



## Foreign Rights Guide **London 2024**

OVERAMSTEL

uitgevers





Pub. date October 2023

Pages 256

English sample and review available

15,000 copies sold

### The Invisibles

Kiev, late 1980s. The once mighty Soviet empire is tottering. During an eventful debate night at Kiev University, Dani's childhood friend Pavel makes an passionate argument against socialism.

When Pavel disappears, Dani goes looking for him. His journey takes him past eccentric people and desolate places where no one has anything to say anymore. In his mind, he returns to the stories Pavel used to tell him. Stories about cosmonauts and tireless workers, about the arrival of a paradise on earth. What happened? Why did Pavel disappear? And what is left of his dreams? With each step, Dani comes closer to revealing a painful history.

## A gripping novel about idealism and disillusionment during the Soviet era and the Chernobyl disaster

- ◆ For young Dani, life in a remote Ukrainian village during the Soviet era is boring and spartan. But then a new boy joins his class at school: Pavel. He is charismatic and incredibly well-read, a staunch believer in communism with a keen sense of justice.
- ◆ Winner Boekhandelsprijs 2024 (Dutch 'Deutscher Buchpreis') and shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize
- ◆ In the Bestseller 60 for weeks
- ◆ Featured in *New Fiction* by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

### About The Invisibles

'In the lively, tragicomic *The Invisibles*, Frank Nellen writes compellingly and authoritatively about the Soviet era in a village near Chernobyl (...) In Pavel, Nellen has created a genuinely tragic hero.' *Trouw*

'A convincing, empathetic coming-of-age story set in Ukraine. The story is firmly anchored in the here-and-now.' *de Volkskrant*

Frank Nellen is a lawyer and economist who works as a university lecturer and tax adviser. His debut, *Land van dadels en prinsen* (*Land of Dates and Princes*), was shortlisted for Best YA Book of 2020. *De Volkskrant* called him one of the most promising artists for 2024. *NRC* ranked *The Invisibles* one of the ten best Dutch books to come out in 2023; it won the Dutch Booksellers Award 2024 and it was also shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize.



## WWII-novel based on the remarkable life story of Holocaust-survivor Elly Vleeschhouwer-Blocq



**Pub. date** April 2024

**Pages** 416

**English sample** available

### He Called Me Elly

Against the increasingly gruelling backdrop of an occupied Amsterdam, 16-year-old Elly Blocq falls in love with Wim Vleeschhouwer, the chairman of the table tennis club. But one cold winter evening in early 1943, two members of the Dutch National Socialist (NSB) are at the door: Elly has to come with them. Wim is distraught and decides to go with her voluntarily.

The two end up in Camp Vught. Because Wim speaks German, he falls into the camp commander's good graces and manages to get not only himself but also Elly on the list of the Philips-Kommando - a working place that enables Philips to fool the Germans and protect Jewish prisoners from deportation.

In the summer of 1944, the curtain falls for the Philips-Kommando after all. Elly is put on a transport to Auschwitz. And while she fights for her life in degrading conditions, it is negotiated from high up in Berlin that the Philips-Kommando does not have to go to the gas chamber. But after three months in Auschwitz, Elly has to be transported again. How long can Philips save the group?

*He called me Elly* is the miraculous story of a woman who survived eight concentration camps thanks to the love of her husband and the protection of Philips.

- ◆ Femmetje spoke at length with Elly Vleeschhouwer-Blocq (now 99 years old) for this book, that will be published 16 April 2024
- ◆ Elly Vleeschhouwer-Blocq survived eight concentration camps after joining the Philips Commando during her time in Camp Vught.
- ◆ The Philips Kommando is relatively unknown, but saved the lives of many Dutch Jews

Femmetje de Wind is a writer, journalist, columnist and editor. In 2015 she made her debut with the novel *Rivka* which was partly based on her father's wartime past. She then wrote the novel *Het beloode leven* and edited the collection *Door hun ogen*, containing stories of Holocaust survivors.



