

FICTION

The whole 20th century in one novel

Omega Minor

PAUL VERHAEGHEN

'Omega Minor' is a total novel with an international air, in which the author explores the essence of human nature – and by extension 'la condition humaine' – against the background of twentieth-century history. The Second World War, the persecution of the Jews and the dropping of the atom bomb are of course crucial events that demand attention, but individuals are central to the novel.

In the context of a cosmic-existential vision, Verhaeghen spins together several remarkable life stories that become increasingly intertwined and woven into history as the book progresses. Ultimately all these characters become caught up together in the book's exciting and harrowingly startling finale, in Berlin, fifty years to the day after the death of Hitler.

A sprawling, provocative, nuclear nightmare of a novel

TIME MAGAZINE

Its baroque, epic narrative style and structure, its ambition to lay bare human motivation and its determination to present 'science, art and memory' as one great interwoven whole make 'Omega Minor' a fascinating and thoroughly impressive book. Its all-embracing and unique approach to a universal theme carries it far beyond the borders of the region in which it originated.

A tremendous achievement, probably one of the most ambitious novels about the past century

THE INDEPENDENT



AUTHOR



Paul Verhaeghen (b. 1965) is a cognitive psychologist and works at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the US. He has only published two novels, but with great success. With 'Omega Minor' Verhaeghen was compared to renowned American 'encyclopaedists' like Thomas Pynchon and Richard Powers. *Photo © Koen Broos*

ORIGINAL TITLE Omega minor (2004, De Bezige Bij, 614 pp.)

PRIZES Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, Flemish State Prize for Narrative Prose, F. Bordewijk Prize

RIGHTS SOLD English (Dalkey Archive Press), French (Le Cherche Midi), German (Eichborn), Italian (Baldini & Castoldi), Hungarian (Gondolat), Greek (Polis)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl, Uta Matten - u.matten@debezigebij.nl

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