

A bourgeois novel about power, impossible love, money and betrayal

The Aunts

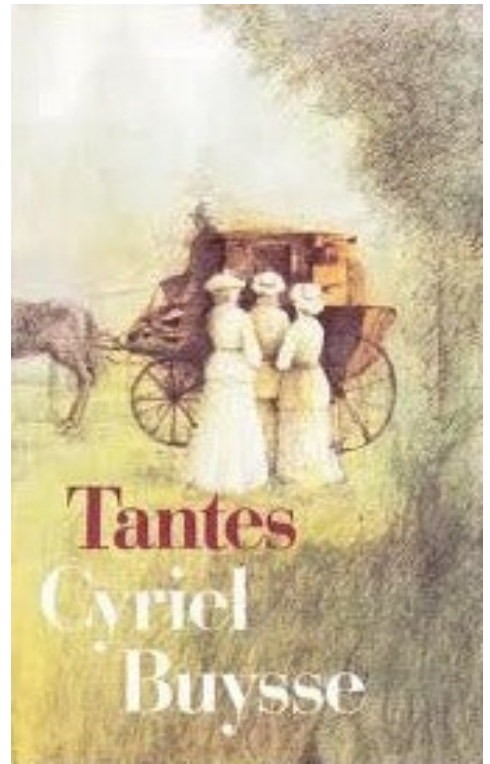
CYRIEL BUYSSE

'The Aunts' is a classic novel about the tragedy of a petit-bourgeois family in the early 20th century. In the Dufour family, everything revolves around the suffocating influence of Aunt Clemence, Aunt Estelle and Aunt Victoire. They dominate the household with their wealth and their sanctimonious morals. Father and son Max are constantly on their guard and daughters Clara, Adrienne and Esmée are well on the way to becoming vipers, too.

A wonderful book, in my opinion. All real people, larger than life.

WILLEM ELSSCHOT

This literary tale is, above all, an indictment against the oppressive class-ridden society of the time, but the melodramatic highpoints (occasionally reminiscent of a well-written soap or serial) and the cynical tone in which the narrator portrays his characters will effortlessly fascinate today's reader.



AUTHOR



Cyriel Buysse (1859-1932) became known as a naturalist writer and playwright in the tradition of Émile Zola. His novels and plays are infused with a deep sympathy for the common man and his fate, which he describes vividly and realistically. His best known play 'The Van Paemel Family' (Het gezin van Paemel), which was screened in 1986, is most representative for his bleak depiction of the world. His later work, which includes 'The Aunts' (Tantes, 1925), demonstrates a more refined ironic tone of voice. In 1921 Buysse received the Belgian State Prize for Narrative Prose for his entire oeuvre. Photo Collection Letterenhuis, Antwerp

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