

Maarten Boers Literary Agency

**Rights Guide**

**Maarten Boers Literary Agency**

**London BOOK FAIR**

**Spring 2024**



## Content

*The Real Pink Panthers* – Erik Brouwer

*Tom Dumoulin* – Nando Boers

*The bicycle of Henri de Toulouse - Lautrec* – Jan Boesman

*Liverpool* – James Worthy

*Letting life go* – Cathelijne Verboeket - Krul

*The Darkest Dark*– Rosanne Kropman

*In the Spell of the Barkley* – Michiel Panhuysen

*The Fighter of Auschwitz* - Erik Brouwer

*The Plan* - Nando Boers

*Why Swedish women won't work for free* – Charlotte Boström

*No Hard Feelings* – Raounak Khaddari

*Burning down the House* – Leen Schaap

## Recent sales

**Erik Brouwer**  
**The Real Pink Panthers**  
**True Crime**

In this new true crime book Erik Brouwer dives into the world of the most famous jewel thieving gang in the world: The Pink Panthers. Of course lending their name from the crime comedy by Blake Edwards. The gang consists of about 200 rotating members from the former Yugoslavia. Since 1999, they have been traveling through Europe with the passports of deceased Balkan soldiers to rob jewellers. Back in Serbia, Montenegro or other Balkan states, they were protected by their governments until recently.

The book starts and ends in Maastricht, because this is where the most recent robbery took place: in 2022. Dressed up as Peaky Blinders the looters, armed with hammers and toy guns, rushed into the MECC during TEFAF Fine Art Fair plundering Countess Zoubova's yellow diamond and multiple valuable other jewels and jewellery. Totally in style, taking off on electric scooters. It was the most recent of at least 150 robberies attributed to The Pink Panthers, with a total loot of approximately half a billion euro's.

The way The Pink Panthers operate is very appealing, dressing up - imitating pop culture and cinema - as modern Robin Hood, stealing from the rich, bringing back to the poor in the Balkan. But not only does Brouwer let the reader in on the way they operate. His book also show how they exploit their background and reveal The Netherlands as an ideal base for international and organized crime.



