FICTION

A moving story about origins, mourning and language

White is Always Nice

LEO PLEYSIER

‘White is Always Nice’ is the extended monologue of an old woman who has just died but cannot stop talking. In a one-sided conversation with her silent son, who is presumably imagining all this, she keeps up her usual non-stop chatter as her body is laid out and preparations are made for the wake. Her gossip about the neighbours, her stories about family and the war, her gentle chiding and hilarious non-sequiturs, make her a captivating character.

> **A moving book with a rich and functional recounting of anecdotes**
>
> HET PAROOL

Not only are we granted a glimpse into the lively mind of this simple farmer’s wife and mother of six, but we are also given a powerful sense of her interlocutor – the son, who doesn’t say a word until the very end, but whose silences speak volumes. Indeed, the white gaps on the page separating the mother’s soliloquies become a strong visual metaphor (with a nod to the book’s title) for both the son’s grief and his stoic acceptance of his mother’s shortcomings.

> **With a beautiful light touch, Leo Pleysier shows how someone can delay the death of a loved one**
>
> NRC HANDELSBLAD

FLANDERS LITERATURE

AUTHOR

Leo Pleysier (b. 1945) made his debut in 1971 with ‘Mirliton’, a collection of stories which was met with immediate praise, but it was with 'White Is Always Nice' that he found his passport to a broader public. It set the tone for a further two novels with a female voice: ‘The Cupboard’ and 'The Yellow River is Freezed over'. Pleysier’s primary merit is his capacity to recast the language of everyday people in literary language. *Photo © Michiel Hendryckx*

ORIGINAL TITLE Wit is altijd schoon (1989, De Bezige Bij, 120 pp.)

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