

A milestone in Dutch language literature

# Chapel Road

LOUIS PAUL BOON

This novel tells the story of Ondine, who was born in a poverty-stricken house in Chapel Road at the turn of the century. Despite her origins, she has set her sights on a rich existence but ends up marrying Oscar, who is poor but idealistic. Inevitably both become disillusioned by life. Boon interweaves the comments and experiences of a number of 'modern' people in a postwar era, when socialist concepts have faded in favour of a middle-class mentality of pampering wealth.

**The most powerful epic to come out of Flanders this century.**

ELSEVIER

'Chapel Road' is a showcase for all Boon's writing qualities. Its dazzling construction combines several narrative threads, including one where the writer and his friends discuss how the story should develop further. Boon's inimitably skillful style gives the book a contemporary feel. His editing techniques move the reader effortlessly back and forth through time and his very personal mixture of literary and popular language adds variety and humour to the story.

**Since its original appearance in 1953, this novel by the candidate for the Nobel Prize has been controversial as only works in advance of their time can be; and even now that experimental writing is commonplace, it has lost none of its freshness and vitality.**

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT



## AUTHOR



**Louis Paul Boon** (1912-1979) is the author of a large and rich oeuvre spanning several genres: from the compelling historical epics to his sharp, witty work as a newspaper columnist and his tongue-in-cheek, scabrous novels. Boon certainly competes with Hugo Claus for the title of most important writer of Flemish literature in the twentieth century.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** De kapellekensbaan (1953, De Arbeiderspers, 404 pp.)

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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Jolijn Spooren - j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

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

Yannick Geens -  
yannick@flandersliterature.be