

Can you ever truly put the past to rest?

The Last Session

SASKIA DE COSTER

After years of silence, 75-year-old Kristien at last decides to share her story. Outwardly, she leads a quiet and happy life with her family in a Flemish suburb. Yet behind that irreproachable facade lies an event that has coloured her entire existence.

During one long and intense therapy session, Kristien tells her therapist, Sophie, how her life was thrown off course after a new neighbour, Tove, moved in across the street. What begins as an innocent attempt to get to know each other – going swimming together every Tuesday – slowly spirals into a suffocating and manipulative relationship. Kristien becomes emotionally and physically dependent on Tove, whose behaviour is increasingly erratic, even sadistic. Then Tove suddenly disappears, leaving Kristien shattered and immensely confused. For decades she carries the secret alone. Now she is hoping she can finally come to terms with the past.

The best Saskia de Coster is the smouldering, feverish Saskia de Coster, who has her characters pursue a disruptive desire. ***

NRC

'The Last Session' takes an unexpected turn when Kristien's revelations touch on Sophie's own traumatic childhood, and their lives begin to intertwine. Ultimately, the therapy session becomes a charged encounter between two wounded women who see their own sadness, longing and vulnerability mirrored in one another.

A piece of precision work in which every act, every detail and every dialogue feels deliberate.

BOEKENKRANT

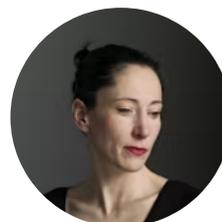


Saskia de Coster

De laatste sessie

B&L

AUTHOR



Saskia de Coster (b. 1976) is an artist, playwright and regular participant in television debates, but above all she the author of a unique literary oeuvre. Her family chronicle *We and Me* became a bestseller and was nominated for just about every Dutch-language book award there is. The more personal and semi-autobiographical *Night Parents* is an ode to love and non-biological parenthood. Characteristic of De Coster's oeuvre are the striking images and profound stories. Most of her novels have been or are being translated. Photo © Koos Breukel

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