



Wessel te Gussinklo

The Forbidden Garden

Publisher: Koppertnik - Translation rights: Bee Rights - novel - 280 pages - First publication: 1986

4,000 copies sold

Winner of the Anton Wachter Prize 1986

The Forbidden Garden describes the life of a child with a view of the world such as only children can have. The novel also depicts the ways in which we each – both child and adult – try to make the world our own. The homesickness for intactness, for the correspondence of personal reality with the world beyond it: a dream in which everyone lives but one that is still pristine to the child.

With a surefooted, poetic style, Wessel te Gussinklo brings these themes to life. He succeeds in mining an unknown and repressed territory, in all its confusing otherness, and makes his protagonist an unforgettable character.

Praise for The Forbidden Garden:

‘Of his main character, the boy Ewout, we not only get to read what he does and thinks, but also what he is in relation to his environment. Even more difficult to grasp and to describe than the mental universe of a child is their world of experience, and Wessel te Gussinklo appears to have greatly succeeded in that.’ – Anton Wachter Prize 1986 jury report

In 1986, **Wessel te Gussinklo** (b. 1941) published his debut novel, *The Forbidden Garden*, which was crowned with the Anton Watcher Prize. His second novel, *The Assignment* (1995), was awarded the Lucy B. and C.W. van Hoogt Prize, the ECI Prize and the F. Bordewijk Prize, and nominated for the Libris Literature Prize and De Gouden Uil (The Golden Owl). His novel *Very Bright Light* was shortlisted for the AKO Literature Prize in 2014. Te Gussinklo received the C.C.S. Crone Prize for his complete oeuvre in 2016. *The Returned Flower* was published in 2017. His novel *The Fraud* won the Zeeland Province Book Prize and the Bookspot Literature Prize 2019. *En route to The Hartz*, the fourth novel in the Ewout Meyster Cycle, was awarded the Boekenbon Literature Prize 2021.

