



# Quality Non-Fiction from Holland

**N**ederlands  
letterenfonds  
dutch foundation  
for literature

Autumn 2019



# Dutch Foundation for Literature

**The Dutch Foundation for Literature has the task of supporting writers and translators, and of promoting Dutch literature abroad. It is an independent organization, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.**

The Foundation's advisors on literary fiction, quality non-fiction, poetry and children's and youth literature are present each year at prominent book fairs, including Frankfurt, London, Beijing and Bologna. *Books from Holland*, *Quality Non-Fiction from Holland* and *Children's Books from Holland* recommend highlights from each category's selection.

## Translation Grants

Foreign publishers wishing to publish a translation of Dutch or Frisian literature may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. Having acquired the rights, the publisher's application must be accompanied by a copy of the contract with the rights owner and a copy of the contract with the translator. Application forms are available from the Foundation's website. Subsidies are paid after receipt of complimentary copies, with printed acknowledgement of the Foundation's support. A sample translation may be required and evaluated by our external advisors. Applications for translations that have already been published cannot be taken into consideration. Publishers looking for a qualified translator can request a list of endorsed translators for their language area.

## Illustrated Books

In the case of illustrated children's books and/or graphic novels, foreign publishers can apply for assistance to cover a portion of the production costs.

## Promotional Travel

The Foundation is able to support a publisher wishing to invite an author for interviews or public appearances. Literary festivals are likewise eligible for support. Additionally, the Foundation organises international literary events in co-operation with local publishers, festivals and book fairs.

## Writers-in-Residence

The Foundation coordinates writer-in-residence programmes together with foreign universities and institutions. International authors are invited to spend time working in Amsterdam. They may stay one or two months at the writers' lodgings above the Athenaeum Bookshop on the Spui.

## International Visitors Programme

The visitors programme and the annual Amsterdam Fellowships offer publishers and editors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the publishing business and the literary infrastructure of the Netherlands.

## Translators' House

The Translators' House offers translators the opportunity to live and work in Amsterdam for a period of time. It is involved with numerous activities assisting and advancing translators' skills. Each year the Literary Translation Days are held for those translating into and from Dutch.

## Schwob: Discovering International Classic Works of Fiction

Schwob draws attention to and supports as-yet undiscovered, untranslated classics of world literature. Each month the editors select new titles on [www.schwob.nl](http://www.schwob.nl).

## Dutch Foundation for Literature

Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89  
NL – 1018 VR Amsterdam  
t +31 20 520 73 00  
[post@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:post@letterenfonds.nl)  
[www.letterenfonds.nl](http://www.letterenfonds.nl)

## Non-Fiction



**Mireille Berman**  
[m.berman@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:m.berman@letterenfonds.nl)



**Michele Hutchison**  
[m.hutchison@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:m.hutchison@letterenfonds.nl)

## Fiction

Barbara den Ouden  
Eastern and Middle Europe,  
Mediterranean countries, Russia  
[b.den.ouden@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:b.den.ouden@letterenfonds.nl)

Victor Schiferli  
Scandinavia, Germany,  
English-language countries  
and poetry  
[v.schiferli@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:v.schiferli@letterenfonds.nl)

Tiziano Perez  
Brazil, China  
[t.perez@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:t.perez@letterenfonds.nl)

Alexandra Koch  
Schwob  
[a.koch@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:a.koch@letterenfonds.nl)

## Children's Books

Agnes Vogt  
[a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl](mailto:a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl)

**See also**  
[en.letterenfonds.nl](http://en.letterenfonds.nl)

## Roanne van Voorst

### We Used to Eat Animals

How to prepare for a vegetarian future



**In the last thirty years veganism has exploded among younger generations around the world. Today it's not just popular and mainstream: #vegan effuses success, sexiness; it's cool. While most of us grew up eating 'essential' animal products, the greater conscious shift away from those same products, be it as a vegan, vegetarian or flexitarian, is gaining a momentum that will soon be hard, if not impossible to stop.**

According to anthropologist Roanne van Voorst, we are living in one of history's transitional moments, a fundamental tipping point. More and more scientists and futurists predict that eating meat and dairy will be banned or become taboo. Our vegan grandchildren will ask us how we ever could have lived and eaten as we did. The idea that every week more animals are killed for human consumption than humans who have died in all wars in human history combined is something we can hardly imagine now and may struggle to understand in the future.

It is difficult, however, to abandon such fundamental beliefs, especially without an alternative vision of how you can still eat good food and stay healthy. How to imagine a vegetarian future? Van Voorst uses her personal journey as a springboard

to outline the factors underlying this fundamental cultural shift away from animal products – 750 million vegans in 2015 as compared to just a few million worldwide in the 1990s.

Diving into history, the author interrogates the seemingly iron-wrought (read: marketing-wrought) narratives surrounding our current diet convictions and addresses nutrition concerns (yes, there are other sources of protein). What do recent food hypes like kale and poke bowls have in common with established and trusted friends milk and whole grain cereal? She also investigates modern intensive farming techniques, cognitive dissonance and veganism's influence on our sense of self, while speaking with farm owners who have made the switch. Van Voorst examines our diet's part in gender roles and sexuality, as we are introduced to 'vegansexuals' and asked to take a hard look at meat's place in Western masculinity.

Not changing our diets is no longer an option: 'When you have the freedom to choose what you eat, every meal is a political action, a decision to support certain suppliers, and to boycott others. It is an investment in one food's development over another.'

**Roanne van Voorst** (b. 1983) is an anthropologist and writer of non-fiction as well as fiction. She is the author of various books including the praised *You Are Different from Us: Young and Immigrant in the Netherlands* (2010) and *The Best Place In the World: Living in the Slums of Jakarta* (2016).

