FICTION

Contemporary parables with a beguiling strangeness

We, the Foam

CARO VAN THUYNE

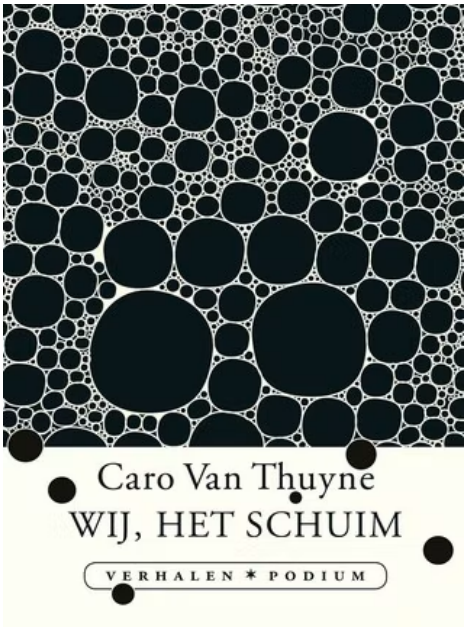
‘You are not yourself, you are crowds of others’. This quote from Rebecca Solnit opens the debut collection by Caro Van Thuyne that goes on to explore the intangible and indeterminate that Solnit hints at. In eleven short stories, Van Thuyne introduces the reader to her highly authentic and eccentric universe. Although each story can be read on its own, the characters and stories are woven into an enchanting mosaic.

> Her stories carry a salutary strangeness, a disconcerting and exciting surfeit of meaning.
>
> DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

A common thread throughout the stories is the outsider’s perspective: a young boy in an unhealthy mother-and-child relationship, who invokes unusual superhero powers, an isolated old woman and her squirrel monkey and even the voice of the foam on the water.

‘We, the Foam’ is structured like a record or a CD: with an A-side, a B-side and a bonus track. The book is full of allusions to the Australian band The Triffids. Following frontman David McComb, Caro Van Thuyne creates a universe peopled by characters who are slowly losing their grip on reality. Stylistically, the collection is remarkable too: Van Thuyne has shaped each story’s form to uniquely reflect its content. Her vivid and filmic stories are exercises in controlled madness. ‘We, the Foam’ is highly unconventional.

> As if Mark Oliver Everett of Eels tried his hand at writing fiction
>
> CUTTING EDGE



AUTHOR

Caro Van Thuyne (b. 1970) learned the craft of writing, she says, by reading like a maniac. Her essays and short stories have been published in various Dutch and Flemish magazines. Her debut, ‘We, The Foam’ is more than just a compilation of short stories: the main characters and plot lines are intertwined to form an animistic, truly authentic universe. Her imagination knows no bounds; she sweeps her readers up in an eccentric and surreal universe which revolves around outsiders. Van Thuyne is a true linguistic virtuoso: she does not shy away from deploying a huge arsenal of styles and has been praised for her refreshing approach.

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