

# Tirza By Arnon Grunberg

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[The Gates of Damascus](#) - Lieve Joris 1996

Through her intimate contact with local people, author Lieve Joris draws us into the complex world that lies behind the gates of Damascus. And through her friendship with Hala, a Syrian woman, the author reaches beyond stereotypes to understand women's lives and family relationships in an Arab society.

**The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories** - Etgar Keret 2015-10-13

Originally published in 2004 by Toby Press.

**The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly** - Sun-mi Hwang 2013-11-26

The Korean Charlotte's Web More than 2 million copies sold This is the story of a hen named Sprout. No longer content to lay eggs on command, only to have them carted off to the market, she glimpses her future every morning through the barn doors, where the other animals roam free, and comes up with a plan to escape into the wild—and to hatch an egg of her own. An anthem for freedom, individuality, and motherhood featuring a plucky, spirited heroine who rebels against the tradition-bound world of the barnyard, *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly* is a novel of universal resonance that also opens a window on Korea, where it has captivated millions of readers. And with its array of animal characters—the hen, the duck, the rooster, the dog, the weasel—it calls

to mind such classics in English as *Animal Farm* and *Charlotte's Web*. Featuring specially-commissioned illustrations, this first English-language edition of Sun-mi Hwang's fable for our times beautifully captures the journey of an unforgettable character in world literature.

*The Death of Murat Idrissi* - Tommy Wieringa 2022-03

Longlisted for the Booker International. Two women on a journey through the land of their fathers and mothers. A wrong turn. A bad decision. They had no idea, when they arrived in Morocco, that their usual freedoms as young European women would not be available. So, when the spry Saleh presents himself as their guide and savior, they embrace his offer. He extracts them from a tight space, only to lead them inexorably into an even tighter one: and from this far darker space there is no exit. Their tale of confinement and escape is as old as the landscapes and cultures so vividly depicted in this story of where Europe and Africa come closest to meeting, even if they never quite touch.

**Decapolis** - Larissa Boehning 2013-12-03

*Decapolis* is a book which imagines the city otherwise. Bringing together ten writers from across Europe, it offers snapshots of their native cities, freezing for a moment the characters and complexities that define them. Ten cities: diverse, incompatible, contradictory in everything from language to landscape. In Amsterdam every Friday night, a lonely woman

cooks for her men, a circle of middle-aged bachelors. In Barcelona, a self-regarding poet tries to capture the essence of the city in an eleven-word lyric. In Reykjavik, an unemployed journalist wanders through the deserted buildings of the newspaper he once wrote for. In all cases, these are cities in states of transition: Zagreb in the shadow of the Balkan conflict; Manchester on the cusp of social and economic change; Berlin with half its industrial buildings abandoned like the Mary Celeste. The ultimate untranslatability of these cities experiences is never in question, and yet through these fractured, isolated glimpses chance encounters, snatches of conversation, local TV bulletins something quite unlikely begins to emerge: a commonality grounded in the fleeting and the momentary, a continuum, perhaps, of urban experience \*'Deca-Polis': Greek for ten-cities.

**Blue Mondays** - Arnon Grunberg 1998-11-05

**The Occupation Trilogy** - Patrick Modiano 2015-09-22

Nobel Prize winner Patrick Modiano's first three novels, about Paris under Nazi occupation, now in a single volume; the earliest--La Place de l'Étoile--in English for the first time. Born at the close of World War II, 2014 Nobel Prize winner Patrick Modiano was a young man in his twenties when he burst onto the Parisian literary scene with these three brilliant, angry novels about the wartime Occupation of Paris. The epigraph to his first novel, among the first to seriously question Nazi collaboration in France, reads: "In June 1942 a German officer goes up to a young man and says: 'Excuse me, monsieur, where is La Place de l'Étoile?' The young man points to the star on his chest." The second novel, *The Night Watch*, tells the story of a young man caught between his work for the French Gestapo, his work for a Resistance cell, and the black marketeers whose milieu he shares. *Ring Roads* recounts a son's search for his Jewish father who disappeared ten years earlier, whom he finds trying to weather the war in service to unsavory characters. Together these three brilliant, almost hallucinatory evocations of the Occupation attempt to exorcise the past by exploring the morally ambiguous worlds of collaboration and resistance. Award-winning

translator Frank Wynne has revised the translations of *The Night Watch* and *Ring Roads*--long out of print--for our current day, and brings *La Place de l'Étoile* into English for the first time. The *Occupation Trilogy* provides the perfect introduction to one of the world's greatest writers.

