The latter was nominated for the Libris Prize in 2009 and extremely well received by the press.

She is also the author of an essay collection *Heimwee naar de mens*, which was shortlisted for the best philosophical work in 2003. In 2008, her entire oeuvre was awarded the *Halewijn Prize*.

The press about her last Book"***Time on our side***" which was a bestseller:

"A well considered and stimulating collection of essays...Hermsen gives a crystal clear demonstration of how boredom and slowness can awaken creativity."
- ***De Morgen***

"Well-wrought and highly readable."
- De Volkskrant, *(five stars)***

.

"Hovering on the brink of life."
Over 85.000 copies sold

Anna Enquist
Anaesthesia

A gripping novel about love, work and the absurdity of life.

Psychotherapist Drik de Jong returns to his work after a period of mourning.
His wife has passed away after a long illness. This is a new beginning to his professional life, he is soon faced with a young patient, a student in psychiatry named Allard Schuurman, whom he cannot seem to reach.

The relationship becomes even more complicated when Schuurman tells him that he is planning to stop his study in Psychiatry and instead tranfer to Anaesthesiology. Dr. de Jong hears that Allard is going to be mentored by his sister Susan who is an Anaesthesiology Specialist, Drik consciously doesn't mention to Allard, which will have dreadful consequences.

***Anaesthesia* is a novel about the elusiveness of our drives and our desires.**
The remedy that work and discipline can bring to our lives.

Anna Enquist has done some extensive research for this book, in the Anaesthesiology Department from the Amsterdam University Hospital.

Picture taken by Bert Nienhuis

Anna Enquist (1945) is one of Holland's best-loved writers. She is also the author of the widely translated, bestselling novels *The Secret*, *The Masterpiece* and *The Homecoming*, as well as plays, poems and short stories. She studied music, piano at the academy of music in The Hague and at the same time psychology in Leiden. Her last book *Counterpoint* was an international success.

"Showing people the way they do not wish to be seen, when irrational, instinctive or compulsive, trying to save their own skin, this is the biggest talent of Anna Enquist."
- Aleid Truijens *De Volkskrant*

Literature: Circa 272 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
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Foreign rights manager:
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Rights sold to: Sifriat Poalim Publishing Group/Israel, Actes Sud/France, Random House/Germany, Natur & Kultur/Sweden

English sample available

'A young woman's tale.'

Marieke van der Pol
Footlights

Vero moves to Amsterdam to train as an actress...this is a new era for the Dutch Theater, bringing many changes to the establishment and introducing a new acting style.

In the seventies, the young Vero is discovering herself, she is a provincial young woman, who wants to free herself from her origins, and she is going to leave her bourgeois background behind.

Her quest begins in the Amsterdam's Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, where a new style of acting is being taught. it is the aftermath of the theater's revolution called Aktie Tomaat (Tomato Action) a rebellion against the establishment which at the time was unfairly favoring the classical genre and denying subsidies to the more modern genre and troupes.

When she meets the eccentric and libertine Brak, she thinks that she has found a new direction in life. But free love has its price. During her last year of her study, she will meet Alon an israeli, who is traveling through Europe before returning to his country for his civil duties. Vero falls under his charms. She will follow a new path that will take her to Israel, a land full of contrasts.
In this sublime roman, Marieke van der Pol outlines the persistent efforts of a young woman to shape her life, first in Amsterdam and finally in Israel, where she faces a completely different reality.

Novel: 368 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
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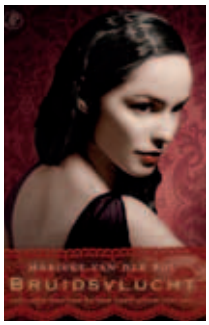
Picture taken by Leoni Ravestein

Marieke van der Pol (1953) trained as an actress and enjoyed a successful career in a Dutch television sitcom. She wrote the screenplay for *The Twins*, which received the *Gouden Kalf* and an Oscar nomination.

Bride Flight was written as a screenplay and as a novel simultaneously. Marieke continues to write and work on new screenplays.



Her previous novel the international bestseller *Bride Flight* was also a big budget Dutch film starring Rutger Hauer.

Rights sold to: Kruger (GER), Mondadori (ITA), Portobello (UK/USA), UWA (ANZ),
Pax (Norway).

English translation available

'A woman full of good intentions.'

Christophe Vekeman
An Extraordinary Woman

As a small child, Gwen had already learned that the world is a complex place, especially for those who have the best intentions at heart; this realization is the start of her search for love, her identity and her happiness, which will last for decades.

All this time, Gwen has a constant feeling that she is special, different from rest, a case apart, destined to rise above the grey mediocrity. But life will eventually set her right about that.

