

THOMAS RAP FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2026

463, IRC



FICTION

Leda in the Rain

Martijn Couwenhoven



NOVEL

208 pages

February 2026

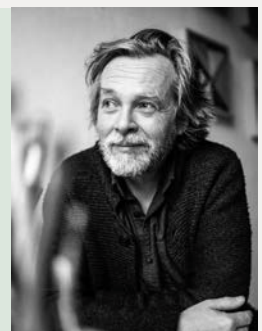
English & Swedish sample

After her parents die in an accident, Leda Miller grows up with her aunt and uncle. Now approaching forty, she still hasn't found her direction in life. One day, when she gives her coat to a woman who has become unwell and fallen off her bike, she notices that the woman bears a striking resemblance to her mother – at least, if her mother had reached the age of seventy. After the woman is taken away in an ambulance, Leda finds a key in her bike bag. She tracks down the woman's address and decides to go to the house, which is in a secluded spot in the woods. She goes for walks, meets Mats the forester, and tries to shake off her constant sense of impending doom. Meanwhile, she wonders how the woman who resembles her mother is doing. Until she turns up at the house in the woods, too.

“She held back, Leda Miller, fighting against the wind and the autumn rain, but actually she felt like swearing, like unloading her head full of thoughts with a shout, and she squeezed the handles of her handlebars as hard as she could, trying to get rid of her restlessness by pedalling harder than she really wanted to, by overtaking the train to her right, by tensing the muscles in her calves, thighs, arms, jaws, forehead and then relaxing them, but it didn't help, it doesn't help at all, thought Leda, and just as she was about to let out a curse, which would be muffled by the train slowing down and screeching and creaking to a halt alongside the platform, she saw a woman lying on her back on the cycle path at the station underpass.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

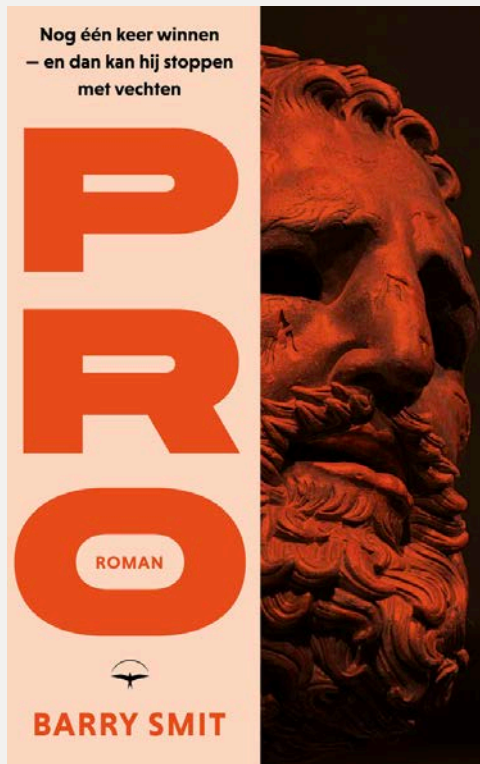
Martijn Couwenhoven (1972), artist and writer, started his own publishing house, Oevers, in 2016, which has since grown into a renowned publisher of translated literature. In 2018, his debut *Little Hells* was published under a pseudonym, and in 2023 his novel *The Prayer of Jonathan Simmers* appeared.



Pro

Barry Smit

One more win – and then he can stop fighting



Lau Pronk is forty-three and nearing the end of his career as a mixed martial arts fighter. He never made it to the top, but the heavyweight nicknamed Plato is respected both inside and outside the cage. He wants to end his competitive career, but only once he has won more fights than he has lost. To do so, he needs to win two more matches. However, this is becoming increasingly difficult in a sport that only pays enough to the stars, and with a body that is becoming increasingly flawed. Pro is a novel about the struggle to live on one's own terms.

“A bag of bruised bones held together by scar tissue – that's how Lau Pronk felt after barely half an hour of sleep on the sofa in his unlit flat. There was still too much adrenaline coursing through his veins for him to get a normal night's sleep. A joint had brought some calm to his head and his hands were shaking a little less, but he couldn't really relax. It was a mild late summer night and the full moon was shining unobstructed over the sea. He could have driven to the beach to get some fresh air if his thighs hadn't been kicked to a pulp a few hours earlier. The lift upstairs already hurt, as if there was electricity running through his thighs. He had been hit hard in the clinch with a series of hard knees, but his opponent had paid for it, Poul Sørensen from Duisburg, a man with the build of a fridge-freezer.”