#### Publishing details

*Ooit aten wij dieren* (2019)  
256 pp.  
Podium  
English sample available

#### Rights

US & World Rights: HarperOne  
Catherine Barbosa-Ross  
catherine.barbosa-ross  
@harpercollins.com

Photo: Tjitske van Leeuwen



**'Van Voorst discusses dozens of confirmations for her positive message in daily life and history, and cleverly alternates them with her personal experiences, intelligent observations and practically the entire, mammoth dossier of Horrific Examples from the food industry.'**  
– *De Volkskrant*

**'A new course in times of climate shame and anxiety'**  
– *Het Parool*

## Corien van Zweden

### Breasts

### A Biography

An accessible and enlightening narrative-led investigation of this intimate body part

When the doctors tell Corien van Zweden, after a recurrence of cancer, that her left breast will need to be removed, she is startled by their presumption that an immediate 'reconstruction' is what she wants, or indeed needs. With more questions than answers, she resolves to understand her breasts on a biological level, but also to recognize what they mean to her, to other women and to society as a whole.

In this investigative biography, Van Zweden leads readers through the many transformations breasts undergo as well as their shifting roles from the day a girl first notices her nipples changing, to what one third of women will later face – breast cancer, and then to the changes brought about by menopause. The only body part that we are not born with, the breast's unique ability to transform itself on a cellular level tragically makes it more susceptible to cancer. Roughly a quarter of all tumours occur in the breasts; numbers which are only increasing in the western world.

Though told primarily through the window of her own experiences, *Breasts* offers a mosaic of women's testimonies, detailing their relationship with their breasts, be it one of apathy, obsession, joy, sadness, pride or disgust. These multiple and complex feelings are often dictated by

generational and cultural divides. How are women's attitudes to their bodies affected by a society in which today's teenagers are literally bombarded with hundreds of thousands of images to compare themselves with? The market for enlargement and reduction surgeries grows in leaps and bounds each year.

Van Zweden expands on these experiences at each of the breast's three life stages – growth, blossoming and decline – and dives into the current debates, including why women have breasts (that they attract men is a disputed theory), how to weigh up the benefits of breastfeeding against the (environmental) toxins present in breast milk, and the psychology of prosthetics. We meet plastic surgeons, sexologists, porn stars, philosophers and lactation experts as Van Zweden consults the latest scientific research and delves into history to trace changes in the ways we experience breasts – big and small, hidden or revealed – and their indisputable role in femininity.

The story of the breast is not just the story of the woman who has them, but the story of those who behold them and who judge them, and the professionals who concern themselves with them. At the end of the book, Van Zweden poignantly reveals why she finally decides not to have her breast replaced.



**Corien van Zweden** (b. 1962) studied Theology and has been working as a freelance journalist since 1994. She writes on themes such as health care and psychiatry, education and development aid. In 2008, she published *The Art of Grieving*, which she followed up in 2015 with *A Bite Out of the Sun: Five Faces of Cancer*.

#### Publishing details

Borsten. *De levensloop van een intiem lichaamsdeel* (2019)  
285 pp.  
De Bezige Bij  
English sample available

#### Rights

Marianne Schönbach Agency  
Marianne Schönbach  
m.schonbach@schonbach.nl

#### Rights sold

Poland (Wydawictwo Kobięce  
Lukasz Kierus)

Photo: Hanna Hachula



'That *Breasts* has something melancholic about it, turns out to be Van Zweden's greatest merit. Because that is how we withdraw the female body from the sexualized gaze: by sometimes letting things also be sad.'

– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

'Van Zweden undertakes a more than worthy attempt to clear up a large part of our ignorance about breasts.'

– *HUMO*

'An enlightening book that every woman should read.'

– *ZIN*

## Jelmer Mommers

### How Are We Going to Explain This? Our Future On An Ever Warmer Planet

A timely overview, with a positive slant,  
of the latest science on climate change

Climate change's complexity and its abstract future consequences make it difficult to fathom, let alone feel empowered enough to address. In *How Are We Going to Explain This?* Jelmer Mommers presents a disarmingly concise and considered explanation of the global climate crisis and reveals the effective tools a growing movement is turning to. Tools you can pick up today to help create and maintain a sustainable future.

Drawing on the latest research and statistics, Mommers makes it painfully clear: climate change is the single greatest threat facing our species. If left unchecked, it will affect the economies of 90% of the world's population. From nomadic hunter-gatherers with little effect on the planet we have become an advanced industrial civilization that has unwittingly managed to delay the next ice age while simultaneously placing our world at risk.

Mommers' analysis pinpoints the philosophical, historical and economic roots of the world view that has led humanity to this moment, from Descartes to Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution. Enlisting the help of graphs and diagrams from climate reports, he deftly illustrates climate change's mechanics, and how human activity is overwhelming the planet's natural greenhouse gas

regulators. In a society historically based on abusing the planet's 'infinite' resources for short-term gain, what role have businesses and governments played? What are the very serious issues with the easy 'solutions' they are now reaching for?

No less crucial is to know where we are headed, or can go. Besides presenting a clear spectrum of future outcomes between *business as usual* and collectively achieving the optimistic UN Climate Goal of holding the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, Mommers helps us picture the shocking differences between a planet heated by 1.5°C and one by 2.0°C. In doing so, he leaves no doubt that every decimal point of change is worth fighting for.

The author examines the political, legal and individual means we have as citizens and consumers to force the necessary shift. Among other cases, we learn how action group Urgenda sued the Dutch government for gross negligence, and won, forcing the state to cut emissions, and inspiring similar lawsuits around the world. Divestment campaigns, political parties, consumer boycotts, changing the ways in which we travel – ever pragmatic, Mommers readily admits that this is a process that will take longer in some sectors than others – nevertheless, a sustainable future is achievable.



**Jelmer Mommers** (b. 1987) reports on climate change for *De Correspondent*. In 2017 he made world news when he unearthed an old climate film made by Shell. In 2018 he published internal Shell documents, which later provided the basis for Milieudefensie's lawsuit against the Dutch company. Previously Mommers worked as a researcher and online editor at *De Groene Amsterdammer*, the investigative journalism platform Investico and *De Gids*.

