

FICTION

A hilarious modern picaresque novel about voluntary marginality

Blockmeat (Scraps)

JAN VAN LOY

The main character in 'Blockmeat' and his pal Celis attempt to organise a 'better' food distribution for the homeless. But thanks to the liberal amounts of wine involved, this inevitably gets completely out of hand. They throw themselves into a free existence and take advantage of every opportunity. When this freebooter existence is ended by an incident, the narrator chooses for a mainstream existence, with a wife and a regular job. During an ultimate confrontation with Celis, both seem to have doubts about their different choices.

Detached and playful; mischievous, ironic, ambiguous and not seldom hilarious

DE MORGEN

'Blockmeat' is another word for butcher's scraps: the fatty trimmings Celis incorporates into his meals. That is precisely how he sees himself and the narrator: as the scraps of society. The narrator is not so categorical in his rejection of mainstream life. As long as he has freedom of choice, his freedom is guaranteed. With its laconic tone and adventurous episodic plot, 'Blockmeat' reads like a polished picaresque novel. At the same time it poses pertinent questions regarding the seemingly obvious choices people have to make between sticking to their principles and selling out, between freedom and self-denial.

The language is straight from the shoulder, the dialogue is sharp and could almost have been plucked from the better film noir.

GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN

BEKROOND MET DE VLAAMSE DEBUUTPRIJS 2005

JAN
BANK
VAN
VLEES
LOY

AUTHOR



Jan Van Loy (b. 1964) published stories in literary magazines. His debut novel 'Blockmeat (Scraps)' immediately won him the Debut Prize and widespread recognition as an exceptionally fluent writer with a distinctive slant on life. 'Alpha America' and 'Gated' were shortlisted for the Gouden Uil, 'I, Hollywood' for the Libris Literature Prize. © *Stephan Vanfleteren*

ORIGINAL TITLE Bankvlees (2004, Nijgh & Van Ditmar, 238 pp.)

PRIZES Debut Prize

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Jolijn Spooren - j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

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