Dutch literature

The Netherlands like a good scare

Most people have heard of Swedish thrillers thanks to immensely popular authors like Stieg Larsson or Camilla Läckberg, but Dutch thrillers are somewhat more obscure. However, many Dutch authors write thrillers, and this genre is very much a favorite among Dutch readers.

Three women in particular specialize in psychological thriller : Saskia Noort, Simone van der Vlugt and Esther Verhoef. Their books are best-sellers in the Netherlands, and some are translated into French. What is so interesting with these novels is to see how the Dutch way of life influences the story. For instance, Esther Verhoef's last novel, *De kraamhulp* (2014), centers on a midwife who works in people's homes. A lot of women in the Netherlands give birth at home, and midwives come help the young mother with her baby during ten days after the birth, several hours a day. And that's the starting point of this book : what can happen if you invite in your home a woman you don't know, and if you trust her in a moment of great vulnerability...

Bibliographies

Esther Verhoef :

- 2003 Onrust
 - 2004 Onder Druk
 - 2006 Rendez-vous
 - 2006 Chaos
 - 2007 Close-up (published in French in 2011as Plan serré, by Presses de la cité)
 - 2008 *Ongenade*
 - 2008 Alles te verliezen
 - 2009 Erken mij
 - 2010 *Déjà vu*
 - 2011 Nouveau riche & andere spannende verhalen
 - 2012 Tegenlicht
 - 2013 Overkill
 - 2014 De Kraamhulp

Saskia Noort :

- 2003 Terug naar de kust (published in French in 2007 as Retour vers la côte, by Denoël)
- 2004 De eetclub (published in French in 2009 as Petits meurtres entre voisins, by Denoël)
- 2006 *Nieuwe buren* (published in French in 2011 as *D'excellents voisins*, by Denoël)
- 2009 De verbouwing
- 2010 Afgunst en een goed huwelijk
- 2011 Koorts
- 2013 Debet

Simone van der Vlugt :

• 2004 - *De reünie* (published in French in 2010 as *La mémoire assassine*, by Presses de la cité)

- 2005 Schaduwzuster
- 2007 Het laatste offer
- 2008 Blauw water
- 2009 Herfstlied
- 2010 Op klaarlichte dag
- 2011 In mijn dromen
- 2012 De ooggetuige
- 2012 Aan niemand vertellen
- 2013 Morgen ben ik weer thuis
- 2013 Vraag niet waarom

Literary awards in the Netherlands

Like in France, there are many literary awards in the Netherlands to distinguish a novel or an author's entire body of work.

The most important dutch awards are :

For a novel :

- The AKO award (2014 winner : Stefan Hertmans Oorlog en terpentijn)
- The Gouden Uil award (2014 winner : Joost de Vries *De republiek*)
- The Libris award (2014 winner : Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer *La Superba*)

For an entire body of work :

- The PP.C. Hooft award (2014 winner : Willem Jan Otten)
- The Dutch Literature award ((Prijs der Nederlandse Letteren, for Belgian or Dutch authors, awarded every 3 years. 2012 winner : Leonard Nolens)
- The Constantijn Huygens award (2014 winner : Mensje van Keulen)

Finally, for new authors you might want to follow, the Academia award (Academica Literatuurprijs) for a first novel was awarded in 2014 to Hannah van Wieringen for her novel *De Kermis van Gravezuid*.

Best-sellers in the Netherlands in 2014

- 1. *De kraamhulp* by Esther Verhoef
- 2. *Toen ik je zag* by Isa Hoes
- 3. *Sister by* Rosamund Lupton
- 4. *Geachte heer M.* by Herman Koch
- 5. The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson

6. *Thursday's Children* by Nicci French

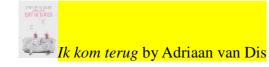
- 7. *The fault in our stars by* John Green
- 8. And the mountains echoed by Khaled Hosseini
- 9. *Cop town* by Karin Slaughter
- 10. *I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes

Dutch writers (Stichting CPNB, www.debestseller60.nl)

Best-sellers of the week (from January 19th to 25th 2015)



Psychological novel about Mona as a child, when she's 24 and when she's 35.



After a lifelong silence, a mother begins to really talk to her son, who writes novels. In return, he must help her die peacefully.



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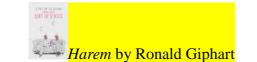
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3. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

4. *Oorlog en terpentine* by Stefan Hertmans

Stefan Hertmans describes the life of his grandfather who was a soldier during World War I, and who lost the love of his life very early. AKO Award 2014.



First novel of the son of a famous photographer.



Blood Magick de Nora Roberts

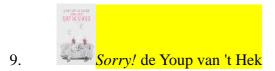


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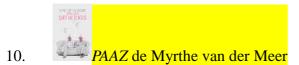
7. And the mountains echoed by Khaled Hosseini



A family of ice-cream makers goes every year on a walk from the Italian mountains to an ice-cream parlour in Rotterdam. Giovanni, who loves poetry, breaks the family tradition.



Collection of columns previously published by the NRC newspaper.



Emma has it all, but she still thinks about suicide. To her surprise, she's committed to a psychiatric hospital. Autobiography.

Dutch writers Belgian writers (Stichting CPNB, www.debestseller60.nl)