**Proposal available**  
**Right sold**  
**Thomas Rap - Dutch**  
Word count 75.000

**Nando Boers**

**Tom Dumoulin**

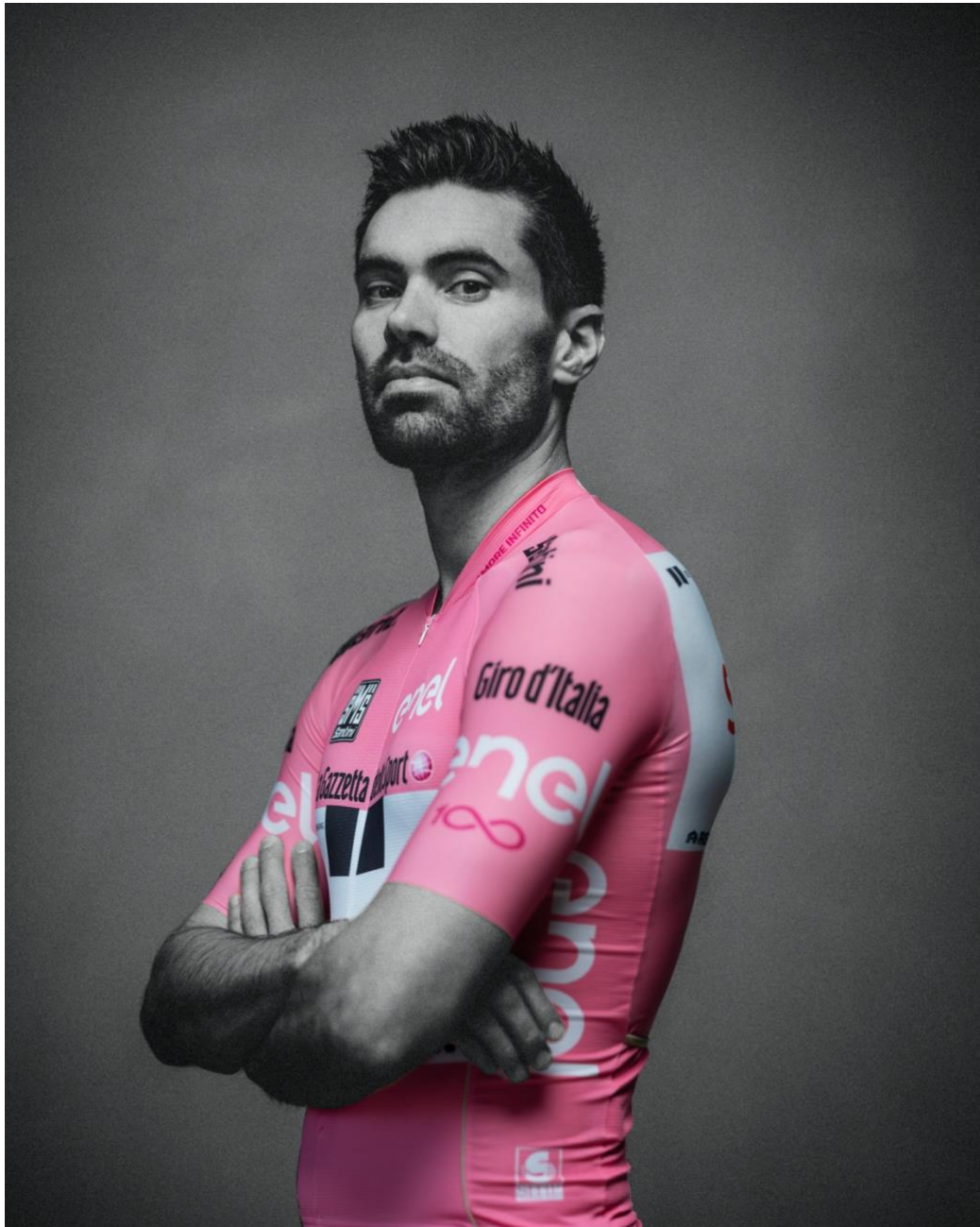
**My life on the road**

Tom Dumoulin (1990) is considered one of the best road cyclist of his generation. He had an interest in playing football at first, he only got in touch with cycling on a rather late age. He had something to proof. He wanted to show he was worth something, to show he was capable of something exceptional.

And indeed he was. He climbed the ranks of junior competitions and leagues and was ready to sign his first pro contract with Rabobank Continental at the age of 18, soon to be followed by a contract at Argos Shimano. They saw his talent and made him into the time trial specialist. His career lasted until 2022, winning two Olympic Medals, two World titles, multiple stages in all three Grand Tours and of course his biggest achievement winning Giro d'Italia in 2017.

In this book Dumoulin travels back to the places crucial in his career (Bergen Norway, Monza, Oropa, Bormio, Stelvio in Italy and Arcalis, Andorra) where he reflects on the specific days where he excelled and let's author Nando Boers in on the top level of pro cycling his thoughts and doubts, his achievements and frustrations, his rivals, victories, defeats, crashes and ambitions.

He shows us his personal route from an rotten era when cycling was a sport clouded with doping, evolving into a digital and data obsessed time where riders are considered manufacturable and exchangeable. Nevertheless, this biography is his love letter to cycling.



**Full manuscript available**

**Rights sold**

Dutch - Thomas Rap

Word count 60.000



**Jan Boesman**

**The Bicycle of Henri de Toulouse Lautrec**

**Arts, drugs and racing in Paris during Belle Époque**

The international capital of sport this summer will be Paris, France, hosting the 2024 Olympic Games. In the procycling calendar there is no name more dominant than Paris. And that has always been the case. Paris is hometown of Tour de France and host of numerous other races.

In the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris was famous for its track cycling culture.

Paris was home of a variety of tracks, the most popular discipline at the time.

French artist and painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was a huge fan of the sport and could be found in the stands amongst the spectators.

His oeuvre contains multiple commercial posters for bike manufacturers and other cycling components as chains and tubes. With one of his posters – for a new chain, La Chaîne Simpson – something noticeable is the matter. An early version was rejected because of the recognizable image of Welsh rider Jimmi Michael and his questionable coach Chippy Warburton. Is it a coincidence that the early death of two of his other riders led to the removal of Warburton from the poster?

Flamish author Jan Boesman (Gent, 1981) stumbles upon this intriguing matter and wrote a book on the connection between art, cycling, doping and capital of track cycling in the belle époque. His debut book *The Flying Negro and the Little Queen* was a portrait of the cyclist Major Tayler. “A supreme book” – Bert Wagendorp

The bicycle of Toulouse Lautrec was awarded best Dutch sportbook of the year.

‘He read every possible French and English newspaper, book and magazine from the fin de siècle. The way in which he composes all the research into one long story is impressive. The writing style is great: sparkling sentences that reinforce the content.’





