

A northern version of Fellini's
'Amarcord'

Aunt Jeannot's Hat

ERIC DE KUYPER

'Aunt Jeannot's Hat. Scenes from a Childhood in Brussels' is set in a suburb of the city shortly after the Second World War. The air is alive with the excitement of newfound freedom and life has taken its leave of traditional conventions. The chaos is contagious, and widow De Kuyper's family share in the unrestrained atmosphere in their own way. The family may have its problems – no father and little money – but their difficulties are not experienced as a burden.

Quite possibly the most beautiful memories
in Dutch-language literature

TZUM

In a life that appears to consist of paying visits to one another, the reader is introduced to the entire family, from grandmother to great-grandchildren, the uncles, brothers and sisters, and the frivolous Aunt Jeannot, who munches chocolates and revels in sensation. In between we encounter the main character, a boy growing up and discovering the world of the imagination in a playful manner. The magnificent and the mundane aspects of a young boy's life are beautifully depicted in many small details.

De Kuyper manages to activate the reader's
own childhood memories: the biggest
compliment a writer can receive.

LITERAIR NEDERLAND



AUTHOR



Eric de Kuyper (b. 1942) is a splendid maverick in Flemish literature. In addition to his writing he is a film director and theoretician, a semiologist and a connoisseur of ballet, theatre and opera. His autobiographical cycle, which includes 'Aunt Jeannot's Hat', earned him the title 'Proust of the Low Countries'. De Kuyper is a chronicler with a refined writing style. Keywords such as melancholy, refinement and beauty typify his kaleidoscopic collections of scenes. *Photo © Stef Verstraeten*

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