

A unique and fascinating perspective on Rousseau

# I Think It Was Love

KATHLEEN VEREECKEN

'I Think It Was Love' tells the story of Leon, supposedly the son of famous philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who wrote 'Emile ou de l'éducation'. No one knew that he had taken his own five children to a founding hospital. In the enlightened 18th century, Leon is abandoned and taken in by an uncaring foster mother. Méline, the daughter of the family, takes pity on the tough little boy and makes his hard life bearable. When she commits suicide, Leon knows there is only one thing he can do: live. So he sets off for Paris, looking for his roots and for love. In the chaotic underbelly of the city, he persists not only in his search for his mother, but also in his quest for education. But then he discovers who his father is...

**An extraordinary novel, told in words and sentences of the finest crystal**

DE STANDAARD

Vereecken's historical YA novel sweeps you along in an intense reading experience. The wonderfully evocative style brings to life the locations and the spirit of the age, in atmospheric, sensuous images. Vereecken slips a great deal of historical information into this extraordinary novel, without it ever seeming forced. Quite the contrary, in fact – her readers experience all the scents, colours and tastes of 18th century Paris as though they were there themselves.

**Psychologically persuasive, with many philosophical and literary layers, that never have to make way for the plot**

BOEKENLEEUW JURY



## AUTHOR



**Kathleen Vereecken** (b. 1962) is a freelance journalist and writer of fiction and nonfiction for children, young adults and adults. She made her debut in 1993, and published her first novel for adults in 2016. She has written mostly historical youth novels. Vereecken paints a convincing and almost sensorial portrait of the age, embedded in a meticulous structure that keeps the reader engaged. Photo © Eugene Hertoghe

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