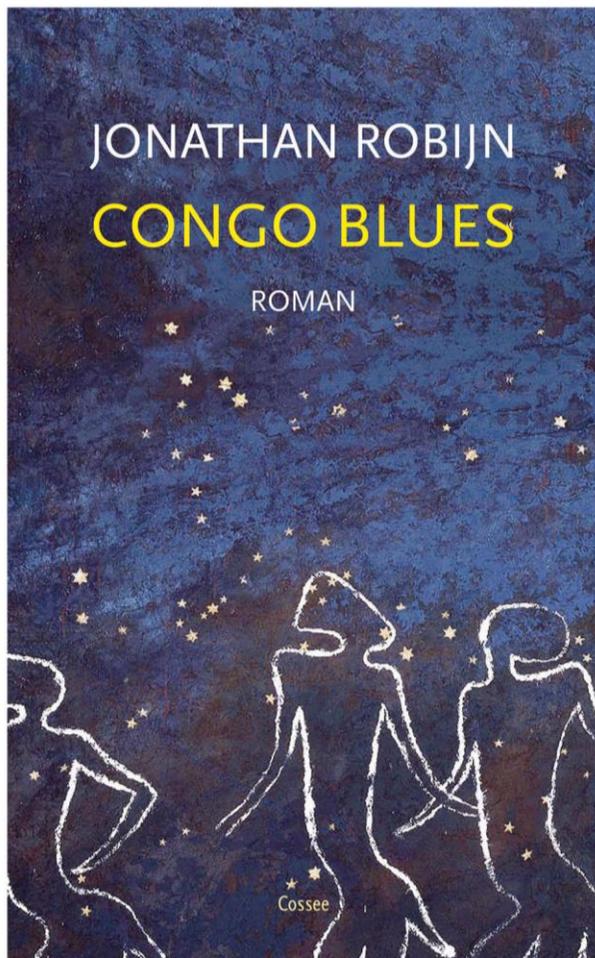


# Cossee Publishers

## Spring Highlights 2018



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## Jonathan Robijn *Congo Blues*

- Rights sold: **Italian (Marsilio)** and **Turkish (Cumartesi Kitapligi)**, **German (Nautilus)**
- “Jonathan Robijn is a subtle stylist. He proves to be a master in creating atmospheres, he suggests a lot, but more often he lets his readers fill in the blanks.”  
– *De Standaard*\*\*\*\*1/2
- English sample available

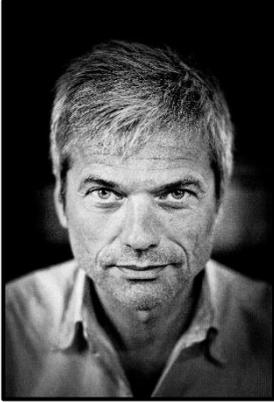
Morgan is a Jazz pianist who earns his money with the occasional gigs in bars. His childhood in the tropics he has banned from his memories. An unexpected encounter on New Year’s Day changes his life. When he returns home in the morning from a performance, he finds an elegant, young woman in a black dress, collapsed against the wall of the bike shop next door. To keep her from freezing, he offers her shelter without thinking twice. But it becomes quickly obvious that she triggers long-lost memories from his past. Or does she actually know him and is their meeting not as accidental as it seems? This chance encounter quickly turns into a search of unexpected proportions.

Working for Doctors Without Borders, Jonathan Robijn heard about organizations in the south of Ruanda, where fifty years ago children of Belgian fathers and Congolese mothers were raised. Shortly before the Congolese Independence, these Métis-children were ‘evacuated’ to Belgium. Most of them never saw their biological parents, brothers and sisters again. Just like Morgan.

**Jonathan Robijn** (1970) studied sociology and psychology, and has since then worked for Doctors Without Borders. In 2013, his literary debut *The City and the Time (De stad en de tijd)* was published, which was nominated for the Gouden Boekenuil.

47,000 words, published in October 2017 by Cossee Publishers

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## Jan Leyers

### *Allah in Europe*

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- **Bestselling author** of *The Road to Mecca* (over 100.000 copies sold)
- Based on **successful television series**
- An informative and revealing report from ten European countries
- English sample available

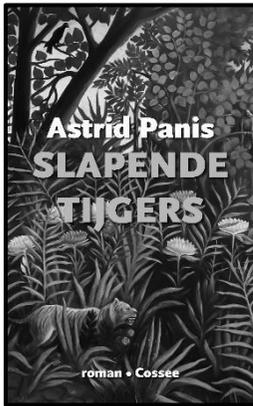
Ten years after the success of *The Road to Mecca*, Jan Leyers sets out to explore Islam in Europe. Is there such a thing as a European version of Islam? And is that something that Muslims themselves want? Can the prevalent distrust of Islam be overcome? In search of answers he travels from Sarajevo to Brussels. He accompanies Bosnian muftis on their pilgrimage, visits a Muslim youth camp in the Hungarian countryside, meets an Austrian pastry chef specialized in 'halal Strudel' and strolls through London with the head of a British sharia council. He listens to traditional believers, and recent converts, to liberals and fundamentalists, to the voice of the expert and that of the street.

