

FICTION

Sardonic breakthrough novel by a legendary writer

The Man Who Found a Job

HERMAN BRUSSELMANS

Louis Tinner works as a librarian in the Book Palace, the 'recreational library' of a large, otherwise unidentified government agency. He spends his long days drenched in loneliness and idleness surrounded by shelf after shelf of books. The few visitors to the library are either sent packing or brushed off with books they don't want, books often missing a few essential pages that Tinner has been known to remove from time to time. When he attacks a co-worker who turns out to be the son of the boss, it looks as if the end for Tinner is nigh.

Virtuoso composition and writing

NRC HANDELSBLAD

Brusselmans' combination of desperation and emptiness and the sardonic indulgence of this general malaise in the innocent, unsuspecting citizen caused a major stir in the traditional Flemish literature of the 1980s, as did his cynical but irresistible humour and immediate style. 'The Man Who Found a Job' is also a milestone in his extensive oeuvre, serving as unique point of reference for one of Flanders' most read authors.

A sublime little work which, though about boredom, doesn't bore one for a second. On the contrary!

VRIJ NEDERLAND



AUTHOR



With a literary output of two books a year, **Herman Brusselmans** (b. 1957) has more than sixty books to his name. The majority describe the existence of one of his alter-egos, mostly a man without ambition who likes pubs, talking through the back of his neck, and girls. His work is typified by its substantial autobiographical content, with booze, sex, cigarettes and boredom as recurring themes. Together with Tom Lanoye and Kristien Hemmerechts, he represented a new generation of Flemish authors in the 1980s.

ORIGINAL TITLE De man die werk vond (Prometheus, 1985, 152 pp.)

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Marisca van der Mark - foreignrights@pbo.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoosthuysse - elise@flandersliterature.be