## Non Fiction



**Pub. date** November 2023

**Pages** 368

**English sample** available

## The ultimate cure for the depression pandemic is not in pills but in a better society

- ◆ Unique and new perspective on depression
- ◆ Jan Celie is an influential Belgian clinical psychologist

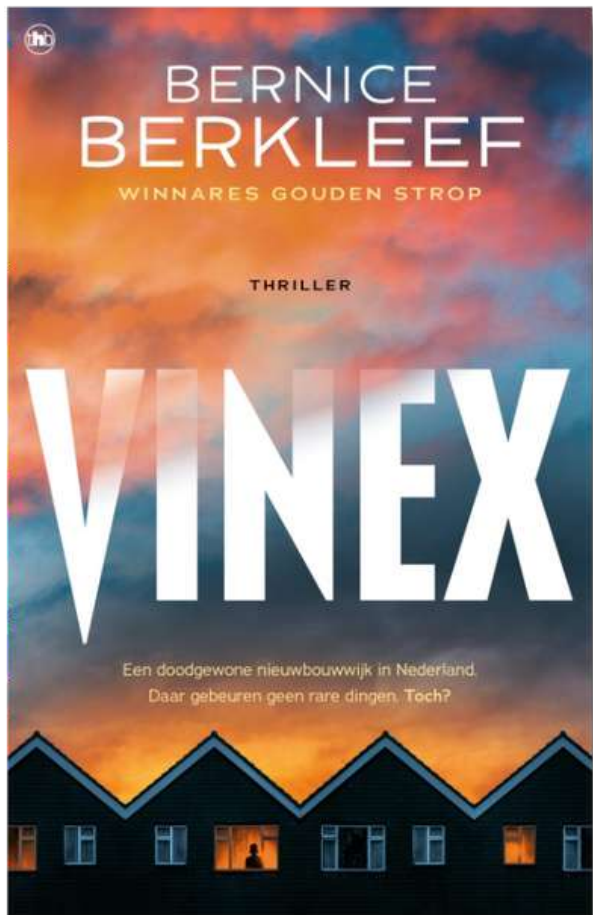
*We are fundamentally alienated from who we are as a species.  
Our 'solitary society' is making people sick.*

According to psychologist Jan Celie (60), we are in the midst of a 'depression pandemic'. In his book *We Will all Benefit* he maps out why people are finding it increasingly difficult.

### We Will all Benefit

By 2030, depression will be the most common health problem worldwide: we can speak of an alarmingly growing depression pandemic. As a 'disease' or 'disorder', depression is diagnosed and treated almost exclusively at the individual level. But in *We Will all Benefit*, clinical psychologist Jan Celie argues that the societal causes of depression are completely misunderstood. He proposes a diagnostic shift: from individual to society. Scientific research shows that our society is fundamentally alienating and fundamentally unequal. Ultimately, this leads to overall feelings of loneliness and powerlessness, to a radical loss of identity and control. At least one in three people end up in depression at some point. To combat the depression pandemic in our 'single society', Jan Celie formulates pioneering remedies in this book that will benefit us all.

Jan Celie is a clinical psychologist and received his PhD from Ghent University in 2019 with a critical study on the scientific approach to depression. He launched a new term: the depression pandemic. Jan Celie belongs to the school of renowned psychologist and author Paul Verhaeghe. This is his first book, scientifically based and clearly formulated.



Pub. date March 2023

Pages 304

English sample available

You never know what goes on behind your neighbours' front doors and what lurks beneath the solidity of an extraordinary housing estate

- ◆ Magical and dark, this books spins a tale about the trials of being human and growing up – especially as a woman.
- ◆ TV-rights sold to major US-producer (soon to be announced).
- ◆ A pulpy and compulsive read, sitting somewhere between *Desperate Housewives* and *Bad Sisters*.