#### Publishing details

*Hoe gaan we dit uitleggen?* (2019)  
240 pp.  
De Correspondent  
10,000 copies sold  
English sample available

#### Rights

Janklow & Nesbit Associates  
Rebecca Carter  
rcarter@janklow.co.uk

#### Rights sold

World English (Profile Books)



'Crystal clear and rousing. Mommers can explain the climate story like no other – clearly and convincingly.' David Van Reybrouck, author of *Congo* and *Against Democracy*

'Mommers shows that we must enter into a slow and difficult battle that will prove worthwhile. The goal is an inhabitable planet.'  
– *New Scientist*



## Geert Mak

### Great Expectations In Europe II, 1999–2019

Mak traces the loss of European optimism and the dismantling of the postwar order

**While *In Europe* (2004) covered the tumultuous 20<sup>th</sup> century and the legacy of the two world wars, *Great Expectations* takes stock of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mak turns his keen eye to the controversial roll-out of the euro, the impact of terrorism, the evaporation of European optimism, post-communist life in Eastern Europe and Russia, the financial crisis, the transatlantic relationship, northern versus southern Europe, and the refugees.**

Picking up where *In Europe* left off, at the euphoric, neoliberal start of the new millennium, Mak looks at how Europe's values met with unprecedented challenges from without and within. We learn of Putin's carefully orchestrated career, the rising fear of jihad after the 9/11 attacks, the uncomfortable process of enlarging the European Union, 'the large-scale drowning of Africa's poor' in the Mediterranean, the rejection of the European Constitution, the causes and tremendous costs of the banking crisis, the resurfacing of antisemitism in Poland, the success of populist parties in Eastern and Western Europe, the great euro crisis observed from a street corner in Athens, the racism faced by immigrants in the wealthy West, the rise of the 'tourist destination', Catalonia's national dream, and the mounting unease in the face of Trump and Brexit.

In a vast sweep from Norway's melting

polar region to the tragic shores of Lampedusa, and from the Muslim suburbs of Copenhagen to the halls of power in Putin's 'new and patriotic' Moscow, Mak explores the remains of Europe's old dreams – peace, prosperity, democracy, and growing unity – and today's nightmares: the new arms race, populism, Russian espionage, climate change... 'It was strange to cycle around Amsterdam, which is partly under sea level, and realize that after its centuries-long history, its days are numbered.' Will Germany rise to its new geopolitical role? Will the region's squabbling nation-states rediscover their solidarity?

Mak writes, 'Once we thought Western freedom and democracy would gradually spread to the East and the rest of the world. Now we seem to be witnessing the opposite trend. Europe is uncertain, divided, and weakened. Russia seizes every opportunity to sow new discord. China has rushed to fill the gaps left by Western Europe in Central Europe, the Balkans, and Greece. Still further West, the American president is pursuing much the same policy of destabilization as the Russians and rapidly dismantling the rules and institutions of the postwar world order. The old, transatlantic world of the late twentieth century is, in the words of the *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen, "gone, man, solid gone."'



**Geert Mak** was born in 1946. His books have been translated into 22 languages; well-known English titles include *Amsterdam*, *My Father's Century*, *In Europe*, *In America: Travels with Steinbeck*, and *The Many Lives of Jan Six*. He has won wide critical acclaim in the international press and numerous awards, including the Leipziger Buchpreis and the Prins Bernhard Prize. A television series based on *Great Expectations* will air on Dutch television, radio and online in the autumn of 2019.

#### Publishing details

*Grote verwachtingen. In Europa, 1999 – 2019* (November 2019)

496 pp.

Atlas Contact

English sample available online:  
<https://www.beerights.com/author/geert-mak/>

#### Rights

Bee Rights

Marijke Nagtegaal

[m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl](mailto:m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl)

[www.beerights.com/contact/](http://www.beerights.com/contact/)

Photo: Merlijn Doomernik



#### On *In Europe*:

'Moving across a vivid historical landscape, his portrait of Europe, in all her bloody barbarism and civilised glory, helps us confront exactly what we need to know.... a timely book, and one we can't afford to ignore.'

– *Daily Telegraph*

'His genius as a historian is his instinct for human stories... Mak is the history teacher everyone should have had.'

– *Financial Times*

## Abram de Swaan

### Against Women

### *The Fight against Emancipation*

The history, the global transformations powering the rise of women, and the backlash

Over the past fifty years, education has improved, especially for girls and young women, and machines have taken over the heavy work traditionally done by men. This has liberated many women from dependence on men for financial support or physical protection and allowed them to flourish in the workplace. But now, men's wounded pride is leading to tensions.

Swaan sees the rise of the new extreme right, Christian fundamentalism, and jihadism as a response to women's liberation. This is his simple thesis, which he proves in three steps. His first section is a lucid overview of the many ways patriarchies exercise their 'reign of terror' over women. Girl babies are tossed out like rubbish, girls are forced to marry adult men ('nothing more than legalized paedophilia'), and their genitals and faces are permanently mutilated. As young women, they face threats such as rape and honour killings. De Swaan avoids the fallacy of 'anti-Islamic enthusiasm', instead showing how all forms of dogmatism support the ideology of male supremacy and pointing out the many forms of male dominance that persist in the West.

The second section describes the unstoppable rise of women in today's world, which he attributes mainly to

educational reform. Women have made their way into all levels of the school and university system, even in countries where you would least expect it. And higher levels of education have been shown to raise women's feminist consciousness, making them more likely to have fewer children. While the inequalities between women and men remain very real, De Swaan points to the huge strides taken over the past forty years in areas such as politics, health care and the work force and explains why emancipation can only continue to spread.

