

NONFICTION

From 'Rosemary's Baby' to  
'Nightbitch'

# Monstrous Motherhood

JOZEFIEN VAN BEEK

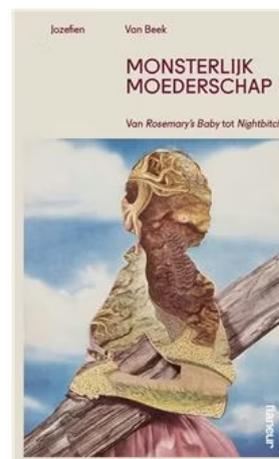
In her literary nonfiction debut 'Monstrous Motherhood', essayist and critic Jozefien Van Beek investigates the expectations, anxieties and contradictions surrounding motherhood. Drawing inspiration from films, artworks, and feminist thinkers, she poses a central question: is it perhaps not only mothers who are monstrous, but motherhood itself?

Across cultural history, mothers have been depicted as smothering, neglectful, controlling, or downright terrifying – from classic films such as 'Psycho' and 'Carrie', to the paintings of Alice Neel, or the personal reflections of Joan Didion and Chantal Akerman. Weaving together autobiography, cultural criticism, and analytical insight, Van Beek revisits her own experiences, from childhood to becoming a mother herself.

'Monstrous Motherhood' is an astute, personal and thought-provoking essay collection that examines the myths shaping our understanding of motherhood. Written in a personal and literary style, Van Beek situates her story within a rich social and cultural context.

**A penetrating analysis of the fears and paradoxes of modern motherhood.**

DE MORGEN



---

## AUTHOR

---



Jozefien Van Beek (b. 1985) is a journalist and critic. She writes about art and literature for 'De Standaard' and reviews books for 'De Groene Amsterdammer' and 'de Volkskrant'. She was the founder and editor-in-chief of 'Oogst', a magazine dedicated to film, art, and literature. © photo: Marianne Hommersom

---

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Monsterlijk moederschap.  
Flaneur Uitgevers, 2025, 120 pp.

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Johannes De Breuker -  
johannes@flaneuruitgevers.be

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