**A Father's Affair** - Karel van Loon 2012-12-20

What happens to the father of a 13-year-old son, when he discovers that he has been infertile all his life? That intriguing question is the starting point of *A Father's Affair*. On his quest to discover the biological father of his son, the protagonist, Armin Minderhout, takes the reader on an extraordinary journey, one in which he is forced to reconsider everything he has ever believed in. With the page-turning suspense of a 'whodunnit', *A Father's Affair* probes the eternal question of how well we know the ones we love. Touching, at times extremely funny and erotically playful, it is a story of universal appeal - a stylish, acutely insightful and utterly captivating read.

*House with a Sunken Courtyard* - Kim Won-il 2013-09-26

An occasionally terrifying and always vivid portrayal of what it was like to live as a refugee immediately after the end of the Korean War. This novel is based on the author's own experience in his early teens in Daegu, in 1954, and depicts six families that survive the hard times together in the same house, weathering the tiny conflicts of interest and rivalries that spring up in such close quarters, but nonetheless offering one another sympathy and encouragement as fellow sufferers of the same national misfortune: brothers and sisters in privation.

*Silent Extras* - Arnon Grunberg 2000

Een onafscheidelijk drietal jongeren droomt van een toekomst in de wereld van de film.

*Translating Style* - Tim Parks 2014-06-03

Arising from a dissatisfaction with blandly general or abstrusely theoretical approaches to translation, this book sets out to show, through detailed and lively analysis, what it really means to translate literary style. Combining linguistic and lit crit approaches, it proceeds through a series of interconnected chapters to analyse translations of the works of D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Henry

Green and Barbara Pym. Each chapter thus becomes an illuminating critical essay on the author concerned, showing how divergences between original and translation tend to be of a different kind for each author depending on the nature of his or her inspiration. This new and thoroughly revised edition introduces a system of 'back translation' that now makes Tim Parks' highly-praised book reader friendly even for those with little or no Italian. An entirely new final chapter considers the profound effects that globalization and the search for an immediate international readership is having on both literary translation and literature itself.

**Tirza** - Arnon Grunberg 2013

Jörgen's life is falling apart and the final straw is his daughter Tirza's trip to Africa where she goes missing.

*The Sundial* - Maarten 't Hart 2004

A woman assumes her dead best friend's identity with chilling consequences.

[Garden by the Sea](#) - Mercè Rodoreda 2020-02-18

A Gatsby-esque novel about Spain in the 1920s on the eve of the Spanish Civil War

[April Witch](#) - Majgull Axelsson 2004

Majgull Axelson is the author of four works of non-fiction as well as one previous novel, *Far from Nitheim*, for which she was awarded the 1994 Moa Stipend. The 1997 publication of *April Witch* in Sweden earned her the prestigious August Prize. She is married, has two children and lives in Stockholm.

**Tirza** - Arnon Grunberg 2012-08-01

*Tirza* - Arnon Yasha Yves Grunberg 2009

**Tirza [Afrikaans]** - Arnon Yasha Yves Grunberg 2014-01-12

*Down in the City* - Elizabeth Harrower 2013-10-23

Esther Prescott has seen little of life outside her wealthy family's Rose Bay mansion, until flashy Stan Peterson comes roaring up the drive in his

huge American car and barges into her life. Within a fortnight they are living in his Kings Cross flat. Moody and erratic, proud of his well-bred wife yet bitterly resentful of her privilege, Stan is involved with his former girlfriend and a series of shady business deals. Esther, innocent and desperate to please him, must endure his controlling ways. This story of a troubled and obsessive marriage, set against the backdrop of postwar Sydney, is devastating. First published in 1957, *Down in the City* announced Elizabeth Harrower as a major Australian writer. Elizabeth Harrower was born in Sydney in 1928. Her first novel *Down in the City* was published in 1957, and was followed by *The Long Prospect* a year later. In 1959 she began working for the ABC and as a book reviewer for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In 1960 she published *The Catherine Wheel*, the story of an Australian law student in London, her only novel not set in Sydney. *The Watch Tower* appeared in 1966. Her work is austere, intelligent, ruthless in its perceptions about men and women. She was admired by many of her contemporaries, including Patrick White and Christina Stead, and is without doubt among the most important writers of the postwar period in Australia. Elizabeth Harrower lives in Sydney. [textpublishing.com.au](http://textpublishing.com.au) 'Down in the City marked the arrival of one of the sharpest authors of psychological fiction in Australian literature. Many of the things that happen in the novel are unpleasant, but are rendered with such intensity and psychological insight that the experience of reading about them is thrilling.' Australian 'a triumph from Text's project to recover forgotten Australian literature. Doused in melancholy and written from an accessible yet unnerving third-person perspective, Harrower's debut is a light read with weighty resonance.' Readings Bookshop