English samples available

Rights sold

De Muur – Dutch (June 2024, fully illustrated edition)

Word count 90.000

## **Cathelijne Verboeket Krul**

### **Letting Life go**

#### **A nurse, her patients and the process of dying, at home and in the hospice**

Nursing specialist Cathelijne Verboeket-Crul has attended hundreds of deathbeds and supervises the care of patients day and night. In *Letting Life Go* she gives a unique insight into what the run-up to death can look like, with the choices and dilemmas that come with it. She writes about palliative care and euthanasia, deathbed visions and sexuality, and people who consciously stop eating and drinking to hasten death.

The book offers insight and comfort to anyone dealing with one of the most vulnerable moments in a human life: the dying process. Verboeket-Crul writes about subjects as preferred position of death, life questions and the connection with 'the higher', supernatural experiences and the thin line between life and death, active termination of life, desires and connections, acceleration to death, brain deficits, the corona pandemic, dying the way you lived, and the chosen farewell at home. It especially zooms in on The Netherlands and the way it deals with the self-chosen end of life such as euthanasia and consciously stopping eating and drinking or palliative sedation.



English samples available

Rights sold

**De Arbeiderspers – Dutch (may 2024)**

**Word count** 45.000

## **James Worthy**

### **Liverpool**

#### **About a city, a club and a father**

James's father was born in Liverpool, and he raised his son to love the city unconditionally, especially Liverpool FC, one of the world's oldest football clubs. For many years, father and son regularly sat shoulder to shoulder in the stands, the last occasion being when Liverpool FC played at home against Huddersfield Town on 26 April 2019. That was the last football game they attended together, although neither knew that at the time. The score was 5- 0.

A year after his father's death, James returns to Liverpool, searching for solace and memories. He also hopes to find a ruse for scattering his father's ashes secretly on the grass of Anfield.

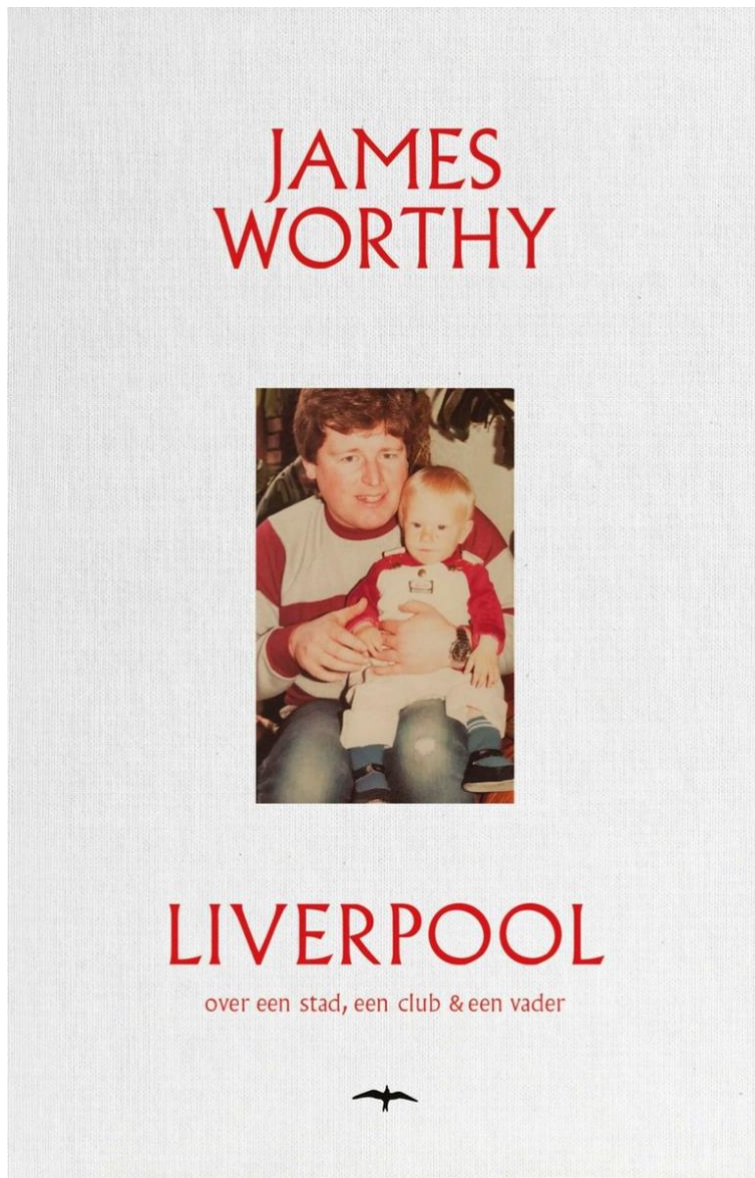
James Worthy (1980) is a Dutch fiction writer, who lives in Amsterdam.

