

A tableau vivant of sexuality and violence

Regarding Deedee

HUGO CLAUS

The Heylen family hold an annual memorial for their dead mother in the vicarage of a Flemish village. This year, however, the solemn day sees friction and misunderstandings bubble to the surface, which makes for a chaotic gathering. In a haze of sexuality and violence, the hour of truth draws closer.

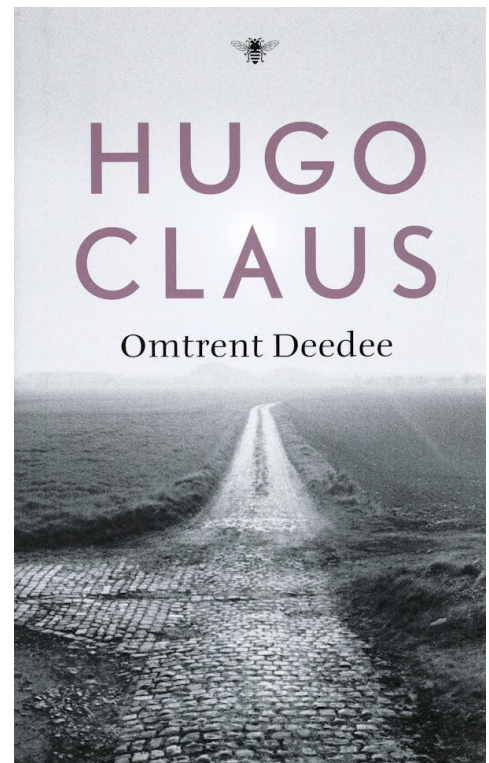
Claus' sensitive writing is hard to match

TROUW

In 'Regarding Deedee', Claus once again employs multiple narrative perspectives to tell the tale, allowing him to create an exciting story with a layered structure. Each of the seven chapters is told from the viewpoint of a different character, so the reader experiences the perspectives of all the family members. There is Pastor Deedee, who, under the pressure of the situation around him, refuses to provide moral support, thereby driving the oldest brother's stepson to suicide. Charming Natalie, the burlesque family members, roguish young Claude – all of these form the tableau vivant that is 'Regarding Deedee'.

A time-sensitive masterpiece that demands an active reader

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG



AUTHOR



Hugo Claus (1929-2008) is Flanders' most famous and most important writer of modern literature. He is internationally acclaimed for his plays, novels and poetry. In his Faulknerian novels, he mixes expertly crafted stories of post-war Flanders with poignant character portraits and telltale allusions to mythology. *Photo © Stephan Vanfleteren*

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