

RINDERT
KROMHOUT





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Rindert Kromhout (b. 1958) has been writing children's books since 1980. Readers who are familiar with the trilogy that Kromhout wrote about the artistic Bloomsbury Group know that if anyone can write convincingly about the past, then it is Kromhout. Part one of this YA trilogy, *Soldaten huilen niet* (Soldiers Don't Cry, 2010) thoroughly deserved to win not one but two major awards, the Thea Beckman Prize (Best Historical Children's Book, NL) and the Gouden Lijst (Best YA, NL). The second part of the series, *Anders dan wij* (Unlike Us, 2013) was nominated for the prestigious Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis. Kromhout has created an extensive and wide-ranging body of work. His style is clear and direct. He has also achieved success with his series of picture books about Little Donkey, which he makes with illustrator Annemarie van Haeringen. His work has been translated in 18 languages to date.

www.rindertkromhout.nl

RINDERT KROMHOUT, ANNEMARIE VAN HAERINGEN
& JAN JUTTE

Big Bottocks Biters

Joe suppresses a cry of terror and presses himself up against the wall. His heart is pounding like mad. There in the water, it's... it looks like... *It is a crocodile, a real crocodile!*

A crocodile in the sewer? Is that the bottom biter of which everyone is so afraid? You can read all about it in the exciting story that begins this book. But there's more. A house packed with filthy animals. A pet shop with no customers. A cat-catching mother. Crazy adventures featuring children and animals!

'The stories read very easily and are so funny. Children will enjoy the unexpected twists.' – PLUIZER.BE



Illustrated Fiction (BW), Bind-Up | 156 pages
14,8 x 21,5 cm | Age: 8+

Previously published in Japanese (Part 1)

RINDERT KROMHOUT & ANNEMARIE VAN HAERINGEN

The Very Evil Ellie and Nasty Nellie

Who are the most terrible twins in the land? Meet the Smits: Evil Ellie and Nasty Nellie. You will never believe how mean these two are. They hit and they kick; they scratch and they bite. Walking down the street with a bag full of sweets? Then stay well away from them. Running an errand for your mum with money in your pocket? Keep it well hidden, because before you know it, they will grab you and snatch it away!

Evil Ellie and Nasty Nellie. Feared by every child in their village... but loved by tens of thousands of young readers!

'The timeless adventures of Ellie and Nellie are a delight to read or listen to over and over again. The stories are funny, fast-paced and keep you turning the pages to find out how they end.' – PLUIZUIT.BE



Illustrated Fiction (BW), Bind-Up | 152 pages
14,8 x 21,5 cm | Age: 8+

Previously published in German (Part 1)

Winner of the 1994 Children's Jury Prize (NL, Part 1)

RINDERT KROMHOUT & ANNEMARIE VAN HAERINGEN

That Day in August

Fourteen-year-old Enrico is walking to see his grandfather Luigi, who lives in the valley with his flock of sheep. As always, Enrico takes his sketchbook. He captures on paper the things that he sees and experiences along the way. Ever since he was a small boy, he has wanted to become an artist, inspired by the stories about saints that are painted in the village church. At a pleasantly relaxed Mediterranean pace, Kromhout and Van Haeringen skilfully bring the village and its residents to life. But then disaster strikes. Without ever mentioning the earthquake that hit the village, Kromhout slowly reveals what happened 'that day in August'. In just a few lines, Enrico, using Van Haeringen's hand, depicts the impact of the natural disaster. Beauty proves to be a consolation.

'Literary children's books have often paid tribute to art, but rarely in such an accessible way as *That Day in August*.' – DE VOLKSKRANT



Illustrated Fiction | 86 pages | 15 x 22 cm | Age: 10+
English sample available

Rights sold: Can Sanat (Turkish), Iwasaki (Japanese)

'Rindert Kromhout paints with words. Illustrator Annemarie van Haeringen assists him beautifully with her many little illustrations.' – NRC HANDELSBLAD

RINDERT KROMHOUT

Believe Me

Aspiring journalist Tommaso travels to Rome to write an article about fake news in Italy past and present. His investigation is abruptly derailed when he himself risks becoming a victim of malicious fake news. He takes on the conspiracy theorists, but can he win the battle? Can his relationship with the love of his life, the handsome but naïve Giorgio, be saved?

