

*De Helaasheid Der Dingen Boek*

Desire Cordier - mild-mannered former librarian, put-upon husband, lover of boules - is losing his mind. Or is he? Happily tucked away in the Winterlight Home for the Elderly, Desire is looking forward to a quiet retirement with the other forgetful residents, safe in the knowledge that no one knows he's faking his memory loss. And as if there weren't reasons enough to opt out of the modern world, it would be worth it just to see Rosa Rozendaal again - the love of Desire's youth, the one who got away. But dementia isn't all fun and games. There's a former war criminal hiding out in the home; once-beautiful Rosa might be too far gone to return Desire's ardour; and our hero soon begins to suspect he might not be the only one in Winterlight who's acting a part. A tender love story of demented minds and honourable hearts, and a razor-sharp satire of the indignities of old age and the callousness of caregiving, *The Latecomer* excoriates our society and asks: might we all be better off forgetting?

Two Belgian exiles, both called Tony Hanssen, are on the run from their former lives on different continents. This societal satire with a classic doppelganger motif tackles current topics such as the global financial crisis with scathing humor. A Kirkus Reviews Best Fiction Title of 2011 In *Buzz Aldrin, What Happened to You in All the Confusion?*, readers follow a man who wishes not to be followed, a man who, after a series of personal and professional disasters, finds himself lying on a rain-soaked road in the desolate, treeless Faroe Islands, population only a few thousand, a wad of bills in his pocket and no memory of how he had come to be there. From there, Brage Award-winning author and playwright Johan Harstad's debut novel--previously published to great success in eleven countries with its first English-language appearance in June 2011--tells the story of Mattias, a thirty-something gardener living in Stavanger, Norway, whose idol is Buzz Aldrin, second man on the moon: the man who was willing to stand in Neil Armstrong's shadow in order to work, diligently and humbly, for the success of the Apollo 11 mission. Through Harstad's "delectably light but nonetheless impactful prose . . . [t]he novel's finest moments wrap you up in communion with Mattias, as if you are spending a quiet afternoon with an old friend, chatting but mostly thinking" (*Three Percent*). Surrounded by a vivid and memorable cast of characters--aspiring pop musicians, Caribbean-obsessed psychologists, death-haunted photographers, girls who dream of anonymous men falling in love with them on bus trips, and even Buzz Aldrin himself--"Harstad combines formal play and linguistic ferocity with a searing emotional directness" (Dedi Felman, *Words Without Borders*) to bring Mattias to the realization that he cannot always blend into the background.

Maarten, a Dutch immigrant and a survivor of the Nazi invasion of Holland, finds senility gradually robbing him of his identity.

Out of Mind

The Institute

The Son and Heir

Buzz Aldrin, What Happened to You in All the Confusion?

The End of Eddy

Problemski Hotel

The abandoned daughter of Pablo Neruda speaks through "incandescent poetic prose full of magical realism, biographical details and psychological insight."

Aspiring to win a cash prize that will help his family avoid eviction after his father passes away, seventh-grader Benjamin Epstein uses his flair for clever slogans to participate in a contest being run by a bathroom tissue company. Simultaneous eBook.

Fiction. Translated from the Dutch by Susan Ridder. THE INSTITUTE is a beautifully written boarding school novel about a boy who is searching for his identity and a sense of security. It is both hilarious and moving, and paints a frank picture of the 1970s, when 'everything had to be tried out.' Otto Iking is an outsider, at home as well as at the boarding school for the blind, but he is also an observer. Otto looks at the world around him with an unputtying sense of humour. He observes the other children as well as the carers and teachers, who aim to prepare their pupils for the able-bodied world which 'can be very tough.' He discovers his feelings for Sonia, a fellow student, and he makes plans for a rescue mission to liberate hostages in the notorious Moluccan hijacking case in Bovensmilde. But most of all, he wants to escape from the institution for the blind to a school for sighted children. Otto doesn't want sympathy. He can see a future: working for the radio. In short, a novel about a boy with remarkable powers of observation.

