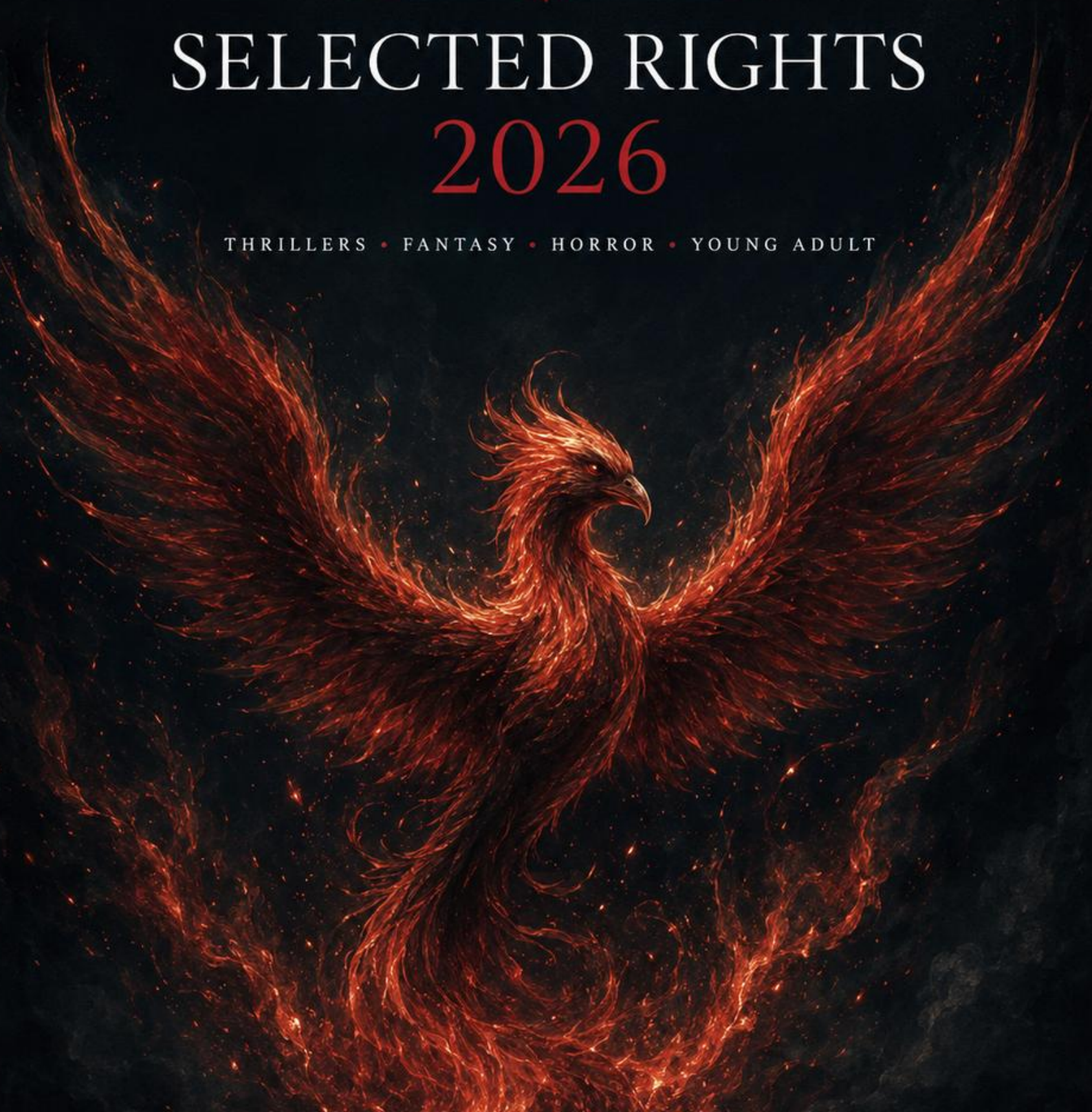
UITGEVERIJ

PHOENIX BOOKS

More than just a story

SELECTED RIGHTS 2026

THRILLERS • FANTASY • HORROR • YOUNG ADULT



STORIES THAT TRAVEL

Phoenix Books is an independent Belgian publishing house dedicated to compelling commercial fiction.