'Thanks to its smooth style, the story draws young readers in and offers an interesting cross-section of fake news.' – *TROUW*



Fiction | 86 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 13+

RINDERT KROMHOUT

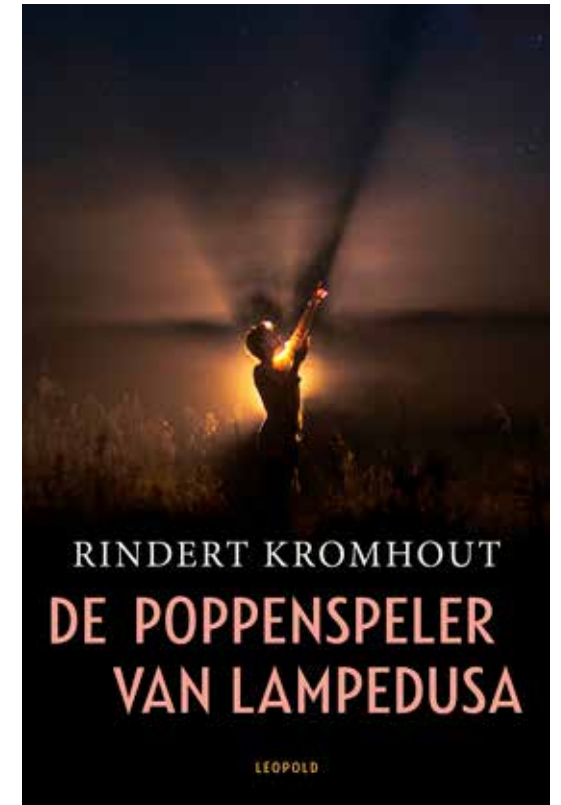
The Puppeteer of Lampedusa

Rome, 1948. Eighteen-year-old Matteo wants to be an actor. He frequents the artist café Della Pace, where he meets people from the Italian film scene, like the charming actor Marcello Mastroianni and the young director Federico Fellini. Matteo longs to be a part of their world. His family's tense discussions about politics basically pass him by. He has other things on his mind: his ambitions, his intimate and confusing friendship with the alluring Davide. Then something happens to him that calls into question all his plans for the future, because the Second World War has left its scars on Rome.

'A successful novel about dreams, about reality – which can sometimes be harsh – and about a confusing, intimate friendship with an unexpected ending.'

– *FRIESCH DAGBLAD*

'Kromhout offers a convincing and evocative portrayal of the post-war period while Italy is on the mend' – *JAAPLEEST.NL*



Fiction | 160 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Nominated for the 2023 Thea Beckmann Prize (NL)
Shortlisted for the Children's and Youth Award (BE)

The Puppeteer of Lampedusa is the first part in the Italian trilogy, and can also be read as a standalone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

Love and Death in the Red City

Mahmood is nineteen in the turbulent Bologna of the 1980s. He gives up on his studies to become a chef. At local markets and working in the kitchens of various restaurants, he learns the trade in practice. And he falls in love – with the much older Davide. Can their love really, truly exist?

As in *The Puppeteer of Lampedusa*, Rindert Kromhout transports the reader to the sun-drenched streets of Bologna and its eventful history.

'There is always something really infectious about Kromhout's books. (...) His books radiate a certain lightness and brightness (...), and the characters are the sort of people you would want to count among your friends.' – EDWARD VAN DE VENDEL



Fiction | 128 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Love and Death in the Red City is the second part in the Italian trilogy, and can also be read as a stand-alone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

The Boy from the Island of the Gods

Eighteen-year-old Luca lives in Sicily, a stunning yet stifling place where jobs for young people are few and far between. It's also an island where African refugees, like the young Ahmed, continue to arrive. Luca spends his days selling tickets at a museum and daydreaming about Sofia, until an old puppeteer named Matteo appears on the scene. Matteo challenges Luca to pick up books, start giving tours, and weave stories of his own. But why does Ahmed linger in the city? Doesn't he realise that refugees here are all too often easy targets for the ruthless mafia?

