

A literary myth unravelled

What I Didn't Tell Her

SIGRID BOUSSET

From the age of twelve, Sigrid Bousset was closely acquainted with Ivo Michiels. For years, he was regarded as one of the most mythical avant-garde authors in Flanders. Behind his public image, however, was a man who remained silent about crucial episodes in his life. In this compelling biographical narrative, Bousset sets out to uncover what Michiels kept hidden. What role did he play during the Second World War? What lasting impact did it have on his life, his relationships and his work? And how profound was the silence that surrounded both him and those closest to him?

Based on years of research and personal involvement, Bousset reveals the intimate motives of an author scarred by war, guilt and fear. At the same time, she sheds new light on his pioneering oeuvre and on the mechanisms of canon formation that helped shape his mythical status.

This biography sometimes reads like a novel, yet it is also a penetrating reflection on memory, power, and the women who often remain in the shadow of great male authors. It offers not only a new perspective on Ivo Michiels, but also a rich and humane portrait of an era and its literary culture.

This deconstruction of the mythical image of himself that Ivo Michiels carefully cultivated throughout his life is a masterpiece.

DE MORGEN

Sigrid Bousset

Wat ik haar niet vertelde



AUTHOR



Sigrid Bousset (b. 1969) is a dramatist and programmer working in theatre and literature. She helped lay the foundations for the international literature house Passa Porta in Brussels, the Herman Teirlinck House and the Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker Foundation. Her book of interviews with Ivo Michiels, 'More Than I Remember' was published in 2011. Photograph © Josefien Tondeleir

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