

Claustrophobic novel about the loss of identity

Patricia

PETER TERRIN

Astrid is a successful events manager, aged thirty-nine. She is married to David and they have a five-year-old son, Louis. When her iPhone falls into her son's bath after a busy day at work, something snaps in her. Impulsively, she walks out of the house and drives out of her residential suburb.

On the motorway, she comes to her senses and rushes back before anything happens to Louis. But when her husband David's car is unexpectedly in front of the house, she doesn't dare to go in. Instead of going back to her family, she wanders around, and meets old acquaintances and new faces. She vacillates between a regained freedom and half-hearted, nervous attempts to go back to her own life.

Terrin makes his observations with an enviable eye for detail and his writing, as ever, is polished and direct.

HUMO

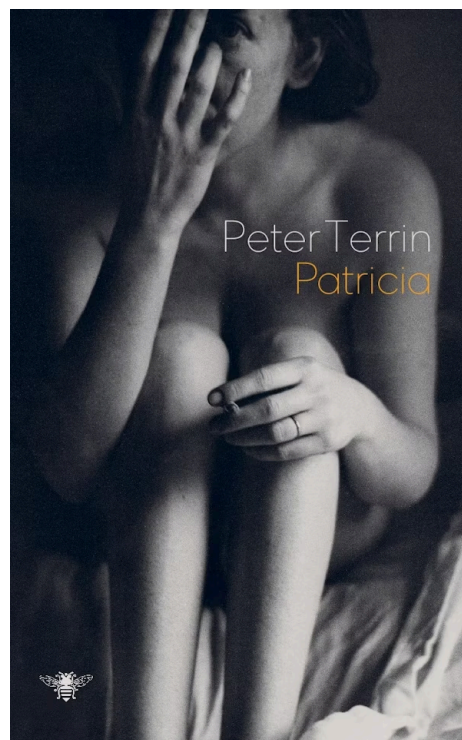
'Patricia' is an exciting novel that is able to disconcert the reader. In controlled prose, Peter Terrin sketches a surreal and oppressive portrait of a woman who loses it in an apparently safe and everyday environment. The sinister air of menace is pervasive, and yet not a single drop of blood is ever shed. In 'Patricia', madness and reality compete, and nothing is what it seems.

An unmistakable Peter Terrin novel, maybe his most engaging one to date

NRC HANDELSBLAD

An intimate, multi-layered female portrait

DE MORGEN



AUTHOR



Peter Terrin (b. 1968) writes novels and short stories. His breakthrough came in 2010, when he won the European Union Prize for Literature with 'The Guard', which was translated in more than 10 languages. It was followed by the bestselling 'Post Mortem', centred on the author's daughter who suffered a stroke, 'Monte Carlo' and 'Yucca'. In the suspense novel 'Patricia' (2018) a woman attempts to return to her son, husband and home that she left in an unattended moment. Terrin's work is regularly linked to renowned predecessors such as Kafka, Murakami and Carver. Photo © Marco Mertens

ORIGINAL TITLE Patricia (2018, Bezige Bij, 208 pp.)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

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