[A Working Theory of Love](#) - Scott Hutchins 2013-08-27

While working on what he hopes will be the world's first sentient computer, Neill Bassett tries to deal with unresolved feelings for his ex-wife as well as an intended one-night stand who is turning into much more. 75,000 first printing.

**Engineers of the Soul** - Frank Westerman 2012-08-07

Frank Westerman draws the reader into the wild euphoria of the Russian

Revolution, as art and reality are bent to radically new purposes. Writers of renown, described by Stalin as "engineers of the soul," were encouraged to sing the praises of canal and dam construction under titles such as Energy: The Hydraulic Power Station and Onward, Time! but their enthusiasm --spontaneous and idealistic at first --soon became an obligatory song of praise. and as these colossal waterworks led to slavery and destruction, soviet writers, such as Maxim Gorky, Isaak Babel, Konstantin Paustovsky, and Boris Pasternak, were forced to labor on in the service of a deluded totalitarian society. Combining investigative journalism with literary history, Engineers of the Soul is a journey through contemporary Russia and soviet-era literature.

Westerman examines both the culture landscape under Stalin's rule and the book --and lives of writers caught in the wheels of the soviet system.

**The Twins** - Tessa de Loo 2014-05-14

"Completely original. A fiction whose poise, compassion and breadth take the reader's breath away"JOAN SMITH "Gripping and touching"

Independent "Memorable and moving" The Times Bound by blood, separated by love... Twin sisters, Lotte and Anna, share a bond that is far stronger than anyone except they alone can understand. But when war comes between them, the two discover that even the deepest bonds have their limits. Having been cruelly separated as children, Lotte and Anna are at last reunited. Neither lost hope to see each other again. However, with Europe on the verge of war, much has changed between them.

While Lotte has enjoyed a privileged upbringing in liberal Holland, Anna has endured a life of poverty in a Germany under the spell of Hitler. With Lotte now engaged to a Jewish musician, and Anna brainwashed by Third Reich ideas, cracks in their relationship soon appear. With the war on, the twins decide to part again. Back in Germany, Anna marries Martin, an Austrian soldier, who hates the war but joins the SS for the sake of his wife only to be killed a few days later. Anna is devastated and longs for her sister. At the same time, Lotte's own life is in danger. The Nazis have invaded Holland and her lover has been taken to Auschwitz. Knowing she will never see him again, all she can do is keep his family safe from Hitler's troops. Now an old woman, Lotte remembers the pain as, before

her, stands the sisters she disowned all those years ago. Can these two lives ever be reconciled? The twins now face their final test . . .

Translated from the Dutch by Ruth Levitt

The Merciful Women - Federico Andahazi 2002-05

The author of The Anatomist delves deeply into the Gothic nineteenth century to explore the world of opium, erotica, and decadence that underpins the polish and manners of the era as it re-creates the literary competition among Percy and Mary Shelley, Mary's sister, Lord Byron, and John Polidori that led to the creation of Frankenstein. Reprint.

Riots I Have Known - Ryan Chapman 2020-11-17

Longlisted for the 2019 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, Ryan Chapman's "gritty, bracing debut" (Esquire) set during a prison riot is "dark, daring, and laugh-out-loud hilarious...one of the smartest—and best—novels of the year" (NPR). A largescale riot rages through Westbrook prison in upstate New York, incited by a poem in the house literary journal. Our unnamed narrator, barricaded inside the computer lab, swears he's blameless—even though, as editor-in-chief, he published the piece in question. As he awaits violent interruption by his many, many enemies, he liveblogs one final Editor's Letter. Riots I Have Known is his memoir, confession, and act of literary revenge. His tale spans a childhood in Sri Lanka, navigating the postwar black markets and hotel chains; employment as a Park Avenue doorman, serving the widows of the one percent; life in prison, with the silver lining of his beloved McNairy; and his stewardship of The Holding Pen, a "masterpiece of post-penal literature" favored by Brooklynites everywhere. All will be revealed, and everyone will see he's really a good guy, doing it for the right reasons. "Fitfully funny and murderously wry," Riots I Have Known is "a frenzied yet wistful monologue from a lover of literature under siege" (Kirkus Reviews).

