### From policeman to murderer

# The Affable Murderer

#### **BRAM DEHOUCK**

In Ypres, the First World War is still commemorated every single day. This city, haunted by its past, is the setting for at least three murders within just a few days. The police are at a loss. The only one who knows the identity of the culprit is Detective Philip Rondelez: it is none other than himself. Ever since a traumatic event three years ago, Rondelez has been consumed by grief, anger, and vengeance. Now, he murders out of a deranged sense of justice. But danger is lurking around the corner for him too...

## Dehouck steps outside of the box and defies conventions.

NRC HANDELSBLAD

In this crime novel, author Bram Dehouck combines deadly seriousness with black humour to create a heart-wrenching story. He paints the lead character with such psychological depth that the reader will immediately feel sympathy for this tormented murderer. 'The Affable Murderer' is not a whodunit; we know who the culprit is just from reading the blurb. Rather, this book is a whydunit. In this exploration of a murderer's motives, the author manages to capture the audience's attention from beginning to end, culminating in a nail-biting, tragic finale that will resonate with the reader for a long time.

A must for literary connoisseurs. A classic and original psychological thriller, complete with a shocking, surprising and fitting ending.

JURY SCHADUW PRIZE



#### **AUTHOR**



Bram Dehouck (b. 1978) is best known as a thriller writer. His debut did not go unnoticed: he won several major prizes, something no other crime fiction author had done before him. Dehouck is not afraid to step off the well-trodden paths of crime fiction in Dutch and has updated the genre with a dose of gallows humour. He often places his characters in everyday, unspectacular settings and doesn't need much to create haunting suspense. Photo © Liesbeth Kuipers

**ORIGINAL TITLE** De minzame moordenaar (2009, Van Halewyck, 152 pp. Republished by De Geus in 2012)

PRIZES Gouden Strop, Schaduw Prize

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Jolijn Spooren - j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

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