'This book is an instant classic.' *De Volkskrant*

'A touching story.' *Het Parool*

'A beautiful and loving ode to his father.' *Mezza*

#### **Best Sports book of the year 2023**



English sample available

Rights sold

**Thomas Rap – Dutch**

**Word count 40.000**

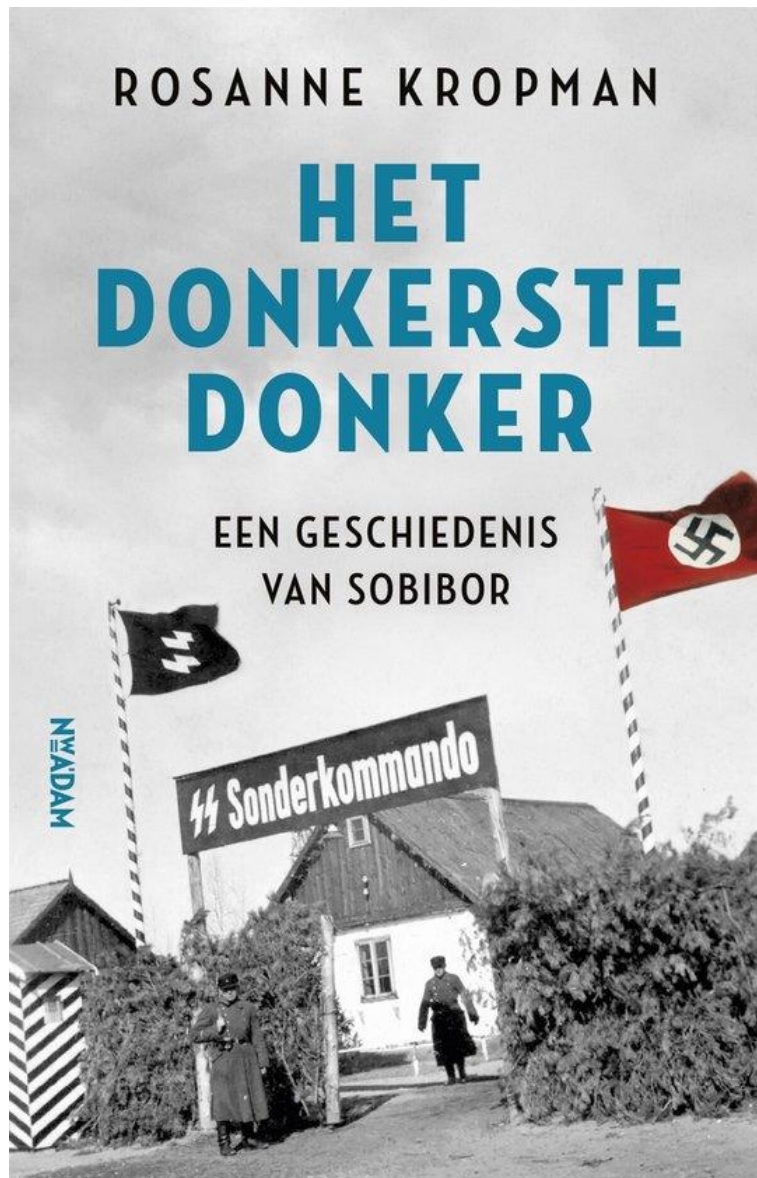
**Rosanne Kropman**  
**The Darkest Dark**  
**A history of Sobibor**

After Auschwitz, Sobibor is one of Europe's biggest mass graves. From 1942 onwards, more than 170,000 Jews were gassed here immediately upon arrival in a year and a half. Yet few people know this extermination camp. After a successful prisoner uprising in October 1943, Sobibor was closed by the Nazis and the traces erased as much as possible.

The silence at the site of the camp came to an end in 2014. Investigative journalist Rosanne Kropman is on site when archaeologists excavate the foundations of the eight gas chambers. Shovel by shovel, the contours of the former camp emerge. From that moment on, Kropman starts looking for traces of the camp. She meets the last survivors of the uprising and their families, tells stories of the perpetrators and sees the difficult dealings in Poland with the Holocaust heritage. *The darkest darkness* sheds new light on the mystery that Sobibor remains to this day.