This volume presents Eastern Europe and Russia as a distinctive translation zone, despite significant internal differences in language, religion and history. The persistence of large multilingual empires, which produced bilingual and even polyglot readers, the shared experience of "belated modernity and the longstanding practice of repressive censorship produced an incredibly vibrant, profoundly politicized, and highly visible culture of translation throughout the region as a whole. The individual contributors to this volume examine diverse manifestations of this shared translation culture from the Romantic Age to the present day, revealing literary translation to be at times an embarrassing reminder of the region's cultural marginalization and reliance on the West and at other times a mode of resistance and a metaphor for cultural supercession. This volume demonstrates the relevance of this region to the current scholarship on alternative translation traditions and exposes some of the Western assumptions that have left the region underrepresented in the field of Translation Studies."

Abdullah's Feet

Malva

A Novel

Getuigenissen en tips van uitzendkrachten

Contexts, Subtexts and Pretexts

De laatste liefde van mijn moeder, De helaasheid der dingen, Kaddisj voor een kut

**WINNER OF THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE** A stark and gripping tale of childhood grief from one of the most exciting new voices in Dutch literature Ten-year-old Jas lives with her strictly religious parents and her siblings on a dairy farm where waste and frivolity are akin to sin. Despite the dreary routine of their days, Jas has a unique way of experiencing her world: her face soft like cheese under her mother's hands; the texture of green warts, like capers, on migrating toads in the village; the sound of "blush words"

that aren't in the Bible. One icy morning, the disciplined rhythm of her family's life is ruptured by a tragic accident, and Jas is convinced she is to blame. As her parents' suffering makes them increasingly distant, Jas and her siblings develop a curiosity about death that leads them into disturbing rituals and fantasies. Cocooned in her red winter coat, Jas dreams of "the other side" and of salvation, not knowing where this dreaming will finally lead her. A bestseller in the Netherlands, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld's radical debut novel *The Discomfort of Evening* offers readers a rare vision of rural and religious life in the Netherlands. In it, they ask: In the absence of comfort and care, what can the mind of a child invent to protect itself? And what happens when that is not enough? With stunning psychological acuity and images of haunting, violent beauty, Rijneveld has created a captivating world of language unlike any other.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), once an immensely popular writer, is now largely forgotten. This book explores how works like *Waverley*, *Ivanhoe*, and *Rob Roy* percolated into all aspects of cultural and social life in the nineteenth century, and how his work continues to resonate into the present day even if Scott is no longer widely read.

570.000 Belgische uitzendkrachten hebben nu eindelijk een boek *Jobs, jobs, jobs*: dat is waar het vandaag meer dan ooit om gaat. Minder bekend is dat jaarlijks 570.000 Belgen via de uitzendsector de weg vinden naar de arbeidsmarkt. Uitzendkrachten zijn aan de slag in zowat alle sectoren en in alle fases van een carrière, van de eerste job tot een bijverdienste na het pensioen. Dit is het eerste boek dat de uitzendsector langs alle kanten belicht. Hoog tijd nu we met z'n allen meer en langer zullen moeten werken. Aan de hand van verrassende getuigenissen en interessante weetjes schetst *Aan het werk* een indringend portret van een sector die flexibel werk mogelijk maakt en vaak een opstap betekent naar de arbeidsmarkt en een job.

A story like a punch to the midriff.

A Revolution in German Art

Doing Double Dutch

Slaves to Fortune

Het diner

The International Circulation of Literature from the Low Countries

Belgitude littéraire

*A moving and hilarious feel-good novel about male friendship, romance, intrigue, treachery and cycling.*

*Deze veelvoud leverde een kleurrijke bundel op met uiteenlopende bijdragen over de belgitude. Toch heeft deze bundel in twee talen ook als doel hulde te brengen aan een opmerkelijke academica en een buitengewone persoonlijkheid, Sonja Vanderlinden.*

*The importance of a minor language in the field of world literature Dutch literature is increasingly understood as a network of texts and poetics connected to other languages and literatures through translations and adaptations. In this book, a team of international researchers explores how*