We publish stories that entertain, surprise and stay with readers long after the final page. Our carefully curated list includes psychological thrillers, crime fiction, fantasy, horror and children's adventure, written by both established and emerging voices from the Dutch-language market.

At Phoenix Books, we believe every book deserves personal attention. We work closely with our authors to develop high-quality stories with strong international potential.

This catalogue presents a selection of titles currently available for translation and foreign rights.

More than just a story.



FOUNDED
2021

PUBLISHING PROGRAMME
Commercial Fiction

GENRES
Psychological Thrillers
Crime • Fantasy • Horror
Young Readers

RIGHTS
Translation Rights Available

PHOENIX BOOKS

Autumn 2026 Lead Title

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR
MAX Golden Bat Lifetime Achievement Award 2025
Best Dutch Women's Thriller 2024

Psychological thriller

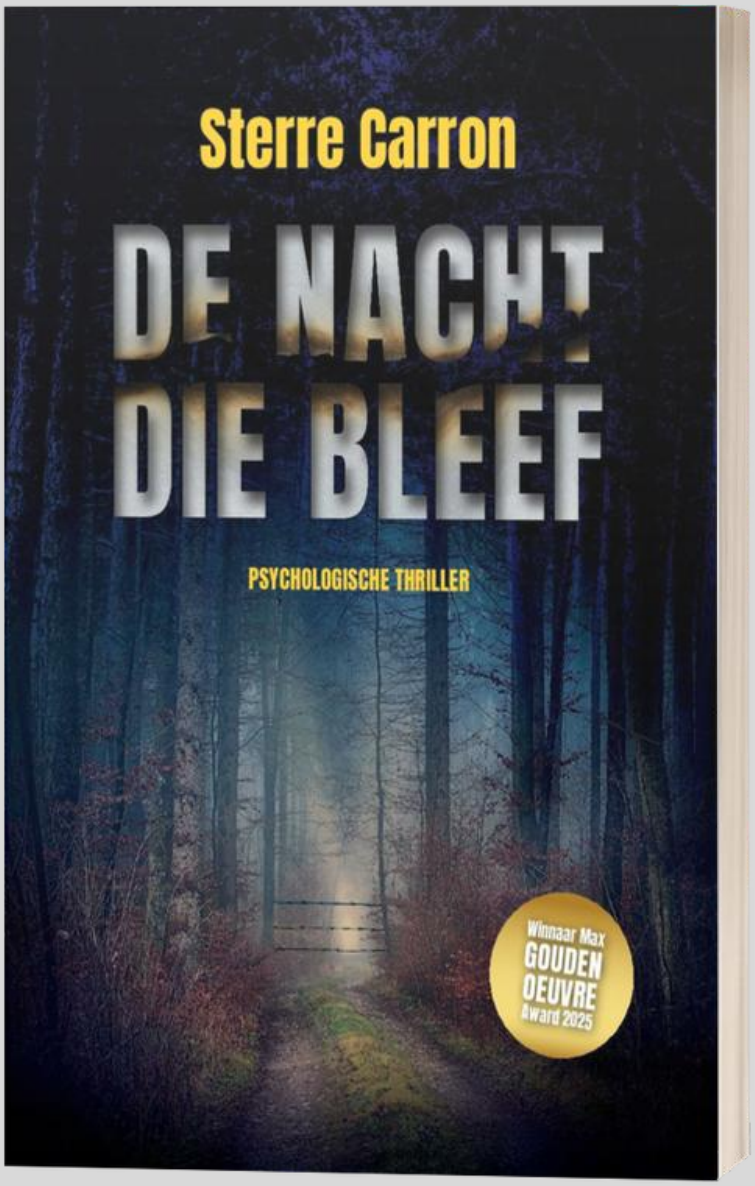
The Night Never Left

Working title
Original Dutch title: De nacht die bleef

STERRE CARRON

Standalone

A gripping standalone psychological thriller about buried secrets resurfacing after ten years of silence, forcing two women to confront a past that refuses to stay buried.



RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
Psychological Thriller

Publication
August 2026

Length
70,000 words

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- B.A. Paris
- Shari Lapena
- Alice Feeney

ABOUT THE BOOK

"Some truths refuse to stay buried."

Someone is watching.

Someone is waiting.

Someone wants the truth to come out.

And this time, looking away is no longer an option.

For ten years, everything remained silent.

Until today.

A series of disturbing signs drags Emy and Lynn back to a place they believed they had left behind forever. What first appears to be a coincidence soon becomes something far more sinister: someone knows what happened all those years ago.

And that someone has never gone away.

Some truths refuse to stay buried.

They simply wait.

The Night Never Left is a gripping psychological thriller in which acclaimed Belgian author Sterre Carron leaves behind her familiar detective world for the first time to deliver a chilling standalone novel about buried secrets, guilt and a past that refuses to let go.

"Every novel by Sterre Carron is an irresistible page-turner, filled with unexpected twists and startling revelations. She grips her readers from the very first page and keeps them captivated until the very end."
— Thrillers & More

WHY READERS WILL LOVE THIS BOOK

- Standalone
- Award-winning author
- Twisting suspense and emotional depth
- Perfect international entry point

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

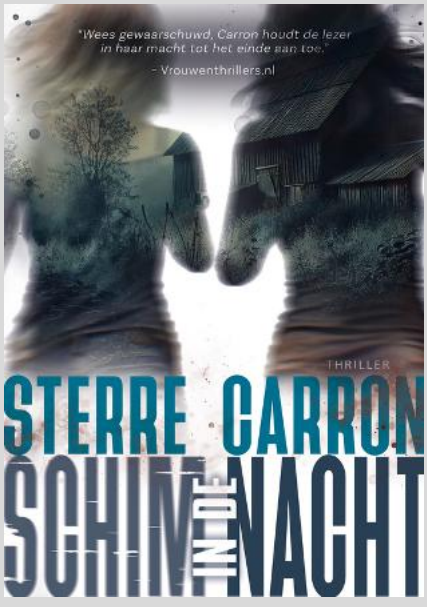
One of Belgium's bestselling crime authors.

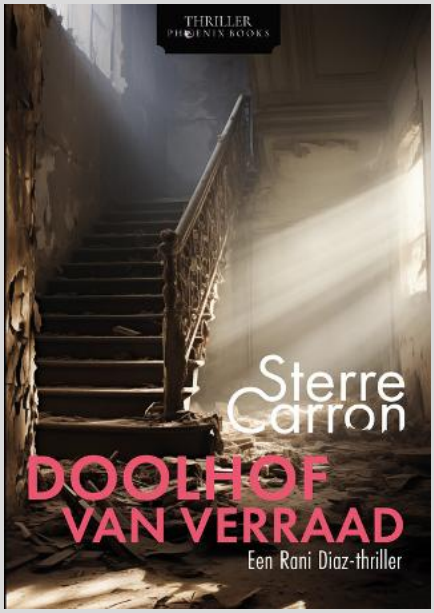


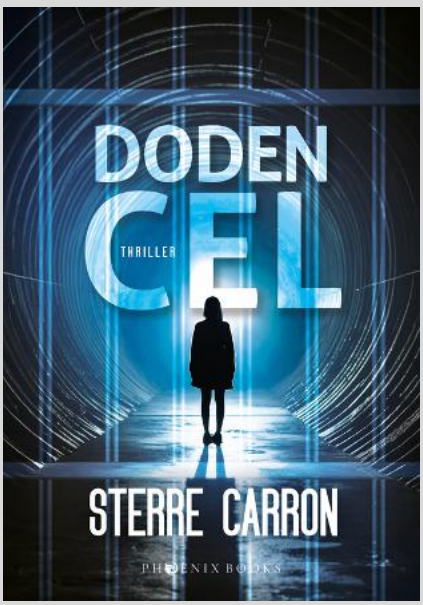
HIGHLIGHTS

- Winner – Best Dutch Women's Thriller Award 2024
- Recipient – MAX Golden Bat Lifetime Achievement Award 2025
- Author of 26 published thrillers
- Creator of the bestselling 22-book Rani Diaz Series
- Author of the Erin De Donder Series

Sterre Carron is one of Belgium's leading Dutch-language crime authors. Her gripping psychological suspense and compelling characters have earned her a loyal readership over more than two decades. Alongside the bestselling 22-book Rani Diaz series, she is also the author of the Erin De Donder series and several successful standalone thrillers. The Night Never Left marks her first standalone psychological thriller outside her established detective universe, making it an ideal introduction for international readers.







