



Cossee International Agency

Spring Highlights

2022

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FICTION

Gerbrand Bakker
De kapperszoon



Roman • Cossee

FICTION

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GERBRAND BAKKER

THE HAIRDRESSER'S SON

304 pages, 77.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2022



Long-awaited new novel by inter-
nationally acclaimed author

Bakker gained a significant international reputation through his sensitive, restrained characterisation and evocative descriptions of largely rural settings. With his long-awaited fourth novel, set mainly in Amsterdam, he has branched off in a new direction by introducing metafictional and documentary elements. The book's main character is Simon, a third-generation hairdresser, who has inherited his grandfather's salon and turned it into a barber shop. Simon never knew his father, who was a passenger on one of the two planes that crashed into each other in Tenerife in 1977.

Parallel to this, one of Simon's customers, a writer, enlists Simon's help for the novel he is writing about a barber. When Simon and the writer end up researching the plane crash in tandem, reality and fiction become entangled. What has the status of reality within the fiction and what is the fictional writer's fantasy? Bakker tells the story with such economical calm and complete naturalness that the tension never wanes and the reader finishes with a strong sense of these ordinary, flawed people.

'The charm of *The Hairdresser's Son* is that while nothing seems invented, the pages still exude something magical.' – *De Groene Amsterdammer*

Gerbrand Bakker (1962) is a gardener and the author of amongst others *The Twin* (IMPAC Dublin Literary Award), *Pear Trees Blossom White*, *June* and *The Detour* (Independent Foreign Fiction Prize). His novels are published in over 30 languages, are bestselling titles in the Netherlands, UK, Germany, France and Spain, and have been adapted for movies and plays. *The Hairdresser's Son* is an instant success with 20.000 copies in print in two months.

RIGHTS SOLD French (Grasset), Spanish/Catalan (Rayo Verde), US rights (Archipelago),
Commonwealth/UK (Scribe), Turkish (Metis), German (Suhrkamp), Italian (Iperborea)

MATERIAL English sample available, part of the 2022 '10 Books Highlights' by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

EVA MEIJER

SEA: NOW

240 pages, 53.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2022

‘According to Eva Meijer, we need new stories about the climate, about the sea, and about our relation to the flora and fauna around us.’

– *De Leesclub van Alles*



The country is flooding, the sea is gaining a kilometre of land every day. The Prime Minister holds a daily press conference and the Ministry of Defence sends soldiers to the dykes. Conspiracy theorists shout for *Action!* on Twitter, while a discount retailer advertises a *One-off Opportunity! Four Life Jackets for the Price of Three!* Scientists flock from far and wide to investigate this rare phenomenon. Germany makes sports halls available for its evacuated neighbours. The king leaves the country.

But where can the wild deer go? And what will happen to the Stayers, camping out on the roofs of office buildings in the big cities? Once the people have been evacuated and the last seagulls find refuge elsewhere, we follow climate activist Arie, student Willow, and oceanographer Paula van der Steen on their voyage across the new sea and discover how the water fundamentally changes their view of the world.

Sea : Now is a novel about the greatest global challenge of our time, about nature that both threatens and nourishes us, and about humans, who must reinvent themselves.

Eva Meijer (1980) is a writer and philosopher. She is the author of an extensive oeuvre, which has been translated into eighteen languages. *Sea : Now* is her sixth novel. Her work often deals with questions of language and politics, also in relation to other animals and the natural world. She currently works as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam and writes essays and columns for Dutch newspapers.

RIGHTS SOLD Earlier works sold to btb (German), Matthes & Seitz (German), Pushkin Press (World English), John Murrays (World English), Presses de la Cité (French), Penguin Random House Spain (Spanish), Nottetempo (Italian), Weyler Förlag (Swedish), Host (Czech), Kastaniotis (Greek)

MATERIAL English sample available

SANDER KOLLAARD

ANNA'S COLOURS

192 pages, 50.000 words
published by Van Oorschot Publishers in 2021

‘With this book, Kollaard proves the power of literature.’ – *NRC Handelsblad* *****



‘When we first met, Anna was just over seventy years old. She had a dog, just like me, and we started talking in the town. She introduced herself, pointed vaguely toward the house where she had lived for a few weeks, and then she told me that when she was a young woman, for a few hours she had fought with an angel.’

After Anna’s sudden death, Kollaard’s narrator starts looking for the colours that he learned to see, thanks to her. From Jacob’s fight with the angel to the anger with which we look at the world today, from painter Willem de Kooning to Swedish forestry, from Joe Biden to Alex the Gaul - no matter how diverse the subjects, he keeps returning to the thing that characterised Anna: colour.

