

Who do you become when others no longer need you?

That This Is It

BERT MOERMAN

The recently retired Nadia is looking forward to a new and carefree phase in her life and finally having time for herself again. But as one by one, her children go their own way, and her husband Hugo finds it increasingly difficult to adjust to retirement, she feels her familiar world starting to crumble.

In an attempt to bring her family together one last time, Nadia invites the children to join them in a holiday home in Tuscany. But what was meant to be a relaxing family holiday soon lays bare old tensions, unfulfilled expectations and hidden worries. Her daughters, Rosa and Anna, don't always get on, and her son, Wolf, wants to go backpacking in South America. At the same time, Nadia is worried about her husband's increasing forgetfulness, the reason he left his job and retired early. As everyone tries to find their place in a changing family, Nadia is confronted with questions she has pushed aside for years: who is she now that others need her less?

In the defined space and time of a family holiday in Italy, Moerman explores themes such as transience, family, love and letting go. He brings existential questions to the fore with wit and sensitivity, avoiding becoming sentimental or cynical.

Bert Moerman writes beautifully about the quest for a life free from hang-ups.****

HET NIEUWSBLAD

Bert Moerman skilfully plays on our expectations of a family reunion ****

DE STANDAARD



ROMAN

Bert Moerman
RUSSISCH VOOR HOOP

AUTHOR



Bert Moerman (b. 1987) writes novels, columns and screenplays for film and television. His debut novel 'Not That It Matters' was awarded the Bronzen Uil Public Prize in 2018. In his work, he explores how people cope in a changing world, focusing on existential themes, the search for meaning, family ties and generation gaps. © Koen Broos

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