Christophe Vekeman has written an insightful portrait of a woman, whom, however unique is also recognisable to every reader.

Literature: 253 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
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Christophe Vekeman is a Flemish writer, poet, performer and also a journalist.
He is an important author in the new Flemish literary scene.
Christophe has published several novels, collection of essays and poems.
He is also a columnist for the Flemish newspaper *De Morgen*.
His literary style is often humorous with great attention to details.and wording.

What the press says about An Exceptional Woman:

Een uitzonderlijke vrouw is the latest novel by Christophe Vekeman and his best to date, filled with comic details, contemporary philosophy, subtly swaying sentences and a kick-ass main character. ***- Flanders Today***

His other work:

49 manieren om de dag door te komen (49 Ways to Get Through the Day) · Vincent de Wimper is the main character in Flemish author Christophe Vekeman's nonsensical novel. Vincent is a mess after breaking up with his girlfriend, Patty, who was more passionate about Ikea than about him. This slightly bizarre loner lives in his own little world where he writes letters to his imaginary dog and pays his therapist with Monopoly money. In his famously cynical style, Vekeman has created 49 short and sensational chapters that will both haunt and dazzle you.

'Absence and war make the heart grow fonder.'

Pauline Slot
Surabaya

In 1934, Henk Whistler, a young biologist, and his wife Bep emigrate to the Dutch East Indies.

It is a decision that will have serious consequences and dramatically transform their picture perfect lives.

In 1941, the Japanese invade the Indies, their occupation will bring an end to the life that Henk and Bep have built together.

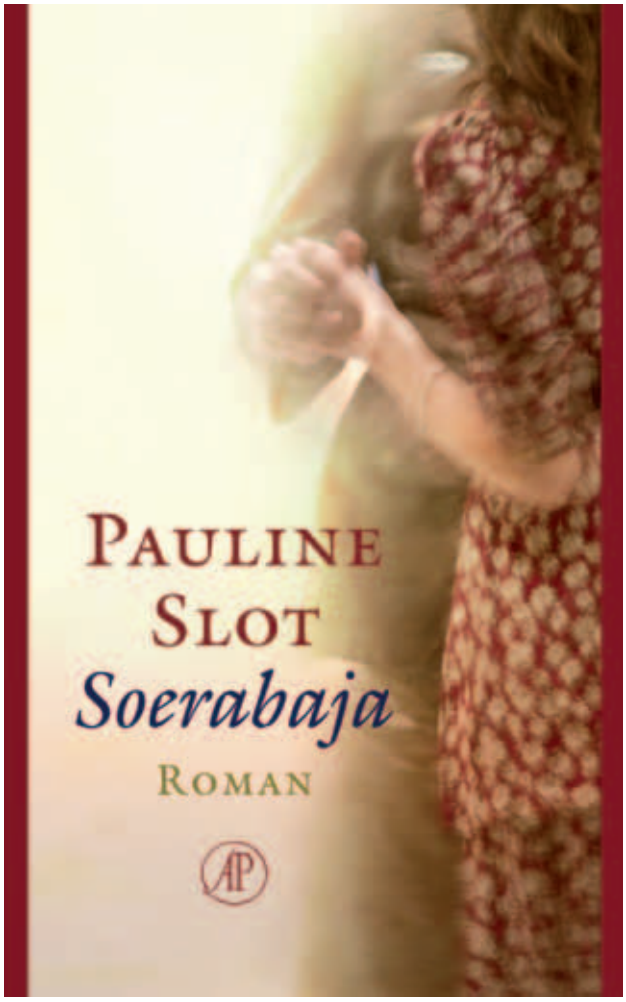
Henk is sent to the notorious Burma-Siam railway camp. Bep and their three young daughters are taken to a camp on the island of Java. It is a terrible time but their love is strengthened during the years of separation.

Then, in August 1945, Indie is liberated and a reunion seems near...

A beautiful and moving story.

Novel: 240 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
Laetitia.powell@apawb.nl

- *Surabaya* will be published in October 2012



Pauline Slot made her debut in 1999 with the successful novel ***Zuiderkruis***, more than 120,000 copies were sold. De Arbeiderspers have published four of her novels. The most recent ***En het vergeten zo lang*** (2010), is based on the tragic life of Pablo Neruda's first wife Maria Hagenaar, ***De Inwendige*** (2007), ***Tegenpole*** (2001) and ***Blauwbaard*** (2000)

'Moemie sees things that others do not.'