Anna’s Colours is a novel about our imagination, about the ability to find stories in everything, and about the importance of doing so.

Sander Kollaard (1961) has lived and worked in Sweden since 2006. He made his debut in 2012 with the short story collection, *Immediate Return of Your Loved Ones*, which was awarded the Lucy B. en C.W. van der Hoogtprijs. His first novel, *Stage Four*, was published in 2015 and was selected ‘Book of the Month’ by the influential Dutch talk show, *De Wereld Draait Door*. The novel went on to sell over 10,000 copies. In 2020 *A Dog’s Day* was awarded the Libris Literature Prize, and sold almost 100,000 copies.

PRESS Earlier work *Stage Four* sold to A1 Verlag (German) and Amazon Crossing (World English), *A Dog’s Day* sold to Shinchosha (Japanese), Next Wave Media Corporation (Korean)

MATERIAL English sample, part of the 2022 ‘10 Books Highlights’ by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

VROUWKJE TUINMAN

SHORT STAY

96 pages, 20.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2022

'A thrilling story. I'd like to adapt this into a movie!' – *Frank Lammers*



After the war, Eindhoven is growing tremendously. This industrial city offers work, housing and entertainment to everyone. In the fifties, a young widow has to build up a future for her three children. Under her guidance, a run-down guesthouse develops into a place where international guests from the entertainment world like to stay. But no matter how hard she works, she can't prevent something horrible from happening to her family.

In *Short Stay*, based on a historical cold case, Vrouwkje Tuinman portrays a devastated mother and her three boys, who died under mysterious circumstances. And what is the role of her new lover? The mother is trying to survive her ongoing struggles by holding onto a sense of duty and the conception that in this 'city of the future', it's no use talking about the past.

'Maybe the most beautiful thing that Tuinman offers isn't just the historical picture she describes, but the sympathy she has for her characters. Just like she does it in her other works: humbly and poignantly.' – *Trouw*

Vrouwkje Tuinman ('s-Hertogenbosch, 1974) wrote four novels and six poetry collections, and is a (music) journalist. She was nominated for the Debutantenprijs and the Selexyz Debuutprijs, among others, and she received the Halewijnprijs for her entire oeuvre. For her poetry collection *Lijfrente (Annuity)*, she received the Grote Poëzieprijs 2020. *Short Stay* has sold 15,000 copies already.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS: FICTION

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TOBI LAKMAKER *THE HISTORY OF MY SEXUALITY*

222 pages, 50.000 words
published by Das Mag Publishers in 2021

Tobi Lakmaker was listed by Vogue Magazine and AD Magazine as the new literary talent of 2021.



‘Sofie (Tobi) Lakmaker’s debut has the potential to become a true hit - because it’s a fiery story, unrelenting and funny, written so vivaciously that you finish it in no time. The storyteller, an Amsterdam millennial, feels unfeminine, is attracted to women and does not know where things are going. So she talks about her messy (sex)life: men, women, nobody, loneliness, fear - and lots of funny anecdotes.’ – *NRC Handelsblad* *****

‘The history of my sexuality goes as follows: I’ve always been looking for someone who could close all doors and windows and say: now everything is all right. More concretely, I used to be attracted to men and then to women, but of course always to women anyway, to Muriël the red haired tutor with the long legs, to which woman was I not attracted to, really, but I always kept my eyes or something else crucial shut. It doesn’t matter all that much anyway.’ – excerpt from *The History of my Sexuality*

The History of my Sexuality is the razor sharp and unconventional debut by Tobi Lakmaker, once deemed a muse and then a little later a lesbian fundamentalist. An essential book. About the genius that Tobi Lakmaker is, was or should have been.

Tobi Lakmaker (1994) writes columns for *De Groene Amsterdammer* and other magazines. Earlier he was known as Sofie. After having dabbled in Russian studies and Literary studies for a bit, he finished a degree in Philosophy in 2018, and plans to continue his studies in Berlin. He is working on a second novel.

RIGHTS SOLD Piper (German), Granta (World English), Aschehoug (Norwegian), it-lit (Swedish), Janet45 (Bulgarian), Serbian (Treci trg) and option on film rights (Man Up Film)

MATERIAL English, French and Italian sample, and full German translation available

TOINE HEIJMANS

OXYGEN DEBT

336 pages, 78.000 words
published by Pluim Publishers in 2021

‘Best Book of 2021’ according to
Dutch booksellers!