High-Concept International Conspiracy Thriller

Where the Wind Sleeps

Working title
Original Dutch title: Waar de wind slaapt

P.M. PAUWELS



Inspired by one of aviation's greatest unsolved mysteries – the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370: *Where the Wind Sleeps* is an international conspiracy thriller that blurs the line between fiction and reality.

RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
International Conspiracy Thriller

Publication
October 2025

Length
80,000 words

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- Michael Crichton
- Dan Brown
- Steve Berry

ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by one of aviation's greatest unsolved mysteries.

In the shadow of international cover-ups, government manipulation and devastating personal loss, one question remains: how much is the truth worth when no one wants to hear it?

When flight MA318 vanishes without a trace over the South China Sea, co-pilot Franky Avonds sees her world collapse. A last-minute crew change meant she escaped the doomed flight, while her partner, Jack, took her place.

As the world mourns the passengers, Franky refuses to accept the official explanation. Why was all communication suddenly lost? What really happened after the aircraft's final transmission? And why do governments seem determined to bury the truth?

The closer Franky comes to uncovering the facts, the greater the danger becomes. Someone is willing to do anything to keep the truth hidden.

Inspired by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, *Where the Wind Sleeps* is a gripping international thriller that explores the fragile boundary between reality and fiction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



P.M. Pauwels (Pia Marie Pauwels) was born in Antwerp, Belgium, and spent many years living abroad in France, Spain and the United States. She studied History at the University of Antwerp before pursuing a career in aviation.

Drawing on her passion for travel, history and real-life mysteries, Pauwels blends suspense, drama, humour and romance into compelling stories that blur the boundaries between fact and fiction.

She made her debut in 2022 with Mice in the Bed, a humorous novel inspired by life in rural southern France. This was followed by Hear the Silence Speak (2023) and Lost in the Past (2024).

Where the Wind Sleeps marks her most ambitious thriller to date, combining her aviation background with her fascination for real-life mysteries.

WHY THIS BOOK

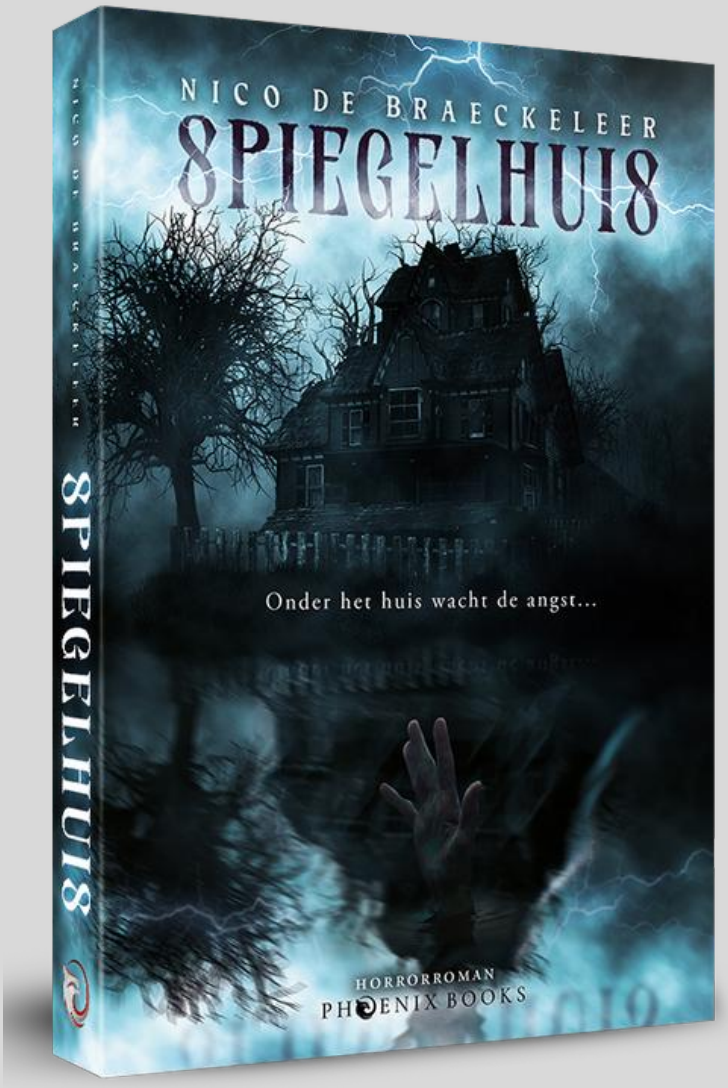
- Inspired by the mystery of MH370
- Written by a former aviation professional
- High-concept international conspiracy thriller
- Fast-paced suspense with global appeal