**Amuse-Bouche** - Arnon Grunberg 2013-12-03

'When you're dead, I figure you can quit adjusting to other people, but until then life is all about adjusting.' So reflects Arnon Grunberg, as he finds himself high-fiving an elderly drug-dealer and her husband in a Las Vegas hotel room ('We use it before sex'). Bizarre, garrulous, self-

confident, often desperately lonely; such is the variety of characters Grunberg meets - in Amsterdam or New York - it's thanks only to this ability to adjust, and quietly tune in, that we're able to share so many private worlds, or be moved by the most fleeting encounters. From the rich widow blowing her husband's fortune on slot machines because she 'doesn't believe in an afterlife', to the language student telling of her arrival in America under the hood of a truck, Grunberg moves effortlessly between worlds. Be it cynical high society New York, claustrophobic family arguments back in Amsterdam, or simply small-talking with waiters in the people-watching capital of the world, Grunberg steals glimpses deep into the most guarded of lives, sharing moments of joy and absurdity at every turn. The perfect appetiser for a major, emerging voice. 'Deadpan, offbeat, quirkily comic but steeped in loneliness' - The Independent, 20 March . 'The wit and sardonic intelligence that shine through Arnon Grunberg's prose make it a continual pleasure to read.' - J.M. Coetzee on The Jewish Messiah 'A literary treat' - Hans Warren, Rotterdams Dagblad

**Walter Pieterse** - Multatuli 1904

**War, So Much War** - Mercè Rodoreda 2015-11-10

Adri... Guinart is leaving Barcelona out of boredom and a thirst for freedom, embarking on a long journey through the backwaters of a rural land that one can only suppose is Catalonia, accompanied by the interminable, distant rumblings of an indefinable war. In vignette-like chapters and with a narrative style imbued with the fantastic, Guinart meets with numerous peculiar characters who offer him a composite, if surrealistic, view of an impoverished, war-ravaged society and shape his perception of his place in the world.

*The Raw Shark Texts* - Steven Hall 2008-04-08

This genre-bending national bestseller is "a horror-dystopic-philosophical mash-up, drawing comparisons to Borges, The Matrix and Jaws" (The New York Times Magazine). Eric Sanderson wakes up in a house he doesn't recognize, unable to remember anything of his life. A note instructs him to call a Dr. Randle, who informs him that he is undergoing

yet another episode of memory loss, and that for the last two years—since the tragic death of his great love, Clio, while vacationing in Greece—he's been suffering from an acute dissociative disorder. But there may be more to the story, or it may be a different story altogether. With the help of allies found on the fringes of society, Eric embarks on an edge-of-your-seat journey to uncover the truth about himself and escape the predatory forces that threaten to consume him. Moving with the pace and momentum of a superb thriller, exploring ideas about language and information, as well as identity, this is ultimately a novel about the magnitude of love and the devastating effect of losing that love. "Paced like a thriller, it reads like a deluge . . . Herman Melville meets Michael Crichton, or Thomas Pynchon meets Douglas Adams." —San Francisco Chronicle "Rousingly inventive." —The Washington Post "Unforgettable fiction." —Playboy "A thriller that will haunt you." —GQ "Sharp and clear . . . Writing on the edge of the form." —Los Angeles Times "Huge fun, and I gleefully recommend it." —Audrey Niffenegger, international-bestselling author of The Time Traveler's Wife "Fast, sexy, intriguing, intelligent." —Toby Litt

**Arts Education Beyond Art** - Barend Van Heusden 2015

Discussions about the state of arts education often focus on the experiences, emotions and technical skills of artists, rather than the critical function of the arts in society, stages of cognitive development or evidence-based research into arts participation. Arts Education Beyond Art calls for a new artistic and pedagogical consciousness focused on art's cognitive and social processes rather than the qualities of the artistic artifact. The contributors to this volume (composers, professors, administrators, theorists, artists, actors and writers, among others) argue that art education should be embraced as a social practice; instructors have to teach students to look at life with and through art, and not the other way around.

