

The greatest classic in Flemish literature

The Sorrow of Belgium

HUGO CLAUS

The monumental novel 'The Sorrow of Belgium' is set in the late 1930s and World War II. It focuses on the young Louis Seynaeve, who tries to escape from a Flemish petit-bourgeois environment in which morality is bent to suit self-interest and in which the father has no qualms about working for the Germans as a printer.

One of the landmark European novels of the post-war era

J.M. COETZEE

This Bildungsroman is also a social document about political and social misfortune in Flanders before, during, and after World War II. In particular, it is a look from within at the man-in-the-street in wartime and at the circumstances that gave rise to collaboration. Louis avoids the lure of fascism through his innate anarchism and intellectual insight; in this, he is a typical Claus protagonist.

The novel has continued to be a bestseller for many years and has been translated into numerous languages.

This is the Great Belgian Novel

THE TIMES

Additional translated editions next to the ones listed in the column on the right: English (Viking / Pantheon Books / Penguin Books), French (Julliard), German (Volk und Welt / Deutscher Taschenbuch), Spanish (Alfaguara), Slovenian (Beletrina), Albanian (Aleph Klub).



AUTHOR



ORIGINAL TITLE Het verdriet van België (1983, De Bezige Bij, 773 pp. Latest edition: 2018)

PRIZES Flemish State Prize for Narrative Prose, Flemish Reader Prize, Humo's Gouden Bladwijzer, Premio Nonino

RIGHTS SOLD English (The Overlook Press), French (Seuil), German (Klett-Cotta), Spanish (Debolsillo), Italian (Feltrinelli), Finnish (Otava), Norwegian (Gyldendal), Danish (Rosinante), Swedish (Bonniers), Hungarian (L'Harmattan), Polish (PIW), Simplified Chinese (Yilin), Portuguese (Asa), Bulgarian (PIC), Croatian (Fraktura), Romanian (Univers), Russian (Russiko), Complex Chinese (Huangguan Wenhua Chuban Youxian Gongsì), Serbian (Heliks), Ukrainian (Tempora), Serbo-Croatian (Prometej), Amharic (Hohe), Greek (Kastaniotis), Afrikaans (Protea), Albanian (Aleph Klub), Macedonian (ViG Zenica)

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