



Cossee Publishers
Summer Highlights
2019



Eva Meijer ***Forwards***

‘An entertaining and thought-provoking read.’ –
The Guardian on *Bird Cottage*

Rights **German (btb)**
By the author of *Animal Languages*,
sold to thirteen countries, and *Bird*
Cottage, sold to eight countries

Material English sample

In 1921, a group of anarchists leaves Paris to start commune ‘The green path’. Their aim is to live in harmony with mother earth, follow the principles of nudism and veganism, and for men and women to live as equals. Almost a hundred years later, a student of political philosophy finds an edition of the diary of one its members, and is immediately compelled by their story.

Sam convinces her partner, and two close friends to trade the city for the rural north, and start leading a life off the grid. They come across spiritual fortune seekers, money-hungry estate agents, reach the limits of love and are torn by the anguish of remoteness. Their dreams don’t seem to hold up against the pressures of modern society. One after the other leaves the house. *Forwards* is a book on love and freedom, and about the struggle for the things that really matter.

Eva Meijer (1980) is a philosopher and author. In 2016, her highly successful novel *Bird Cottage* was published, which will be translated into eight languages. Followed by *Animal Languages* in 2017 with translation rights sold to twelve countries. In 2018, Eva Meijer started working on her postdoctoral project at the University of Wageningen. Her most recent essay *The Limits of My Language* (2018) has been published to great critical acclaim.

240 pages, 55.000 words, published by Cossee Publishers in March 2019.

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Saskia de Coster
Nightparents

‘An affectionate novel about a woman that has a child, but still has to become a mother.’ – *De Morgen*

Rights **German (Tropen), Croatian (Hena Com)**
Earlier work, *We and Me*, sold to five languages

Material English sample

Saul is Saskia and Juli’s son. His biological father is Karl, Saskia’s best friend. Saul is one year old when they decide to visit Karl in Canada. Together they travel to the hippie island where his family resides, where the wind of freedom still seems to blow.

They end up in a Wi Fi-less world, where nature rules and the inhabitants share a painful secret about Karl. Everything in Saskia’s life is put under pressure: her relationship with Juli, her friendship with Karl and her being a writer. And more and more, she struggles with the ties she has with her own son. Is she really a mother considering she is not a biological mother? Can you learn being a parent? And how does her relationship with her son hold up, Saul is her very own but then again, he isn’t.

Saskia de Coster (1976) is the author of an intriguing oeuvre. With the novel *We and Me*, she won the Opzij Literatuurprijs, and was nominated for the AKO Literatuurprijs and the Gouden Boekenuil. Nearly 50.000 copies were sold. The novel was translated into German (Tropen), English (World Editions), Danish (Turbine), Croatian (Hena Com), and Serbian (Buybooks).

376 pages, 70.000 words, published by Das Mag Publishers in February 2019.

Promoted by Flanders Literature. For translation grants visit flandersliterature.be/grants/translation-grants | For more information contact: rieck@cossee.com



Lodewijk van Oord *Nobody Belongs Here*

‘We can fully navigate the globalized present only if we acknowledge the colonial past.’ –
Francesca Melandri on *Nobody Belongs Here*

Rights Earlier work, *The last Rhino*, sold to
Knaus (German)

Material English sample

Two Dutch travellers fleetingly cross each other’s paths at the airport in Mozambique. Accountant Fliers van Deventer is on his way to a friend’s villa to lay low for a while. He’ll enjoy cigars, walks on the beach and the wholesome company of the other expats. But then he becomes the patron of his gardener’s unwell daughter, and all of a sudden Fliers is confronted with the realities that surround him. Biologist Rineke Friedl is on her way to the remote African island of ‘Europa’, where the growing rat population is threatening the local birds and sea turtles. She is drawn into a power battle with the French soldiers stationed on the island. The situation is put to the test when a stranger, who has washed up on the shore, challenges the island’s sensitive equilibrium.

In *Nobody Belongs Here* Van Oord questions whether it is possible to step out of the shadow of the colonial past. Both Rineke and Fliers are forced to take radical decisions.

Lodewijk van Oord (1977) has spent most of his life abroad. He taught Conflict Studies and the History of the Middle East in Wales and was the director of the Waterford Kamhlaba in Swaziland. Since 2018, he is head of college at the United World College in Maastricht. His debut book *The last Rhino* was published in 2014, and was translated into German (Knaus).

