

FICTION

Myth and rebellion in a new ice age

Tonguecat

PETER VERHELST

Perfect order always degenerates into chaos, and revolutions into hell. In 'Tonguecat', Peter Verhelst describes a city falling apart and descending into violence. The story takes the form of a dark allegorical fairy tale with a king, a city, a God (Prometheus) and a girl (Ulrike). The mythical world is replaced by a contemporary earthly city where increasingly rapid rejuvenation has been exalted as the highest good.

No writer more physical or sensual than Peter Verhelst

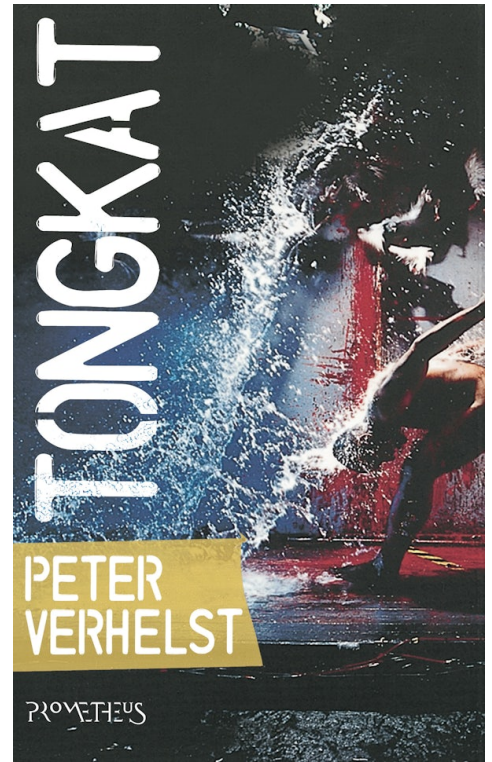
VRIJ NEDERLAND

Prometheus, the titan who stole fire from the gods and gave it to humankind, descends to earth and is taken in tow by Ulrike, who shows him the slums where revolution is brewing. But dissatisfaction is rife at court too. Prometheus is murdered and a severe winter sets in that will ravage the land for years. When the king goes in search of human warmth and disappears, the revolution breaks out.

'Tonguecat' is a real literary tour de force, a visionary story about today's urban society and about revolutions.

A display of fireworks so sensual you can taste them

GOUDEN UIL JURY



AUTHOR



Peter Verhelst (b. 1962) is a novelist, scriptwriter, myth and theatre maker, poet and picture book author all in one. As a child he wanted to become a painter, but decided to write from a live model instead. His work has been praised for its powerful images, the sensuality and richness of its language and the author's unbridled imagination. *Photo* © Chris Ward

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