

## FICTION

An extraordinary exploration of a bygone era and a dazzling literary mind

# Winter in Antwerp

MAURICE GILLIAMS

'Winter in Antwerp' is the singular follow-up to Gilliams' 'Elias or the Struggle with the Nightingales'. Elias now having lost his mother and spent months in hospital, is walking to his elderly father's house. In brief, associative, yet carefully composed chapters, the narrator examines his past, his obsessions and his fears.

Every single line sparkles and shines

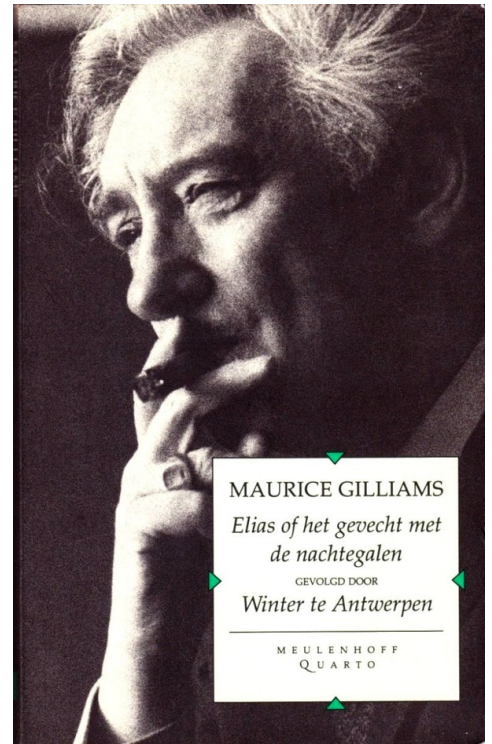
DE VOLKSKRANT

Near-surrealistic visions are interspersed with dark, painfully awkward recollections of a way of life that no longer exists. Virtually everything seems on the point of collapse here: the old, familiar world of the castle life in 'Elias', the affected nineteenth-century bourgeois life with its social idiosyncrasies, but also the security of a child's life. The cultivated rigidity of the members of his family contrasts with the vitality and extreme precision of his own realm of thought. 'Winter in Antwerp' is an extraordinary exploration of a bygone era, a fragmented first person narrator and a dazzling literary mind.

Gilliams has been a major influence for a number of Dutch and Flemish authors – amongst them Charlotte Mutsaers, Stefan Hertmans and Erwin Mortier - but his work remains unique in Dutch literature.

His is some of the most exquisite work to be found in Dutch

HET VADERLAND



## AUTHOR



**Maurice Gilliams** (1900-1982) spent most of his youth surrounded by older family members on a country estate, which later inspired him as a setting for his novels. The sizeable body of his works includes prose and poetry. Although Gilliams is familiar with the naturalism of his time, he demonstrates a greater affinity with romantic and symbolic authors, such as Rilke, Rimbaud and Baudelaire. The solitude cult with themes such as the dream, imagination and the inner experience is prominent in his work.

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