I'll Be Right There - Kyung-Sook Shin 2014-06-03

"A love story between friends. It is so well written. [Kyung-sook Shin] has this use of language that is just beautiful and poetic. It's a great book if you're looking to escape." —Chelsea Handler, #1 New York Times

bestselling author How friendship, European literature, and a charismatic professor defy war, oppression, and the absurd Set in 1980s South Korea amid the tremors of political revolution, I'll Be Right There follows Jung Yoon, a highly literate, twenty-something woman, as she recounts her tragic personal history as well as those of her three intimate college friends. When Yoon receives a distressing phone call from her ex-boyfriend after eight years of separation, memories of a tumultuous youth begin to resurface, forcing her to re-live the most intense period of her life. With profound intellectual and emotional insight, she revisits the death of her beloved mother, the strong bond with her now-dying former college professor, the excitement of her first love, and the friendships forged out of a shared sense of isolation and grief. Yoon's formative experiences, which highlight both the fragility and force of personal connection in an era of absolute uncertainty, become immediately palpable. Shin makes the foreign and esoteric utterly familiar: her use of European literature as an interpreter of emotion and experience bridges any gaps between East and West. Love, friendship, and solitude are the same everywhere, as this book makes poignantly clear.

Through the Wheat - Thomas Boyd 2000-01-01

A story of the horrors of World War I and their effects on the psyche of a young American Marine. (The author died in his early thirties of a brain tumor, thought to be caused by gassing during the war.).

**In the Shade of Spring Leaves** - Robert Lyons Danly 1992

Higuchi Ichiy, Japan's first woman writer of stature in modern times, was born in 1872 and died at the age of twenty-four. In her brief life she wrote poems, essays, short stories and a great, multivolume diary. This book is made up of a critical biography, interlaced with extracts from the diary, and Robert Danly's translations of nine representative stories.

**The Jewish Messiah** - Arnon Grunberg 2008-01-10

The new novel by the internationally acclaimed author- "a farce of nuclear proportions"(Vanity Fair) Arnon Grunberg is one of the most subtly outrageous provocateurs in world literature. The Jewish Messiah, which chronicles the evolution of one Xavier Radek from malcontent

grandson of a former SS officer, to Jewish convert, to co- translator of Hitler's Mein Kampf into Yiddish, to Israeli politician and Israel's most unlikely prime minister, is his most outrageous work yet. Taking on the most well-guarded pieties and taboos of our age, The Jewish Messiah is both a great love story and a grotesque farce that forces a profound reckoning with the limits of human guilt, cruelty, and suffering. It is without question Arnon Grunberg's masterpiece.

**The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim** - Jonathan Coe 2011-03-08

Maxwell Sim can't seem to make a single meaningful connection. His absent father was always more interested in poetry; he maintains an e-mail correspondence with his estranged wife, though under a false identity; his incomprehensible teenage daughter prefers her BlackBerry to his conversation; and his best friend since childhood is refusing to return his calls. He has seventy-four friends on Facebook, but nobody to talk to. In an attempt to stir himself out of this horrible rut, Max quits his job as a customer liaison at the local department store and accepts a strange business proposition that falls in his lap by chance: he's hired to drive a Prius full of toothbrushes to the remote Shetland Islands, part of a misguided promotional campaign for a dental-hygiene company intent on illustrating the slogan "We Reach Furthest." But Max's trip doesn't go as planned, as he's unable to resist making a series of impromptu visits to important figures from his past who live en route. After a string of cruelly enlightening and intensely awkward misadventures, he finds himself falling in love with the soothing voice of his GPS system ("Emma") and obsessively identifying with a sailor who perpetrated a notorious hoax and subsequently lost his mind. Eventually Max begins to wonder if perhaps it's a severe lack of self-knowledge that's hampering his ability to form actual relationships. A humane satire and modern-day picaresque, The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim is a gently comic and rollickingly entertaining novel about the paradoxical difficulties of making genuine attachments in a world of advanced communications technology and rampant social networking.

