

Poetic exploration from the intimate to the universal

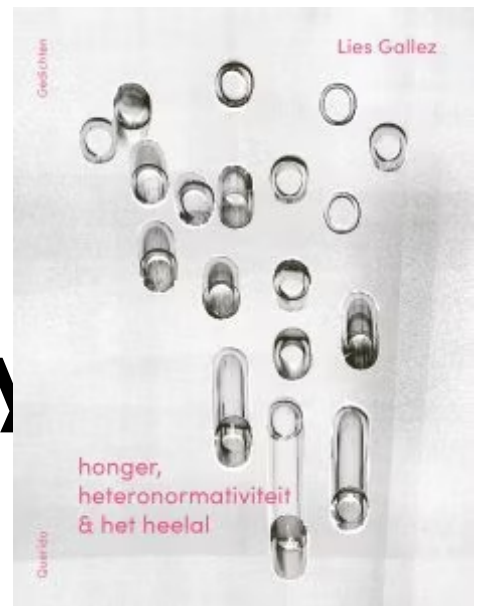
# Hunger, Heteronormativity & The Galaxy

LIES GALLEZ

'Hunger, Heteronormativity & The Galaxy' (2023) is Lies Gallez's poetry debut, published two years after her successful short story collection 'Catching the water' (2021). Gallez presents a personal yet critical reflection on conventional values in three sections, corresponding to the three words in the collection's title. In each section, our glimpse into the speaker's world expands, starting with individuality in 'Hunger', moving to relationships in 'Heteronormativity', and ending with the speaker's place in society in 'The Galaxy'

This poetry collection consistently explores the weight and complexity of life, though approached from different angles. While 'Hunger' focuses on the strong emotions of humankind and our need for consolation, the other two chapters reflect on the political and social aspects of contemporary society, including themes like homophobia, violence, capitalism, overconsumption, and the influence of social media.

Gallez's language is precise, and her style is unconventional, often blurring the line with prose through her use of longer, flowing verses. True to the tone of the title, her language remains straightforward, yet this clarity is consistently interspersed with atmospheric passages that bring a remarkable diversity to her work.




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## AUTHOR

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Lies Gallez (b. 1990) obtained her master's degree in Audiovisual Arts Writing at RITCS in Brussels in 2014. That same year, she also won the audience award of the A.L. Snijders Prize. Her stories have appeared in, among other magazines, De Gids, Kluger Hans, and Deus Ex Machina, and her poetry in Het Liegend Konijn. She teaches language to non-Dutch speaking newcomers. Lies Gallez was named Rising Star Literature 2021 by NRC Handelsblad. In March 2021, her debut short story collection 'Catching the Water' was published by Uitgeverij Querido. 'Hunger, Heteronormativity & the Galaxy' is her poetry debut. Photograph © Iris Kelly Kuntkens

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