BOOK of the MONTH November - *Het Parool*





English sample available

Rights sold

Nieuw Amsterdam – world

Word count 55.000

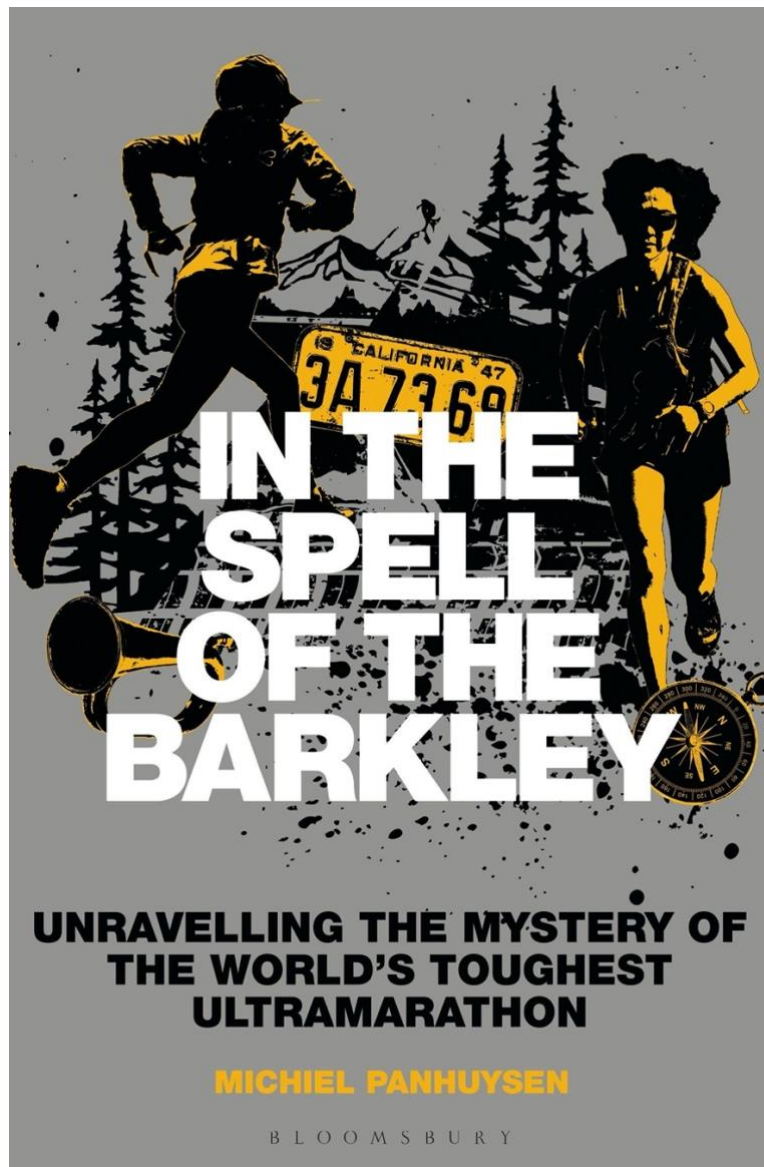


**Michiel Panhuysen**  
**In The Spell of the Barkley**  
**World's toughest ultramarathon**

A bizarre running competition takes place every year in Frozen Head State Park, a vast forest in eastern Tennessee. For years it has been considered the most extreme 100 mile running race in the world. There is no website, the registration procedure is secret and only one person, the race director Lazarus Lake (Gary Cantrell), knows exactly when the race will start. In the 35-year history, only 15 runners have managed to reach the finish. The Barkley Marathon is inspired by James Earl Ray's escape attempt from the nearby prison. The murderer of Martin Luther King lasted more than fifty hours in the wilderness of Frozen Head before he was found. Most participants of the Barkley give up on the road after getting lost in the thick fog, or because of exhaustion, hypothermia and heavy hallucinations during the sixty hours they are on the road, or simply because they no longer see fit.

In 2012 Michiel Panhuysen was the first and so far the only Dutchman at the start of the Barkley. And despite being a trained ultra-runner, he has so far only managed to complete two of the five rounds of the Barkley in a total of five attempts. He will return in 2022 to talk to the organizers and participants about the legendary ultra, which is the ultimate challenge for most runners.

**Michiel Panhuysen** is a journalist, writer and ultra-runner. The Barkley will be his first book about ultras. It fits in with an increasingly popular and extreme form of running that is about to take on an increasingly commercial form.