'The Boy from the Island of Gods is a love letter to the country. The sun, the temperament, the scooters, the steaming plates of creamy pasta, the close-knit family ties, the bickering old folks – everything is described with such passion that you can really feel the writer's abiding love for Italy.'

– TROUW



Fiction | 144 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

The Boy from the Island of Gods is the third part in the Italian trilogy, and can also be read as a stand-alone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

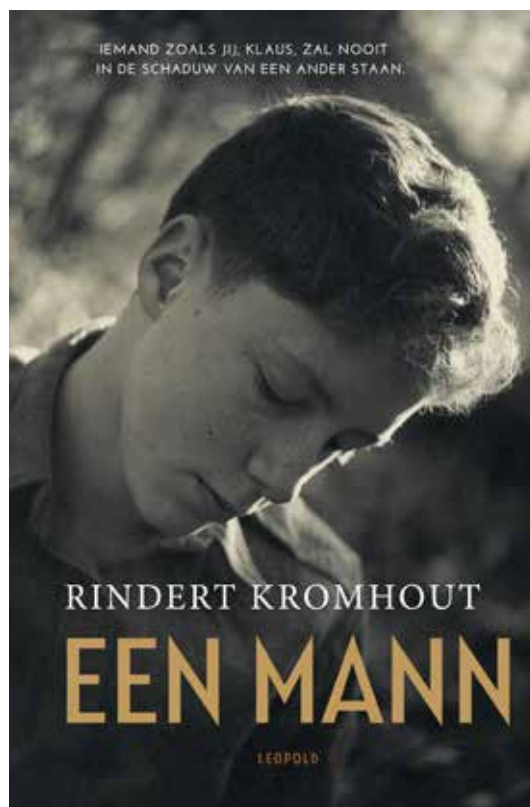
A Mann

‘Someone like you, Klaus, will never stand in the shadow of another.’

Klaus Mann, nineteen years old, holds an entirely different opinion on this. That the budding writer currently stands in the shadow of his famous father, Thomas Mann, might have something to do with it. But why does Thomas reject him, as a son and as a person? What is Klaus doing wrong? He doesn’t dare to speak to his father on the subject but, instead, decides to write him a letter; a candid, confrontational letter. The letter turns into a gripping novel about a well-known family of writers and stage actors in the restless Munich of the beginning of the 20th century. But who is actually standing in the shadow of whom?

‘Fascinating coming-of-age novel about Klaus’s adulthood and struggle, set against the background of the first half of the 20th century. If anyone can convincingly depict the historical reality, it is Rindert Kromhout. Skilfully and carefully, he straddles the boundary between fiction and non-fiction.’

– ●●● NRC HANDELSBLAD



Fiction | 378 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Previously published in Turkish

A Mann is a story based on facts and historical people and the first part in the Mann-trilogy. It can also be read as a standalone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

And I Was His Hero

Spring 1933. The Nazis are in power in Germany and are rapidly transforming the country into a dictatorship. The opposition is silenced, imprisoned or forced to flee abroad.

Young writer Klaus Mann, a fierce critic of Hitler, goes into voluntary exile in Paris and Amsterdam. There, he starts the anti-fascist literary magazine *Die Sammlung*. But... is Klaus’s fight against the Nazis the only reason that he is so fanatical about making this magazine a success? Does he want to become the hero of Germany or is something else going on?

‘A compelling story about a haunted soul who, in turbulent times, seeks a way to feed his critical mind with imagination.’

– ●●● NRC HANDELSBLAD

‘Kromhout paints an impressive portrait of life in the first decades of the twentieth century.’ – FRIESCH DAGBLAD



Fiction | 304 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Nominated for the 2019 Best YA Book (NL)

And I Was His Hero is a story based on facts and historical people and the second part in the Mann-trilogy. It can also be read as a standalone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

My Father's Name

In 1945 Klaus Mann travels, as a journalist, through post-war Europe back to his homeland Germany for the first time in years. He wonders how his country and fellow citizens have fared. What has changed due to the war? And he reflects on how he himself has changed because of everything that's happened.

Rindert Kromhout beautifully brings together history (the Second World War) and current affairs (refugees who no longer feel at home anywhere) in a compelling story, as seen through the eyes of the well-known writer Klaus Mann. Similar to his *Charleston Trilogy*, Kromhout brings a famous writer's family to life.

