

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 2011 as *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)



1. *Kom hier dat ik u kus* by Griet op de Beeck

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



2. *Ik kom terug* by Adriaan van Dis

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



3. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion



4. *Oorlog en terpentijn* 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.



5. *Harem* by Ronald Giphart

First novel of the son of a famous photographer.



6. *Blood Magick* by Nora Roberts



7. *And the mountains echoed* by Khaled Hosseini



8. *De ijsmakers* by Ernest van der Kwast

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.



9. *Sorry!* de Youp van 't Hek

Collection of columns previously published by the NRC newspaper.



10. *PAAZ* de Myrthe van der Meer

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

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