

FICTION

The most translated Flemish debut ever

Sleep!

ANNELIES VERBEKE

This is the story of two insomniacs, a young woman called Maya and an older man, Benoit. Maya wanders the city at night, envying those who can take a good night's rest for granted. When she meets the equally insomniac and vulnerable Benoit, they empathise immediately. Maya recognizes a fellow sufferer in Benoit, who helps make her existence a little more bearable.

A literary phenomenon

TROUW

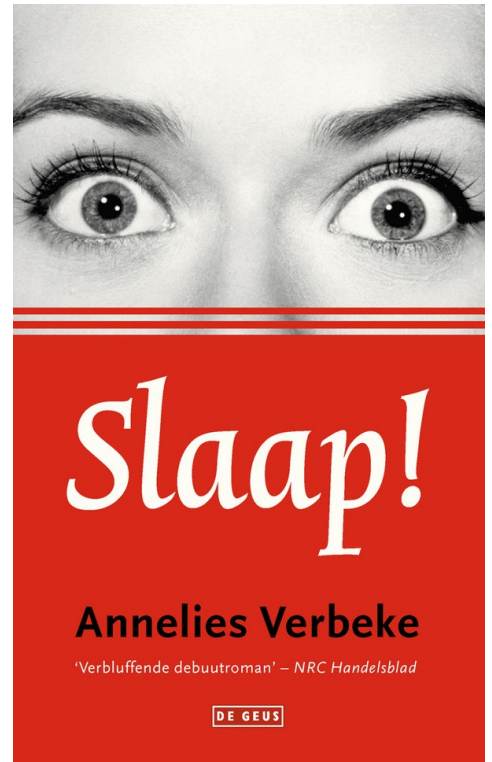
Verbeke writes about the underdog, about people whose poignant yearning for a normal life arouses our compassion. She uses powerful, well-chosen metaphors to underpin her story and takes us to the heart of her characters' loneliness, impotence and feelings of insignificance.

Most surprising of all is the tone of the book: simultaneously concise, terse and poetic, with a dash of irony, yet brimming nevertheless with genuine sympathy.

'Sleep!' is a convincing novel in which the author uses the complex personalities of her characters to pen a strikingly insightful vision of life and its experiences.

Funny, singular and moving. Insomniacs will feel less alone for at least one night with Annelies Verbeke's debut.

DE MORGEN



AUTHOR



Annelies Verbeke (b. 1976). *Photo © Alex Salinas*

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