### About Vinex

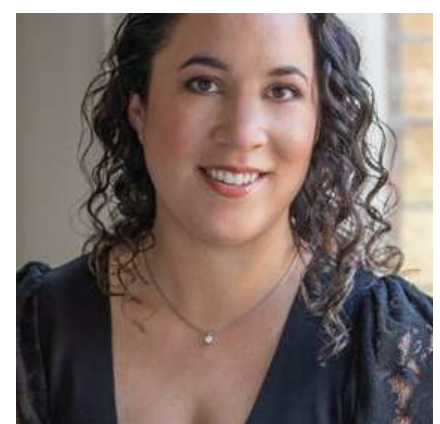
'Gouden Strop winner Bernice Berkleef's new thriller is even more slick than her previous one.' *de Volkskrant*

'That a book about, on paper, perhaps the dullest neighbourhoods we have in our country can be so exciting is entirely to the author's credit.' *Vrouwenthrillers*

### Vinex

Hein and Simone swap their flat in trendy Amsterdam-South for a rural new housing estate in Amstelveen. Despite the bigger house and the nature around them, the bourgeoisie of the Vinex neighbourhood soon comes to resent them. But beneath that semblance of well-behavedness, there is much to hide.... A neighbour who is not happy in her marriage and pushes the boundaries. A policewoman on sick leave who starts a small private investigation just to feel useful. A teenager placed in foster care who makes a chilling discovery. In their own way, they all cross the line bit by bit, until things get completely out of hand during a neighbourhood party.

Bernice Berkleef is a freelance journalist and constantly looking around her for things that intrigue and inspire her. Her thriller debut *Cody* was a favourite with booksellers and received rave reviews. With her second thriller *Bloedsteen*, she won the 2021 Gouden Strop (the most prestigious award for thrillers in the Netherlands).



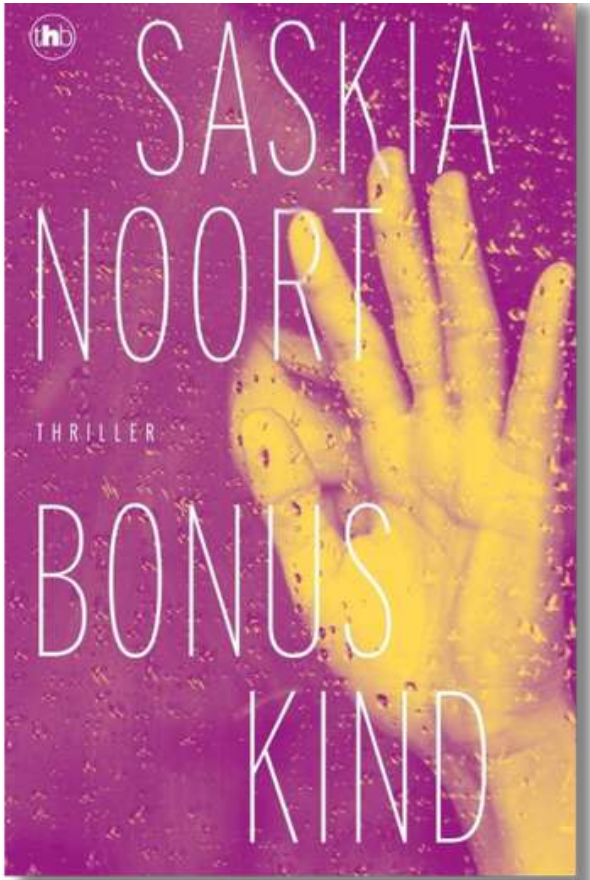
*Backlist highlights*

## English world rights sold to Amazon Crossing!

- ◆ Latest thriller by the bestselling Dutch author Saskia Noort
- ◆ 200,000 copies sold

### About The Grown Up

'Saskia Noort has outdone herself! Prepare for a sleepless night, because this story must be read in one sitting.' *Camilla Läckberg*



**Pub. date** June 2021

**Pages** 272

**English sample** available

**Territories sold** Germany, Czech Republic, English World

**TV rights** sold

### The Grown Up

Fifteen-year-old Lies wakes up one morning with the feeling that something has happened to her mother Jet. Her bed has not been slept in and she has left her cell phone at home. In the following twenty-four hours, Lies receives no sign of life. Her father and his new friend Laura call in the police, they believe it has to do with her mental state: she would never have overcome the divorce and has therefore decided to disappear. Or worse. Lies, however, is sure she would never do that and goes to investigate on her own. With all the consequences this entails.