*Dutch literary texts cross linguistic, historical, geophysical, political, religious, and disciplinary borders, and reflects on a wide range of methods for studying these myriad border crossings. As a result, this volume provides insight into the international dissemination of Dutch literature and the position of a smaller, less-translated language within the field of world literature. The title Doing Double Dutch evokes a popular rope-skipping game in which two people turn two long jump ropes in opposite directions while a third person jumps them. A fitting metaphor for how literature circulates internationally: two dynamic spheres, the source culture and the target culture, engage one another in a complex pattern of movement resulting in a new literary work, translation, or adaptation formed somewhere in the middle. Contributors: Chiara Beltrami Gottmer (American International School of Rotterdam), Peter Boot (Huygens ING), Pieter Boulogne (KU Leuven), Elke Brems (KU Leuven), Michel De Dobbeleer (University of Ghent), Caroline de Westenholz (Louis Couperus Museum), Gillis Dorleijn (University of Groningen), Wilken Engelbrecht (Palacký University Olomouc), Veerle Fraeters (University of Antwerp), Maud Gonne (KU Leuven), Christine Hermann (University of Vienna), Peter Kegel (Huygens ING), Tessa Lobbes (Utrecht University), Marijke Meijer Drees (University of Groningen), Reine Meylaerts (KU Leuven), Marco Prandoni (University of Bologna), Marion Prinse (Utrecht University), Orsolya Réthelyi (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Huygens ING), Diana Sanz Roig (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Rita Schlusemann (Utrecht University), Matthieu Sergier (Université Saint Louis Brussels), Natalia Stachura (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan), Janek Urbaniak (University of Wrocław), Stéphanie Vanasten (UCL Louvain-la-Neuve), Ton van Kalmthout (Huygens ING), Suzanne van Putten-Brons, Herbert Van Uffelen (University of Vienna), Marc van Zoggel (Huygens ING), Nico Wilterdink (University of Amsterdam).*

*The blistering, compulsively readable new novel from Herman Koch, author of the instant New York Times bestseller *The Dinner*. When a medical procedure goes horribly wrong and famous actor Ralph Meier winds up dead, Dr. Marc Schlosser needs to come up with some answers. After all, reputation is everything in this business. Personally, he's not*

*exactly upset that Ralph is gone, but as a high profile doctor to the stars, Marc can't hide from the truth forever. It all started the previous summer. Marc, his wife, and their two beautiful teenage daughters agreed to spend a week at the Meier's extravagant summer home on the Mediterranean. Joined by Ralph and his striking wife Judith, her mother, and film director Stanley Forbes and his much younger girlfriend, the large group settles in for days of sunshine, wine tasting, and trips to the beach. But when a violent incident disrupts the idyll, darker motivations are revealed, and suddenly no one can be trusted. As the ultimate holiday soon turns into a nightmare, the circumstances surrounding Ralph's later death begin to reveal the disturbing reality behind that summer's tragedy. Featuring the razor-sharp humor and acute psychological insight that made *The Dinner* an international phenomenon, *Summer House with Swimming Pool* is a controversial, thought-provoking novel that showcases Herman Koch at his finest.*

*The Vanishing*

*Memory on the Move*

*De helaasheid der dingen*

*Dimitri Verhulst: De helaasheid der dingen -*

*narratologische analyse van het boek en de film en de rol van humor*

*Portugal*

*Anniversaries*

**Dit jaarboek van het Studium Generale van de Hogeschool Gent bevat de teksten van alle lezingen die tijdens het academiejaar 2011-2012 werden gehouden. Het thema, 'Geluk: drang of dwang?', werd interdisciplinair aan verschillende invalshoeken getoetst. Bovendien werd de beste paper van deelnemende studenten mee opgenomen.**

**Born in Holland after the war, a son grows up an outsider in the midst of his family. Living in isolation among the dunes of coastal Holland, he looks on as his Indonesian father and sisters are mocked for their 'yellow skin', endures the bizarre and brutal military training his father puts him through, and wonders about the hardships his family suffered but never discusses. Years later, the middle-aged son begins a quest into his family's past in Indonesia, and the origins of his father's strange mix of charm and cruelty. Despite his sister's denial and his mother's evasiveness, details surface about the incredible endurance of his father, one of the few survivors of torture in the camp. Returning always to the Dutch coast where he spent his childhood, the man comes to a final acceptance of his father and a new understanding of their relationship.**

**When Saskia Ehlvest, a young Dutch girl, disappears from a rest stop along a highway in rural France, her lover, Rex Hofmann, cannot accept her disappearance and embarks on an obsessive search for her that spans years. Movie tie-in. 20,000 first printing.**

