



# Wessel te Gussinklo

## The Assignment

**Publisher:** Koppertnik - Translation and film rights: Bee Rights - novel - 558 pages - First publication: 1995

*8.000 copies sold*

*Winner of the Lucy B. and C.W. van der Hoogt Prize, the ECI Prize and the F. Borderwijk Prize*

*Nominated for the Libris Literature Prize and De Gouden Uil (The Golden Owl)*

In the 1950s, having lost his father to the war, fourteen-year-old Ewout Meyster goes to a summer camp in The Veluwe. He expects to be able to complete his 'assignment' there: to acquire social prestige, power and popularity. To that end, he has thought of everything to treat his fellow campers as cleverly and spiritually as possible. His behaviour, however, runs up against a wall of incomprehension and aversion. What should have been a time of friendships and unforgettable encounters proves to be humiliating agony. Te Gussinklo evokes the unscrupulous jungle of boyhood in pitch-perfect episodes in a book about fanaticism and the hunger for power, about victimhood, betrayal and loneliness.

### *Praise for The Assignment:*

*'One of the very best books of Dutch post-war literature.'* - Rob Schouten, *Nooit meer slapen*

*'A magisterial novel.'* - Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer

*'The Assignment is a tour de force - if only for its narrative style and length - unruly in many ways, an unrivalled novel.'* - *Trouw*

'In the last decades there has not been a novel that can be compared to *The Assignment*, the great epic by Wessel te Gussinklo.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

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.

