

A bold exploration of human impulses and desires

fodder for highwaymen

ELS MOORS

With 'fodder for highwaymen', former Poet Laureate Els Moors has penned a spirited collection in which she explores human motivators: desire, love, fear, loss and our longing for freedom. She examines the complex relationship between men and women, while at the same time challenging our tendency to impose patriarchal and/or binary frameworks on reality. Death is also a key theme in this collection: both as a state of fulfilment that promises complete freedom and surrender; and as something which, although fundamental to the human condition, we would nevertheless prefer to keep at arm's length.

A dazzling collection

VRT

Using seemingly everyday words, and avoiding poetic pretension, Moors constructs an intriguing whole. The poems are each straightforward in their own right, yet at the same time form interconnections that reveal shifts in meaning. Moors avoids capital letters and punctuation, creating a sense of haste and urgency through the repeated, deliberate use of caesuras mid-sentence. All of this lends her poetic language great flexibility and an evocative power – capturing both the beautiful and the sordid – in keeping with the contrarian logic of her swirling senses.

Els Moors' poems are inspired accounts of everything that is felt, thought, seen and smelled. This collection once again bursts with sensuality.

DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER

Moors achieves her goal with a minimum of poetic formalities and a maximum of expressiveness.

DE MORGEN



AUTHOR



Els Moors (1976), the first young Flemish poet for a long time, made her 2006 debut, 'There is a tall sky above us', and received a warm welcome from both Flemish and Dutch critics. Her successful most recent collection 'Songs of a capsized horse' was nominated for the Herman de Coninck Prize (2015). Els Moors also published two novels. As of 24 January 2018, she is Belgium's third Poet Laureate.

ORIGINAL TITLE voer voor struikrovers (2025, De Arbeiderspers, 96 pp.)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Martijn Prins - m.prins@singeluitgeverijen.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be