**When Frankie Hermans emerges from a coma after 200 days, he knows his life is never going to be the same again. For a start, he can't talk, he can't walk and it's a struggle even to wield a pen. And then there's Joe Speedboat -- a boy who arrived in the sleepy village of Lomark like a blazing comet and who's been stirring things up ever since. Whether setting off bombs, racing mopeds or building a bi-plane, Joe has the touch of a magician and the spirit of a daredevil. He also sees a use for Frankie's good right arm beyond writing: as a champion arm-wrestler Frankie will be strong enough to impress his friends, and maybe even win the favour of the gorgeous, golden-haired girl who has them all in a spin. Full of vitality, verve and chutzpah, Joe Speedboat tells the fast-paced story of an unlikely friendship between two boys, and of their lightning dash towards adulthood.**

**Love Stories**

**Spoo Pee Doo**

**Penninc & Pieter Vostaert**

**My Father's War**

**Customs Officers or Smugglers?**

**Europe is burning, while we casually order another drink. Do we defend our freedoms or our appetite? On the clash of religious fanaticism and freedom, from whatever. Terror isn't blind, in fact it has its sights set on what the West has built. Europe shakes and trembles, feels suddenly transported by a revival of religious fanaticism back to an age that seemed to have been put to bed forever. Did we feed those monsters ourselves? The urgent need for answers and solutions meets no response. Despite all that impotence we can perhaps reply to the horror by attacking with artistic beauty, attacking with literature. Let the ink flow, because there too danger threatens. Dimitri Verhulst (1972) has emerged as one of the great European writers of the day. He has published 19 books, his work has been filmed and adapted for the stage and has appeared in 25 countries. Many of his books have won literary prizes, including the Gouden Uil Audience Prize and the Libris Literary Prize. Verhulst writes novels, stories, novellas, poetry and plays. His classic, *The Misfortunates*, sold 400,000 copies; 732,000 copies of his 2015 Book Week gift *De zomer hou je ook niet tegen* found their way to his readers. The autumn of 2016 sees the publication of *Het leven gezien van beneden* and *Spoo Pee Doo*, two books both motivated by the same sense of urgency. In the spring of 2017, Verhulst presents the new VPRO travel series featuring key locations relating to European culture, *Made in Europe*.**

**Two couples meet over dinner to discuss their children who misbehaved, but avoid doing so.**

**An autobiographical novel about growing up gay in a working-class town in**

**Picardy.** “Every morning in the bathroom I would repeat the same phrase to myself over and over again . . . Today I’m really gonna be a tough guy.” Growing up in a poor village in northern France, all Eddy Bellegueule wanted was to be a man in the eyes of his family and neighbors. But from childhood, he was different—“girlish,” intellectually precocious, and attracted to other men. Already translated into twenty languages, *The End of Eddy* captures the violence and desperation of life in a French factory town. It is also a sensitive, universal portrait of boyhood and sexual awakening. Like Karl Ove Knausgaard or Edmund White, Édouard Louis writes from his own undisguised experience, but he writes with an openness and a compassionate intelligence that are all his own. The result—a critical and popular triumph—has made him the most celebrated French writer of his generation. Based on the author's memories of a 'happy village with its own idiot and mosque' in Morocco, these surreal, interlinked stories depict a dreamlike world of spiritual and sexual awakening. The heady imagination of a young boy - peopled by veiled women, suggestive vegetables, malevolent djinns and dismembered war heroes - is set against his cosmopolitan adulthood in Amsterdam, where the prodigal son discovers he can never entirely leave his past behind him.

**Geluk: drang of dwang? / Studium Generale 2011-2012**

**Post Mortem**

**The Discomfort of Evening**

**Roman Van Walewein**

**Joe Speedboat**

**Ventoux**

A rediscovered masterpiece: an unblinking view of the Holocaust through a child’s eyes Told from the perspective of a child slowly awakening to the atrocities surrounding him, *Childhood* is a searing story of the Holocaust that no reader will soon forget. As five-year-old Jona waits with his mother and father to emigrate from Nazi-occupied Amsterdam to Palestine, they are awakened at night, put on a train, and eventually interred in the camps at Bergen-Belsen. There, what at first seems to be a merely dreary existence soon reveals itself to be one of the worst horrors humanity has ever created. A triumph of heartrending clarity and dispassionate amazement, *Childhood* stands tall alongside such monuments of Holocaust literature as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Elie Wiesel’s Night*, and *Primo Levi’s Survival in Auschwitz*. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. First published in 1992. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