NOVEL
128 pages
May 2026

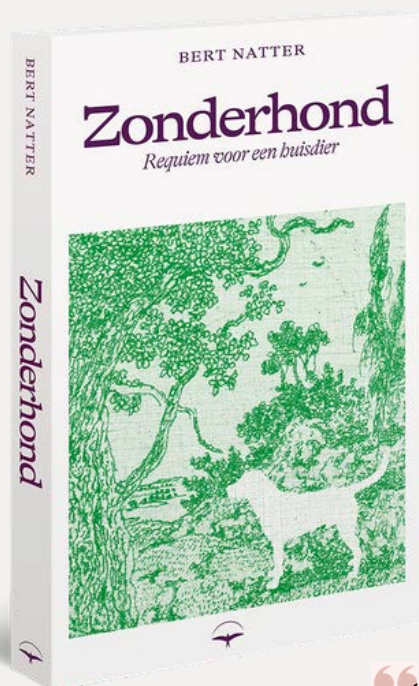
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Barry Smit (1974) has written six novels to date. In 2018, he received the Victoriefonds Culture Prize for Literature.



MEMOIR

Without a Dog *Requiem for a Pet* Bert Natter



For Bert Natter, all dogs were just animals that came in different forms but shared common characteristics: four legs, a tail, barking and poo. That changed when his youngest daughter got an assistance dog, the black labrador Hutsh. When Hutsh died not long after Bert's parents passed away, he decided to write this book, which is about love and mourning, full of memories of the dog who was a companion for so many years. A dog can't talk but is capable of telling us more than we think.

*“Don't you want to?” I ask.
He shakes his head, but just not quite. However, above his eyes, the muscles contract.
Looking sad affects the human species so much that dogs have adapted their facial muscles over the centuries in which they have been domesticated. Unlike wolves, dogs are able to raise their “eyebrows”, a movement that seems human, making a dog's face resemble a sad child's face. That pleading look, which wild animals are incapable of, reinforces people's tendency to take pity on a dog. Since we have known this, Hester, Rozemond and I have been calling Hutsh's eyebrows his “pathetic muscles”.
Pathetic muscles or not, this is not an act. This is really pathetic.”*

MEMOIR

125 pages
March 2026

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bert Natter (1968) made his debut in 2008 with the novel *Desire Has Touched Us*, which was awarded the Selexyz Debut Prize and the Lucy B. en C.W. van der Hoogt Prize. In 2015, *Remington* (longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize) and *Goldberg* (shortlisted for the ECI Literature Prize) were published, followed in 2018 by *They Will Think We Are Angels* and in 2022 the non-fiction book *Living With Lidewij*. His novel *At the End of the War* (2025) was sold to Norway, USA, UK, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria. In March 2026 his memoir *Without a Dog* was published. This autumn, his novel *Mr. de Kooning Rides his Bicycle* will be published.



NON-FICTION

De zangvogel

Mina Etemad

About Iran, rootlessness and a sense of guilt that never goes away



Over thirty years ago, Mina Etemad fled Iran with her parents and sister. But she never let go of the land, the language and the people. What responsibility do you have when you live in greater freedom than the people of your homeland? That question continues to haunt her – in the form of guilt, loss, duty. During the ‘Woman, Life, Freedom’ protests in 2022, she felt a growing desire to give something back to the people she left behind. In this literary memoir, she explores what it means to flee your homeland without being able to return. A compelling story about family, about the pressure of expectations, about finding meaning – and about the peace and fulfilment that Mina finds in taking care of animals, when words are not enough.

“From a doorway in the building, an old woman ordered us to quickly close the front door, and handed us some water. Outside, we heard the officers storming past, and from my position up on the stairs, I caught a glimpse of their black uniforms, helmets and raised batons through a small window above the entrance. Suddenly, a loud banging on the front door echoed through the entire stairwell, followed by unintelligible, furious shouting. I couldn’t tear my eyes away from the closed door, which was shaking in its frame, and I wondered how long it would hold. A baton reached the small window and shattered the glass, which tinkled to the floor. Every one of the faces I saw around me was terrified; no one dared to make a sound. Hands found each other or grabbed the sleeves of others. I felt the warm body of my friend next to me, and became aware of my heart beating in my fingertips.”

NON-FICTION

224 pages

March 2026

English sample sample by
Alice Tetley Paul

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mina Etemad (1987) is a journalist, podcast creator, and theatre and dance critic for de Volkskrant. What we carry with us from the past and how we use it to shape the present is a recurring theme in her stories. Lastly, she delves into animal rights and analyses human-animal relationships in art, media, and society.

