

Beauty and the Beast in
medieval Antwerp

The Rose and the Swine

ANNE PROVOOST

When Rosalena is born, she's so frail that her fate seems sealed. But with the help of the fairies, the ugly, almost transparent baby develops into a woman whose beauty no one can resist. By way of contrast, Anne Provoost presents ugliness in the form of a warhog who is Rosalena's faithful helper. Throughout the story, disasters in the surrounding area are linked to Rosalena's beauty. The fairies struggle to help her retain her beauty; angels fight for her innocence. When Antwerp is hit by a smallpox epidemic, Rosalena's perfection evokes even more fondness, frustration and hostility. Her destiny eventually leads Rosalena to Lord Thybeert, as ugly as a warhog, and no less coarse. Yet he is not without a certain tenderness.

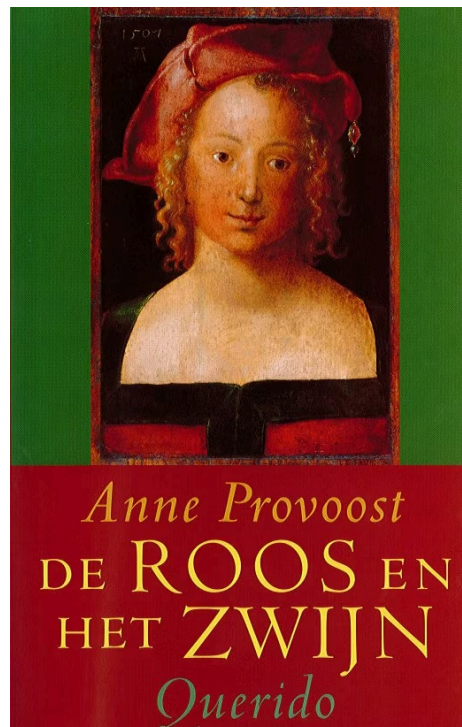
A masterpiece of the art of language

DE STANDAARD

'The Rose and the Swine' was inspired by 'Beauty and the Beast', first written down by Gianfresco Straparola in the early sixteenth century. It is a tribute to the primal force of the fairy tale. Provoost, a celebrated author for all ages, offers her readers works of the highest literary quality.

A magnificent tribute to the primal power of the fairy tale

TROUW



AUTHOR



Anne Provoost's (b. 1964) many-layered stories reveal themselves very gradually to the reader, creating a web of intense writing that gets under the reader's skin. Provoost is not afraid of more difficult and topical themes and uses a sober and atmospheric style. She has received numerous prestigious awards for her novels, both nationally and internationally. Her work has been published in over twenty languages. Photo © Sophie Kandaouroff

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