The day that Walter Welzenbach climbs his first mountain marks the rest of his life: he never wants to do anything else again. Now he is at his final peak, a dizzying 8188 meters high, and he looks down at his loneliness.

Oxygen debt is the breath-taking novel about the two friends, Lenny and Walter, who chase their dreams in the alps and Himalayans, and seal their fate in doing so. They carry along the stories of the great alpinists that have been there before them, and together they search for a way to write history. But in the thin air, different rules apply.

Ten years after the publication of his renowned bestseller *At Sea*, Toine Heijmans once again takes the reader along to an unrelenting world, with a novel about freedom and friendship, storms and avalanches, and the consequences of radical choices. What mountains do to people, and what people do to mountains, that's what this is all about.

Toine Heijmans (1969) works as a journalist for *De Volkskrant*, where he writes widely read columns. He published his fiction debut *At Sea* in 2011, which gained international recognition and was translated into many languages and even adapted on screen. *At Sea* also made Heijmans the first Dutch author to win the prestigious French Prix Médicis étranger. In 2019, Pluim Publishers published a collection of Heijmans' most popular sea- and sailing stories. Heijmans lives on the outskirts of Amsterdam, close to his sailing boat, which also functions as his writing office.

RIGHTS SOLD SEM (Italian), Mairisch (German), Belfond (French), Acantilado (Spanish)
MATERIAL English sample available

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS: CLASSICS

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BEA VIANEN *MY NAME IS SITA*

134 pages, 54.000 words
published by Cossee Publishers in 2021

‘A marvellous book about rebelling against a constricting environment and the journey to freedom.’
– Rasit Elibol, editor of *The Colonial Reading List*



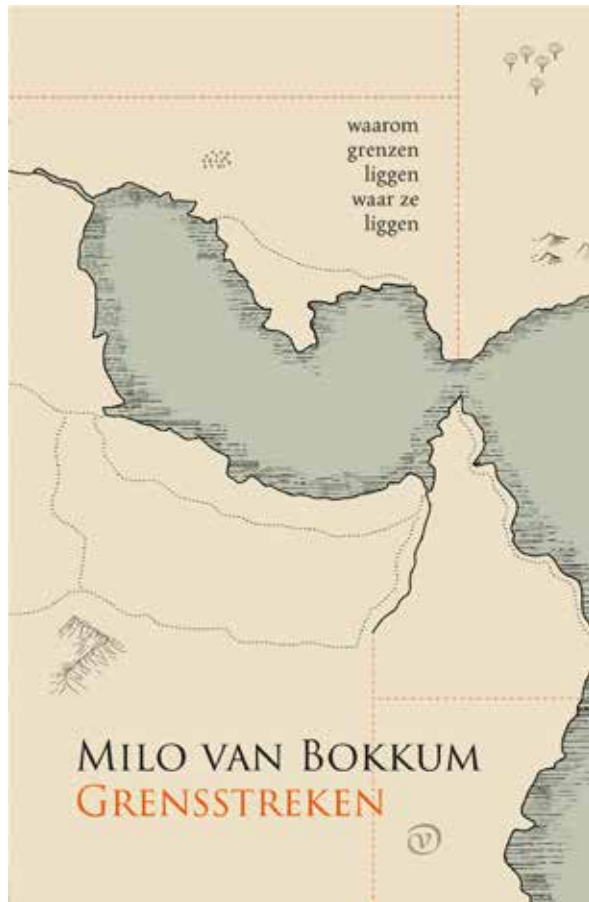
My Name is Sita is the coming-of-age story of a young girl, Sita, who finds her way to adulthood and emancipation in 1950's Suriname, a country torn apart by ethnic and religious divisions. She grows up somewhere between the jungle and the city, where the mango and guava trees grow and the mosquitos hum incessantly. After her mother's passing, she has to take care of her authoritative father and her quiet little brother, while fighting for her future and for a place within society. But when she finds herself pregnant with her neighbour's child, just after final exams, she has no other option than to marry him. It puts an end to a future, in which she would finally be free.