**The Human Body** - Paolo Giordano 2015-11-03

"A platoon of young men and one woman soldier leaves Italy for one of

the most dangerous places on earth. Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the Gulistan district of Afghanistan is nothing but an exposed sandpit scorched by inescapable sunlight and deadly mortar fire. Each member in the platoon manages the toxic mix of boredom and fear that is life at the FOB in his own way. When a much-debated mission goes devastatingly awry, their lives are changed in an instant"--

**Dear Mr. M** - Herman Koch 2016-09-06

The tour-de-force, hair-raising new novel from Herman Koch, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Dinner* and *Summer House* with *Swimming Pool* Once a celebrated writer, M had his greatest success with a suspense novel based on a real-life disappearance. It told the story of a history teacher who went missing one winter after having a brief affair with a beautiful student of his. The teacher was never found. Upon publication, M's novel was a runaway bestseller, one that marked his international breakthrough. That was years ago, and now M's career is fading. But not when it comes to his bizarre, seemingly timid neighbor who keeps a close eye on him and his wife. Why? From alternating points of view, where no one is to be trusted, Herman Koch weaves together an intricate tale of a writer in decline, a teenage couple in love, a missing teacher, and a single book that entwines all of their fates. Thanks to M's novel, supposedly a work of fiction, everyone seems to be linked forever, until something unexpected spins the "story" off its rails. With ever increasing tension, his signature sardonic wit and world-renowned sharp eye for human failings, Herman Koch once again spares nothing and no one in his gripping new novel, a barbed performance that suspends readers in the mysterious space between fact and fiction.

**The Story of My Baldness** - Marek van der Jagt 2004

In this darkly funny novel, an obsessive Viennese philosophy student is in search of l'amour.

*Childhood* - Gerard Reve 2020-03-17

From the author of the hit *The Evenings* - two classic novellas that are considered among Gerard Reve's best work *There will be a club*.

Important messages have been sent already. If anybody wants to ruin it, he will be punished. Eleven-year-old Elmer inhabits a childhood of

superstition, private lore and secret societies that only certain friends can join (and of which he is always president). When a new boy, pale, spindly Werther, arrives in the neighbourhood, a subtle game of fascination and persecution begins. In wartime Amsterdam, a young boy watches as Germans occupy the city. At first his parents' friends, the Boslowits family, think they have little to fear. Then, slowly, terribly, their fate is sealed. In these two haunting novellas from the acclaimed author of *The Evenings*, the world of childhood, in all its magic and strangeness, darkness and cruelty, is evoked with piercing wit and dreamlike intensity. Here, the things seen through a child's eyes are far from innocent.

**Phantom Pain** - Arnon Grunberg 2012-04-17

Once a literary novelist of some respectability, now brought low by the double insult of obscurity and crippling debt, Robert G. Mehlman is a man in need of money and recognition, fast. It is, of course, to cookery writing that he turns. A practiced decadent, a habitual spendthrift and a serial womaniser, he has, ostensibly, all the right qualities. But the path to fame is never a smooth one. *Phantom Pain* consists largely of the bitterly funny but unpublished manuscript of Mehlman's autobiography. In it, he tells the parallel stories of his decaying marriage and his puzzling affair with a woman he meets by chance and who accompanies him on the road. Their journey takes them on a chauffeur-driven, midnight run from New York to Atlantic City where they gamble away most of Mehlman's remaining funds and then north, to Albany, where his unlikely salvation and the inspiration for his book *Polish-Jewish Cuisine* in 69 Recipes lie. Framed by a son's account of his famous father, this novel-within-a-novel is a hilariously black account of a writer's fall and his subsequent rise. *Phantom Pain* has all the characteristic mixture of slapstick and dark despair that has made Arnon Grunberg one of the most interesting, certainly the funniest, and arguably the best Dutch writer working today.

**We and Me** - Saskia De Coster 2016-05-19

On a private estate high in the hills close to Flanders lives the wealthy but strange Vandersanden family. The neurotic, aristocratic Mieke

obsessively grooms her carpets whilst always keeping a close eye on her family and neighbours. Her husband, the self-made Stefaan, is building a career in a pharmaceutical company that is plagued by scandal.

Meanwhile, daughter Sarah, overprotected by her parents and curious about 'real life', is seeking her own path - one that she hopes will bring an escape from the claustrophobic family dramas that surround her.