This sets the stage for the groundbreaking third section, in which de Swaan sketches the origins of opposition to women's liberation. He lays out the evidence for the surprising theory that such disparate groups as jihadists, evangelical Christians, Latin American machos, ultraorthodox Jews and the secular extreme right are entrenched in sexism and motivated by the same 'male resentment'. Along the way, he offers glimpses of their terrifying misogynistic subcultures, such as the alt-right online forums where women are, at best, the bearers of 'bouncing baby whites'.

In *Against Women*, Abram de Swaan steers a sure course through the minefields of contemporary cultural politics and never shies from confronting blind spots and prejudice, even his own.



**Abram de Swaan** was awarded the prestigious position of University Professor of Social Science at the University of Amsterdam in 2001. His many teaching appointments included the Collège de France in Paris and Columbia University in New York. De Swaan's most successful books include *In Care of the State*, *Words of the World*, and *The Killing Compartments*, all published in English editions. His writings have been translated into twelve languages. He was a columnist for the national newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* for many years and won the prestigious P.C. Hooft Prize in 2008 for his oeuvre.

#### Publishing details

*Tegen de vrouwen. De wereldwijde strijd van rechtsisten en jihadisten tegen de emancipatie* (2019)

240 pp.

Prometheus

English sample available

#### Rights

Prometheus (English),

Le Seuil (all others)

foreignrights@pbo.nl

droitsetrangers@seuil.com

#### Rights sold

French (Le Seuil)



'An exceptionally lively and readable account that fearlessly makes its way through today's political minefields with a mix of sociological insights, level-headed self-analysis, and cut-the-crap reasoning.'  
– *Trouw*

'De Swaan's book is uninhibitedly political and activist. It forms the exact counterpart of the essay Thierry Baudet wrote for American Affairs under the title "*Houellebecq's Unfinished Critique of Liberal Modernity*".'  
– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

Nominated for the Bookspot non-fiction prize 2019.

Kemal Rijken

Our People First

*How Right-Wing Nationalism Conquered Europe*

New insights into nationalistic populism based on extensive interviews with its leading players

**Though right-wing nationalist parties have largely been shunned by the political establishment as racist, xenophobic or even Nazi since their emergence in the 1980s, they now form almost thirty percent of the European Parliament. Across Europe, these once small, marginalized movements have booked political upsets in their home countries and have been expanding their political influence through international collaboration.**

Rather than excluding or blocking these parties, which will only feed their growing popularity, young thinker Kemal Rijken maintains that today we must heed and confront their arguments in an exchange of ideas and visions that will make our democracy stronger. *Our People First* therefore presents a comprehensive history of right-wing nationalism around Europe and injects nuance into a political stance that has been categorically rejected by most.

Eschewing judgment, Rijken traces right-wing nationalism's evolution in eight western European countries, starting with the first immigration waves in the 70s and 80s, and continuing through the fall of the Berlin Wall, the September 11 attacks and the financial crisis, up to today's refugee crisis and Brexit. Their rise is far from meteoric, and Rijken details their victories and their setbacks, the replacement of the

old guard by the younger generation and the transformations each bring. Building on extensive interviews with many key players like Jean-Marie Le Pen, Alexander Gauland, Umberto Bossi, Nigel Farage and Filip de Winter as well as former prime ministers and politicians, he sketches a human portrait of a political field in which strong personalities and big egos reign. As readers given access to the movement's inner mechanisms, we witness the deliberate shift towards a more stable professionalization.

We meet figures like Thierry Baudet and Matteo Salvini, witness the internal quarrels and moral dilemmas party heads face in their associations, intentional or not, with right-wing extremists. By charting the progression of the European political scene over the years, Rijken also highlights right-wing nationalism's persistent role in mainstream politics' shift to the right.

As Rijken writes, 'In the last forty years, their movement has become part of the democratic system. Those who wish to fight them will have to do so based on content in the political arenas of Europe. This too is part of democracy.'

Given the immediate questions facing Europe regarding immigration and integration, *Our People First* is a ground-breaking step in tackling these challenges. This is a must-read for anyone interested in the political landscape of today and tomorrow.



**Kemal Rijken** (b. 1980) is a journalist and author. He writes about politics, the government and minorities in Dutch society for *NRC*, *De Groene Amsterdammer* and *Het Parool*. His published works include *Roma*, a book about the Sinti and Roma in the Netherlands, *The Westermoskee*, a history of religious freedom in the Netherlands, as well as the critically acclaimed biography *Van der Laan*, about Amsterdam's highly popular late mayor.

#### Publishing details

*Eigen Volk* (2019)

466 pp.

Ambo Anthos

#### Rights

Marianne Schönbach Agency

Marianne Schönbach

m.schonbach@schonbach.nl

Photo: Jelmer de Haas



'Its timing is near enough perfect [...] *Our People First* is a clever reconstruction of the growth on the right flank of the political spectrum over the past forty years.'

– *HP de Tijd*

'A coherent vision is produced through this chronological and detailed approach in which [the author] moves from country to country.'

– *NRC*



Lex Boon

## The Pineapple A History Made Up Of Startling Stories And Unexpected Encounters

One day Lex Boon's girlfriend returns home with a present for him – a pineapple plant from IKEA. Then she dumps him. In an attempt to get over his heart-break, the journalist decides to investigate the small green fruit he was given. He sets up a Google News alert for pineapple stories and what follows is a five year round-the-world journey of discovery, a new relationship, fatherhood and a surprise hit book.

Newly single and in need of a holiday, Boon reads a news story about pineapple farmers in Thailand dumping their harvest to blockade the motorway. He jumps on a plane. Once there, the investigative journalist finds himself caught up in the opaque world of fruit trade and overproduction. He discovers where and how pineapples are grown, harvested and packaged for export in factories, who the middle men are and how the fruit end up in our supermarkets and grocery stores priced at just a couple of euros.