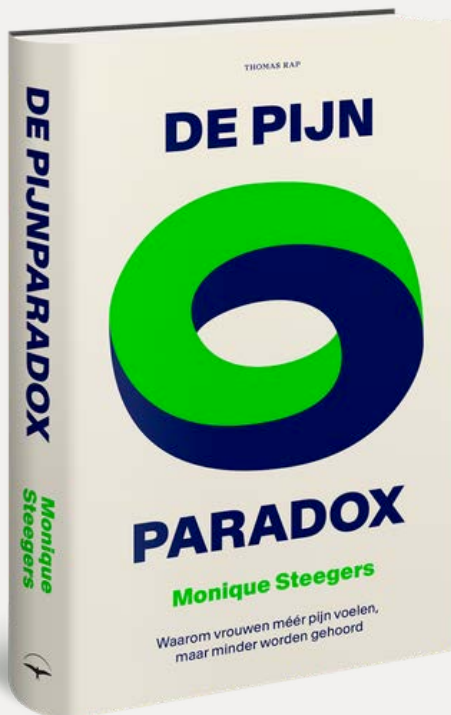


NON-FICTION

The Pain Paradox

Monique Steegers

Why women feel more pain but are heard less



Why is female pain so often misunderstood, in the doctor's consulting room, in research and in society? Dr Monique Steegers, a professor of pain and palliative medicine, shows how stubborn assumptions, medical blind spots and cultural expectations lead to women's pain being trivialised or misinterpreted. With scientific insights and personal stories, she shows how our view of pain has been shaped by ideas about femininity, control and guilt. For centuries, the male body was considered the medical norm, a perspective that continues to have an impact on women even today.

“You may wonder why male doctors or scientists have largely ignored the subject of “pain in women”. The answer is obvious: they do not experience it themselves.

Gynaecological pain, hormonal fluctuations, menstruation or menopause are far removed from men's lives. Moreover, for many years, most research funding has gone to diseases that mainly affect men, such as cardiovascular disease.

Shame also plays a role. For a long time, menstruation, fertility, or pelvic pain were hardly discussed in medical lecture halls. Women have been in the majority among medical students for years, but they are underrepresented in top positions, research leadership and specialisms dealing with pain.”

HEALTH

176 pages

March 2026

English sample

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Monique Steegers (1965) is an anaesthesiologist, pain specialist and professor of pain and palliative medicine at Amsterdam UMC.



NON-FICTION

Enslaved to a body

Tatjana Almuli

Our obsession with perfect bodies



In this timely and incisive essay, Tatjana Almuli explores how beauty standards not only influence our self-image but also limit our autonomy and living space. Beauty is not an innocent preference, but a form of social control. Why is it that the fixation on appearance increases in times of crisis?

And what does it mean when plastic surgery and weight-loss medication such as Ozempic are suddenly considered 'self-care'? This book is both a personal and political call to radical disobedience – for everyone who is tired of striving to conform to a norm that is constantly shifting.

Visible ageing, for example in the form of wrinkles or a less flexible body, represents negligence, something over which you really do have more control nowadays; get a few injections in that forehead and you'll be good for years to come.

Yet most of us remain dissatisfied and want to change something about our bodies. Research shows that this physical dissatisfaction often continues to have a significant influence and impact into middle age or even throughout our entire lives. Serious, chronic body dissatisfaction is even characterised as a public health problem and can have all kinds of other consequences and complaints. These range from low self-esteem, the development of eating disorders, burnouts, anxiety and depression, body dysmorphia, and general self-doubt.

ESSAY

192 pages

May 2026

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tatjana Almuli (1991) is a writer, freelance photographer and journalist with publications in de Volkskrant, Het Parool, OneWorld and Vogue, among others. Her books *Pretty for a fat girl* and *I will never again* were nominated for the Opzij Literature Prize. Together with writer Malou Holshuijsen, she produces the podcast *Between thirty and dying*. She is also the presenter of the VPRO series *Big Fat Lies*.



SUCCESSFUL TITLES FICTION

SHORTLIST Boekenbon Literature Prize

NOMINATION Libris Literature Prize

SHORTLIST Bookseller Confituur Prize

At the End of the War

Bert Natter

Rights sold: Bonnier (Norway), Berlin Verlag (Germany), Summit/Simon & Schuster (USA/UK), Gutkind (Denmark), Foksal (Poland), Janet 45 (Bulgaria)



SS-staff is in the midst of organising a gala to honour Hitler's birthday in a concentration camp, even though most of them are very well aware that the Russians are closing in on them fast and that they will probably have to evacuate the camp within the next few days, if not hours. Eleven-year-old Ernst, son of SS-Obersturmführer Karl Zehlendorf, goes missing near the camp. His brother Reinhart claims to have left him on the shore of the treacherously deep lake, where they had been fishing. Surely, he couldn't have fallen into the water? While everyone in the camp realizes that the war is nearing its end, Karl sets out to find his son.

'*At the End of the War* is a mesmerizing book – relentless prose that grabs you by the throat. Once you start reading, you won't stop.'

– *de Volkskrant*



'Daring, compelling, gruesome, and nearly impossible to put down. A phenomenal novel.'

