

Unrequited love of the gay artist as a young man

# Cardboard Boxes

TOM LANOYE

In 'Cardboard Boxes' Lanoye treats the mundane subject of an adolescent boy's unrequited love for one of his male classmates in a thoroughly unmundane way. This autobiographical coming-of-age memoir is set against the hilarious background of a childhood in Flanders around 1970: the four women who raised him, his obsession with masturbation, and the merciless depiction of the priests who taught at his Catholic school.

**Original, particularly funny and full of amusing melancholy**

NRC HANDELSBLAD

With his rich, melancholic style, Lanoye has created a monument to his first romance and to his own struggle with his budding homosexuality. It is a convincing story on all counts.

In addition to portraying an array of wonderful personalities, Lanoye also exposes the regressive, head-in-the-sand policies of a church-run education system in the face of mass discontentment. The comic digressions connect boyhood desires and the author's more serious societal concerns.

**The touching strength of this 'banal love' is turned in an entertaining book to be read with affection.**

VRIJ NEDERLAND



**Tom Lanoye**  
**KARTONNEN  
DOZEN**  
**DIT IS HET VERHAAL**  
van een banale liefde en haar verterende kracht.  
Zij overviel mij aan het begin van de jaren zeventig in het  
onooglijke provincienest P. Zij had als voorwerp: hij die ik

## AUTHOR



**Tom Lanoye** (b. 1958) is a literary one-man business, and one of the most popular authors in Flanders and the Netherlands. His theatre work, novels, short stories, novellas, columns, poetry and performances can only be described as exceptional. He established his reputation with the autobiographical coming of age novel 'Cardboard Boxes'. His novel 'Speechless' was shortlisted for the most important literary prizes and won de Gouden Uil Readers' Prize. Photo © René Los

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**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Paul Sebes - sebes@sebes.nl, Nikki Verkerk - foreignrights@pbo.nl

**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoosthuyse - elise@flandersliterature.be, Yannick Geens -