The result is a **fascinating and adventurous book, that allows a glimpse of a world that can't be summed up by numbers or statistics**. A story that is disquieting and moving, as much as it is hopeful.

**Jan Leyers** (1958) presented the popular Dutch TV program 'Zomergasten' and is a singer and philosopher. *Allah in Europe* is based on the successful television program of the same name, which has been aired on the Dutch VPRO and Belgian Canvas TV in the fall of 2017.

122,000 words, published in March 2018 by Das Mag Publishers

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## Astrid Panis

### *Sleeping Tigers*

- “Astrid Panis has an **authentic, melancholic sound** that is very much worth listening to.” – Christophe Vekeman, author
- **Beautifully written chronicle** of a childhood friendship
- Novel on the **importance of storytelling**
- English sample available

“As slow as usual, grandpa opened the door to the study, and we nimbly slid inside on our slippers, like burglars in our own home. Between the gas heater that never burned and the piano no one ever played, lay – in our imagination – in the middle of the hand-knotted carpet from Rajasthan, an adult tiger. Breathing loudly in his sleep.” – excerpt from *Sleeping Tigers*

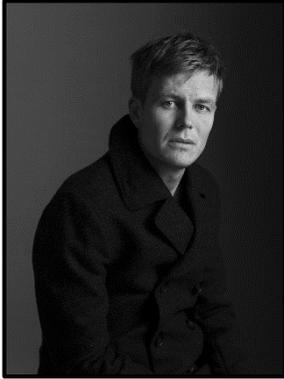
There used to be a zoo in the middle of the city. Nowadays, the presence of the animals can only be traced back to the streets that have been named after them. But they continue to live on in the imagination of the city’s inhabitants. It seems that we need the zebra’s and the lions, the elephants and the sleeping tigers in our busy and goal oriented adult lives. Or, at the very least, we need the stories about them. Because they show us a side of life that we often tend to overlook.

*Sleeping Tigers* opens up a world to the reader where after every door lies a room filled with stories and mysteries. At least, if you are ready to look at the world in a new and playful way.

**Astrid Panis** (1971) studied roman philology and corporate communications at the University of Gent. She worked as a researcher at the same university. While writing *Sleeping Tigers*, she was inspired by the colorful history of the former zoo of the city of Gent.

53,000 words, published in March 2018 by Cossee Publishers

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## Peter Zantingh

### *After Mattias*

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- A **moving and cleverly composed novel** on mourning and dealing with loss
- The reconstruction of a life **from eight perspectives**
- **Reprinted** after one week
- English sample available

“Mourning is like a shadow. It alters its shape in accordance with the sun’s position, has a different appearance in the morning than in the evening. In those first weeks, I sometimes couldn’t tell if I saw my own shadow or that of someone who had come to stand by me, full of good intentions.” – excerpt from *After Mattias*

What kind of story do you become after you are gone? Mattias died. And they were left behind. They tell the story. Eight individuals, eight perspectives. Some of them loved him, others didn’t even know him well, all their memories are different. In every one of those eight lives he played a crucial role, especially by not being there. Slowly, it becomes clear who Mattias was and what happened that evening. *After Mattias* is a suspenseful novel about today’s fears, about dealing with loss, and about the tales that we tell each other, because that is the only thing still left to do.

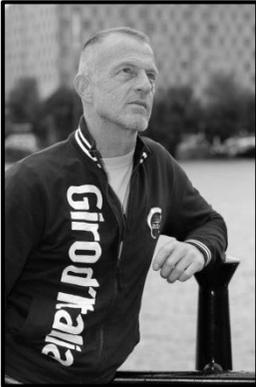
“In this impressive novel Zantingh convincingly gives each of his characters a unique voice of their own.” – *De Tijd*

“Peter Zantingh knows how to bring across the compact world of the story in a grand manner.” – *DWDD* (Dutch literary TV program)

**Peter Zantingh** (1983) earlier published the novels *An Hour and Eighteen Minutes* (2011, nominated for the Dioraphteprijz amongst others) and *The First Monday of the Month* (2014). He is also the editor in chief of the weekend edition of the *NRC Handelsblad*.