While staying in the pineapple folly of a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion in Scotland, Boon delves into the history of pineapple and the various fashions it has launched. Columbus might have brought the first specimens to Europe in the fifteenth century, but it was Spanish historian and

pineapple fan Oviedo who ignited the European passion for the 'prince of all fruits'. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the growing interest in botany in the two most powerful imperial nations at the time – England and Holland – would lead to the hothouses which could keep tropical plant varieties such as the pineapple alive.

At a pineapple congress in Costa Rica, Boon tracks down the creator of an extra sweet variety for Del Monte, and explores that company's once monopoly on breeding pineapple varieties. Boon even goes on to export a superior variety himself from Ghana, the Smooth Cayenne, and discovers the pitfalls in the market. Along the way the reader is fed interesting tidbits such as how Sponge Bob's pineapple was misdrawn mathematically (the pattern of growth should be a Fibonacci series) and why pineapple and meat pair well on your plate (its unique enzyme bromelain breaks down protein).

Boon's travels turn up fascinating insights as well as a comprehensive view of pineapple production and trade. This fun, wide-ranging and well-reviewed book also helps us as consumers to know what we should buy: Fairtrade, whole, tinned or ready-cut? 'However small a subject, there's still an infinite amount to tell about it' is Boon's adage.



**Lex Boon** (b 1983) is a prominent Dutch journalist, well-known for his supreme reporting. He studied sociology at the University of Amsterdam and journalism at Leiden University. He has worked for *Het Parool* and *NRC Handelsblad*. His reports from the pineapple trail were broadcast on Dutch national radio.

### Publishing details

*Ananas. Een geschiedenis in opzienbarende verhalen en onverwachte ontmoetingen* (2019)  
224 pp.  
Meulenhoff  
6,500 copies sold

### Rights

2 Seas Agency  
Marleen Seegers  
marleen.seegers@2seasagency.com



'And oh my gosh what a delightful book *The Pineapple* is. I had no idea that non-fiction about pineapples could deliver up such a page-turner. This book is a delicious pineapple road trip [...] Open this book and the sun starts to shine.'  
– *De Volkskrant*

'An intriguing book. His style, humorous and playful but also pleasantly down-to-earth, is reminiscent of the work of Bill Bryson. [...] This book is a breath of fresh air.'  
– *NRC Handelsblad*

## Josephine Rombouts

### Cliffrock Castle

#### *Working At A Castle in Scotland*

Downton Abbey in the twenty-first century –  
behind the scenes in a traditional Scottish castle

When Josephine Rombouts moves with her family from Holland to the west coast of Scotland she jumps at the opportunity of a job as housekeeper at the local castle. Unhampered by any knowledge of housekeeping or of the British elite, she miraculously manages to stay afloat in her new surroundings where she finds herself confronted with English land-owners, French cooks, Scottish independence, local roofers, a ghost, and a serious amount of etiquette.

Looking for a change in lifestyle – and a greater change is barely conceivable – Rombouts leaves a busy Dutch city with her husband and two young sons hoping to settle in the beautiful Scottish Highlands. Neither she nor her partner has a job lined up but before long the author has been hired by the chatelaine of Cliffrock Castle for a trial period. The estate manager warns her that however sympathetic the Lady may seem, ‘You must keep your proper distance.’

Drawing all her instructions from an antiquated book she discovers in a turret bedroom – *The Butler’s Guide to Clothes Care, Managing the Table, Running the Home & Other Graces* – Rombouts soon realizes that working in a castle will require more than just some simple cleaning. With humour and incisive

observational skills, she describes a micro-culture whose continuing existence is almost unthinkable in today’s world. Tables lain with a yardstick, the strict rules for wearing tweed, where to offer a plumber a cup of tea, uncomplaining employees whose gardens are suddenly cut in half by a deer fence – she is often amazed and has to learn fast.

As a pragmatic, direct Dutch woman Rombouts tries to get to the bottom of many unwritten social codes and nuances she never could have dreamed of in the egalitarian Netherlands. After a while she starts to understand what is at play: the privileges and restrictions of class, complex social dynamics, boarding school syndrome. Soon she has learned about ‘making oneself scarce’ and the best way to discreetly refer to a dog poo in the parlour.

‘I found it a brilliant piece of theatre, where you are mindful of all considerations. As long as you’re in the play waving your duster it’s fun; if you don’t play along the gilt wears off’, the author said in an interview.

Scotland’s desolate and rugged nature forms an attractive and sometimes treacherous backdrop to experiences which, beyond a career in castle upkeep, lead the author to form closer connections with the people around her, including the chatelaine who steps into the breach when one of Rombout’s children becomes seriously ill.



**Josephine Rombouts** (b.1971) studied Art History and Dutch and has lived in the Scottish Highlands for the past six years with her family. She is now the manager of the castle in which she previously worked as housekeeper. She also leads the choir and gives drama lessons at the village school.

#### Publishing details

*Cliffrock Castle. Werken op een kasteel in Schotland* (2019)

352 pp.

Querido

16,000 copies sold

English sample available

#### Rights

Singel Uitgeverijen

Jolijn Spooren

j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

Photo: Katja Poelwijk



‘A small miracle has occurred in publishingland. Fans of Jane Austen’s world had already cottoned on to it, but gradually the miracle is seeping through to the broader echelons: *Cliffrock Castle*. [...] Rombouts has a golden pen. Marvelling, detailed and tongue-in-cheek she draws us into an elite we didn’t know existed; one of *Upstairs Downstairs*, chandeliers and balls.’  
– Trouw

‘Everything that made *Downton Abbey* so irresistible, Rombouts experienced in her castle: hunting parties, an out-of-proportion Christmas tree, ironed socks, the gong to summon everyone to the dining room, the chandeliers, the room full of unpolished silverware.’  
– VPRO Gids



## Brenda Stoter Boscolo

### The Forgotten People

### *The Yezidi's Account of the Last Genocide*

Intimate portraits of a little-known people under persecution



**In the summer of 2014, ISIS invaded the region of Sinjar in northern Iraq. Their aim was to systematically exterminate the Yezidis, an ethnic minority with its own ancient religion and culture. The men were murdered while the women and girls were sold into slavery; sons were forced to become child soldiers and the youngest children were sold to ISIS families. Journalist Brenda Stoter Boscolo travelled to Iraq to write about the Yezidi genocide.**

While international reporting has focused mainly on the sexual slavery imposed on Yezidi women after the ISIS invasion, little has been said until now about the larger and deeper attempt to destroy the Yezidis as an ethnic group. In refugee camps in Northern Iraq, Boscolo interviews dozens of women, men and children whose lives were irrevocably damaged by ISIS, but in the process she discovers a troubled history fraught with persecution in a hostile land. She is overwhelmed by their willingness to tell their harrowing stories, which they hope to share with the world.

