

A beautiful account of an era of cruelty

The Dog Eaters

MARITA DE STERCK

'The Dog Eaters' describes the plight of ordinary citizens during WWI, as seen through the eyes of Victor, the epileptic 17-year-old son of a notary. He is not allowed to go outside, but this time he has to: his dog has gone missing and, during the 1917 winter of starvation, every animal is in danger.

A stunning young adult novel

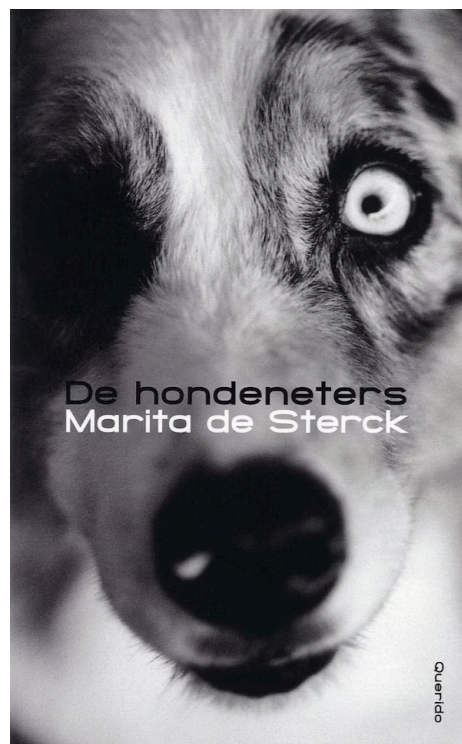
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The twilight area between life and death into which Victor disappears during an epileptic fit is a superb metaphor for the war that's far away and yet still saturates everyday life. The Dog Eaters reads like a historical adventure story, a grisly fairy tale, and a coming-of-age novel. Victor encounters figures who appear to have stepped straight out of a folktale when he goes out alone for the first time, explores the "butter-soft warmth" of a woman and gets to know the real world outside.

This hard-boiled book is written in direct, earthy language. The author's thorough research provides the reader with a vast wealth of information. With its mythical atmosphere and almost unbearable tension, this is an unforgettable novel for readers of all ages.

The lush Flemish language is a pleasure to read

TROUW



AUTHOR



Marita de Sterck (b. 1955) has spent much time travelling the world as an anthropologist, searching out narratives rooted in age-old oral traditions. Recurring themes in her work include learning to love without losing oneself, the power of stories, and the often complex relationship between generations. She has a very recognizable style that plays with registers and does not shy away from direct language. Photo © Koen Broos

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