

# The darkest paths of mourning

# Desire Lines

CARO VAN THUYNE

After seven years Mari is still in deep mourning for Tully, her deafblind sister for whom she was like a mother. She decides to leave her husband Felix at home and sets off on a walk towards the sea, in search of a new beginning. She's accompanied by Jakke, a rescued jackdaw who even after his recovery keeps fluttering around her. Meanwhile, Felix and his brother are building a place where Mari may one day feel at home.

During her journey, Mari meets some remarkable people, who encourage her to formulate profound insights into mourning, relationships with others and the inadequacy of language. A common thread throughout the book is the work of British artist Richard Skelton, which Mari refers to in an effort to express her own feelings.

**A reading experience that stays with you a long time, not least because of the thematic richness**

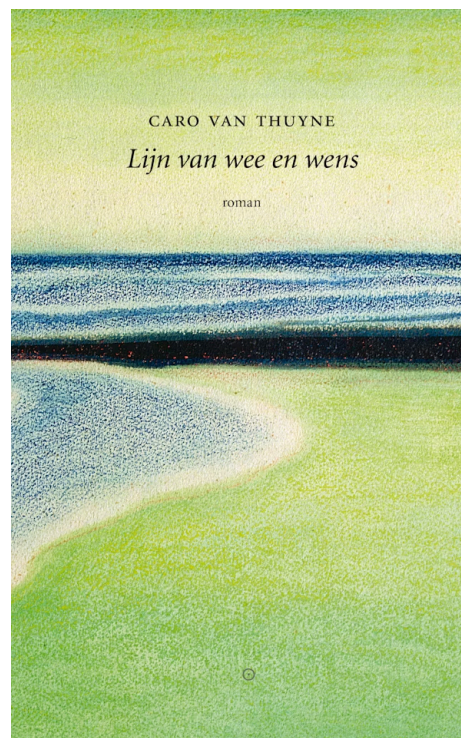
DE MORGEN

In 'Desire Lines' Caro Van Thuyne meanders between prose and pure poetry. Not only does she paint a picturesque image of the land that Mari traverses, but the reader can almost hear, smell and feel that same landscape: the misty meadows and tiny villages, the river and finally the sea which is given a crucial role.

This remarkable, sensitive novel about the search for consolation after a loss doesn't work towards healing or recovery, but takes the reader into an emotional vortex of mourning. Van Thuyne depicts mourning as a total experience, which involves reflection, stillness and inarticulacy, as well as raw emotions.

**A heart-rending, silent scream, a struggle with the giants known as hurt and loss and an attempt to say the unsayable**

KNACK



## 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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