Full English manuscript available

**Rights Sold**

Ambo Anthos – Dutch (published in 2021)

Bloomsbury – World English (April 2023)

Word count 55.000

**Erik Brouwer**

**The Fighter of Auschwitz**

**Leen Sanders and survival of the death camps**

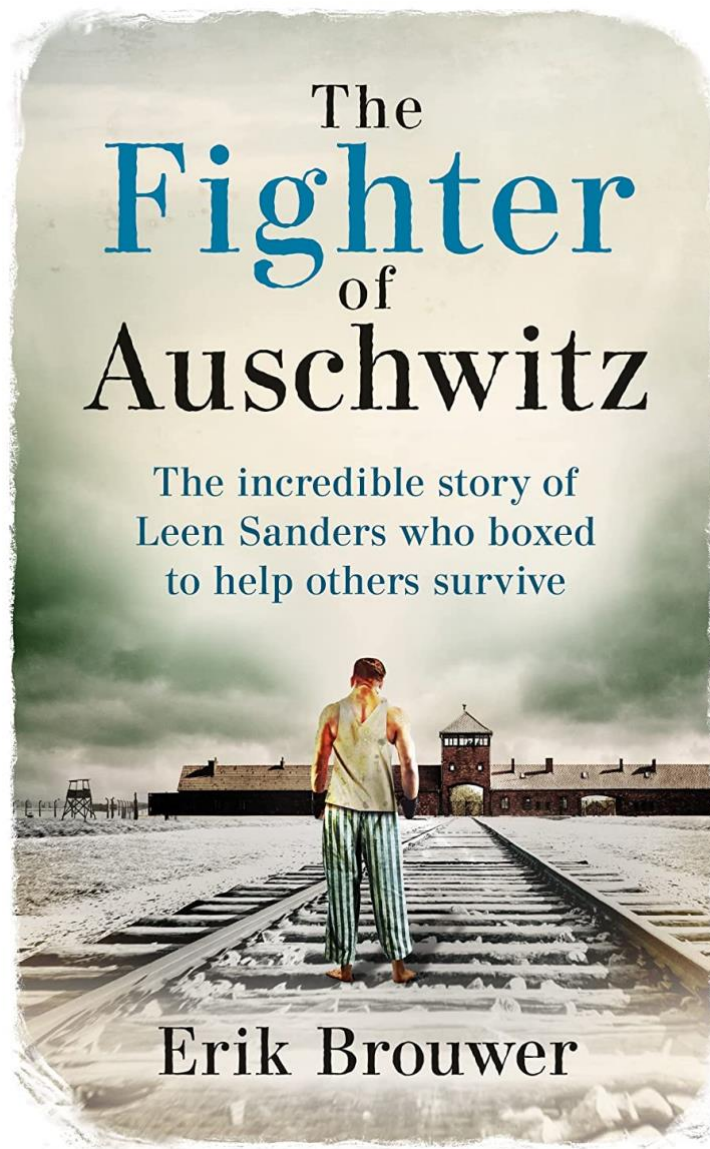
Leendert 'Leen' Josua Sanders is one of the best Dutch boxers of all time. He grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Rotterdam in an Orthodox Jewish family and struggled out of poverty in the classical way through his sport. He became Dutch champion several times and fought three legendary matches against Olympic Champion (1928) Bep van Klaveren. He won the European title and also made a name for himself as a professional boxer in the United Kingdom and Nazi Germany, where he fought with a Jewish Star of David on his shorts.

But the Nazis deported him to Auschwitz in 1942. His wife and children had to turn left before his eyes, in the direction of the gas chambers. He himself was approached during the selection by an SS officer who looked at his cauliflower ears and asked: 'Boxer?' Leen replied in the affirmative.

During his imprisonment he fought box matches in order to survive and stay out of trouble. These matches were common entertainment for SS officers in the camps.

He got a relatively good job and saved many lives by stealing the food and secretly sharing it. After the liberation, ex-campmates from home and abroad called him 'The Angel of Auschwitz' and 'The God of Auschwitz'.

Most matches took place on Sundays. Then a ring was placed on the roll call area. When it rained or froze, the Nazis moved the ring to a warehouse or canteen. The main prize was good food. Fighting was done with bare hands or with the gloves of SS men. Weight classes did not exist, a lightweight regularly had to compete against a middle or heavyweight. Kapos fought against prisoners, SS men against prisoners. The Nazis most enjoyed matches between two Jews. The more blood that flowed, the better it was. Sanders and the other boxers knew that losing could kill.



**Rights sold**

Thomas Rap – Dutch (April 2023)

Octopus / Cassell - World English (September 2023)

Word count 65.000

## **Nando Boers**

### **The Plan**

#### **How Team Jumbo Visma became the best team in the world**

Voted three time best pro tour cycling team in the world, Jumbo Visma has proven itself in its ten year existence as the team to beat. Dutch sports writer Nando Boers has been given access all areas to follow riders and staff of Team Jumbo Visma in their pursuit. He spoke with all riders and attended all team and staff meetings, training camps and key races.