Cinematic Supernatural Horror

Mirror House

Working title
Original Dutch title: Spiegelhuis

NICO DE BRAECKELEER



Beneath an old lakeside cabin lies another house. Once you enter, there is no way back.

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- C.J. Tudor
- Adam Nevill
- Paul Tremblay

RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
Supernatural Horror Thriller

Publication
August 2026

Length
61,000 words

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

ABOUT THE BOOK

"Some doors should never be opened."

After years of living in isolation, trapped by crippling anxiety and panic attacks, Emily finally takes a leap of faith. A weekend away with friends at her late grandfather's old lakeside cabin offers a chance to escape everyday life and start over.

Curiosity leads her into the cellar, where she discovers a hidden trapdoor. Beyond it lies something impossible: a sinister mirror image of the cabin itself.

With every step Emily takes into this hidden house, long-buried memories and dark secrets—about the cabin and about herself—begin to surface. What was meant to be a carefree weekend quickly turns into a nightmare as the terrifying truth becomes clear:

they have entered a place from which there is no escape.

Mirror House is a chilling supernatural horror thriller in which something waits beneath your feet, and every step downward draws you deeper into an inescapable nightmare.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nico De Braeckeleer (1974) is a Belgian novelist and screenwriter whose work spans television, film, theatre, comics and fiction.

His work is known for its cinematic pacing and compelling visual storytelling.

As an author, he has published more than 80 books, ranging from novels and young adult fiction to children's books, novellas and short stories. His fiction blends psychological suspense, crime, supernatural horror and mystery into a distinctive, cinematic style.

Alongside his writing career, De Braeckeleer has created and written for numerous successful television series and films, including FC De Kampioenen, Under Fire, Milo, Samson & Gert, The House of Anubis, Nightwatch, Waiko and Family.

His background as a screenwriter is reflected in his highly visual storytelling, compelling atmosphere and tightly paced suspense.



WHY THIS BOOK

- High-concept supernatural horror
- Atmospheric suspense
- Haunted house with a unique twist
- Claustrophobic horror with cinematic suspense

Epic YA Fantasy Trilogy

The Shadow of Morvoren

TANYA MOSTIEN

An epic YA fantasy trilogy where stars whisper, ancient magic awakens, and the fate of two worlds rests in the hands of an ordinary girl.



BOOK I
Published



BOOK II
Published



BOOK III
Publishing Spring 2027
Preliminary cover artwork

RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
Epic YA Fantasy

Publication status
Books I & II published
Book III publishing Spring 2027

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- Sarah J. Maas
- Leigh Bardugo
- Samantha Shannon

"When reality begins to fracture, only wonder remains."

