

# The biography of a river

# The Meuse

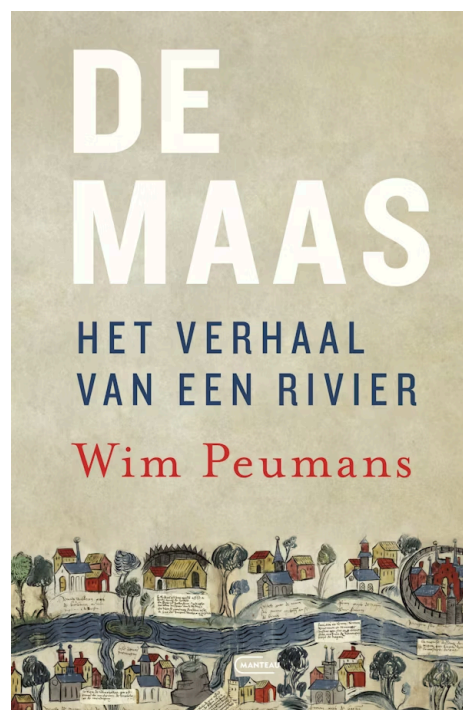
WIM PEUMANS

The Meuse, the river of nearly 1,000 kilometres that flows through France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, is a source of life, home to distinctive fauna and flora. Beyond that, it also shapes the landscape, serves as an archaeological site, a place of worship, a historical crossroads, a political boundary, an economic lifeline, a strategic military axis, and a muse for artists. For millennia, peoples have settled along its banks, learning to cope with the Meuse's capricious floods. Today, millions rely on this remarkable watercourse for their drinking water.

With this accessible book, Wim Peumans offers a nuanced blend of nature writing, history, and science. Readers are immersed in the river's natural and cultural worlds. This very first biography of the Meuse is a captivating mosaic tale about how plant, animal, human, and river are intimately intertwined. In twenty chapters, the author explores as many facets of this wondrous river.

## The very first biography of the river

VRT



## AUTHOR



Wim Peumans (b. 1984) is a writer. He earned a doctorate in anthropology and conducted research at the universities of Kent and Witwatersrand. For a broad audience, he published 'Habibi. The Joys and Sorrows of LGBT Muslims' in 2021, as well as a book about his father, Flemish politician Jan Peumans.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** De Maas. Het verhaal van een rivier. Manteau, 2024, 352 pp.

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Marianne De Baere - Marianne.DeBaere@standaarduitgeverij.be

**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be