‘This is first and foremost a story of self-liberation, of resistance against fate. The intensity makes clear this novel was written from the bottom of the author's heart. Haunting, yet vital, Sita wants to escape her destiny at all costs.’
– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

Bea Vianen (Suriname, Paramaribo, 1935-2019) is one of the most important Dutch Caribbean authors of the 1970s. She wrote, far ahead of the time, about entrapment and escaping, freedom and the lack of it. Her prose and poetry deals with her Hindu heritage, beauty and oppression in Suriname, and the aftermath of colonialism. *My Name Is Sita* (1969), in which she describes the sense of suffocation in her native country with extraordinary sharpness, became a classic both in the Netherlands as well as Suriname.

RIGHTS SOLD Transit (German), Sandorf Passage (US/Canada)
MATERIAL English sample available

NON-FICTION



MICHEL KRIELAARS

THE SOUND OF UTOPIA

MUSICIANS IN THE TIME OF STALIN

354 pages, 100.000 words, adaptations possible
published by Pluim Publishers in 2021

‘Ten interesting portraits, not only from well-known artists, but also lesser known people who seldom receive attention in the Western world.’

– *NRC Handelsblad*



Between 1928 and 1953, Communist dictator Joseph Stalin sentenced millions of innocent people to death. Among them were most certainly writers, painters and other artists - but the fate of composers and musicians during this period remains relatively unknown. Through the lives of Prokofiev, Rostropovich and others, historian and Russia expert Michel Krielaars recounts how dramatically Stalin’s reign of terror changed the tone of musical life.

Composers were forced to create music that contributed to the socialist utopia, but the standards were anything but clear. Some chose to adapt and went to great lengths to escape persecution. Others faced charges and arrests. In a series of ten disconcerting biographical portraits, Krielaars describes the gruesome, absurd world that Soviet-era musicians were forced to navigate. Not only does this book follow the lives of well-known composers and musicians, it’s also a tribute to extraordinary talents lost to history, such as composer Vsevolod Zaderatsky and singer Klavdia Shulzhenko, “the Russian Vera Lynn”, whose work was all but destroyed.

Michel Krielaars (1961) is historian, journalist and Russia expert. He has published novels, a short story collection and various books about Russian history, among which the prizewinning *Chekhov’s Spectacles. Travels through Russia*, in which he travels through Russia in the footsteps of the famous author. His essay *At war with Russia* is just published.

RIGHTS SOLD Spanish (Galaxia Gutenberg)

MATERIAL English sample available, author available for adaptations for foreign market

MILO VAN BOKKUM

BORDER REGIONS

WHY BORDERS ARE

WHERE THEY ARE

224 pages, 44.000 words, adaptations possible
published by Van Oorschot Publishers in 2021

'An informative and captivating book.' – TZUM



On a sunny afternoon in July 2014, Milo van Bokkum swims across the border river between Poland and the Czech Republic no less than nine times. There was nothing to see, just a boring straight stream. Why then this irrepressible urge to get to the other side?

Although you can rarely really see borders, they have a far-reaching influence in our minds. We sometimes stand for hours waiting to cross one, learning from an early age how they divide the world. In all parts of the world, humans delimit their land from that of their neighbours. Those borders not only constitute millions of miles of identity, but they are also an endless source of tasty anecdotes.

In *Border Regions*, now more relevant than ever, Van Bokkum examines why borders are so fascinating to us – and why times and again they are the source of conflict. Where do enclaves, curvy and straight lines on the world map come from? Why did boundary makers use a ruler? And are there regions on the map that no country has ever claimed?

Milo van Bokkum (1994) works as an editor at *NRC Handelsblad*. He did research and translation work for articles by Simon Kuper in *The Financial Times*. *Border Regions* is his first book.

RIGHTS SOLD Hungarian (CSER Kiadó)

MATERIAL English sample available, part of the 2022 '10 Books Highlights' by the Dutch Foundation for Literature, author available for adaptations for foreign market

RECENT SALES

Gerbrand Bakker, *The Twin*: sold to 27 countries/languages, among others, 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)

J.M. Coetzee, *Photographs from Boyhood*: Italian (Contrasto Books), World English (Protea), Spanish (PRH Spain), Japanese (Hakusui-sha), Simplified Chinese (Youth Press)

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

Dola de Jong, *The Tree and the Vine*: Swedish (Nilsson), Czech (Pistorius & Olsanská), Spanish (Siruela), World English (Transit Books), Italian (La Nuova Frontiera), French (Les Éditions du Typhon)

Tobi Lakmaker, *The History of my Sexuality*: German (Piper), World English (Granta), Norwegian (Aschehoug), Swedish (it-lit), Bulgarian (Janet 45), Serbian (Treći trg) and film rights under option

