

An affecting story of love and grief

Road to Nowhere

MARIAN DE SMET

Eppo is taking a trip. Hitchhiking to France he is picked up by Tabby, who has her own reasons for leaving home. Tabby talks nineteen to the dozen; Eppo is an introvert. Through his eyes we join them on their journey, which has more to do with what lies behind them than with where they are going. In flashbacks we gradually learn more about Eppo's motives: he is fleeing his sorrow at losing his foster brother, who meant more to him than a brother.

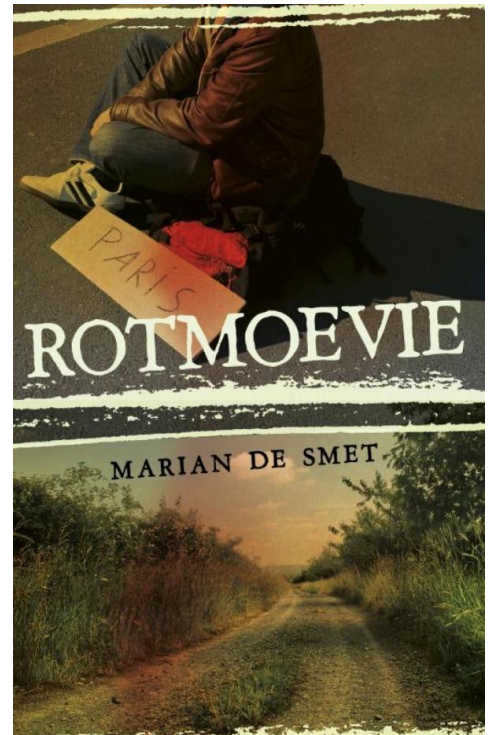
Now and again, a book comes along that gets under your skin. It stays in your mind long afterwards, leaving you speechless.

JAAP FRISO

Marian De Smet uses a poetic, pared-down style, with never a word too many. The two damaged souls, apparent opposites, reveal their stories only very gradually. Her faultless sense of timing allows De Smet to divulge the right elements at precisely the right moment. Eppo's immeasurable grief and the emptiness his foster brother Maarten has left behind, as well as the cautious love between the two boys, are subtly drawn without a trace of sentimentality. De Smet presents a powerfully developed psychological novel with characters that stay with the reader long afterwards.

With her controlled, expressive style and the extraordinarily poignant tale of mourning and love, De Smet establishes herself as a highly-talented author for young people.

TROUW



AUTHOR



Marian De Smet (b. 1976) started her career as an author for toddlers and young children, and published her first YA novel in 2008. The characters are strong young men and women who have to survive in a complex environment, both physically and psychologically. De Smet has a pure writing style: short chapters, authentic dialogues and a sober use of language, making her books very readable and identifiable while they are also subtly literary.

ORIGINAL TITLE Rotmoevie (2012, Moon, 224 pp.)

AGE 15+

PRIZES Gouden Lijst, nominated for Woutertje Pieterse Prize and Boekenleeuw

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