40,000 words, published in March 2018 by Das Mag Publishers

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## Gerbrand Bakker

### *What About Nature?*

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- “Gerbrand Bakker is a trueborn writer.” – *Trouw*
- **Bestselling author** of *The Twin*, *The Detour*, *June* and *Pear Trees Blossom White*, rights sold to more than 24 countries

In *What About Nature?* Gerbrand Bakker tries to grasp the human urge to control nature. He is surprised by all the things he encounters during his work as a gardener: birds, trees, pets and, of course, gardens. Neat and raked, wild and overgrown, Bakker has seen them all and explores if and how cultivated nature mirrors the human psyche. Can you detect the character of a person, simply by looking at their garden? Do we want to control nature, to show that we, humans, are indeed stronger, smarter and more powerful? Bakker takes the reader along with him, through the seasons, to the forests of Germany, where he currently lives, and to his native soil in the Netherlands. **In his distinctive, unsentimental and humorous style, he examines how we – humans, plants, and animals – live together in a world which he both welcomes and curses, but in which he above all tries to find the underlying connection.**

“Beautifully written, subtle and clear, with countless details on daily farm life in the cold Dutch country side.” – Jury’s report International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2010 on *The Twin*

**Gerbrand Bakker** (1962) is a gardener, author and columnist. His debut novel *The Twin* (Cossee, 2006) has received many awards (e.g. the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2010) which was adapted into a play and a film in 2013. His novel *June* was published in 2009 and his novel *The Detour* (2010) was shortlisted for the Librisliteratuurprijs and was awarded the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. All of his novels have been translated worldwide.

57,000 words, published in March 2018 by Cossee Publishers

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## Marjolijn van Heemstra

### *And His Name Is*

- Rights sold: **German (HoCa), World English (pre-empt Atria Books), French (Les Escales), Italian (Rizzoli), Spanish (pre-empt Seix Barrel), film rights**
- Over **15.000 copies sold** to date
- Winner **BNG Literatuurprijs 2017**, shortlisted **Librisliteratuurprijs 2017**
- English sample available

**“A beautiful novel about the importance of myths and the necessity of unmasking them.”** – Tommy Wieringa, author

On November 5th 1946, a bomb is delivered in The Hague, disguised as a Saint Nicholas present. Three ‘bad guys’, collaborators during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands during WWII, are killed. The brain behind the operation is a great uncle of Marjolijn van Heemstra. In the family, the attack is subsequently considered an act of heroism.

On her eighteenth birthday Marjolijn is given the signet ring of the “bomb-nephew” bearing the family crest – with the request to name her first son after him. Years later, when she is pregnant, she starts a quest to uncover the true story of the Saint Nicholas murders. With her belly the doubts are growing: was the bomb-nephew really a hero or just an ordinary criminal? Marjolijn van Heemstra’s novel is a fascinating page-turner about a myth and about reality, about the good and the bad and about the question what connects a new-born child with its ancestors.

**Marjolijn van Heemstra** (1981) studied religious studies with a specialization in Islamic studies in Amsterdam. She is a successful theatre director of engaged, experimental performances, staged in the Netherlands as well as abroad. As a writer she is a multi-talent, writing poetry and novels as well as columns for the Dutch newspapers *NRC* and *Trouw*.

50,000 words, published in May 2017 by Das Mag Publishers

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**Lia Tilon**

***The Archivist of the World***

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- Humans of New York avant la lettre
- Based on **fascinating archive material** from the Albert Kahn Museum in Paris
- “A story with a joyful message and full of nostalgia. A story to cherish.”- *Lit. Nederland*
- English sample available

In 1907, the French banker Albert Kahn (1860-1940) hands his driver Dutertre a brand-new camera and tells him to take pictures. Kahn wants him to realise his dream: capturing all the different inhabitants of the world on photograph in order to create an “archive of the planet”. **He is convinced that his pictures will eliminate fear of and prejudice against strangers, bringing about a more peaceful world.**

Soon, Kahn begins sending out a number of photographers all over the globe - to the Native Americans, to African tribes and to the plains of Mongolia. Dutertre isn't convinced by the project and has problems grappling with the new equipment, but as he gets closer to Kahn, he begins to understand his by now senior employer.

In 1939, Kahn refuses to accept that the results of the collapse of the stock exchange and the impending war are rendering the realisation of his project impossible. His villa is in demise; Paris is full of anti-Semitic posters. In the last days of his life he has nothing but his pictures to look back upon. We, the readers and Dutertre, his last and only friend, are breathlessly looking back with him.

