

A look at human history, from a surprising perspective

# Cursed Wood

JOHAN DE BOOSE

In 'Cursed Wood' Johan de Boose gives voice to an object rather than a human being. A piece of wood, originally from the Cross of Christ, travels through Europe, where it is passed from hand to hand and is repurposed and reinterpreted in different locations and at different times. The piece of wood finds its way to the Roman emperor, Orthodox monks, the Russian tsar, Islamic scholars, inventors, the pope, fascists and communists, painters, scientists and terrorists. The journey lasts more than two thousand years.

**A scintillating novel. De Boose's beautiful sentences and gripping events conceal an essay on the good and the bad of faith. \*\*\*\***

DE STANDAARD

Johan de Boose takes the reader on a journey past the most dramatic events in European history, all of which the wood has witnessed. For the piece of wood this is a voyage of discovery about human faith in God. Through his original narrator, De Boose outlines some of the highs and lows of Christianity. Everywhere it goes, the piece of wood sees the search for faith end in torture and bloodbaths. In this way, De Boose gets us thinking about what we refer to as war, and what as terrorism, in the name of religion.

De Boose has fun with the genre of literary satire, with nods to the likes of 'Gulliver's travels', the 'Decamerone' and Julian Barnes' 'A History Of The World In 10 ½ Chapters'. The fact that the wood has reservations about everything adds an appealing, ironic touch.

**Exceptionally original, beautifully composed, stylistically strong**

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## HET VLOEK HOUT

JOHAN DE BOOSE



ROMAN



### AUTHOR



**Johan de Boose** (b. 1962) has a doctorate in Slavonic Studies. Before devoting himself full-time to writing poetry, literary non-fiction and fiction, he has worked as an author, actor, producer and presenter for television and radio. He has won several awards, including the Halewijnprijs and the Cutting Edge Award in the category of best Dutch-language book for his novel 'Blood Witnesses'. In 'Cursed Wood' a piece of wood takes the reader on a journey past the most dramatic events in European history. *Photo © Michiel Hendryckx*

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