

FICTION

On beauty and decay, the chosen and the damned

Blindly

KRIS VAN STEENBERGE

A summer Friday on the coast. Jonas is in an apartment with a view of the sea. He sits facing the door, waiting, a pistol in his lap.

In 'Blindly' Jonas tells his story, which is dominated by three other characters: his mother, his father and Anouk. His father Karel, from a humble background as the son of a pub landlady, becomes involved with Abigail, the daughter of a rich hotelier. Abigail knows what she wants, and she spares no one in getting it. After her divorce from Karel, she keeps hold of the reins, forbidding any contact between Jonas and his father and continuing to pester her ex-husband in secret.

A wonderful style, with gems of sentences

METRO

Even when Jonas has a terrible car accident that blinds him, Abigail leaves Karel guessing. The hopelessly sensitive Jonas is in danger of being crushed between the boundless ambition and eternal doubts of his parents. Then he meets Anouk, his guide dog's trainer. Can the two young people, both of whom seem to have been born unlucky, steer fate in a different direction?

'Blindly' is a humane, poignant tale of beauty and decay, deeds and dreams, the chosen and the damned.

Apt descriptions, without compassion, and therefore all the more compelling

KNACK FOCUS



AUTHOR



Kris Van Steenberge (b. 1963) made his debut in 2013 with the novel 'Woesten', which was inspired by the author's grandfather's stories about the Great War. This prizewinning book was immediately greeted with wild enthusiasm, from the press and from the general public, in the Netherlands and in Flanders. 'Blindly' is Van Steenberge's second novel. *Photo © Johan Jacobs*

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marie-Lynn Herpoel - marie-lynn.herpoel@uitgeverijvrijdag.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoosthuyse - elise@flandersliterature.be