

A trilogy about a party that has spiralled out of control

# Toast (Tox/Soap/Web)

PAUL MENNES

**Hard, pleasantly crude and more topical than ever. His stories are on fast forward without the brakes on.**

DE STANDAARD OVER 'WEB'

Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. These are the weapons with which the young people in Paul Mennes' novels tackle life. When Mennes' debut 'Tox' came out in 1994, the author was immediately hailed as the standard bearer of Generation X, named after the Douglas Coupland novel. In his second book 'Soap' and the short story collection 'Web', Mennes' characters also try to get a handle on the tedium of modern life: with drugs as their religion, violence as their ritual and masochistic sex as their crutch. Nothing mainstream has any value in their view. 'Toast' combines Mennes' first three books into one big sledgehammer. It's a trilogy about a party that has spiralled out of control.

**'Soap' is an easy to read piece of grand literature; funny and cynical as well as heart-wrenching and comforting**

HUMO OVER 'SOAP'

Mennes received the Debut Prize for 'Tox'. Ever since, he has been known as the Dutch-language chronicler of late nineties nihilism. Deploying cynicism and a generous dose of humour, Mennes depicts young characters who resort to extreme measures in an attempt to deal with the emptiness of their lives. 'Toast' offers a heart-wrenching and impressive portrait of a Lost Generation.



## AUTHOR



Paul Mennes (b. 1967) made his debut in 1994 with the novel 'Tox', which won the Flemish Debut Prize. He has gone on to write various novels, a collection of short stories, plays, a multimedia adaptation of Dante's 'Divina commedia' (Kaufhaus inferno) and a number of screenplays. Much of his work is set within the superficial culture of consumerism and, as a result, he is often associated with Douglas Coupland. *Photo © Stephan Vanfleteren*

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