**The Misfortunates A Novel Macmillan**

A prize-winning Dutch journalist's unsparing memoir of growing up amid the excesses, triumphs, and devastation of post-World War II Europe. What can a son say upon discovering that his father wore a Nazi uniform? Reporter Alexander Münninghoff was only four when he found this mortifying relic from his father's recent past in his attic. This shameful memento came to symbolize not only his father's tragically misguided allegiance but also a shattered marriage and ultimately the unconscionable separation of a mother and son. In this revelatory memoir, the author confronts his parents' complex past as he reconstructs the fortunes and disillusion of an entire family upheaved during the changes of twentieth-century Europe. The Münninghoffs were driven by greed, rebellion, and rage. An embattled dynasty, they were torn between the right and the wrong side of history. Their saga haunted Alexander's life for the next seventy years. Only in reconciling with them can this man find the courage to move forward as son and heir to the startling legacy of a flawed yet grand tradition.

Summer House with Swimming Pool

Death by Toilet Paper

Literary Translation in Eastern Europe and Russia

The Misfortunates

Childhood

Aan het werk. Een job als springplank (e-boek - ePub-formaat)

**This book sets the grounds for a new approach exploring cultural mediators as key figures in literary and cultural history. It proposes an innovative conceptual and methodological understanding of the figure of the cultural mediator, defined as a cultural actor active across linguistic, cultural and geographical borders, occupying strategic positions within large networks and being the carrier of cultural transfer. Many studies on translation and cultural mediation privileged the major metropolis of Paris, London, and New York as centres of cultural production and translation. However, other cities and megacities that are not global centres of culture also feature vibrant translation scenes. This book abandons the focus on 'innovative' centres and 'imitative' peripheries and follows processes of cultural exchange as they develop. Thus, it analyses the role of cultural mediators as customs officers or smugglers (or both in different proportions) in so-called 'peripheral' cultures and offers insights into an under-analysed body of actors and institutions promoting intercultural transfer in often multilingual and less studied venues such as Trieste, Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires, Lima, Lahore, or Cape Town.**

**A vivid, glittering, savage collection of stories from an astonishing literary talent.**

**A book of photographs shot in Chicago from 2011 to 2018 with a selection of 200 images. From Oak Park to Lake Michigan, from Evanston to the border with Indiana, this books represents over**

**15,000 miles of walks through the city. Two texts written by Thomas Thorp and Fabrice Rouselot will give the readers all the details they need about the project. It is important to show photographs that do question our vision and understanding of the world. Chicago is the third largest city in America, on the surface, one of the most pleasant. Yet, at the same time, the dualities of light and dark are ever more present. In this book I am the true outsider -no family ties like in Shanghai- trying to make sense of the world through the use of photography is the ultimate goal. By trying to be somewhat invisible, the street photographer wants to blend in the crowd, but like in any large city, tensions can rise -I am usually only a few feet away from my subjects. Surprisingly these tense moments are not with the people struggling to survive, rather with the high society and privileged, the people in charge. Though the streets belong to everyone and the moving scenes are for any photographer to grab, some would like to control the message. Making certain to cross the path of many, taking time to acknowledge and walking through the wards of the city, it is a tale of two Americas. Why are we so divided as a country and remote from each other? Can "Chicago, A Tale of Two Cities" encourage us to be more responsive to some of our existential questions in life?**

**In de bundeling van 'De laatste liefde van mijn moeder', 'De helaasheid der dingen' en 'Kaddisj voor een kut' rekt Dimitri Verhulst af met zijn jeugd, maar brengt hij tegelijkertijd een prachtige ode aan die jeugd. In 'De laatste liefde van mijn moeder' voelt een zoon zich ongewenst nu zijn moeder een nieuwe vriend heeft. In 'De helaasheid der dingen' groeit de jongen op met de grootmoeder als spil van het gezin en met werkloze, dronken nonkels. In 'Kaddisj voor een kut' is hij beland in een instelling voor verwaarloosde kinderen. Later zal blijken dat velen van hen zich geen raad weten met het familieleven. Het werk van Dimitri Verhulst (1972) verschijnt in vijftientig landen. Van de klassieker 'De helaasheid der dingen' werden meer dan 200.000 exemplaren verkocht en het boek werd bekroond met de Gouden Uil Publieksprijs.**

