

Small lives hit by major drama

Barely Body

FILIP ROGIERS

'Barely Body' is a collection of five classic existentialist tales about people who are alive only in the physical sense. Their dreams are mercilessly eroded by the ravages of time, turning them into pale shadows of who they used to be. Filip Rogiers writes about small people on the margins of society, who are overwhelmed by big problems. His restrained, intense style is perfectly in line with the smouldering volcanoes his protagonists – mostly women – are.

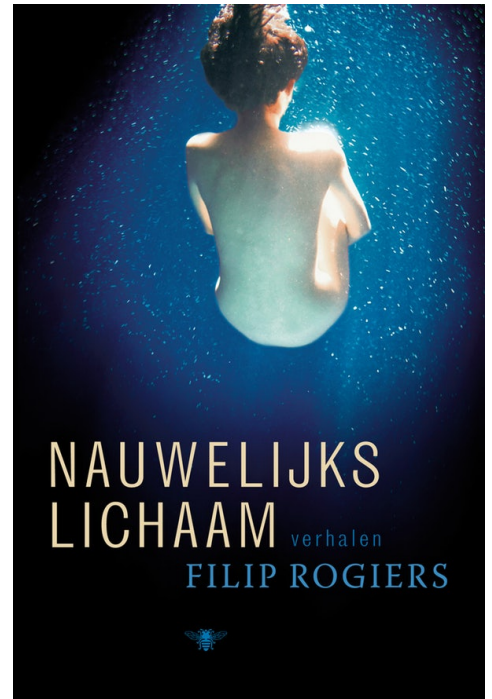
A mature debut

DEBUT PRIZE JURY

Bérénice, the main character of the title story, is an ordinary cleaning lady made extraordinary by her faults and imperfections. Step by step, she wants to reclaim the power and autonomy she has lost. She looks for ways to access her repressed sexuality and also want to tell her boss the truth for once, after years of biting her tongue. Bérénice is a crushed figure, of the kind that appears frequently in Rogiers' work. The other stories in this collection also feature broken lives and the dreams that preceded them. And each of the characters reaches a point of no return, followed by an outburst of revenge: dark, explosive and, invariably, without a happy end.

Flawless stories like these haven't appeared in Flanders for a long time.

KNACK



AUTHOR



Filip Rogiers (b. 1966), journalist and author, made his debut with the short-story collection 'Barely Body', which won the Felmish Debut Prize in 2012. His first novel, 'Pull Yourself Together', was published in 2015. Rogiers relentlessly sides with the underdog in his work, often using contemporary Belgium as a depressing backdrop. *Photo* © Koen Broos

ORIGINAL TITLE Nauwelijks lichaam (2011, De Bezige Bij, 208 pp.)

PRIZES Debut Prize

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Uta Matten - u.matten@debezigebij.nl, Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

TRANSLATION GRANTS Marieke Roels - marieke@flandersliterature.be, Elise Vanoosthuyse - elise@flandersliterature.be