

A Dutchman discovers Flanders

# The Belgian Marriage

MARC REUGEBRINK

Max Herder is getting married to Isabelle Fabry. A Dutchman marrying a Fleming. A Dutchman who, to the great hilarity of the Flemings around him, keeps saying he can't stand Dutch people. That's why Max embraces far more in Isabelle than just the girl she is. Max wants to be a Fleming amongst Flemings and say goodbye forever to his turbulent amorous past.

But achieving that dream seems more difficult than expected. Max has exaggerated expectations of undying love. In the country where he has sought refuge, everything is threatening to fall apart. While all the signs around him point to a split, his wedding day is approaching fast.

## A great sense of style and humour

DE REACTOR

The book is about the vicissitudes of love and infatuation, the ups and downs of a relationship, the obstacles, the pitfalls and the contingencies in the emotional quest of the couple and their circle of friends. But far more, 'The Belgian Marriage' is a novel about identity, differences, being foreign and wanting to belong. By expanding Max and Isabelle's tale into a social story, Reugebrink has, above all, written a subtle, intelligent account of modern Flanders.

## Reugebrink describes the madness of love with glorious elegance

CUTTING EDGE



## AUTHOR



**Marc Reugebrink** (b. 1960) is an author, poet and essayist. He was born in the Netherlands but has lived for years in Flanders. His work has been nominated for and crowned with various awards, including the prestigious Gouden Uil for *The Big Delay*. *The Belgian Marriage* is an account of modern Flanders, a novel about identity, differences, being foreign and wanting to belong. *The House of Salmon* is an impressive family novel. *Salt* is a sparkling ecological dystopian fable. *Photo* © Michiel Hendryckx

**ORIGINAL TITLE** *Het Belgisch huwelijk* (2014, De Bezige Bij, 223 pp.)

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