**Nando Boers** is sportswriter and a novelist. He has written several books on soccer, cycling, speedskating an Formula 1

\*\*\*\* 'A particularly successful book [...] A management book, cycling historical work, personal sketch and sometimes blood-curdling reconstruction in one. It undoubtedly allows the reader to look at the Tour de France with different, and more expert, eyes.'  
– NRC

\*\*\*\* 'It's very clever how Boers works towards the glorious moment [2022 Tour win].'  
– *de Volkskrant*

'Boers has succeeded in delivering a highly interesting and very revealing book for archaic, closed cycling. Highly recommended for anyone interested in pro sport, and that doesn't even have to be cycling.' - *De Morgen*

'A book of American quality that is rarely written in the Netherlands, the time and effort that Boers invested lead to the special report of an ultimately successful mission. [...] Long after Jumbo Visma has disappeared as a sponsor, The plan will still exist, as a monument for a team and for the people around it.' - Bert Wagendorp in *De Muur*

'Worth reading [...] The book beautifully shows the downside of modern cycling [...] Boers dares to deviate from the obvious storyline: following cyclists.' - *Het Financieele Dagblad*

'Can't stop reading' – **Annemiek van Vleuten**



'One of the best sports books I have read in recent years. [...] compulsory literature for sports training.' - Bart Heuvingh, top sports coach AZ Alkmaar Football Club

'The plan: a book that flourishes when profit and loss are close together.' – *Friesch Dagblad*

'This unprecedented access provided a unique picture of the things that went well and not so well for a team with big plans.' – *Bicycling*



**Selling more than 35.000 copies**

English Sample Chapters available

**Rights sold**

Ambo Anthos – Dutch (June 2023)

People's Press – Danish (June 2023)

Covadonga – German (May 2024) updated

Word count 120.000

## **Charlotte Boström**

### **Why Swedish women won't work for free**

The Dutch likes to see themselves as modern and progressive. But the ratio between women and men is significantly different here than in other Western countries. For example, Dutch women are often more highly educated than men, but they work part-time a lot. This makes them more financially dependent on their partners than women in the rest of Europe.

On that basis, they are often dismissed as spoiled part-time princesses, but the system certainly does not cooperate, as Swedish journalist Charlotte Boström noticed when she came to live in the Netherlands for love. Why do you file tax returns with your partner family and not as an individual? Why is parental leave for men so terribly minimal? Why do you only receive part of your salary during care leave?

In Sweden, women like to work full time and are financially independent. With the gaze of a curious and astonished outsider, Boström often humorously shows that the whole of the Netherlands, despite reforms such as free childcare, seems set up to maintain unequal relationships. How hard would it be to change that? And do the Dutch actually want that?





English samples available

**Rights sold**

Balans – World (June 2023)

App word count 60.000

**Raounak Khaddari**

**No Hard Feelings**

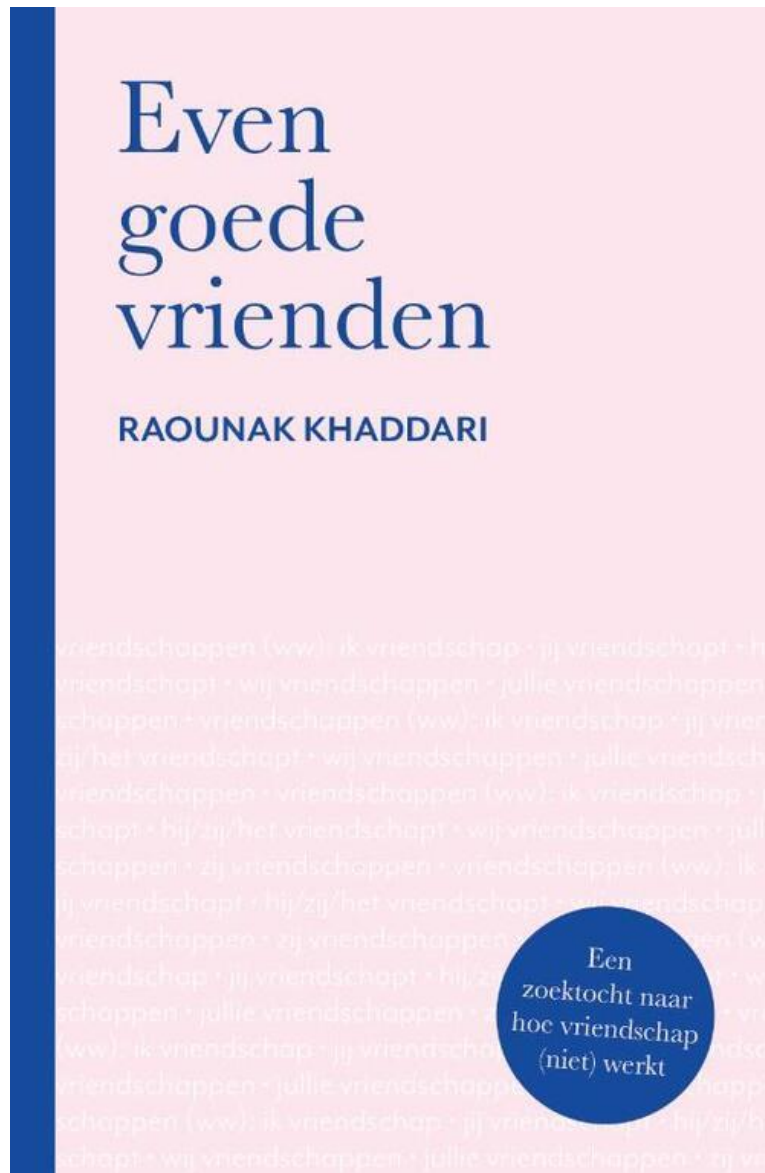
**On how friendship works. Or doesn't.**

