

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

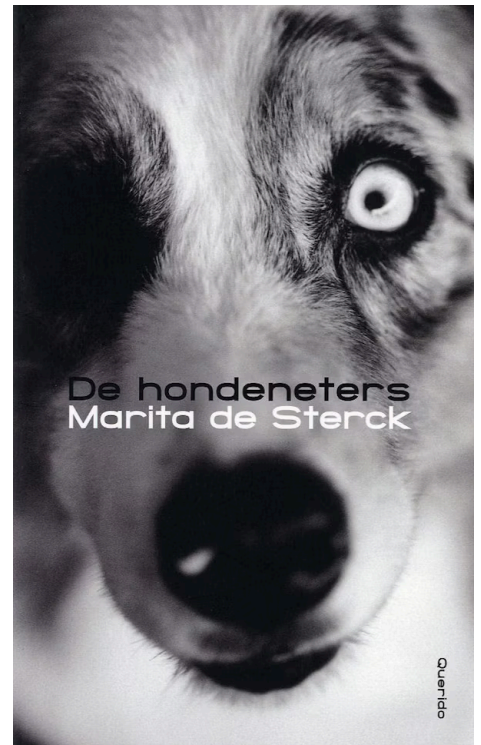
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The twilight area between life and death into which Victor disappears during an epileptic fit is a superb metaphor for the war that's far away and yet still saturates everyday life. The Dog Eaters reads like a historical adventure story, a grisly fairy 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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**AGE** 12+

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