

Surprising variations on an ice-cold story

The Bee Eaters

PETER TERRIN

'I thought that I only needed to turn around to make everything come to an end.' The short story collection 'The Bee Eaters' opens with a quote by Albert Camus. It then tries to get to grips with the strangeness that also characterises the work of Camus in seven stories.

A master in the creation of surrealistic, detached and alienating worlds

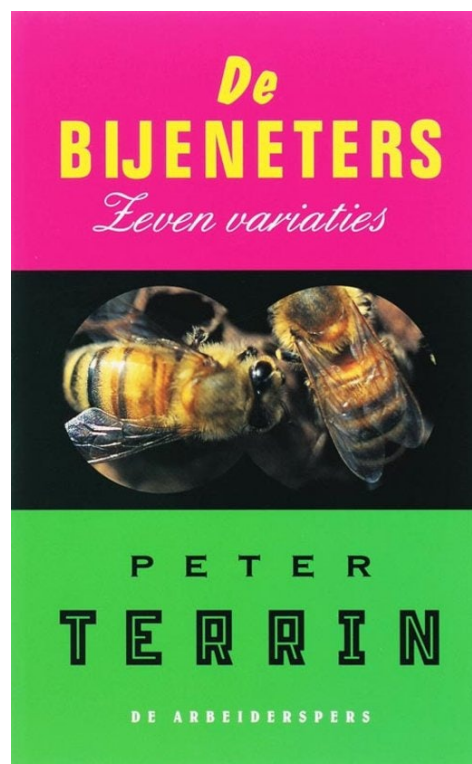
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The focal point in each of these seven variations is an act that changes everything – whether that involves a compelling interrogation as in 'The Suspect', or a mark of extraordinary honesty as in 'Cleaning, or, the fortunes of Abdullah and myself'. Sometimes there is a vain struggle for something that can transform inertia into an act, but more often chance leaves the protagonist with no choice.

'The Bee Eaters' combines a refined style with a great deal of depth of content, eeriness with the identifiable, the everyday with what is concealed behind the facade. Terrin is not only inspired by the work of Camus but also by, for example, Franz Kafka and Willem Frederik Hermans.

With this extraordinarily successful book, Terrin confirms what gradually should become official: he and no one else is the most intriguing author of his generation.

DE TIJD



AUTHOR



Peter Terrin (b. 1968) writes novels and short stories. His breakthrough came in 2010, when he won the European Union Prize for Literature with *The Guard*, which was translated in more than 10 languages. It was followed by the bestselling *Post Mortem*, centred on the author's daughter who suffered a stroke, and *Monte Carlo*, a short novel about heroism and the desire to be recognized. *Yucca*, a melancholy and puzzling novel about an ex-convict and a young artist who believes she has magical powers, was published in 2016. In the suspense novel *Patricia* (2018) a woman attempts to return to her son, husband and home that she left in an unattended moment. Terrin's work is regularly linked to renowned predecessors such as Kafka, Murakami and Carver. *Photo © Marco Mertens*

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise

Vanoosthuyse - elise@flandersliterature.be ,
Yannick Geens -
yannick@flandersliterature.be