304 pages, 84.000 words, to be published by Cossee Publishers in April 2019.

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Hanna Bervoets

Welcome to the Kingdom of the Sick

Ground-breaking novel on a topic that has long been ignored in modern literature: chronic illness.

Rights **German (under offer)**
Earlier work sold to btb (German),
Aux Forges de Vulcain (French), and
Çalıadam Yayınlar (Turkish)

Material English sample

After a visit to a farm Clay, a forty-something with a good relationship and a career as a programmer, develops a fever. He is hospitalized and fights for his life. When Clay finally recovers, his tiredness remains. He is diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. In his obsessive search for a cure, Clay loses everything he holds dear. Until one day he wakes up in the kingdom of the sick, an Alice in Wonderland-like fantasy world structured by new rules and inverse logic, where Susan Sontag is his tour guide. Here, Clay befriends Marla; a young, bisexual woman diagnosed with fibromyalgia. Will Sontag eventually show Clay the way out of the Kingdom? Or is he doomed to roam its realms forever?

Welcome to the Kingdom of the Sick is not only a novel about being chronically ill, it is also a brutally honest story about what it means to leave behind the life you know, the body that carries you and the person you thought you'd become.

Hanna Bervoets (1984) is one of the most highly acclaimed Dutch authors of her generation. Over the past few years, Bervoets received several awards and nominations for her novels and essays. In 2017, Bervoets was awarded the prestigious Frans Kellendonk-prijs for her entire body of works. Her earlier novels have been translated into German (btb), French (Aux Forges de Vulcain) and Turkish (Çalıadam Yayınlar) and adapted for film and television.

67.000 words, to be published by Pluim Publishers in May 2019.

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Jan van Mersbergen
The Unexpected Wealth of Altena

How does personal happiness weigh up to the needs of a community? An intriguing story about giving and taking.

Rights Earlier work has been translated into German, English, French, Turkish, Spanish, Serbian, Slovenian and Arabic.

Material English sample

On a summer's afternoon Frank and his son encounter an old Japanese gentleman in their usually quiet village. He bears the news of Rochat's death. Rochat the man who, some thirty years ago, fenced and closed off an entire lake, ending the glorious way the youths spent their summers. Shortly after, Rochat's daughter Eline also re-appears in the village. She hands Frank and his wife Marlies the key to the old fence around the lake. One night Marlies and Frank make a discovery that could potentially provide the family great wealth.

How to deal with a sudden stroke of luck? Do you take the money and run? *The Unexpected Wealth of Altena* shows that sharing only makes sense if the benefits are shared equally. An intriguing story about jealousy and solidarity under the vast skies of the Dutch countryside.

Jan van Mersbergen (1971) debuted in 2001 with the novel *Bite the Dust*. *To the Other Side of the Night* was awarded with the BNG Literatuur Prijs. Furthermore, his novel *The Last Escape* received the prestigious F. Bordewijkprijs. Movies of *To the Other Side of the Night*, and *Tomorrow Pamplona* are in the making. Van Mersbergen's books have been published in Germany, the UK, France, Turkey, Spain, Serbia and Slovenia.

272 pages, 81.000 words, published by Cossee Publishers in March 2019.

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Yves Petry
The Ghosts

‘It isn’t easy to live in honesty. At least now I know why. Because dying in honesty is impossible. *That is why.*’ – *The Ghosts*

Rights Earlier work, *The Virgin Marino*, sold to Luftschacht (German), winner of the Libris Literatuur Prijs

Material English sample

After a devastating breakup with his girlfriend, Mark Oostermans, an ambitious developing countries doctor, retreats to Camp Bilonga, a refugee camp in West Africa. This is where he meets Jeroen Ullings, the foolhardy head of the local medical team: an ex-Jesuit with inciting views on love, science, morality and the so-called enlightened man of today.

‘You can only change the world, if your understanding of death changes’, is one of his credos. What does he mean by that? The raging civil war seems to steer clear from the camp, but once a group of soldiers with questionable intentions arrives, Mark is forced to discover the answer.

In clear prose, sparkling yet precise, the ghosts of this novel cross over from one dimension to the other, alternating between salvation and loss, life and death.

Yves Petry (1967) is one of the most famous authors of Flanders. He won the prestigious Libris Literatuur Prijs, the BNG Bank Literatuurprijs, the Inktaap and the Tzumprijs for best literary sentence. *The Ghosts* is his first novel at Das Mag Publishers.

