

Passion, violence, eroticism and strong women

Grimly Good

MARITA DE STERCK & JONAS THYS

Following the adaptation and sanitisation of fairy stories by the Brothers Grimm, Disney and others, writers are increasingly restoring these tales to their original, complex and sometimes dark and creepy forms. Marita de Sterck is the unbeatable master: as an anthropologist, she gathers tales, which she writes down uncensored, with all their cruelty, violence, passion and eroticism. For this collection of stories, she sought inspiration on her home soil in Flanders, among fellow citizens with origins in countries including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Suriname, Israel and Congo.

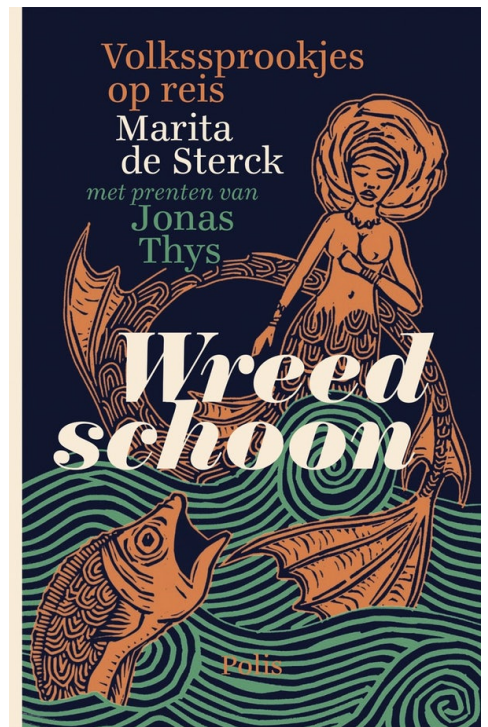
Deeply human and timeless

MICHAEL DE COCK

It is striking that many of the same motifs occur in different cultures. In that sense, people all over the world are connected. The Cinderella motif, for instance, or the animal as a bride or bridegroom are ancient themes that pop up over and over again in many different guises. De Sterck has once again chosen stories with strong female characters. These fairy-tale figures are rowdy and belligerent troublemakers who try to take charge of the situation. They do not simply give in to the status quo, and this can be inspiring for the reader. Imagining the unthinkable is a safe way to explore boundaries. These stories also encourage the discussion of taboos. An essential read for anyone who loves real folk tales.

A dazzling voyage of discovery through the mythical and cruel world of folk tales

ABDELKADER BENALI



AUTHORS



Marita de Sterck (b. 1955) has spent much time travelling the world as an anthropologist, searching out narratives rooted in age-old oral traditions. Recurring themes in her work include learning to love without losing oneself, the power of stories, and the often complex relationship between generations. She has a very recognizable style that plays with registers and does not shy away from direct language. *Photo © Koen Broos* **Jonas Thys** (b. 1985) is a visual arts lecturer, artist and illustrator. He often works with linocuts and produces raw, powerful images, that are a perfect complement to the folk tales of Marita De Sterck.

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Julie Verhaert -
julie.verhaert@pelckmansuitgevers.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos -
lien.d@flandersliterature.be