

Epic family tragedy in an original Flemish voice

One is Enough

ELS BEERTEN

Juliette is growing up in a musical family, but life is no picnic; after the death of her father, her mother proves demanding to live with. The oldest child, Louis, sees straight through her caprices – “So much circus in one person, it sends chills down your spine” – and leaves home. Juliette desperately attempts to keep her younger sister out of the firing line of her steadily derailing mother. The latent tragedy develops inexorably.

A confrontational book that grabs you by the throat before slowly taking possession of you

TROUW

Els Beerten uses deep psychological insight to bring the affairs of Juliette and her family to life. But this book, made up of three parts with two narrators, is just as much the story of Juliette's older brother Louis and of the man Juliette would love to make her own: café manager and talented cyclist Wilfried.

Beerten has a thoroughly authentic writing style and she succeeds in retaining the Flemish character of her native language. Moreover, as she demonstrates here once again, she is a born storyteller. The tale unfolds on several levels. Every sentence rings true in a novel that breaks down the boundaries between young adult and adult literature.

A proper young adult book has no age limits and can be enjoyed by everybody. One is Enough is just such a book.

DE STANDAARD



AUTHOR



Els Beerten's (b. 1959) oeuvre ranges from middle grade to YA. Her masterpiece is without a doubt *We All Want Heaven*, which has won her just about every prize imaginable, at home and internationally, and which was nominated for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis. It has been translated into many languages and has won the hearts of YA and adult readers. Her work is characterized by deep psychological insight and her great ability to dissect the human soul. Photo © Thijs Jaspaert

ORIGINAL TITLE Een mens is genoeg (2014, Querido, 254 pp.)

AGE 15+

PRIZES Boekenleeuw Readers' Prize

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Lucienne van der Leije - l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be