Eva Meijer, *Animal Languages*: German (Matthes & Seitz), World English (John Murray), French (Presses de la Cité), Polish (Marginesy), Arabic (Dar Oktob), Turkish (Kaplumbaa Books), Finnish (Art House), Korean (Kachi Publishing), Swedish (Weyler Förlag), Complex Chinese (Yeren Publishing House), Czech (Grada), Simplified Chinese (New World Press), Japanese (Kashiwa Shobo), Italian (Nottetempo), Spanish (Random House Spain), Norwegian (Flux Forlag), Greek (Kastaniotis)

Eva Meijer, *Bird Cottage*: Turkish (Nebula), German (btb), French (Presses de la Cité), World English (Pushkin Press), Arabic (Kotob Khan), Polish (Marginesy), Swedish (Weyler Förlag), Simplified Chinese (New World Press), Czech (Host), Croatian (Naklada Ljevak), Italian (Nottetempo), Spanish (Ático de los Libros)

Henriette Roosenburg, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*: World English (Scribe), Italian (Fazi Editore), German (Aufbau), Spanish (Altamarea Ediciones), Albanian (DITURIA Publishing House), and film rights under option

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), Hebrew (Tchelet Books), Greek (Me-taixmio), Croatian (HenaCom), Hungarian (Jelenkor), Swedish (it-lit) and film rights (Savage Film, BE)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Christophe Boltanski – *La Cache, Le Guetteur, Les vies de Jacob* (Éditions Stock, Paris)
- Simone de Beauvoir – *Les Inséparables* (Éditions de L'Herne, Paris)
- Guilia Caminito – *L'acqua del lago non è mai dolce* (MalaTesta, Milan)
- J.M. Coetzee – *Moral Tales, The Death of Jesus, The Pole* (Peter Lampack, New York City)
- David Diop – *Frère d'Âme, La porte du voyage sans retour* (So Far So Good Agency, Pau)
- Alba Donati – *La libreria in collina* (The Italian Literary Agency, Milan)
- Mary Gaitskill – *This is Pleasure* (Wylie Agency, London)
- Jane Gardam – *Old Filth Trilogy, Crusoe's Daughter, God on the Rocks, The Long Way From Verona, The Queen of the Tambourine* (David Higham, London)
- Ayelet Gundar-Goshen – *The Liar, Relocation* (Kein & Aber, Zürich)
- Heike B. Görtemaker – *Hitlers Hofstaat* (C.H.Beck, Munich)
- David Grossman – *Nina Knows, Every Ripple Tells a Story* (Deborah Harris Agency, Jerusalem)
- Len Howard – *Birds as Individuals, Living With Birds* (Curtis Brown, London)
- Michael Ignatieff – *On Consolation* (Westwood Creative Artists, Toronto)
- Karen Jennings – *An Island* (Agence Deborah Druba, Paris)
- Janet Lewis – *The Wife of Martin Guerre, The Trial of Sören Qvist* (Ohio University Press, Athens)
- Carmen Maria Machado – *In the Dream House* (Neon Literary, Arlington)
- Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi – *Kintu, The First Woman, Manchester Happened* (Antony Harwood, Oxford)
- Emilienne Malfatto - *Le colonel ne dort pas* (2 Seas Agency, Ojai, California)
- Stefano Mancuso – *Brilliant Green, Plant Revolution, Travelling Green, The Nation of Plants, The Plan(t) of the World* (Giunti, Florence & Laterza, Rome)
- Marco Missiroli – *Fideltà* (MalaTesta, Milan)
- Yoko Ogawa – *The Memory Police, Mina's March* (Curtis Brown, London)
- Kathy Page – *Dear Evelyn, Alphabet* (Biblioasis, Ottawa)
- Steffen Radlmaier (Ed) – *Der Nürnberger Lernprozeß* (Cossee, Amsterdam)
- Erich Maria Remarque – *Die Nacht von Lissabon, Arc de Triomphe* (Mohrbooks, Zürich)
- Fran Ross – *Oreo* (New Directions, New York City)
- Mithu Sanyal – *Identitti* (Hanser Verlag, München)
- Bernhard Schlink – *Abschiedsfarben, Die Enkelin* (Diogenes, Zürich)
- Miriam Toews – *Women Talking, All my Puny Sorrows, Fight Night* (Wylie Agency, London)
- Dorothy West – *The Wedding* (The Knopf Doubleday Group, New York)
- Arnold Zweig – *De Vriendt kehrt heim* (Aufbau Verlag, Berlin)





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