'The pressure of our friendship is too much for me. I don't want it anymore. I wish you the best, but by tomorrow I'll leave this group chat. If you feel the need to respond, I'm here only for today.'

With this app, journalist Raounak Khaddari broke up with two friends. She has been struggling with friendships ever since. When can you put an end to a friendship and more importantly: what is needed for a good, lasting friendship relationship?

In this book, Khaddari shows why friendships are indispensable. She does this on the basis of philosophy, science, history and above all: personal stories of different people - from millennials to retirees.

*No hard feelings* is a search for the most underrated form of relationship. Gradually the reader receives answers to questions such as: how do you maintain friendships? Why are friends becoming more and more important in our modern lives? And is it right to make a friendship as explicit as Khaddari did, or would she have done it differently with what she knows now?



English samples available

**Rights sold**

Unieboek Spectrum – world (April 2023)

Word count 65.000

## **Leen Schaap**

### **Burning down the House**

#### **How a degenerate culture at government institutions can continue to exist**

In 2016, Leen Schaap was appointed commander of Amsterdam's fire department. Hoping to tackle the racism, discrimination and bullying taking place within the department, Schaap faced heavy resistance from some of his colleagues, who form a tight-knit brotherhood with a culture of silence. Nasty political games, harassment, and threats ensued. In *Burn Down the House*, he reveals his struggles, contemplations and findings during this time, showing the reader that these are not one-off incidents, but instead the logical outcome of years of neglect.

In a time when movements like Black Lives Matter have been demanding structural change to public institutions that are supposed to protect people, Schaap proves the advantages of great leadership in this brave attempt to revolutionize the very core of a rotten institution.

**Leen Schaap** (1961) is currently a police commissioner. From 2016 to 2019 he led the Amsterdam fire brigade as commander.

"Baffling, an incredibly candid look into a problematic organization ... when institutions such as the army, police and fire department are neglected, this results in abuse, misconduct and lawlessness, Schaap argues, using the example of Minneapolis' police department and the murder of George Floyd." — *NRC Handelsblad*

*International press on Leen Schaap's story:*

'Amsterdam's fire chief took on 'white male culture.' His employees tried to have him killed' — Headline on The Washington Post's website

'Amsterdam fire chief 'had death threats from staff'' — Headline on BBC World  
Featured on podcast *This American Life* on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in episode "Burn It Down",



English samples available

Rights sold

Business Contact

Word count 50.000

## Recent domestic sales

Stephanie Goossens – **What I want to Pass on to my Children**

#Traumatherapy #upbringing  
#coaching #nonfiction #psychology



Cargo / Bezige Bij

Laurens Verhagen – **Gone**

#disability #earlydeath #moarning  
#grief #art #memoire



Prometheus

Bregje Rebergen – **Notes of Innocence**

#thriller #fiction #piano #twins #dis



Xander Publishers

Leonie van der Grinten – **Lawyer Leonie**

#Law #Order #professionconfession  
#nonfiction



HarperCollins Holland

## Three Book Deal

Mirjam Meek – **Beyond Expectation**  
#nurturing #labor #baby #psychology  
#midwife



Thomas Rap/Bezige Bij

Gijs Wilbrink – **The Beasts**  
#novel #bestseller #activism  
#animalrights #literature



Thomas Rap/Bezige Bij

**Sold in Germany (Ullstein)**  
**Spain (Bunker) and Macedonia**

Yelle Tieleman – **Extortion in Hedel**  
#extortion #truecrime #cocaine #terror  
#explosives #bestseller



Nieuw Amsterdam