Drowning in a Sea of Stars

Working title

Original Dutch title: Verdrinken in een zee van sterren

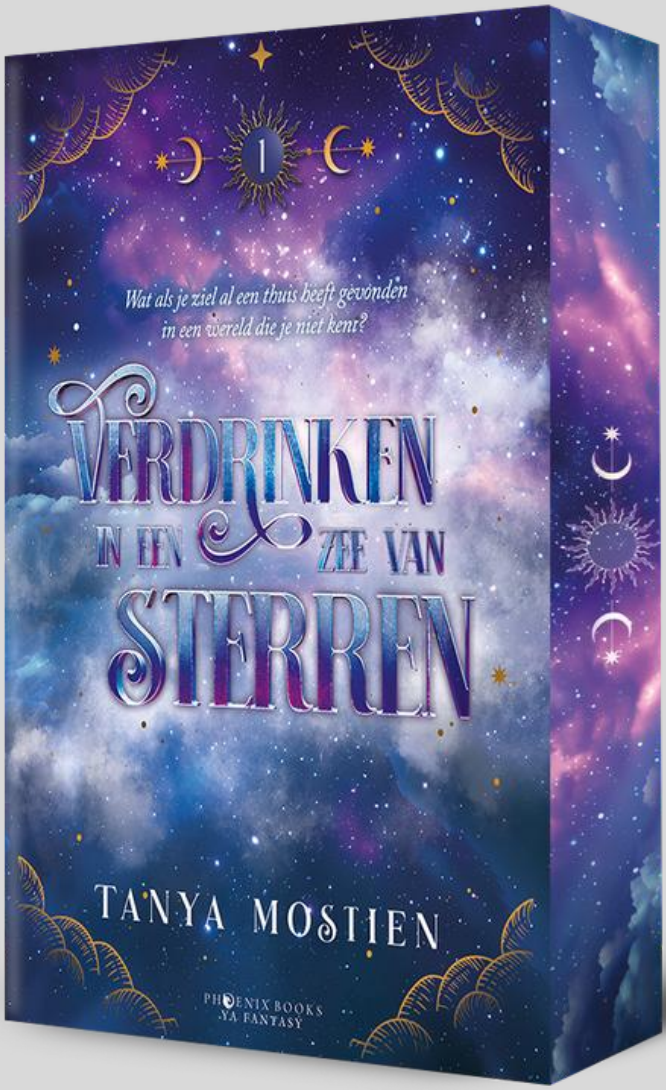
Anna never asked for magic.

Yet she is suddenly swept away to Vilhelminen, a realm of whispering trees, luminous plants and the mysterious Alfen, guardians of long-forgotten secrets.

Among their silver halls and dancing fires, Anna feels like an outsider.

But her arrival in Midgaerd is no coincidence. Unknowingly, she has become entangled in a dangerous web of ancient magic, power and age-old enemies.

Will she embrace the role destiny has chosen for her and stand against the darkness threatening both herself and the world of the Alfen? Or is she destined to remain nothing more than a pawn in a game she barely understands?



WHY READERS WILL LOVE THIS BOOK

- Epic coming-of-age fantasy
- Rich original world-building
- Strong female protagonist
- The opening novel of an epic fantasy trilogy

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A new voice in YA fantasy, combining lyrical prose, immersive world-building and emotionally resonant storytelling.

Tanya Mostien (1988) found her home in stories filled with magic, melancholy and stardust. Drowning in a Sea of Stars is the opening novel of The Shadow of Morvoren, an enchanting YA fantasy trilogy born from a lifelong love of stories that continue to whisper long after the final page has been turned.



Alongside her writing, Tanya works in the pharmaceutical industry, where precision and dedication shape her daily life. This balance between creativity and structure is reflected in her fiction, combining immersive world-building with carefully woven plots.

Tanya creates stories in which magic, melancholy and starlight merge into worlds that are as enchanting as they are unforgiving. She believes that stories open doors to places we have never seen, yet somehow have always carried within us.

"Stories open doors to places we have never seen, yet somehow have always carried within us."

"A vividly imagined fantasy world brought to life through atmospheric writing, emotional depth and perfectly paced suspense."
— Kim Coenen

"Midgaerd feels even larger, darker and more captivating than before. A remarkable continuation of Anna's journey."
— Katja's Leeshoekje

Gothic Fairytale Fantasy

A Life for a Rose

Working title
Original Dutch title: Een leven voor een roos

LENNO VRANKEN



Between crumbling cathedrals, whispering shadows and the scent of a single white rose unfolds a haunting tale of loss, longing, magic and monsters. Because sometimes the greatest danger is not the beast you fear—but the secrets you carry within.

RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
Gothic Fairytale Fantasy

Publication
September 2026

Length
150,000 words

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- Naomi Novik
- Ava Reid
- Katherine Arden

ABOUT THE BOOK

Never pick a rose that was never meant for you.

A Life for a Rose is a gothic fairytale fantasy in which the dark origins of Snow White and Beauty and the Beast are woven into an original new tale.

When Lili, an impoverished university student in Leuven, steals a mysterious book marked with a white rose, she unwittingly sets a chain of terrifying events in motion. The book belongs to the Underground, the hidden realm of the Elphides, who abduct her father in a desperate attempt to reclaim it.

Driven by grief and determination, Lili follows them into the Dark Court, where she comes face to face with the enigmatic lord of the castle, Gruwel. What begins as hatred slowly transforms into a dangerous and irresistible bond.

As long-buried secrets about her own origins come to light, Lili is drawn into a deadly tournament that will determine her fate. In a world of gothic horror, ancient magic and dark romance, everything is at stake—her heart, her future, and the truth of who she really is.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lenno Vranken (born during Yule in 2000) is a Belgian author with a passion for fantasy, horror and folklore. Growing up in a small village in Limburg inspired his fascination with themes of isolation, belonging and escaping into other worlds.

He made his debut in 2016 with the first instalment of *The World Behind the Mirror*, a fantasy series for younger readers. In 2024 he published *Changeling*, a collection of dark fantasy stories that reimagines the sinister origins of classic fairy tales.

A Life for a Rose continues his exploration of gothic fantasy, folklore and dark romance, combining haunting atmosphere with richly imagined world-building.



WHY THIS BOOK

- Gothic fairytale fantasy
- Dark romance with crossover appeal
- Inspired by the hidden origins of classic fairy tales
- Perfect for readers of gothic fantasy and romantasy

Middle Grade Adventure Series

Dante Drago

JOHAN VANDEVELDE

An award-winning middle-grade adventure series where archaeology, mythology and danger collide in fast-paced quests around the world.







2nd Place – Flemish Children's Jury 2025–2026 (ages 10–12)

WHY THIS SERIES

- Standalone adventures
- Ancient myths brought to life
- Fast-paced action and mystery
- Award-winning first novel
- Perfect for readers aged 10+

Three adventures. Endless mysteries.

- The Revenge of Viracocha
- The Children of Khufu
- The Waters of the Underworld (Publishing September 2026)

PERFECT FOR READERS OF

- Rick Riordan
- Dan Gutman
- Jennifer A. Nielsen

Dante Drago and the Revenge of Viracocha

Working title

Original Dutch title: Dante Drago en de wraak van Viracocha

Twelve-year-old Dante Drago has grown up surrounded by archaeology. So when his mother discovers a mysterious 3,000-year-old golden artefact unearthed deep in the Bolivian Andes, Dante eagerly joins her expedition to South America.

Together with Professor Vandermeersen and his assistant Reiner, they set out in search of the last traces of a long-lost civilisation.

Could they have uncovered the first real clues to El Dorado, the legendary City of Gold that explorers have searched for for centuries?

But they are not the only ones on the trail. Before long, Dante and his mother find themselves caught in a dangerous race through the jungle, where ancient secrets, ruthless enemies and deadly traps await. Will the mystery of El Dorado finally be revealed?

And, perhaps more importantly... how do you clean your braces in the middle of the jungle?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Johan Vandevelde studied Audiovisual Arts at the Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound in Brussels and worked for several years as a television screenwriter.

He made his debut in 2000 with The Time Gate, a children's novel that immediately received the Limburg Children's and Youth Jury Award. For more than twenty years, Vandevelde has been one of Belgium's leading authors of children's and young adult fiction.

He is best known for the epic fantasy series Elfenblauw and the acclaimed young adult novel Jasper's Butterflies, alongside numerous science fiction, fantasy and adventure novels for younger readers.



RIGHTS INFORMATION

Genre
Middle Grade Adventure

Length
60,000 words

Language
Dutch

Translation Rights: Available

STORIES THAT TRAVEL

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