**Lia Tilon** (1965) is working as a communication and writing coach. She did a residency in the Instituut Néerlandais in Paris in order to research the life of Albert Kahn. After coming across the diary of his driver Dutertre, she decided it was to form the basis of *The Archivist of the World*.

60,000 words, published in December 2017 by Cossee Publishers

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## Charlotte Mutsaers *Harness of Hansaplast*

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- The new novel by the *grande dame* of Dutch Literature
- “Intelligent, thought-provoking, and grim as only fairytales can be.” – *De Morgen* \*\*\*\*1/2
- Nominated for **Librisliteratuurprijs 2017**
- **15.000 copies sold** to date
- English sample available

“Just before New Year’s Eve 2001, my brother Barend was found dead in his bed, merely clothed in a brand new pyjama jacket without any bottoms. Not an ordinary death; he was only fifty-one years old and solely surrounded by big stashes of porn. Just before, I had read a newspaper article about a man who was found dead at the foot of a Spanish rock, with a bare dick, and a moribund chicken at his feet. Similar in a way.” – excerpt from *Harness of Hansaplast*

*Harness of Hansaplast* is Charlotte Mutsaers’ impressive search for her deceased brother: a hermit too smart and too nonconformist for this world, with *Fishermans* mints as his only remaining friend. When clearing out his home – which also happens to be their parental home – Charlotte stumbles upon complete and utter chaos: dozens of notebooks in which her brother jotted down every meal he consumed, and the endless collections of porn he purchased. Finally, she comes across a little figurine made out of Hansaplast, entitled: ‘ME.’ *Harness of Hansaplast* is Charlotte Mutsaers at her best: **an investigation into the life of her closest family member, whom she differed from in many aspects despite their strong connection.** A diametrical opposite of a self-portrait.

**Charlotte Mutsaers** (1942), the *grande dame* of Dutch literature, is a writer, essayist, artist and winner of the P.C. Hooft-prijs. After a long silence, *Harness of Hansaplast* is Charlotte Mutsaers’ spectacular new novel: personal, alienating and loving. Earlier works include *Rachel’s Skirt* (1994) and *Coachman Autumn* (2008), which have been translated into German.

63,000 words, published in November 2017 by Das Mag Publishers

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## Eva Meijer

### *Animal Languages*

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- Rights sold: **German (Matthes & Seitz), World English (pre-empt John Murray), French (Presses de la Cité), Arabic (Dar Oktob), Polish (Marginesy), Turkish (Nebula), Finnish (Art House), Korean (Kachi)**
- Winner of the Halewijnprijs 2017 and shortlisted for the Socrates Beker 2016

Dolphins and parrots call each other by their names. Fork tailed drongos mimic the calls of other animals to scare them away and then steal their dinner. In the songs of many species of birds, and in skin patterns of squids, we find grammatical structures. Bats like to gossip. Most social animals have complex and nuanced ways of communicating with one another and with humans.

In *Animal Languages*, Eva Meijer discusses many examples of recent empirical research. Biologists and ethologists are only beginning to understand the meaning of these signs. Meijer's research presents us with a new perspective on other animals, while also raising philosophical questions. **Can we call nonhuman animal communication language? What exactly is language? Can we speak with other animals and if so how?** After reading *Animal Languages*, you might not be able to speak with all animals, but you will see them in a different light.

In her most recent novel *The Bird Cottage*, Eva Meijer retells the life of the British scientist Len Howard, who spent the second half of her life in a small, remote house in the English countryside, where she wrote two international bestsellers about robins, tits, sparrows and other birds living in and around her house. Although not originally a biologist, she was a pioneer in the field of animal research, studying the birds on the basis of their mutual trust. For this novel, Meijer was **nominated for the BNG, ECI and Librisliteratuurprijs**. **The rights have been sold to six countries.**

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## Recent Sales

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**Gerbrand Bakker**, *The Twin*: sold to 27 countries/languages, US (Archipelago), UK (Harvill/Random House), ANZ (Scribe), German (Suhrkamp), French (Gallimard), Spanish (Rayo Verde), Italian (Iperborea), Brazilian (Radio Londres), Chinese (Shanghai 99), (All Prints, Lebanon), film rights (Circe, NL)

**Gerbrand Bakker**, *The Detour*: sold to 17 countries/languages, US (Penguin), UK (Harvill/Random House), ANZ (Scribe), German (Suhrkamp), French (Gallimard), Spanish (Rayo Verde), Italian (Einaudi), Brazilian (Radio Londres), Chinese (Shanghai 99), Arabic (All Prints, Lebanon), film rights (N279 Ent., NL)