We meet Yezidis like Ishmael, who lost 35 family members, and Majdal, who was trained as a child soldier. There's Nadima, who bore an ISIS soldier's son, and Turko, who became Muslim to save her children. Boscolo also speaks with government

officials, religious leaders, doctors, students, professors, activists and soldiers.

She investigates the social repercussions of genocide: How has it changed the traditions which forbid members to convert religion, as so many women and children were forced to do to survive? And what about the Yezidi children fathered by ISIS soldiers? How has Yezidi human-rights activist Nadia Murad inspired other women to come forward with their stories?

Along the way she makes connections and builds friendships, learning about the Yezidi culture. Caught between the Iraqi Arab and Kurdish communities, with whom they have historically uneasy relationships, the *Ezidis* see themselves as their own ethnicity. They have their own religion, whose holy books have been lost in the 73 genocides they have survived. They are poorly understood and often portrayed as devil worshippers, making them targets for fundamentalist Sunni groups like Al-Qaida before ISIS. Many of the Yezidis feel they have no one to turn to but each other.

Writing with an open, personal style, Boscolo alights the essential strength that lies in community, individual human resilience and the ability to find meaning in life after trauma. *The Forgotten People* reveals the heartbreaking human face of a community in peril.

**Brenda Stoter Boscolo** (b.1984) is an acclaimed Dutch journalist who writes about the Middle East. She has master's degrees in sociology and in media and journalism from Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Her second thesis was about the Iraq war and the media. Her articles have been published by *Al Jazeera*, *Middle East Eye*, *The New Arab* and *Al Monitor* as well as featured in Dutch newspapers and magazines, including *Trouw*, *Algemeen Dagblad*, *De Tijd*, *NRC Next*, *Het Parool* and *De Groene Amsterdammer*.

#### Publishing details

*Het vergeten volk. Het verhaal van de Jezidi's over de laatste genocide* (October 2019)

288 pp.

De Arbeiderspers

English sample available

#### Rights

Singel Uitgeverijen

Jolijn Spooren

j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl



**'Brenda Stoter Boscolo is not afraid of the devil nor anyone. She doesn't rest until she has gained access to worlds that are closed to many journalists. She manages to beautifully combine compassion, a keen eye for detail and lucid analysis in her stories.'**

– Xandra Schutte, journalist,  
Editor of *De Groene Amsterdammer*

**'I know few people who wear their power and vulnerability as purely as Brenda does. She'd go through fire for other people. Her work is just as inspiring, gripping, moving and overwhelming as she is herself.'**

– Fidan Ekiz, journalist and presenter

## Huib Modderkolk

### There's A War Going On But No One Can See It

The shadow side of the internet: global intelligence, digital espionage and our privacy

Six years ago Huib Modderkolk began investigating the digital world. He gradually formed a picture of how systems built for free communication are exploited for espionage and manipulation, and unearthed secret operations by the Dutch, American and Russian intelligence services. His most important conclusion? We are vulnerable: computer systems control access to our most basic human needs.

Summer 2017: computer screens go blank in 150 countries. The British NHS is so affected that hospitals can only take in patients for the Casualty department. Ambulances are grounded. MRI scanners and blood refrigeration systems stop functioning. Computer screens turn on spontaneously and the words "Oops your important files are encrypted" appear. Employees who desperately pull the plugs on their computers are too late. Restarting is pointless, the computers are locked. And now the attackers ask each victim to pay them 300 dollars. This is hijack software. Those who transfer the money get nothing in return.

A month later, an unknown virus strike on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 doesn't just shut down Rotterdam harbour but also systems in France, India, Great Britain, Poland and Germany, before spreading to 60 further countries. Modderkolk's research into this

incident and the previous one lead him to the Ukraine, the apparent target of a Russian attack.

This is just one example of how digital disruption in the Netherlands is inextricably connected with the rest of the world. Security systems installed by companies and governments are globally sourced. Israel, for example, is one of the cheapest producers. But internet security systems can also discreetly collect data. There are other weaknesses. Data storage companies can be based anywhere and fall outside of national jurisdiction – criminals can store illegally-gathered data undetected. And how infallible are the certificates obtained to ensure that internet users end up on the sites they believe they are accessing?

Based on the cases he has investigated, Modderkolk takes the reader on a tour of the corridors and back doors of the globalised digital world. He reconstructs for example the British-American espionage operation on Belgacom and reveals how the power relationships between countries enable intelligence services to share and withhold data from each other.

The book looks at key players such as Edward Snowden, DigiNotar: the Dutch-based certification company, Russian hackers Cozy Bear and Evgeniy Bogachev 'the Pablo Escobar of the digital era', and provides insights into military hackers, spies, saboteurs, malware and trolls.



**Huib Modderkolk** (b.1982) is an investigative journalist for the Dutch national newspaper *De Volkskrant*. He is a frequent guest on the popular talkshow *De Wereld Draait Door* where he explains the complexities of the digital world in simple terms. Modderkolk won the Dutch-Belgian investigative award De Loep in 2018. His reports have been taken up by *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *Reuters*, *CNN*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Der Spiegel*, *France24* and many other media sources. He has collaborated with *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *NY Times* and *The Intercept*.