**The Afterlives of Walter Scott**

**Op schouders van ouders. Het opvoedingsgebeuren tussen wens en realiteit**

**Chicago, a Tale of Two Cities**

**Literary Translation and Cultural Mediators in 'Peripheral' Cultures**

**The Black Lake**

**The Latecomer**

Frank, tender, and brutally funny, Dimitri Verhulst's semi-autobiographical story details the vibrantly entertaining journey of a boy growing up in a family of alcoholics in Belgium. Sobriety and moderation are alien concepts to the men in Dimmy's family. Useless in all other respects, his three uncles have a rare talent

for drinking, a flair for violence, and an unwavering commitment to the pub. And his father Pierre is no slouch either. Within hours of his son's birth, Pierre plucks him from the maternity ward, props him on his bike, and takes him on an introductory tour of the village bars. His mother soon leaves them to it and as Dimmy grows up amid the stench of stale beer, he seems destined to follow the path of his forebears and make a low-life career in inebriation, until he begins to piece together his own plan for the future. Bringing to life the shambolic upbringing that The Guardian describes as, "the odd, ugly, excremental poetry of their grubby lives," The Misfortunates "can be unexpectedly tender as well as uncomfortably funny... this novel continually surprises and intrigues."

Emiel Steegman, an unknown writer with a handful of novels to his name, is seeking a way to escape a dinner with Estonian colleagues. Although things are plodding along quite happily, he cancels at the last moment "due to a rather difficult time for the family". A nasty feeling immediately comes over him: is he inviting trouble for his family in doing so? And what if a biographer stumbled on this? Would he not then suspect that something significant had happened in his life? The thought gives him a great idea for a new novel about a successful author, T, who becomes famous with an existential crime novel and increasingly worries about what his future biographer will write about him, so he withdraws entirely from public life. But Steegman's initial misgivings prove well founded. Because fate does strike. One afternoon, his daughter Renée falls asleep and it is impossible to wake her . . .

Amid the lush abundance of Java's landscape, two boys spend their days exploring the vast lakes and teeming forests. But as time passes the boys come to realize that their shared sense of adventure cannot bridge the gulf between their backgrounds, for one is the son of a Dutch plantation owner, and the other the son of a servant. Inevitably, as they grow up, they grow estranged and it is not until years later that they meet again. It will be an explosive and emblematic meeting that marks them even more deeply than their childhood friendship did.

Beschouwingen over opvoeding aan de hand van literatuurfragmenten, gedichten en besprekingen van beeldende kunst en films.

A Poem. In Two Parts

I Am an Executioner

Expressionism

From a Year in the Life of Gesine Cresspahl

*A landmark of 20th Century literature about New York in the late 1960s, now in English for the first time. Late in 1967, Uwe Johnson set out to write a book that would take the unusual form of a chapter for every day of the ongoing year. It would be the tale of Gesine Cresspahl, a thirty-four-year-old single mother who is a German émigré to Manhattan's Upper West Side, and of her ten-year-old daughter, Marie—a story of work and school, of friends and lovers and the countless small encounters with neighbors and strangers that make up big-city life. An everyday tale, but also a tale of the events of the day, as gleaned by Gesine from The New York Times: Johnson could hardly foresee the convulsions of 1968, but some of the news—the racial*

*unrest roiling America, the escalating war in Vietnam—was sure to be news for some time yet to come. Finally, it would be a tale told by Gesine to Marie about Gesine’s childhood in a small north German town, of her independent and enterprising father, of her troubled mother, of Nazi Germany (Gesine was born the year Hitler came to power) and World War II and Soviet retribution and the grimly regulated realities of Communist East Germany. An ambitious historical novel as well as a wonderfully observed New York novel, Anniversaries would take in the unsettled world of the present along with the twentieth century’s disastrous past, while vividly depicting the struggle of a loving, though hardly uncomplicated mother and a bright, indomitably curious girl to understand and care for each other and to shape a human world. Gesine and Marie are among the most memorable and engaging characters in literature, and Anniversaries, at once monumental and intimate, sweeping and full of incident, stylistically adventurous and endlessly absorbing, is quite simply one of the great books of our time.*