

An Urgent Ecological Diary

The Patience of Flowers

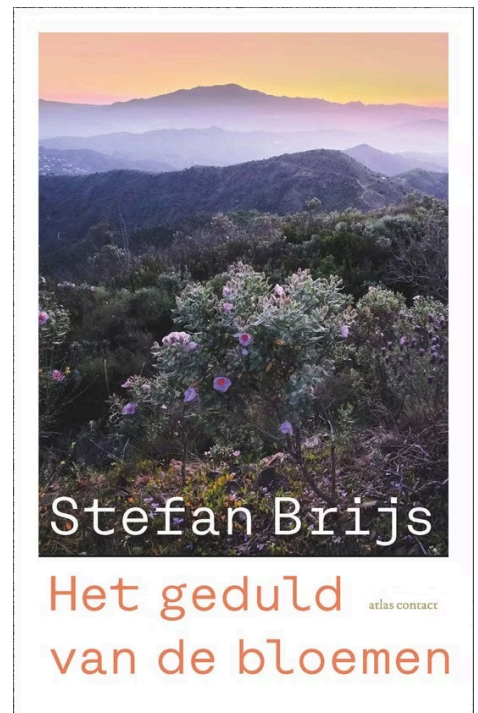
STEFAN BRIJS

In *Reports from the Valley* (2020), the sequel to the widely acclaimed *Andalusian Journal* (2017), Stefan Brijs spent four seasons observing nature in southern Spain. In his latest book, 'The Patience of Flowers', he once again takes the reader to Andalusia. As the climate becomes increasingly erratic, he observes the beauty and vulnerability of nature with a pen that is as sharp as it is poetic – both deeply empathetic and strikingly precise.

This is an urgent book about our changing relationship with the natural world. Nesting swallows, wild peonies, the rare Spanish fir, a wasp with the waist of a fashion model, the bald ibis dressed like a witch, and so much more: Brijs' words are at once a hymn to nature's resilience and a lament for its decline.

Brijs seeks comfort and hope – the fundamental emotions of this journal in which nature plays the leading role. He does so beautifully. His calmly crafted sentences, when read closely or reread, reveal something truly spectacular."

NRC



AUTHOR



Stefan Brijs (b. 1969) debuted in 1997 and writes in different genres. His international breakthrough came in 2005 with his novel *The Angel Maker*, which earned Brijs various important nominations and literary prizes at home and abroad. *Post for Mrs. Bromley* was praised for its many layers and its heart-rending story of a friendship during the First World War. *Moon and Sun* follows three generations on Curaçao. *The Year of the Dog* is a novel about love, lust, betrayal and the (im)possibility of close friendship between a man and a woman. It is Brijs' very own version of 'When Harry met Sally'. Photo © Melanie Elst

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TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be