308 pages, 73.000 words, published by Das Mag Publishers in February 2019.



Bregje Hofstede

Drive

‘In this battle between love and autonomy, Hofstede doesn’t indulge anyone.’ – *VPRO*

Boeken

Rights German (Oktaven)

Material English sample

On a winter’s night, a young woman leaves her flat, carrying a backpack containing a decade in diaries. With this archive on her back, she roams through Brussels, trying to come to terms with what she is leaving behind: the teenage lover who became her husband and a woman in whom she no longer recognizes herself.

Moving from one unpleasant sleeping place to the next, she tries relentlessly to unravel their lost love – using her diary entries, her parents’ scrap books, photos and memories as evidence. But as the lovers drift apart, the memories start to fade.

In *Drive*, Bregje Hofstede follows the seeping transition from childhood to adulthood: what if the plethora of possible lives slowly starts narrowing down and there is only one role left to play?

Bregje Hofstede (1988) made her debut with *The Sky Above Paris*, which was nominated for the Libris Literatuur Prijs, the Anton Wachterprijs and the Gouden Boekenuil, and which has been translated into German, Danish and Arabic. She writes for the Dutch investigative newspaper *De Correspondent*.

398 pages, 81.000 words, published by Das Mag Publishers in October 2018.

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Eva Meijer
The Limits of My Language

‘Meijer manages to avoid all clichés. *The Limits of my Language*, despite the title, shows what language is capable of.’ – *Trouw*

Rights **German (btb), World English (Pushkin), Polish (Linia), Spanish (offer), Turkish (offer)**
Material English synopsis & short sample

In 2016, more than a million people in the Netherlands were using antidepressants. While a lot has been written about the treatment of depression, its broader meaning has received far less attention. In *The Limits of My Language* Eva Meijer uses her own experience with depression as a resource for a surprisingly new analysis of the phenomenon.

She explains how people with recurring periods of depression come to resemble trees growing crookedly – how not their brain but their soul keeps adapting. She discusses the benefit of therapy, the way in which language gives us shape and how, sometimes, we can reshape ourselves in conversations with others. The essay is a plea for literally moving on, for going for a run and walking the dog; a plea for being perseverant.

Eva Meijer (1980) is a philosopher and author. In 2016, her highly successful novel *Bird Cottage* was published. Followed by *Animal Languages* in 2017 with translation rights sold to twelve countries. Eva Meijer recently concluded her dissertation on ‘political animal voices’ at the University of Amsterdam, which is to be published at the New York University Press. In 2018, she started working on a postdoctoral project at the University of Wageningen.

144 pages, 29.000 words, published by Cossee Publishers in January 2019.

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Joost de Vries ***Real Pretentiousness***

De Vries shows the pitfalls of pretentiousness in times of populism.

Rights Earlier work, *The Republic*, sold to the US (Other Press), France (Feux Croisés), Spain (Anagrama), Italy (Bompiani), amongst others

Material English sample

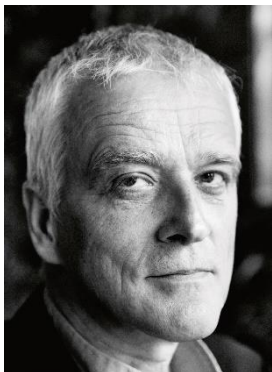
Everyone pretends. Makes him or herself seem better, younger, more stylish, richer, more courageous and more successful than they really are. But only when someone pretends to be smarter, or more culturally refined, do we call that person pretentious.

What is it exactly that irks us so? The answers have to do with social class, authenticity, with low and high culture, with football analysts and superhero movies, with Susan Sontag and Pierre Bourdieu. With not forgetting where you are from, with knowing one's place. In short: with what we think society should look like. In his thought-provoking essay Joost de Vries questions how we position ourselves in relation to culture, education, critical thinking and one another. And even more importantly: real pretentiousness shows why we can't live without it.

Joost de Vries (1983) works as an editor at the Dutch magazine *De Groene Amsterdammer*. His second novel, *The Republic*, won the Gouden Boekenuil, and was nominated for the BNG Literatuurprijs and the Libris Literatuur Prijs. *The Republic* will be translated into ten languages. His essay, *A Room of My Own*, featured in *The Penguin Book of Dutch Short Stories* (Penguin Modern Classics).