Saskia Noort is a writer and columnist. Her books have sold 3.5 million copies. Her work has been translated into 15 languages and adapted for television, film and theatre. Her eighth thriller *Bonuskind* sold over 200,000 copies and was also the best-selling suspense book of 2020.



## Literary Suspense



**Orig. title** Zie mij graag

**Pub. date** September 2021

**Pages** 336

**Full English translation and synopsis** available upon request.

### Shadowland – Sarah Meuleman

Belgian sisters Grace and Margot are driving home with their father, bestselling author Saul Mertens, when the car crashes into a tree on a quiet country road. No one understands how the accident could have happened.

Fifteen years later, both sisters are still struggling with the consequences of the accident. Then the eccentric Saul becomes involved in the high-profile disappearance case of a young girl. The sisters react in a completely different way: Margot believes firmly in her father's innocence, while Grace returns to her hometown to delve into what really happened. She slowly uncovers a truth that will change everything she thought she knew, a truth she may well wish she had never known.

*Shadowland* is a fresh, contemporary novel about our shadow identities on social media, about family and severed ties. Can you ever run away from what has been? How strong are family ties when push comes to shove? How much are we willing to forgive? And what risks are we prepared to take to unveil the shadows of our past?

**A novel, rife with suspense and tenderness, about memory, (self) representation, and a bond between two sisters, so strong that not even reality can break it.**

- ◆ *Shadowland* is thrilling and suspenseful in tone, dark, but with a lighter, contrasting edge that emerges in the vibrant, excessive social media world of influencer Grace.
- ◆ In terms of kinship, think of authors like Gillian Flynn, Paula Hawkins, Margaret Atwood, Patricia Highsmith and Daphne du Maurier.
- ◆ French rights were sold to Gallimard (publication Spring 2024).
- ◆ *Shadowland* has recently won the Boekenpanda 2023, a major literary award in Belgium for best book of the year.
- ◆ The story has an ending with a strong, intelligent twist that had many readers gasping for breath.

### Quotes

'Clever, dark engrossing, highly recommended.' *Library Journal US*, starred review

'Fascinating, multi-layered, intelligently written.' *Publishers Weekly*

'Lively, complex and utterly addictive.' *Tess Gerritsen*

Sarah Meuleman is an author, columnist and essayist. She writes for various media and her column appears in both national newspapers *NRC Handelsblad* (The Netherlands) and *De Standaard* (Belgium). She has written many interviews with international artists and politicians for *Vogue magazine*.

Her debut novel *The Six Lives of Sophie* was nominated for The Bronze Owl and was published in America, Canada and the UK by HarperCollins.

She also wrote the *De Vondeling* to much critical acclaim. With her third novel, *Shadowland*, she recently won the Boekenpanda 2023, a major Belgian literature prize for book of the year





# **Overamstel Uitgevers**

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# INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

## The Jewish Nursery School



Original title De crèche  
Pub. date November 2018

### Territories sold:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| World English (Bookouture)    | Czech Republic (Omega) |
| France (City Editions)        | Romania (RAO)          |
| Albania (Dituria)             | Italy (Guanda)         |
| Latin America (Melhoramentos) | Portugal (Presenca)    |
| Slovakia (Ikar)               | Germany (Piper)        |

Based on the story of Betty Oudkerk who, with other caretakers of the Jewish Nursery School, saved about six hundred children.

