

Sensual poetry by a multi-award-winning talent

Night Atlas

PETER VERHELST

Peter Verhelst is one of Flanders' most acclaimed, most talked-about and, indeed, most widely embraced poets. In 'Night Atlas', he explores the distance between people and the world around them: between lovers, between body and landscape, between life and death. The collection consists of three parts, with titles taken from quotations by Bob Dylan, Agnès Varda and Dylan Thomas. Together, they bring major human themes to the fore: love and silence, connection and loss, and our resistance to death. Verhelst does not name these experiences directly, but evokes them through sensory imagery, occasionally punctuated by a simple exhortation, like in the very first poem: 'Say yes.'

'Night Atlas' reaches for what is difficult to grasp or put into words. Verhelst briefly lifts the reader out of reality and makes the intangible more tangible. This is a new high point in Verhelst's impressive, multi-award-winning and genre-defying body of work.

Reading Verhelst's work is a dreamlike experience from which you wake up feeling enriched, as if you've been able to touch something that was previously out of reach.

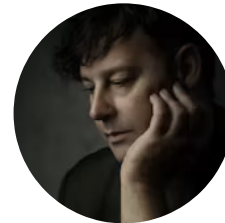
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It won't save the world, but it is a remarkable experience: the way Peter Verhelst uses his language to lift us out of reality, so that we no longer know 'whether we are awake or dreaming we are falling'.

HUMANISTISCH VERBOND



AUTHOR



Peter Verhelst (b. 1962) is a novelist, scriptwriter, myth and theatre maker, poet and picture book author all in one. As a child he wanted to become a painter, but decided to write from a live model instead. His work has been praised for its powerful images, the sensuality and richness of its language and the author's unbridled imagination. In 2018 he won the Sybren Poet Prize for Literature, a prize for authors with an experimental literary oeuvre. In 2021 he was awarded the Constantijn Huygens Prize for his oeuvre which the jury described as 'breathtaking'. Photo © Chris Ward

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