160 pages, 29.000 words, published by Das Mag Publishers in March 2019.

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Herman van Goethem *1942. The Year of Silence*

For readers of Florian Illies' *1913: The Year Before the Storm*.

Info First edition sold out straight away, abundant reviews
Material English sample

The year 1942 is a turning point in the Second World War. Since November the Nazis had been suffering heavy losses at Stalingrad. All over the West, from London to Washington, governments and civil servants are slowly shifting policies away from appeasement. By writing a compelling chronicle of everyday life in war-time Antwerp, Van Goethem has revived this crucial year. The Jews suffering abject poverty, are biding their time. The city council is collaborating with the occupying forces, while police are leaning towards the New Order. Come August large numbers of Jews are being deported. The deafening silence on the international level is devastating.

1942. The Year of Silence is not only a reconstruction of a forgotten war year. It offers a new way to elucidate World War II.

Herman van Goethem (1958) is a historian and lawyer, and the rector of Antwerp University. He was co-initiator of 'Kazerne Dossin: Museum and Documentation Centre on the Holocaust and Human Rights'. He has written several high-profile books.

360 pages, 99.000 words, published by Polis Publishers in January 2019.

Promoted by Flanders Literature. For translation grants visit flandersliterature.be/grants/translation-grants | For more information contact: riek@cossee.com



Thomas Rueb
Laura H.

“*Laura H.* is the best journalistic work of its kind on this topic up to now.” – *NRC*

Rights Film rights under option, winner
Bruseprijs and NRC Book Award
Material English sample

In the summer of 2016, near the self-proclaimed caliphate of IS, a young woman is found running through the desert, carrying two small children. Her name is Laura, she says. She is twenty years old and from ‘Sweet Lake City’. She has escaped. She is crying. She wants to go home to the Dutch village of Zoetermeer. In a last attempt to save her, her father had set up a rescue mission with the help of a shady network of private soldiers.

However, once Laura arrives at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands, she is immediately arrested. The Dutch Public Prosecution Service thinks IS has sent her back with the task of committing a terror attack. And where is Ibrahim, the handsome jihadi from Alkmaar for whom she left everything behind? Laura from Zoetermeer becomes Laura H. of the terrorist detention facility: the first Dutch woman to return from the caliphate – straight into the eye of a media storm.

“An eye-opening, surprising and frightening book, that reads as a thriller.” - *Panorama*

Thomas Rueb (1986) works as a reporter for the Dutch newspaper *NRC*. In 2017, he won the Tegel-publieks award, the most prestigious award in Dutch journalism.

538 pages, 120.000 words, published by Das Mag Publishers in November 2018.

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Steffen Radlmaier (ed.) *The Nuremberg Trials*

‘Milosevic having to defend himself before a court of law in The Hague today, is one of the lessons of Nuremberg.’ – *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

Rights Cossee Publishers hold world rights
Material Full German, Dutch edition

On the 20th of November 1945 the Nuremberg trials began, addressing 24 of the most senior Nazi’s in Hitler’s ranks, amongst which Göring, Hess, Seyss-Inquart and Speer.

In Nuremberg, for the first time in history, the German Nazi-leaders responsible for war and unprecedented suffering were being put to trial. The process in itself wasn’t just a new milestone in the history of international law, it was also a media spectacle. International newspapers and journals sent out their best writers and journalists, authors such as Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, John Dos Passos, Ilja Ehrenburg, Erika Mann, Martha Gellhorn, and the young Willy Brandt.

They cover all of it: the trial itself and Göring’s leader of the pack mentality, the eradicated inner city of Nuremberg, but also the destitute situation of the population. And the doubts – serious doubts whether the destruction of Dresden was just, and whether an international court of law could ever stop such heinous crimes from happening again.

And so this ‘collection of texts came into being, one of the most sad, and moving, fantastical and breath-taking ones in the 20st century, something that every household should have a copy of.’ – *Die Tageszeitung*

352 pages, 100.000 words, published by Cossee Publishers in 2005.



Marianne Philips *The Confession*

What starts out as the story of an ambitious young woman turns into a tumultuous fall from grace.

