

Five guys, five nice guys

# The Fall

MATTHIAS M.R. DECLERCQ

‘The Fall’ tells the story of five guys who meet by chance over the course of a few years. All five have a single goal: racing, or a career as a professional cyclist to be precise. On the towpath along the river Scheldt, from Ghent to Oudenaarde, they train together: Iljo Keisse, Wouter Weylandt, Dimitri De Fauw, Bert De Backer and Kurt Hovelijnck. Young, virile and popular, they do indeed manage to become professional cyclists. But life is harder than the dream. What once brought them together, racing, just as ruthlessly tears them apart again.

## Declercq has achieved what he set out to do

HET LAATSTE NIEUWS

Although ‘The Fall’ deals with coma, death, suicide and drug abuse in the sometimes harsh world of cycling, it is not a dark book; it offers a painstaking reconstruction of the sometimes funny, sometimes tragic, but always realistic story of five young cyclists. A magnificent tale, told with Shakespearean flair, about cycling, but even more so about friendship and growing up. Narrative non-fiction at its best, about man’s struggle with life and destiny.

## Compelling nonfiction of the highest order

VREEMDER DAN FICTIE BOEKENBLOG



## AUTHOR



Matthias M.R. Declercq (1985) studied Politics and Social Science and currently works as a freelance journalist for the daily newspaper De Morgen, the weekly magazine Humo and the cycling magazine Bahamontes. He lives in Ghent, often cycles on the towpath and loves the Scheldt. The Fall, his debut, has already enjoyed six printings. The book received an honourable mention for the Debut Prize 2017. *Photo © Jonas Lampens*

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