#### Publishing details

*Het is oorlog maar niemand die het ziet* (2019)

272 pp.

Podium

20,000 copies sold

English sample available

#### Rights

Podium

Joost Nijsen

jn@uitgeverijpodium.nl

Photo: Ruud Pos



'This is even better than John le Carré, because it's true.'

– Matthijs van Nieuwkerk, TV presenter

'In the old days, anyone wanting to understand the world read the bible. Anyone wanting to understand the world today should read this book.'

– Arjan Lubach, writer and TV presenter



# New & Noteworthy

## Published in the Netherlands

### Holland's Philosophy Laureate on Extinction

René ten Bos  
**Extinction**

Publisher: Boon  
Rights: info@bua.nl



'I mistrust any idea or thought that doesn't dare face up to the gaping hole within' is ten Bos's starting point for a philosophical reassessment of extinction and climate change. In a style reminiscent of French philosopher Michel Serres, ten Bos argues that humankind is scarcely touched by the extinction of many species because they disappear without being noticed. If we do wish to be affected we need to recognize the essential value of their existence, but our knowledge constantly falls too short for this. We would rather feed the illusion that we are in control. Will humankind's 'speculative' future extinction allow us to take the step towards caring enough to effect change?

### Why the female heart requires different medical treatment from the male

Angela Maas  
**The Female Heart**  
*A cardiologist on women's hearts*

Publisher: De Arbeiderspers  
Rights: Singel  
j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl



Heart disease has been the number one global cause of death among women for many years now but still every day women are treated according to measures developed by and for men, leading to confusion, unclear diagnoses and often incorrect treatment. Within medicine, cardiology affords the most striking examples of sex differences mattering. The way in which the heart and circulatory system ages in women is essentially different from men's, heart attacks differ, the menopause has an effect and there are other gender-specific ills. This book is based on years of research by a pioneer in female heart care.

### New book by the bestselling author of *Utopia for Realists*

Rutger Bregman  
**Humankind**  
*A revisionist history*

Publisher: De Correspondent  
Rights: Janklow & Nesbit  
Rcarter@janklow.co.uk  
Rights sold:  
UK – Bloomsbury  
France – Du Seuil  
Japan – Bungeishunju  
Norway – Spartacus  
US – Little, Brown  
Italy – Feltrinelli



Humans are beasts, the kings said. Sinners, the priests said. Egoists, the accountants said. For centuries, western culture has been permeated by a belief in the depravity of humankind. But what if all this time we've been wrong?

In this book, Rutger Bregman incorporates the latest insights from psychology, economics, biology and archaeology. He takes us on a journey through history and gives new answers to old questions. How do we explain our biggest crimes? Are we deeply inclined to evil or good within? *Humankind* not only rewrites history, but also sheds new light on our future.

### The Middle East through the lens of its animal inhabitants

Olaf Koens  
**Horses Fly Business Class**  
*Humans and animals in the Middle East*

Publishers: Nijgh & Van Ditmar  
Rights: Singel  
j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

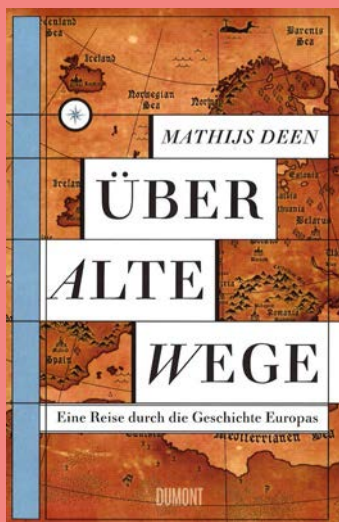


Can a giraffe commit suicide? How do you fit 69 horses in an airplane? How do you evacuate a zoo in a warzone?

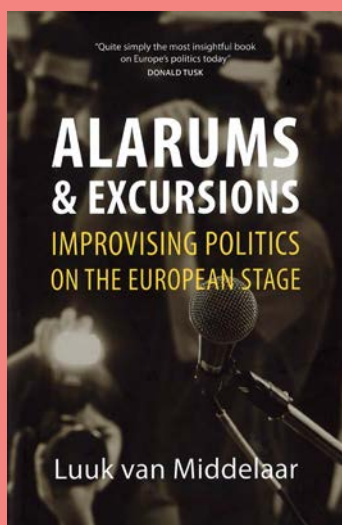
Koens, a TV news reporter, takes the reader on a dizzying trip from the dusty streets of Gaza to Qatar's blinding desert, from the calm Turkish countryside to the battlefields of Syria and Iraq to examine how animals are party to wars and sometimes escape in miraculous ways. The fate of these animals lays bare the misery, hopes and fears of people in the Middle East where storks are seen as spies, lions as trophies and dolphins as weapons.

## Recent Translations

This is a selection of recently published translations from the Dutch. For more information please go to our online database of translations [en.vertalingendatabase.nl](http://en.vertalingendatabase.nl).



Mathijs Deen  
**Über alte Wege. Eine Reise durch die Geschichte Europas**  
*Over oude wegen*  
Published in German by DuMont (2019).  
Translated by Andreas Ecke. Also in Korean (Sobitkil), Italian (Iperborea).



Luuk van Middelaar  
**Alarums & Excursions. Improvising politics on the European Stage**  
*De nieuwe politiek van Europa*  
Published in English by Agenda Publishing (2019). Translated by Liz Waters. Also in French (Gallimard), Portuguese (Realizações Editora Espaço Cultural Livrario).



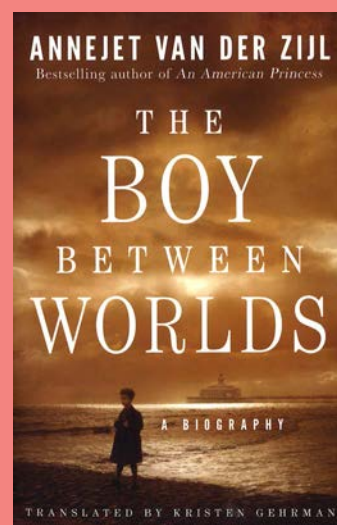
Nico Tinbergen  
**Eskimoland.**  
**Ein Bericht aus der Arktis**  
*Eskimoland*  
Published in German by C.H. Beck (2019).  
Translated by Gerd Busse and Ulrich Faure.