Rights **German (Diogenes)**
Material English sample

During two late night sessions Heleen, recently admitted as a patient to a mental institution, tells the night nurse her life story. She is the eldest in a working class household, that steadily fills up with nine other children. Her life is given a new perspective when she decides to spend the night with the well-situated Mr. Groenmans in Hotel Royal. Not long after, he finds her employment in the city as a sales person in an exclusive men's clothing store. Craving success, and wanting so badly to flee her restrictive background, she quickly climbs the social ladder.

Marianne Philips describes a life of riches and humiliation, driven by hatred as much as by love. What starts out as the tale of an ambitious young woman, that all of a sudden has to be a mother to her youngest sibling, turns into a feverish tale of a woman who falls off her self-made pedestal.

Marianne Philips (1886-1951), was a politician and writer, born into a prosperous Jewish family in Amsterdam. Orphaned young, she wasn't able to finish her education, but still managed to work her way up quickly. In 1919, she was elected, as one of the first woman ever, as board member for the SDAP. She started publishing in 1929 and went on to write five books and several novella's.

224 pages, 56.000 words, published by Cossee Publishers in March 2019.

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Recent Sales

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)

Saskia Goldschmidt, *Breaking Ground*: English/UK (Saraband), film rights (Windmill Films, NL)

Marjolijn van Heemstra, *And His Name Is*: German (Hoffman & Campe), Italian (Rizzoli), USA (Atria Books), Spanish (Seix Barral), French (Les Escales), Albanian (Ejal), Slovenian (Goga), film rights (Bind Film, NL)

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)

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), Swedish (Weyler Förlag), Complex Chinese (Yeren Publishing House), Czech (Grada), Simplified Chinese (New World Press), Japanese (Kashiwa Shobo), Italian (Nottetempo)

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)

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

Aleksandr Skorobogatov, *Cocaine*: World English (Old Street), Serbian (Dereta), Croatian (Naklada Ljevak), Spanish (Tandaia), Danish (Silkefyret) and Arabic (Here&There)

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 (Metaixmio), Croatian (HenaCom), Hungarian (Jelenkor) and film rights (Savage Film, BE)

Recent Acquisitions & Publications

- Kristine Bilkau – *Eine Liebe, in Gedanken* (Lit. Ag. Michael Gaeb, Berlin)
- Christophe Boltanski – *La Cache & Le Guetteur* (Éditions Stock, Paris)
- J.M. Coetzee – *Moral Tales* (Peter Lampack, New York City)
- David Diop – *Frère d'Âme* (So Far So Good Agency, Pau)
- David Foenkinos – *Lennon* (Plon, Paris)
- Ayelet Gundar-Goshen – *The Liar* (Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, Tel Aviv)
- Jane Gardam – *Old Filth, The Man in the Wooden Hat, Last Friends & Crusoe's Daughter* (David Higham, London)
- David Garnett – *Lady into Fox & A Man in the Zoo* (United Agents, London)
- David Grossman – *Collected Essays* (Deborah Harris Agency, Jerusalem)
- Maja Haderlap – *Angel of Oblivion* (Wallstein, Göttingen)
- Michael Ignatieff – *Ordinary Virtues. Moral Order in a Divided World* (United Agents, London)
- Navid Kermani – *Ungläubiges Staunen* (C.H. Beck, Munich)
- Mick Kitson – *Sal* (Canongate, Edinburgh)
- Felicitas von Lovenberg – *Gebrauchsanweisung fürs Lesen* (Piper Verlag, Munich)
- Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi – *Kintu* (Antony Harwood, Oxford)
- Stefano Mancuso – *Brilliant Green, Plant Revolution & Travelling Green* (Giunti, Florence)
- Francesca Melandri – *Sangue Giusto* (Italian Literary Agency, Milan)
- Marco Misserolli – *Fideltà* (Einaudi, Torino)
- Catherine Poulain – *Le Grand Marin & Le Coeur Blanc* (Wandel Cruse, Paris)
- Erich Maria Remarque – *Die Nacht von Lissabon & Arc de Triomphe* (Mohrbooks, Zurich)
- Bernhard Schlink – *Olga* (Diogenes, Zürich)
- Nadia Terranova – *Addio Fantasmi* (Einaudi, Torino)
- Miriam Toews – *Women Talking* (Wylie Agency, London)
- Bettina Wilpert – *Nichts, was uns passiert* (Verbrecher Verlag, Berlin)
- Barbara Zoeke – *Die Stunde der Spezialisten* (Aufbau, Berlin)

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