

So much more than a walking guide

# I, Cartographer

JEROEN THEUNISSEN

When he was around twenty, Jeroen Theunissen came across a map of Europe in a travel agency, with thick purple lines marking long-distance hikes. When, many years later, the writer starts suffering from anxiety attacks and depression and feels melancholic and trapped in an unhappy marriage, he leaves everything and everyone behind, including his two children, and embarks on a six-month walk from Southwest Ireland to the Bosphorus Strait.

By doing so, Theunissen follows in the footsteps of the Brit Patrick Leigh Fermor, who travelled on foot from Hook of Holland to Constantinople back in 1933, across a Europe that was at a pivotal moment. It was the year Adolf Hitler came to power. The Europe that Theunissen traverses is once again beset by problems, including climate change, nationalism and a refugee crisis.

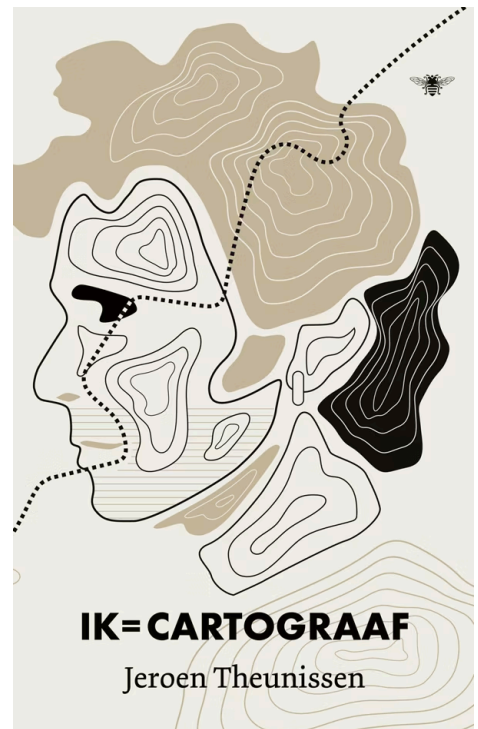
**At once hilarious, melancholic and brutally honest. A major work. Impressive.**

DAVID VAN REYBROUCK

'I, Cartographer' is many books in one. An account of a walking tour. A clumsy attempt at grabbing onto our rapidly changing world. A story of a man who runs from his responsibilities, comes back and tries to create a home for his children. In 'I, Cartographer', Theunissen draws a personal map of Europe, the continent he likes to call home.

**Against the fast-paced, hyper-connected life, Theunissen pits the low, slow perspective of the walker. And yet 'I, Cartographer' is more than a book about walking.**

DE LAGE LANDEN



## AUTHOR



Jeroen Theunissen (b. 1977) is the author of novels, poetry, essays and theatre and known for his dazzling and dynamic style. Both his prose and his poetry possess an underlying social critique and engagement, which is challenged at the same time. This is why he is sometimes described as the sociologist of Flemish literature. His characters are 'ordinary' people who have washed up in recognisable lives, but whose immense inner unrest causes them to falter and ultimately derail. *Photo © Koen Broos*

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