

FICTION

How migration interferes in the life of a young woman

Woman Country

RACHIDA LAMRABET

Mariam is a Moroccan woman in Antwerp who has chosen a Western lifestyle. Resistance or resignation are the only options, she believes. At the end of a holiday in Morocco Mariam agrees, without thinking, to marry Younes. For five years he waits for her to return. Meanwhile Faïza hopes that Younes will notice her instead. Finally, deciding to deliver one last desperate letter to Mariam in Europe in person, Younes dies on the illegal crossing to Spain. A survivor carries the letter on to Mariam.

An interesting new voice in European literature

DIE ZEIT

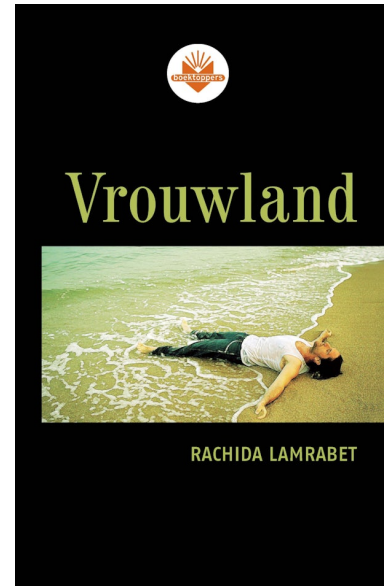
It is Lamrabet's convincing interpretation of the characters' points of view which makes 'Woman Country' so captivating. The novel presents a Moroccan outlook on the differences between Moroccans in Morocco and those who have emigrated; between their own values and Western values; between tradition and the modern ways of thinking that men find so hard to deal with.

Lamrabet creates above all a subtle and convincing portrait of a fascinating woman, who, standing firmly by her decisions, must pay the social and intellectual price.

A wonderful story, impossible to put down

DE MORGEN

**FLANDERS
LITERATURE**



AUTHOR



Rachida Lamrabet (b. 1970) writes fiction and stage plays. Her work is strongly inspired by the themes of migration and identity. For her first novel, *Woman Country*, she received a debut award, and her story collection *A Child of God* won the BNG New Literature Prize. Both books have been translated into German. In *The Man Who Didn't Want to Be Buried*, she portrays the cultural divide experienced by migrants. *Tell someone* is a captivating chronicle of a Moroccan soldier fighting alongside the French during World War I. She has won the Flemish Culture Award for Literature 2019. *Photo © Koen Broos*

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PRIZES Flemish Debut Prize

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoothuysse - elise@flandersliterature.be, Yannick Geens - yannick@flandersliterature.be