

NONFICTION

About opinions and the reasons we stick to them

Why Everyone is Always Right

RUBEN MERSCH

Whether it's a matter of the role of Islam in terrorist attacks, the safety of pesticides or the skin colour of St. Nicholas' little helpers: why do we so often see two camps emerge that are both convinced they have a monopoly on wisdom? Why do we so love to dig ourselves into the trenches of our own rightness?

After reading this book I finally understand why my opponents find it so hard to admit that they are wrong.

STAND-UP COMEDIAN WOUTER DEPREZ

In 'Why Everyone is Always Right' Ruben Mersch tries to answer these questions through the connection between cockroaches and ethics, the low-hanging trousers of hip-hoppers and the mystery of the clean student kitchen. In doing so he makes eager reference to insights of psychologists, anthropologists, biologists, philosophers and eighteenth-century preachers with a predilection for billiards. His conclusion is sobering: not our reason but our emotions govern our thinking.

Fortunately, Mersch adds, there are ways to counteract this. He presents these means to the reader captivatingly and with hilarious examples. 'Why Everyone is Always Right' is the ideal book to give us more insight into the eccentricities of the human spirit.



AUTHOR



Ruben Mersch (b. 1976) studied biology and philosophy. By a stroke of fate he found himself in the pharmaceutical industry after graduating. Then he decided to be a writer and became a columnist for De Standaard. His first book, 'Blinkerthinking' (2012), sold 15.000 copies and was published in German translation by Goldmann Verlag (2014).

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