**Saskia Goldschmidt**, *The Hormone Factory*: US (The Other Press), UK (Saraband), German (dtv), French (Gallimard), Turkish (Bence), Afrikaans (Protea), Bulgarian (Lettera), film rights (Film Talents, France)

**Marjolijn van Heemstra**, *And His Name Is*: German (Hoffman & Campe), Italian (Rizzoli), World English (Atria Books), Spanish (Seix Barral), French (Les Escales)

**Bregje Hofstede**, *The Sky Over Paris*: German (C.H. Beck), Danish (Tiderne Skifter/Gyldendal), Arabic (Dar Oktob), film rights (Sara Verweij, NL)

**Dola de Jong**, *The Field*: German (Kunstmann), Arabic (Al Kotob Khan), Norwegian (Aschehoug), Swedish (Nilsson), Danish (Turbine), Czech (Pistorius & Olsanská)

**Dola de Jong**, *The Tree and the Vine*: Swedish (Nilsson), Czech (Pistorius & Olsanská), Spanish (Siruela)

**Eva Meijer**, *Animal Languages*: German (Matthes & Seitz), World English (John Murray), French (Presses de la Cité), Polish (Marginesy), Arabic (Dar Oktob), Turkish (Kapumblaa Books), Finnish (Art House), Korean (Kachi Publishing)

**Eva Meijer**, *The Bird Cottage*: Turkish (Nebula), German (btb), French (Presses de la Cité), World English (Pushkin Press), Arabic (Kotob Khan), Polish (Marginesy)

**Jonathan Robijn**, *Congo Blues*: Italian (Marsilio), Turkish (Cumartesi Kitapligi), German (Nautilus)

**Ida Simons**, *A Foolish Virgin*: sold to 18 countries/languages, World English (MacLehose/Hachette), German (Luchterhand), French (Belfond), Spanish (Alfaguara/Random House), Brazilian (Alfaguara)

**Lize Spit**, *The Melting*: World English (MacMillan), German (S. Fischer), Spanish (Seix Barral), French (Actes Sud), Italian (E/O), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm), Danish (Rosinante), Czech (Host), Polish (Marginesy), Arabic (Madarek), Catalan (Ara Llibres), Bulgarian (Janet 45) and film rights (Menuet Film, BE)

## Recent Acquisitions & Publications

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- Kristine Bilkau – *Eine Liebe, in Gedanken* (Lit. Ag. Michael Gaeb, Berlin)
- Bov Bjerg – *Auerhaus* (Aufbau, Berlin)
- Christophe Boltanski – *La cache* (Éditions Stock, Paris)
- J.M. Coetzee – *The Schooldays of Jesus* (Peter Lampack, New York City)
- Sherko Fatah – *Der letzte Ort* (Random House, Munich)
- Milena Michiko Flašar – *Herr Katō spielt Familie* (Wagenbach, Berlin)
- David Foenkinos – *Le Mystère Henri Pick* (Gallimard, Paris)
- András Forgách – *No Life Files Remain* (Bence Sárközy & Co., Budapest)
- Jane Gardam – *Old Filth/The Man in the Wooden Hat/Last Friends* (Chatto & Windus, London)
- David Garnett – *Lady into Fox & A Man in the Zoo* (United Agents, London)
- David Grossman – *Collected Essays* (Deborah Harris Agency, Jerusalem)
- Michael Ignatieff – *Ordinary Virtues. Moral Order in a Divided World* (United Agents, London)
- Husch Josten – *Hier sind Drachen* (Piper Verlag, Munich)
- Navid Kermani – *Ungläubiges Staunen* (C.H. Beck, Munich)
- Stefano Mancuso – *Brilliant Green & Plant Revolution* (Giunti, Florence)
- Francesca Melandri – *Sangue giusto* (Italian Literary Agency, Milan)
- Pia Pera – *Al giardino ancora non l'ho detto* (Italian Literary Agency, Milan)
- Catherine Poulain – *Le grand marin* (Wandel Cruse, Paris)
- Erich Maria Remarque – *Die Nacht von Lissabon & Arc de Triomphe* (Mohrbooks, Zürich)
- Susanne Schötz – *Die geheime Sprache der Katzen* (Benevento, Salzburg)
- Bernhard Schlink – *Olga* (Diogenes, Zürich)
- Aleksandr Skorobogatov – *Cocaine* (Cossee Publishers, Amsterdam and Regal Hoffmann & Associates LLC, New York)
- Elio Vittorini – *Il garofano rosso* (Mondadori, Milan)
- Barbara Zoeke – *Die Stunde der Spezialisten* (Aufbau, Berlin)

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