

A gripping masterpiece

We All Want Heaven

ELS BEERTEN

1943. The Germans suffer huge losses on the Eastern front, and many young Flemish men set off for the frontline, full of notions of heroism. Ward is one of those whose decision will later label them as being 'wrong', while his friend Jef happens to end up on the 'right' side. Four first-person narrators relate the story: brothers Jef and Remi, their sister Renée and their friend Ward. In rich and vivid language, Els Beerten maps out their hopes, dreams and desires, deftly capturing the blurring of the boundaries between good and evil, black and white.

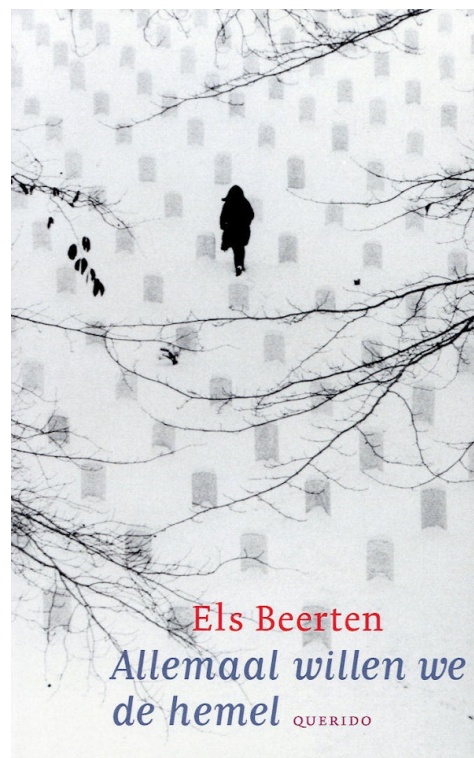
A classic drama of destiny, love and loyalty that Shakespeare himself would not have been ashamed of

VOLKSKRANT

The author shuttles back and forth between war and post-war history, between present and past, between soldiers and ordinary villagers. This complex, but unobtrusive structure increases the impact of the events in her moving and subtle portrayal of the darkest pages of our history. The central issue is the consequences and validity of heart-breaking decisions and moral dilemmas. All of the characters follow their instincts and act in good faith. But what happens when the course you have chosen turns out to be the wrong one?

Majestic. A book like this is written once a decade at most.

DAGBLAD VAN HET NOORDEN



AUTHOR



Els Beerten's (b. 1959) oeuvre ranges from middle grade to YA. Her work is characterized by deep psychological insight and her great ability to dissect the human soul.

ORIGINAL TITLE Allemaal willen we de hemel (2008, Querido, 498 pp.)

AGE 15+

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