Hannes Wallrafen  
**Der blinde Fotograf**  
*De blinde fotograaf*  
Published in German by Oktaven (2019).  
Translated by Rolf Erdorf.



Frank Westerman  
**Čistá biela rasa**  
*Dier, bovendien*  
Published in Slovak by Absynt (2019).  
Translated by Annamária Gálová Vrbová.  
Also in Chinese (Lijang Publishing House), Croatian (Durieux), Czech (Host), English (Harvill Secker), German (C.H. Beck), Hungarian (Helikon), Italian (Iperborea), Polish (Czarne), Slovenian (Studentska založba), Spanish (Siruela).

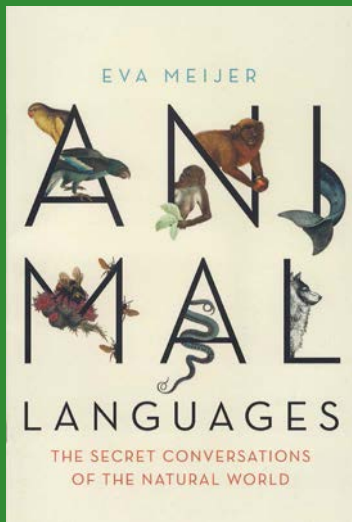


Annejet van der Zijl  
**The Boy Between Worlds.**  
**A Biography**  
*Sonny boy*  
Published in English by Amazon Crossing (2019). Translated by Kristen Gehrman.  
Also in Bulgarian (Ciela), Czech (Barrister & Principal), German (Kindler), Italian (Marsilio), Spanish (Arango), Swedish (Lind & Co.), Turkish (Alef).



# Forthcoming in English

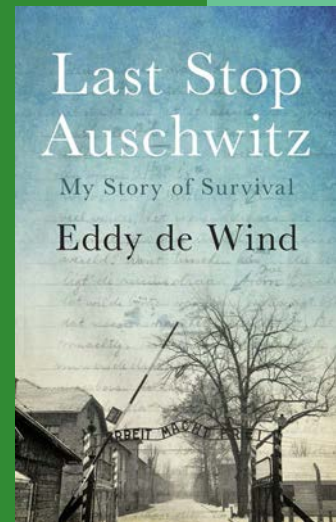
## New Dutch Writing Campaign 2019-2020



Eva Meijer  
**Animal Languages: The Secret Conversations of the Natural World**  
*Dierentalen*  
 Published by John Murray, 2019.  
 Translated by Laura Watkinson



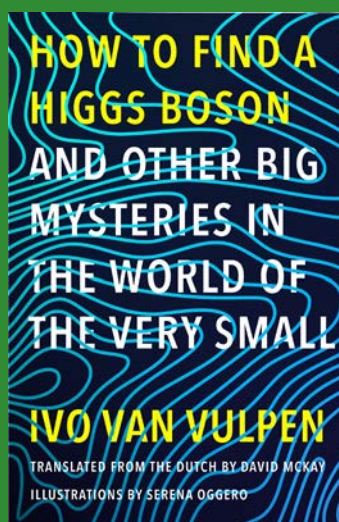
Onno Blom  
**Young Rembrandt**  
*De jonge Rembrandt*  
 Published by Pushkin Press, 2019.  
 Translated by Beverley Jackson



Eddy de Wind  
**Last Stop Auschwitz:**  
**My Story of Survival**  
*Eindstation Auschwitz*  
 Published by Transworld, 2020.  
 Translated by David Colmer



Sanne Blauw  
**The Number Bias: How Numbers Lead and Mislead Us**  
*Het best verkochte boek ooit*  
 Published by Sceptre, 2020  
 Translated by Suzanne Jansen



Ivo van Vulpen  
**How to Find a Higgs Boson And Other Big Mysteries in the World of the Very Small**  
*De melodie van de natuur*  
 Published by Yale University Press, 2020.  
 Translated by David McKay



Stefan Buijsman  
**Pluses and minuses: The Use of Maths When You Never Calculate Anything**  
*Plussen en minnen*  
 Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2020.  
 Translated by Andy Brown

New Dutch Writing

Roanne van Voorst  
We Used to Eat Animals

Corien van Zweden  
Breasts

Jelmer Mommers  
How Are We Going  
to Explain This?

Geert Mak  
Great Expectations

Abram de Swaan  
Against Women

Kemal Rijken  
Our People First

Lex Boon  
The Pineapple

Josephine Rombouts  
Cliffrock Castle

Brenda Stoter Boscolo  
The Forgotten People

Huib Modderkolk  
There's A War Going On  
But No One Can See It

**N**ederlands  
letterenfonds  
dutch foundation  
for literature

Postbus/PO Box 16588  
NL – 1001 RB Amsterdam  
t +31 (0)20 520 73 00  
post@letterenfonds.nl  
www.letterenfonds.nl

visiting address  
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89  
1018 VR Amsterdam

**Quality Non-Fiction from Holland**  
is published by the Dutch  
Foundation for Literature. The  
bulletin is distributed to foreign  
publishers and editors.  
If you would like to receive *Quality  
Non-Fiction from Holland*, please  
contact post@letterenfonds.nl.

---

**Editors**

Mireille Berman, Dick Broer,  
Michele Hutchison, Haico  
Kaashoek, David McKay

---

**Cover image**

Sandro Botticelli  
'La Nascita di Venere'  
© Uffizi, Florence

---

**Printing**

Platform P

---

**Design**

Kummer & Herrman, Utrecht