'*My Father's Name* is the most political instalment and a compelling conclusion to this excellent, well-crafted trilogy. (...) Kromhout succeeds in combining the historical and political narrative with the personal inner life of a troubled artist.'

– JAAPLEEST.NL



Fiction | 258 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Shortlisted for the 2021 Woutertje Pieterse Prize (NL)

My father's Name is a story based on facts and historical people and the third part in the Mann-trilogy. It can also be read as a standalone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

Soldiers Don't Cry

During a holiday in England, Rindert Kromhout visited Charleston, the home and meeting place of the writers, artists and academics of the famous Bloomsbury Group. He was captivated. In *Soldiers Don't Cry*, he reconstructs the history of Quentin and Julian, sons of art critic Clive Bell and artist Vanessa Bell, who, together with her sister, the writer Virginia Woolf, formed the heart of this group of artists.

In vivid, captivating prose, Kromhout takes the reader on a journey to the England of the 1920s and 30s and offers a peek into this celebrated group of artists. Kromhout can take credit for making *Soldiers Don't Cry* more than just a fascinating historical account. He has turned these historical figures into real, true-to-life characters, ensuring that this story touches not only our minds, but also our hearts.

'Genuine narration. Intriguing.' – TROUW



Fiction | 266 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

English summary available

German, Spanish and Turkish pdf available

Rights sold: Mixtvision (German)

Previously published in Spanish and Turkish

Winner of the 2011 Gouden Lijst (NL, best YA)

Winner of the 2011 Thea Beckmann Prize (NL, best historical children's book)

Nominated for the 2011 Children's Booksellers Prize (NL)

RINDERT KROMHOUT

Unlike Us

Spring 1941. Virginia Woolf, aunt of the young writer Quentin Bell and his sister Angelica, disappears without a trace. Only her cane is found beside the river.

What does the letter she left behind say? Quentin and Angelica find it difficult to believe that their wonderful, cheerful Aunt Virginia has committed suicide. They begin a desperate search for her and decide to write down their memories, hoping in this way to get closer to the truth. Along the way, a story unfolds that is not only about Virginia, but also about Angelica. A drama that turns out to be much more complicated and moving than Quentin ever suspected...

'Exciting YA that unlocks the world of Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group for teen readers.' – ★★★★★ *DE VOLKSKRANT*

'Kromhout's atmospheric vignettes whisk you away. The author skilfully touches readers and convincingly portrays his striking characters thanks to his meticulous rendering of historical details.' – *TROUW*



Fiction | 264 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

German pdf available

Previously published in German

Nominated for the 2019 Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis (DE)

Nominated for the 2015 Thea Beckmann Prize (NL)

Unlike Us is a story based on facts and historical people and the second part in the Bloomsbury trilogy.

It can also be read as a standalone novel.

RINDERT KROMHOUT

Tell Me Who We Were

For the very last time, author Quentin Bell visits Charleston, the farmstead in the English countryside where he grew up fifty years ago. At one time, Charleston was 'picture-perfect' and filled with artists, free thinkers and children, all living out their work, their adventures and their romances. Now the home is in ruins and has just a single resident, an elderly painter named Duncan Grant. But even Duncan will eventually depart and nothing will be left besides stories and memories. Quentin decides to put the stories on paper so that nobody will forget these strong-willed inhabitants of this paradise on earth...

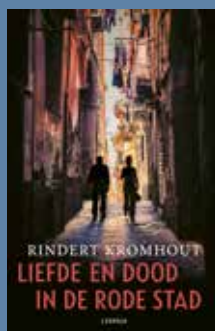
'A wonderful finale to the series about the Bloomsbury Group. (...) Thanks to the author's smooth writing, convincing dialogue and evocative scene-setting, the reader gains a wonderful insight into the characters and their surroundings. You become completely captivated by the story and find yourself empathising with Quentin and Duncan. (...) A must-read!'

– PLUIZUIT.BE



Fiction | 168 pages | 14 x 21,5 cm | Age: 15+

Tell Me Who We Were is a story based on facts and historical people and the third part in the Bloomsbury-trilogy. It can also be read as a standalone novel.



Enquiries?

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