– *Het Parool, Book of the Month*

NOVEL

634 pages

January 2025

English sample

Full German translation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bert Natter (1968) made his debut in 2008 with the novel *Desire Has Touched Us*, which was awarded the Selexyz Debut Prize and the Lucy B. en C.W. van der Hoogt Prize. In 2015, *Remington* (longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize) and *Goldberg* (shortlisted for the ECI Literature Prize) were published, followed in 2018 by *They Will Think We Are Angels* and in 2022 the non-fiction book *Living With Lidewij*. His novel *At the End of the War* (2025) was sold to Norway, USA, UK, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria. In March 2026 his memoir *Without a Dog* was published. This autumn, his novel *Mr. de Kooning Rides his Bicycle* will be published.



SUCCESSFUL TITLES NON-FICTION

SHORTLIST Bob den Uyl Prize (2019)
Halewijn prize (2018)



Down Old Roads

Mathijs Deen

A journey through the history of Europe

RIGHTS SOLD: MacLehose/Hachette (UK),
DuMont Verlag (Germany),
Iperborea (Italy), Solbitkil (South Korea)

For a million years people have been traveling throughout Europe. From the mysterious homo antecessor which left its footprints on the coast of England to the traveller on the motorways of today. Under every footstep lies an older one, under every paved road a donkey trail or wagon rut, under every footpath the prints of a hunter or prey. And yet the long through roads of Europe don't hold a special place in the imaginations and identities of its residents. Why does the European have such an ambivalent relationship with the long roads of his or her continent?

'Mathijs Deen celebrates the roads as a symbol for both the nomadic European and European unity. His impressive historical knowledge allows him to move effortlessly through the ages.' **** NRC

'An extraordinary empathic ability, a sound style, conscientious research and a flair for telling details. Every story is a sketch of a life, of a society, of a zeitgeist.' **** de Morgen

'What do you get when you combine history and travel stories with an intoxicatingly excellent writing? You get *Down Old Roads*...A masterly work.' 9/10 Het belang van Limburg

HISTORY

416 pages

May 2024

Full German, Italian & English
translation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mathijs Deen (1962) is a writer and radio producer. His collection of short stories *Brutus is hungry* was nominated for the AKO Literature Prize. In 2013, he published the widely acclaimed *The Wadden*, which sold over 30,000 copies. In 2018, *On Old Roads* was published to great acclaim and, like his novel *Among the People*, was also translated into German. *The Light Ship* was nominated for the Libris Literature Prize. *The Boundless River* was published at the end of 2021.



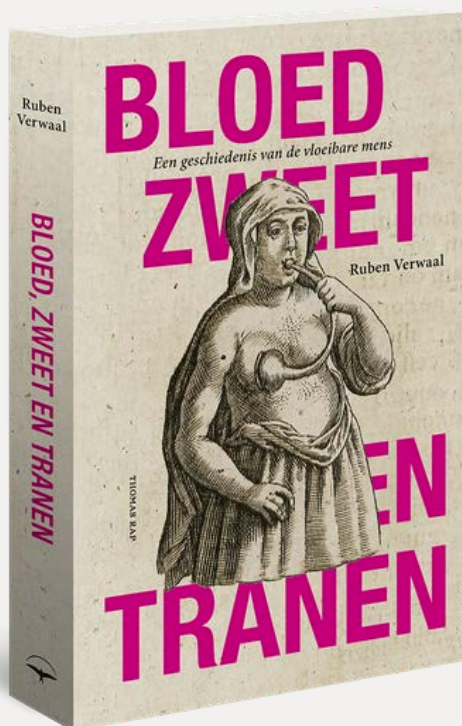
SUCCESSFUL TITLES NON-FICTION

Blood, Sweat and Tears

Ruben Verwaal

A history of the fluid body

Rights sold: August Books (UK (World English))



The human body leaks. It sweats, spits, pees, poops, bleeds and squirts. It is precisely this fluidity that is essential to our life and health. Without saliva, we cannot swallow and digest our food. Without clotting blood no healing wounds. Without vaginal fluid and sperm no reproduction. Yet we have a problematic relationship with our body fluids: we quickly find pus, poo and snot dirty and unhygienic. But this has not always been the case.

'Blood, Sweat and Tears covers ten bodily fluids in ten chapters, in which each facts are told, one more surprising than the other.'

- **** de Standaard

'Verwaal guides us by means of anecdotes and historical sources through the fortunes of our earwax, blood, pus, urine, semen and breastmilk.' - **** de Morgen

'Blood, Sweat and Tears provides an educational insight in the changing perspective on our bodily fluids.' - Humo

HUMAN BODY

303 pages (b&w ill.)

April 2023

Full English translation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruben Verwaal (1986) is a historian and curator at Erasmus MC. He is specialised in the history of medical science and obtained his PhD with research into changes in the perception of bodily fluids. His new book (2027) will be about bodily gases.



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