

Brilliantly unravelling love's complexities

It's Love We Don't Understand

BART MOEYAERT

In his novel 'It Is Love We Don't Understand' Bart Moeyaert deals with love in a sensitive and refreshing way, expertly unravelling its complexities while at the same time leaving its mystery intact. Through the eyes of a fifteen-year-old girl, we witness the life of a broken family over the course of three stories. In the first of the three we plunge straight into a fierce family quarrel. All survive intact. But the tone has been set. The two following episodes are less stormy, but no less impressive.

I am well past fifteen years old, but I am glad that this book has come my way.

HET PAROOL

Moeyaert writes about horrors which people have become accustomed to and about sorrow which is too comical for words. From a kaleidoscopic whole of dialogues, images and seemingly unimportant events, the reader distils a portrait of a dysfunctional family, in which the children long for love and recognition. Moeyaert's subtlety as a storyteller makes for three scenes which are seemingly simple but are emotionally highly charged. The more the reader dares to be involved in the story, the richer and deeper it becomes.

If you cannot talk about something, it is better to keep silent. If you're going to write about it then do so as suggestively as Moeyaert.

DE VOLKSKRANT



AUTHOR



Bart Moeyaert (b. 1964) was barely nineteen when he made his debut in 1983. His books are always received with great acclaim, and have been described by critics as poetic, cinematic and appealing to the senses. He often deals with complex existential subjects in his oeuvre, in an insightful and accessible way. His books have won many awards at home and abroad, and have been translated into more than twenty languages. In 2019 he won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's most prestigious award for children's literature. *Photo © Diego Franssens*

ORIGINAL TITLE Het is de liefde die we niet begrijpen (1999, Querido, 96 pp.)

COPIES SOLD 20,000

AGE 15+

PRIZES Boekenleeuw, nominated for Gouden Uil

RIGHTS SOLD English (Front Street), French (Éditions du Rouergue), German (Beltz & Gelberg / Hanser), Italian (Salani), Danish (Fremad), Swedish (Lilla Piratförlaget), Spanish (Ediciones SM Mexico), Serbian (Odiseja)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Lucienne van der

Leije - I.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

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