



## **‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’ sold to Spain and Norway**

### **Els Beerten’s highly acclaimed youth novel sets out to conquer the world**

‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’ (We all want heaven) will appear in Spanish and Norwegian. Publishing houses Grup 62 and Cappelen Damm both reached an agreement with Beerten’s Dutch publisher, Querido.

Els Beerten’s novel tells a gripping story about war in times of love, and about the destructive choices that war forces people to make. It is written in rich and vivid language, full of traditional wisdom and images that remain with the reader.

Beerten won the Golden Owl Young Readers Award (Gouden Uil Prijs van de Jonge Lezer) as well as the Book Lion (Boekenleeuw) for ‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’. The Dutch-language press has praised ‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’ as a new ‘classic for young readers’, but this book can hold its own as a cross-over novel for adults too.

At the international book fairs in Frankfurt, Germany (October 2008), and in Bologna, Italy (March 2009), the Flemish Literature Fund (FLF) presented Beerten’s novel to foreign publishers. ‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’ was put in the spotlight by means of an information file, a sample translation into English and a lot of enthusiasm about this beautiful novel.

The FLF’s intensification of international promotional activities is starting to pay off more and more. Award-winning Norwegian publishing house Cappelen Damm previously also translated ‘Een miljoen vlinders’ (One million butterflies, De Eenhoorn) by Carll Cneut and Edward van de Vendel with the support of the FLF. As it happens, Cappelen Damm was one of nine publishers of children’s and youth literature that attended the first publishers tour in Flanders. During five days, the FLF immersed them in the Flemish book world.

The FLF plans another publishers tour in November 2009, for publishers of prose and poetry. A second publishers tour for publishers of children’s and youth literature will take place in February 2010.

The FLF expects that both Grup 62 and Cappelen Damm will apply for a translation grant. The amount of such a grant can add up to two thirds of the translation costs.

### **‘Allemaal willen we de hemel’ in the Dutch-language press**

‘It has everything to become a youth classic: a carefully constructed plot, a daring story and a surprising end. A beautiful book for all ages.’ – Flemish newspaper **De Standaard**

‘A beautiful story. [...] Els Beerten does not make it easy for the reader. That is exactly why the story grabs you by the throat and won’t let go of you for a long time.’ - Dutch newspaper **Het Parool**

‘A gripping, well-written and layered story about making heartbreaking choices and moral dilemma’s in hard times.’ - Flemish newspaper **De Morgen**

‘A monumental book’ (...) ‘No string quartet or cantate, but a symphony’ - Dutch newspaper **NRC**

‘A classic tragedy of fate about love and loyalty which would not have embarrassed Shakespeare. [...] There is not one redundant word on those 500 pages. [...] Impressive are the short, vernacular sentences used by the narrators which are easy to distinguish.’ - Dutch newspaper **De Volkskrant**

### **About the Flemish Literature Fund**

The Flemish Literature Fund (FLF) is an autonomous governmental institution that promotes Dutch-language literature in Belgium and abroad. The emphasis is on literary production by Flemish authors.

The FLF’s foreign policy focuses mainly on translation. The principal instruments are information, documentation and grants. The FLF provides professional advice and is in direct contact with authors, translators, publishers, cultural ambassadors and other parties. It participates in international literary events.

### **More information**

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