Marion Bloem

The Hundred-year-old Girl

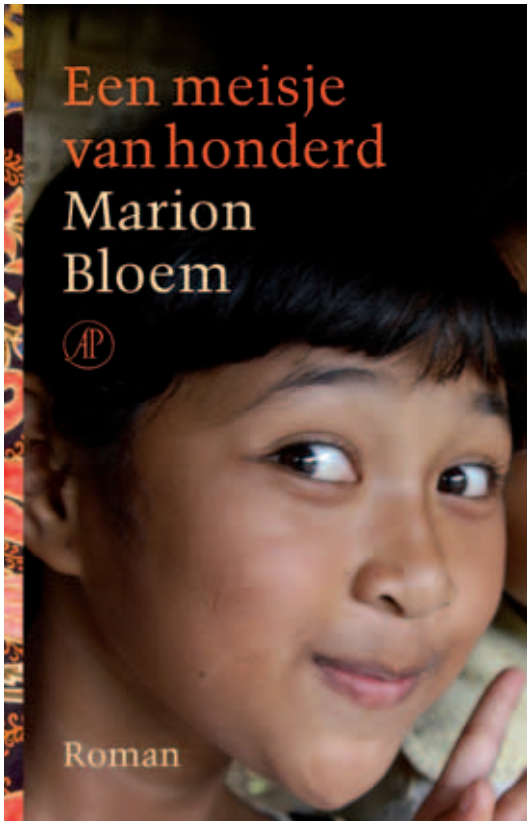
A Hundred-year-old Girl tells the story of Moemie, a girl who sees things that others do not. It is her gift and her fate. Moemie loses her parents and family in the ritual suicide of the royal family in Bali in 1906.

Throughout her life, she searches for something or someone to fill the hole made by the loss of her relatives.
Moemie is taken in by a family, they need her gift of clairvoyance in order to chase some spirits from their home.

An epic story, which follows Moemie, her adoptive family and their descendants.

This rich book takes the reader through one hundred years of history: from the colonial past, wars, Japanese prison camps and the independence of Indonesia to the Skype-ing Indian grandmothers of the present.

A book full of compelling passages in which you can smell the flowers in the garden, populated by characters who will become immediately dear to you. Marion Bloem tells the story of the twentieth century through their eyes.



Literature: 464 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
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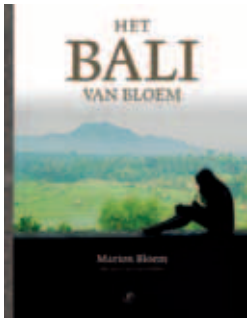
English sample available

Marion Bloem is a Dutch writer and film maker of Indonesian (Eurasian) descent, best known as author of the literary acclaimed book *Geen gewoon Indisch meisje* (*No Ordinary Indo Girl*) and director of the 2008 feature film *Ver van familie* (*Far from Family*).

Her parents, Alexander and Jacqueline Bloem, repatriated from Indonesia in 1950. er father is a survivor of the Junyo Maru disaster. Marion Bloem, herself a psychologist, is married to Dutch author and physician Ivan Wolffers.

In addition to her career as an author and film director, Bloem is a painter who exhibits around Europe.



'There are only two places where nothing can happen to you.'

Arthur Japin
To The Outside Gaze

When she comes to the aid of a young rape victim, Zonne, a popular singer, becomes wrapped up in a dangerous lawsuit that threatens to expose the harrowing events in her own past. As the case progresses, she comes to realize that what's at stake is nothing less than her privacy, her career, and her marriage.
Every day, memories return to haunt her. But instead of hiding them away, as she has done all her life, she decides to do battle for herself and her sisters against their tyrannical stepfather.

"When we were very young, we learned that there are only two places where nothing can happen to you. You can be completely safe and locked away in the dark, so that no one can see you, or stay in the full glare of the spotlight, where you can't be missed."

Literature: 304 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: RCW

Publication date: October 2012
Option publishers: Bompiani

Arthur Japin (1956) is one of Holland's most celebrated writers. He has won almost every prestigious prize in Dutch Literature, including the Libris Prize.
Arthur has written historical bestsellers such as *The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi* (*De zwarte met het witte hart*, 1997) and in *Lucia's Eyes* (*Een schitterend gebrek*, 2003).

