

Paranoia and disorientation in a literary masterpiece

The Guard

PETER TERRIN

'The Guard' is set largely in the underground car park of a luxurious block of flats. Two guards, Harry and Michel, are responsible for the residents' safety. They are never relieved, only now and again someone delivers new supplies. Their suspicions that the outside world has been scourged by a terrible disaster or war are reinforced as one by one the residents flee the building. Entirely isolated and living in austere conditions, they continue unabated to fulfil their task.

A tremendous novel, often horrifically funny and always unsettling

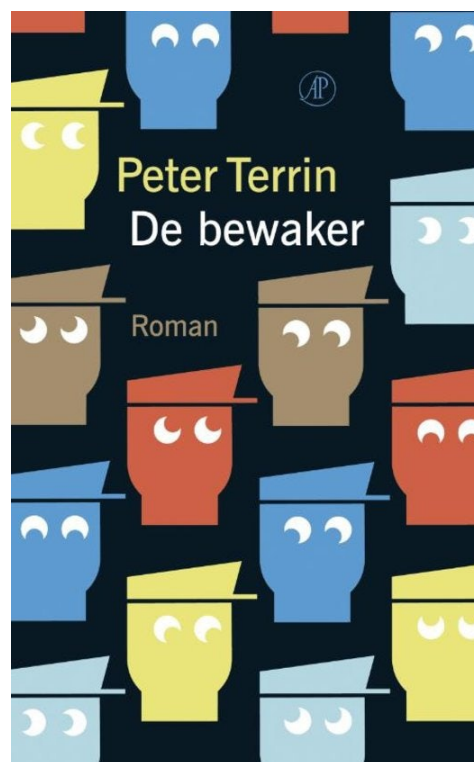
IRISH TIMES

When a third guard turns up unexpectedly, their perception of reality explodes and paranoia takes over. Harry turns to torturing the guard, one of their own, in a quest for the truth. When he and Michel make their way into the weird building above, they lose sight of each other. A tragedy takes place. Lost and starving, Michel accidentally discovers the last remaining resident, a stoic, Steve Jobs-like figure surrounded by computers.

Terrin tells a strongly allegorical story of 21st century society. 'The Guard' is not only an enthralling psychological novel, but also encompasses oppressiveness, emotion and sensuality.

A sublime book and a brilliantly told story

HET PAROOL



AUTHOR



Peter Terrin (b. 1968) writes novels and short stories. 'The Guard' was followed by award winning 'Post Mortem', 'Monte Carlo', a short novel about the desire to be recognized, and puzzling novel 'Yucca'. *Photo © Marco Mertens*

ORIGINAL TITLE De bewaker (2009, De Arbeiderspers, republished in 2014 by De Bezige Bij, 256 pp.)

PRIZES European Union Prize for Literature

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