

A farmer recounts the story of his life

Peasant Psalm

FELIX TIMMERMANS

Along with 'Pallierter', 'Peasant Psalm' is one of Felix Timmermans' most renowned novels. In it, a farmer recounts the story of his life: his connection to the soil which he works, his relationship with God (and pastor), and his natural acceptance of his and his family's fate. The story, written in the first person, echoes with this simple man's love for life.

The most beautiful ode to rural life ever written in the Dutch language

DE STANDAARD

The main character is Farmer Wortel, who feels a strong bond with his native soil. His wife Fien is his polar opposite. Her son, Fons, who is at a loss with his surroundings and especially himself, is the cause of much worry for her and eventually becomes her downfall. Farmer Wortel remarries Frisine, the wife of his son Fons, who has since also died. Consumed by jealousy, Wortel constantly suspects his young wife of being unfaithful. One night, when she goes looking for Farmer Wortel, she falls into the water, with fatal consequences. Wortel eventually returns to his own land, the only place in his life where he can find a good footing and balance. 'Peasant Psalm' is a novel that reveals a deep knowledge of suffering, in which praise of nature gives way to praise of humanity.

A new edition of Peasant Psalm was published by Davidsfonds in 2022 with a foreword by author Bart Van Loo ('The Burgundians. A Vanished Empire') and beautiful illustrations by artist Koen Broucke. Beyond all expectations, the new edition became a number one best-seller in Flanders.

What an incredibly compelling and poignant literary masterpiece. It's all but impossible to put down.

CHRISTOPHE VEKEMAN



AUTHOR



Felix Timmermans (1886–1947)

ORIGINAL TITLE Boerenpsalm (1935, De Nederlandse Boekhandel. Latest edition published by Davidsfonds, 2022, 191pp. Foreword by Bart Van Loo)

COPIES SOLD +10,000 (latest edition, 2022)

PRIZES Flemish State Prize for Narrative Prose

FILM RIGHTS Visie

ATTENTION Translation rights edition 2022: toon.horsten@standaarduitgeverij.be

RIGHTS SOLD Afrikaans (Nasionale Boekhandel), Danish (Unkn.), German (Insel/Fischer Bücherei/Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag), French (Paris Marechal), Lithuanian (Nida Press), Norwegian (Solum), Polish (Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza), Slovak (Tatran), Czech (Symposion), Serbian (Laguna), English (Snuggly Books), Arabic (Dar Alca)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Public domain

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Yannick Geens - yannick@flandersliterature.be