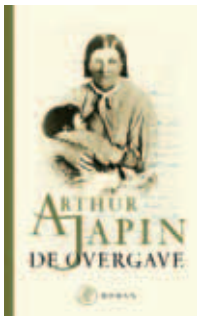
His books have been translated into numerous languages and many of his works have been adapted for film and theatre. Arthur Japin currently features in a theatrical production of

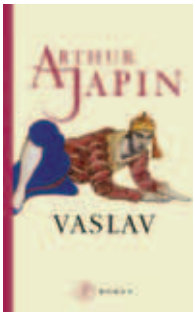
'*Much Ado About Nothing*' By William Shakespeare.
What the world press says:

'*The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi*, Arthur Japin's rich and risky first novel (...)a deeply humane book about a spectacularly exotic subject. It has spaciousness and stamina, and an unforced sense of history that nowadays are almost as unusual as Kwasi Boachi himself.' – ***The New York Times.***

On *Lucia's Eyes*
'Lucia exhibits an earthy wit. ( ) Eventually she makes an astonishing discovery about love. ( ) The plot is suspenseful and there are as many dramatic turns in her life as in that of her famous lover.' – **Laura Baggeley in *The Observer* On *Lucia's Eye***

"A truly timeless writer of international stature from Holland."
- De Groene Amsterdammer





'A hasty theft, a feud between two lords, a corpse, the breasts of Marie Antoinette, pornographic pictures, a ghost story, antiquarians, swindlers and rare books.'

One of the 10 Books from Holland and Flanders

Kisling & Verhuyck
Black Lace

Is porn lethal? In a village of the Dordogne are two castles. The elegant Cudessac, owned by the magnate and multimillionaire Durand, and the inhospitable Rameuillac, owned by the impoverished Baron De Malinobre.
It seems that today the French Revolution is very present.

The chapel of the Château Cudessac is hosting a conference over the erotic writings from the eighteenth century. Nora Blanker, who works for the prestigious Amsterdam antiquarian Nil Novi decides to attend several lectures there while on holiday.

When one of the speakers suspiciously dies, a hasty search is made to find the culprit. This unplanned lecture sets in motion a series of fatal events, culminating to an equally morbid and nerve-racking apotheosis.

These are the ingredients that Corine Kisling and Paul Verhuyck throw into their entertaining fourth joint novel.
* Eros and Thanatos in a French castle",
This is an unconventional novel. Fully charged with literature and art ...

Thriller: circa 240 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
Laetitia.powell@apawb.nl

Picture taken by Richard Praast

Corine Kisling and **Paul Verhuyck** make a well-established and excellent partnership. They have published individually 5 novels each and worked on 3 novels together: *Het leugenverhaal*, *Kwelgeest* and *De duim van Alva*. All three novels have been nominated and also awarded for the **Hercule Poirot Award**, **the Diamonds Bullets Award** and the **Golden Strop Award**.

Corine Kisling was born in Rotterdam (1954) and studied French and literature at the University of Leiden. After her studies she started to work as a translator (French and English). In 1993, she published her first novel *Tangen*. And a year later, *The Engelenbak* which was nominated for **the Libris Prize**. In 1996 her book *Satan in de polder*, was awarded the Shadow Prize (the award for the best debut Dutch thriller). In 1998 she wrote on behalf of the Sugar Union a novel to mark the 100-year anniversary of this cooperative *De groene gloed*.

Paul Verhuyck was born in Antwerp (1940). and studied Philology at the University of Ghent. He worked at the School of Translators & Interpreters in Antwerp. Then he left for the Netherlands, and worked as associate professor at the University of Leiden. Besides a series of scientific publications, he has also published several novels and short stories.

'The Case of the Elgin Marbles.'

Selected for *Ten Books from Holland and Flanders*

Jan-Willem Anker
A Civilized Man

At the end of the eighteenth century, the Scottish Earl Elgin becomes ambassador to the Ottoman Empire.

His mission is to repel the French occupying forces from Egypt but he soon loses sight of his task to an artistic enterprise in Athens.

If he does not intervene, the temples of the Acropolis will be lost. The best thing that humanity has ever produced will be gone. Driven by ambition, Elgin is willing to put everything at stake: his reputation, his health and ultimately his marriage.

A Civilized Man is a historical fact-based story of a gentle adventurer, a cultural-political satire and a comical costume drama all in one. At a time when Napoleon's armies set the European continent ablaze, an old-school aristocrat will attempt anything to save the last remnants of a civilization.

Historical Novel: 352 pages
Publisher: De Arbeiderspers
Translation rights: De Arbeiderspers
Foreign rights manager:
Laetitia.powell@apawb.nl

English sample available

Jan-Willem Anker (1978) began his career as an author with a work of poetry, which was awarded the Jo Peters Poëzieprijs. In 2006, he published *Donkere arena* and in 2009 *Wij zijn de laatste geliefden in de wereld* which are poetry collections.
A Civilized Man is his first novel.

What the press says about *A civilised man:*

"An elegant, well-crafted period piece about an enlightened idealist who believes he can pack eternal beauty into crates." – *Vrij Nederland*

"Convincing and humorous." – ***Het Parool***

"There is a new novelist on the scene." – ***NRC Handelsblad***